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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FORWARD

Dear readers!

The first issue of our journal in 2024 contains our authors' own scientific research, as well as research materials from the National Research Institute for the Communications Development (NIIRK, publisher of the journal "Russia&World: Scientific Dialogue"). These materials reflect the results of the annual monitoring of communication regimes in post-Soviet countries and the results of research by participants of the international academic mobility program, which is annually organized by NIIRK for young scientists from foreign countries.

The issue opens with an article by V.V.Komleva, the Head of Monitoring communication regimes. The author analyzes the overall rating of post-Soviet countries based on the results of 2023 and focuses attention on the dynamics of friendliness of communication regimes in the countries of the South Caucasus. The article contains quantitative indicators and qualitative characteristics of the friendliness profiles of Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, South Ossetia, on the basis of which conclusions are drawn about their relations with Russia. The author shows that a common communication space with Russia is being formed in South Ossetia and Abkhazia; the pragmatic approach is being strengthened and the role of the economic factor in communications with Russia in Azerbaijan and Georgia is increasing; there are attempts by the political elite of Armenia to form an unfriendly position for the country in the absence of a deep anti-Russian position in the consciousness of the Armenian society.

The analysis of the problems of communication modes continues in the article by N.A.Skvortsova and D.A.Abazova. The authors examine factors in the development of relations between Russia and Georgia, noting a number of features of Georgia's communication regime in the absence of official diplomatic relations and in the situation of contradictions around South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The authors show the main challenges and threats to communication between the two countries, latent problems of the communication regime of Georgia, draw attention to the polarization of the country's political forces and the increasing role of extra-regional actors influencing the Georgian political discourse regarding Russia.

The potential of Russian-Georgian cooperation became the subject of an expert discussion held by NIIRK. The most interesting materials are presented in the collective article by N.Sh.Tsikhelashvili, G.V.Gikashvili, A.T.Sikharulidze, A.A.Khotivirshvili, G.Tsopurashvili, G.Rtskhiladze. As factors contributing to the development of friendly communications, the authors consider the deep spiritual ties between Georgians and Russians, the historical and cultural conditionality of Russian-Georgian relations. At the same time, the authors of the article note that under the influence of Western ideologies, a large part of modern Georgian youth have no idea about the commonality of the Russian and Georgian peoples. The article contains a number of proposals for the development of civil and business communications between Georgia and Russia.

Issues of development of a joint South Ossetia and Russia communication space are discussed in the article by A.L.Gagieva and V.V.Komleva. On the example of cooperation in the education sphere, the role of Russia in strengthening the human potential of South Ossetia is shown, problems which solution is necessary for the innovative development of the country are discussed. The authors believe that international educational and scientific communications are one of the tools for expanding international communications for South Ossetia.

In the process of monitoring the communication regime of the Republic of Azerbaijan, an article by D.S.Ayvazyan was prepared, devoted to the analysis of the country's foreign policy communications. Considering the main foreign policy partners of Azerbaijan (Russia, Turkey, Iran, USA, and European Union), the author comes to the conclusion that Azerbaijan's foreign policy towards Russia is economically pragmatic. The country is interested in regional transport communications and intensifying economic cooperation with its closest neighbors. The author noted that in the field of security and military-political cooperation, relations with the Republic of Turkey are deepening. The formation of a common political space with Turkey is supported by the ideology of brotherhood and unity of the cultural and civilizational basis.

Let us note that almost all post-Soviet countries use this technique to justify their foreign policy. From these positions, the articles of a member of the editorial board of our journal V.K.Egorov and the Belarusian author P.A.Barakhvostov are very interesting. In search of deep, spiritual, cultural foundations for the transformation of social reality, in understanding the role and meaning of reproducing archetypes, scientists turn to civilizational theories, concepts of actualizing archaism.

V.K.Egorov examines the dominant approaches to understanding the phenomenon of actualization of the archaic in Russian humanitarian studies. He critically analyzes concepts that focus on the search for universal key factors that determine the development trends of countries, peoples, and civilizations; concepts that consider the actualization of the archaic as part of the actualization of the cultural-historical, cultural-national heritage of peoples, taking into account the uniqueness of their cultural and civilizational development. Within the framework of these approaches, the modernization of cultural heritage values, including archaics, in politics, economics, and the social sphere; and the ethno-confessional and civilizational characteristics of different regions of the world that influence on these processes are comprehended. Of particular interest are the author's reflections on the most promising ways of developing the phenomena under consideration.

P.A.Barakhvostov focuses on the civilizational differences between East and West, interest in which has intensified against the backdrop of geopolitical transformations in recent decades. One of explanations for these differences appeals to the split of the Christian Church into Roman Catholic and Orthodox. The author argues with representatives of this point of view, according to which religion is isolated from the social system and analyzed as the primary factor that triggers the formation of a type of civilization. The author proposes to consider the emergence of a new civilization from the perspective of an institutional approach, "as a process of formation of a complex institutional structure consisting of a complex of interconnected and interdependent economic, political, socio-cultural institutions, including religion." Using the example of a split in the united Christian world, the author examines this process using institutional and matrix approaches. He argues for both the need to strengthen dominant institutions in the institutional core and the creation of balancers (complementary institutions) for the sustainable development of civilization.

As already mentioned, in this issue of the journal we present a number of articles prepared within the framework of the NIIRK international academic mobility program. While in Moscow, program participants were able to work at scientific institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with leading Russian researchers.

In an article by program participant from Armenia A.A.Karapetyan discusses the features of online and/or offline communication preferences, reasons for choosing social networks, motivation for online communications. The article contains materials from the author's sociological

survey of Armenian users of social networks. Another participant in the academic mobility program from Armenia V.A.Poghosyan conducted a study of the influence of the Cold War on the state of Afghan society. In the presented article, the author concludes that the "Cold War" of the superpowers had a direct impact on the internal political development of Afghanistan. The internal political unity of Afghan society did not develop, since the Afghan elite was unable to form an ideology of national unity, and some of its parts preferred to serve the interests of one or another player without supporting the national interests of Afghanistan.

Young Abkhaz researcher K.D.Kobakhia focused on the complex issue of the influence of Stalin's repressions on socio-political processes in Abkhazia (Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic) in the 1930s–1940s. The article examines the state of the political and cultural elite of Abkhazia, changes in the ethnic composition of the population, Georgian-Abkhaz interaction during this period.

Historical research was also presented by A.N.Odinaev, a participant in the mobility program from Tajikistan. His article is devoted to the analysis of the Iskanderkul expedition of 1870 and the key role of the orientalist A.L.Kun in the preparation of the "Diary of the Iskanderkul Expedition" by Mirza Mullah Abd ar-Ra Haman, son of Muhammad Latif Mustajir. The Iskanderkul expedition and A.Mustajir's "Diary" are significant sources for the study of history, ethnography, spiritual culture and socio-economic aspects of the upper reaches of Zarafshan in the second half of the 19th century. The author emphasizes the relevance of cooperation between Russian and Tajik researchers for the study and preservation of the cultural heritage of Central Asia.

Dear readers!

The editorial board of the journal hopes that the materials of the issue will arouse your interest and that you yourself will become one of our authors in the future. Following the mission of the journal, we continue to publish joint research by Russian and foreign authors and invite you and your colleagues to share the results of such research on the pages of our journal.

Sincerely,
Academician of the Russian Academy
of Sciences
Vitaly Naumkin