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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOREWORD

Dear readers!

The current issue is devoted mainly to the problems of a changing society, the challenges of its sustainability and stability: the materials of two discussions and articles by our authors are devoted to this.

The section «International, Global and Regional Processes» is opened by materials of scientific discussion about the experience of settling territorial conflicts, which are one of the most common types of conflicts in the world. The discussion was organized and conducted by the National Research Institute for the Communications Development of (NIIRK). Its members Vladislav V. Froltsov, Taisiya V. Marmontova, Andrey G. Bolshakov, Artur V. Ataev noted that this issue is especially actual in the context of a sharp aggravation of international tension, as well as the formation of a new architecture of international relations as a result of the search for a modern model and instrument of international mediation in the settlement of territorial disputes. The authors draw attention to the role in this process of such influential players as China, India, Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, who strictly refrain from intervening in any interstate conflicts and are able to become effective mediators in their resolution. New regional organizations also retain significant potential. Thus, this topic is of considerable research interest for finding an effective and optimal model of international mediation in the context of aggravation of geopolitical contradictions. Despite their intensity, they are still manageable. The most frequently practiced are negotiations in which it is possible to agree on the delimitation and demarcation of disputed borders and the ownership of enclaves. A special role here is played by the information flows that accompany the disputes themselves as well as the process of their resolution, at the same time the field for fakes and manipulations remains open. The discussion participants proposed content analysis and web analytics for monitoring information flows, which allow obtaining a verified set of data. The analysis of it will make it possible to draw reasonable conclusions, and on the basis of this, a specific administrative and managerial decision can be made.

Omar M. Nessar analyzed the results of a study of the main factors determining Afghan instability and developed proposals for solving this problem. Among the factors of instability in modern Afghanistan, according to the author, are the risks associated with regional security, including terrorism and drug threats, difficulties that have arisen due to the non-recognition of the new political regime in the financial and banking system, that will significantly affect the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the country soon. As a stabilizing factor, the author sees the development of the transit potential of

Afghanistan (the opportunity to become a connecting bridge between Central and South Asia), the author draws attention to the example of Afghanistan, in which a new mechanism for the international legitimization of governments that have seized power by force is being created.

Article by Aynar O. Lasarya is dedicated to the political systems of partially recognized states, the increment of new knowledge on this issue. The author focused on the problem of assessing their stability, focused on establishing differences and similarities between the concepts of «stability» and «sustainability», the influence of external and internal political processes and relations on them. As a result of the study A.O. Lasariya came to the conclusion that if sustainability is the basis for stability, then diagnosing the status of advancement to the state of such stability becomes relevant.

The reader is also be able to get acquainted with the results of a comparative analysis of the friendliness of the communication modes of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova, as well as the materials of the discussion on the communication mode of Belarus. Comparing the friendliness of the communication modes of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova in the realities of the fragmentation of the world communication order, Roman A. Tatarov came to the conclusion that the degree of friendliness is directly dependent on the national interests of states and their relationship with external actors. And the latter are significantly influenced by the process of fragmentation of the world communication order. The level of friendliness of the Moldovan communication mode towards Russia, according to the author, is quite low. In the region, the problem of compatibility of the implementation of the national interests of Moldova and Russia is considered contradictory.

Elena V. Khakhalkina and Kseniya A. Kotovich focused on the pandemic factor in the rivalry between E. Macron and M. Le Pen in the presidential elections in France in 2022 and on understanding the role of this factor in the rivalry between the two candidates for the outcome of the vote in the upcoming elections. The authors paid special attention to some of the controversial actions of E. Macron in the fight against the pandemic, which had a negative impact on his rating, and M. Le Pen's attempts to use the pandemic to expand his electorate and increase her chances of winning the elections.

«Changing Society» is presented by two articles and materials of scientific discussion. The article based on the materials of the discussion on information sovereignty, draws attention primarily to the problems of information sovereignty and information security of Russia. Participants of the scientific discussion Nikolai P. Gribin, Irina N. Kokhtyulina, Denis I. Sedunov, Egor I. Sobolev. considered various approaches to organizing the information sovereignty of countries such as China, the United States and Russia. The trends affecting the information sovereignty of the state are noted: the growth of research in the digital industry and the creation of high-tech products; the coronavirus pandemic, which caused a surge in the use of these products in everyday life; moving many forms of interaction between people online; use of cyberspace as a platform for hacker attacks and espionage. The threats to the information sovereignty of Russia associated with the technological dependence of Russia on foreign technologies and equipment, the weak security of the Russian information infrastructure are considered, some proposals for additional measures to ensure it are developed and presented.

Belarus is currently attracting special attention of representatives of various social sciences. Participants of the scientific discussion at the National Research Institute

for the Communications Development Valentina V. Komleva, Pavel A. Barakhvostov, Irina I. Kalacheva, Nikolay M. Mezhevich, Stanislav G. Rogalsky, Vladislav V. Vorotnikov, Andrey G. Kachura, Olga I. Lazorkina turned to the study of the communication mode of Belarus. During the discussion, the participants considered the factors of influence on the communication mode in Belarus and communication between generations in the Belarusian society. The participants came to the conclusion that the formation of the communication mode in this country took place in the context of counteraction of two trends: the development of a system of vertical communications, typical of countries with an institutional matrix where redistributive institutions dominate, and a system of horizontal communications, which is typical of countries with the dominance of market institutions in the institutional matrix.

In the section «Historical retrospective and modernity» Pavel A. Barakhvostov raises the issue of frontier territories and their role in the genesis of social systems, which has been updated by the geopolitical and geo-economic transformations of recent decades. In his article on the formation and evolution of the Russian frontiers, the author comes to the conclusion that colonization slowed down the transition from extensive to intensive methods of space development, consolidated low-tech ways and broadcast them to the periphery. This led to the fact that the Russian frontiers reoriented the empire towards a self-sufficient development option, causing a special, Russian path of modernization. He notes that the evolution of the frontier territories was directly controlled by the Russian state, and the policy pursued was traditionally built on the principles of dialogue with the indigenous population.

Ksenia M. Dorokhina turned to assessing the impact of the 2021-2022 gas crisis on energy sustainability and the implementation of climate commitments by the largest emitters of carbon dioxide. The purpose of the author's research was to analyze the rapid growth in natural gas prices, which she associates with the implementation of climate commitments and national plans of states dependent on natural gas imports. As a result, she concludes that issuing countries in times of crisis are forced to partly deviate from their previous climate decisions, which makes them problematic.

The section «Power, Politics, State» is represented by four articles. The sustainability and stability of states in the digital age are the subject of another discussion, the participants of which were Oleg F. Shabrov, Valentina V. Komleva, Sergey V. Volodenkov, Khanlar A. Gadzhiev, Igbal A. Guliyev. The discussion focused on the problems of digitalization of social relations and the hybridization of modern political regimes as a model for adapting the state to digital technological transformations. The ongoing processes are systemic: they include both advantages and social problems that can lead to destabilization and disruption of the stability of the socio-political system. Among the latter, the participants attributed the impact of digitalization on electoral processes, moral and ethical problems associated with the contradictions between technological progress and the laws of the development of human societies, and the weakness of sociotechnical management systems. Even more vulnerable to the socio-political system are external influences and attacks. Therefore, the participants in the discussion come to the conclusion that it is necessary to form social immunity, which would allow society to respond to external and internal destabilization.

Mikhail M. Chernyshov's article is devoted to the influence of elites on the choice of the direction of development of the region. In his opinion, one of the reasons for the low effectiveness of regional strategies is that they do not have broad public support, mainly

from the regional elites. The author proposes as a conventional strategy the search for a balance of interests of the elites and the formation of a broad social contract on the main goals and priorities of development. Readers may be interested in the idea put forward by the author of developing «maps of spheres of influence and interests» of various elite groups. The article identifies and describes four types of regional elite: conservative, radical, progressive and colonial, presents a financial and property portrait of the elites, a «matrix» of goals and vectors of elite groups, and a «compass of elite behavior».

Mikhail A. Burda, Marina M. Ivanova turned to the study of the conditions for ensuring socio-political stability in the migration policy of modern Russia. The authors draw attention to the existing points of migration attraction, the structure of external migration flows directed to Russia. Since the main flow of external migration to the Russian Federation is made up of labor migrants from the post-Soviet space, they generally do not consider Russia as a new permanent place of residence and are not interested in full integration into Russian society. The authors consider certain changes related to the quantitative and qualitative indicators of external migration to be overdue, since they form risks for domestic political stability.

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.

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