

ENVY AS A SOURCE OF HATRED



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The growth of hatred in society is closely related to the stagnancy of the current government authorities. At the same time, we do not see a deep gap between society and elite. Generally speaking, society are not so concerned about who rules, but they are tired of the picture that they see on TV. So it is time to change the picture – to remove all the 'rich and famous' – a cult of success has not yet developed and I hope that it never will be.

Those who are the carriers of hatred in Russia are, above all, the 'red browns', who were not completely finished in 1993, and their children, as well as the victims of the Chechen wars (on both sides), and a group of people who tend to provoke and are destructionists. This latter group is always present in a society and they were even present during the times of the oppressive Soviet regime, just waiting for an opportunity to safely launch their propaganda. **The middle class is an advocate of the idea of consumption and saving, while hatred is actually promulgated by those people from the middle class who have lost little and risk losing more.** Those who have lost everything are basically harmless in this sense. As for the aggrieved masses, they tend to start playing their role after or during wars or the collapse of the state. During times

characterised by a normally operating state, the 'less fortunate' population tends to follow a well-trodden path: the police (militia) – the public prosecutor's office – the courts – prison – and then the police once again...

Hatred is typically based on envy (an 'acute sense of justice') in the first place and, in the second place, it is based on living examples that are always in plain view. These are things that annoy people with their common 'everydayness'. For example, everyone is annoyed by the flashing blue lights on the automobiles of government officials. We are tired of the lifestyle of those who act greedily at the feeder so to speak. We are fed up with lack of common justice in regard to virtually all classes, as well as the abundance of migrants. A couple of dozen show trials pertaining to those in power – rather than against the oligarchs (devastators) – are likely to remedy the situation. At least problems could be disguised in that case, whereas, at present, they are exclaimed like Abel's blood.

The intra-species competition is undoubtedly the fiercest one. A human being will torture another human being in order to enslave him, while not touching a woodpecker, as he has no claims to the beetles and maggots living under the bark. ■

THERE IS NOBODY TO LEAD A BREWING PROTEST



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The mutual attitudes of Russia's society and the political elites, who are meant to govern the population, are dominated by alienation that is gradually turning into outright hatred of the latter group by the former. Any Russian individual who is aware of his civil rights cannot help but resenting the local bureaucracy and the country's big business community. Russian society feels constantly cheated by these two entities. It all starts with the filing of taxation declarations by state officials, which is popularly perceived as an outright mockery, and extends all the way down to the negative experience of ordinary people when they have had to interact with the pettiest of government clerks.

The problem of running the state like some kind of banana republic is that such an approach works only in the case that the majority of population remains ignorant. If the citizens somehow get a taste of the modern world, if their living standards or quality of life improve, or if they receive information from international news agencies and travel abroad, any dictatorship in place will eventually crumble.

In Egypt, it seems the only fault with their national government was that it did not manage to keep pace with the growing needs of its population. Therefore, the most active

part of the country's urban society ultimately forced the government to step down.

One cannot be positive as to whether it is fortunate or not, but **there is currently no force within Russia's political elite who is able to lead a brewing social protest.** Russian society holds a strong distaste for the political system on the whole and does not single out who exactly are the good and bad guys within the government. If, as an example, society at large actively discusses Mikhail Khodorkovsky's sentence, which many happen to strongly oppose, this does not necessarily mean that the people harbour any hope in finding an official who is able to quash such a decision. Quite conversely, this example points to the fact that nobody believes that such an official actually even exists.

Those that the people do actually trust are those persons who oppose government officials. It is these individuals who are perceived as the new social leaders. These include such people as Alexey Navalny, Yevgeniya Chirikova, and Vladimir Thor. In a way, one may also count among them the writer Zakhar Prilepin. The number of such people will end up increasing and some of them will perhaps also end up making a soaring political career for themselves. ■