The Economic Situation of Russia at the Present Stage

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Abstract—The article examines the specifics of Russia’s economic policy, as well as the factors of intensive economic growth at the present stage. Particular attention is paid to social justice and economic efficiency, the level of remuneration of labor and social security. All these elements are inextricably linked and interdependent under current conditions. It explains the enormous role played by the issues of social development in the modern world and, in particular, in reforming Russia. The conditions necessary for the successful implementation of the state policy of economic growth are identified: the existence of a systematically linked setting of goals and objectives of public policy; stability of the public administration system; regulatory, legal, organizational and resource support; system interaction of central and regional authorities in the implementation of innovation policy. The analysis of the dynamics of indicators of socio-economic development in Russia in recent years shows the presence of the sharpest contradictions that persist in the social sphere. Thus, the relevance of the article is conditioned by the need to study the process of formation and development of the competitiveness of the national economy in various aspects and at different levels, to reveal its political determinants, and to choose the model of Russia’s economic development towards its integration into the global economy in the context of globalization.

Keywords—innovation activity, competitive advantage, competitive environment, digital economy, technological paradigm.

I. INTRODUCTION

After the disastrous results of reforms in the 1990s, Russia has an economy in which effective market relations have not yet fully formed, and the burden of the past, coupled with new mistakes, has already generated systemic imbalances that shaped society and its economic life. In addition, even relatively successful years could not get rid of the feeling that the country needs to once again fix its way, determine current priorities and develop a common strategy. In the ruling elite, there was an awareness of the need for a policy of purposeful development, in contrast to the policy of "extinguishing fires" of a cyclical and noncyclical nature inherent in the neoliberal ideology of the freedom of action of elemental forces [1]. Nevertheless, neoliberals developed the «Strategy 2010-2017», although the government, according to its developers, did not adopt it.

The nature of the economic strategy was such that it was easy to replace it with another strategy that began to develop in 2006. It was adopted in 2008, and was soon called "Strategy 2020". There is an opinion that the "consent zone" has significantly expanded in relation to the content of the concept of Russia’s development strategy between various scientific schools and government bodies [2].

There is an agreement that there is no need to prove the necessity of setting long-term goals as an initial condition for sustainable development of the country, that it is necessary to shift to economic growth on the basis of innovative factors—innovations based on the use of scientific achievements, from which the special role of scientific knowledge follows [3]. Nobody believes that national human capital (potential) is extremely important for ensuring sustainable long-term development of the country. Therefore, this article reveals the most priority areas for the development of the Russian economy now [4].

II. METHODOLOGY

In developing this problem, the following research methods were used: the study of scientific and methodological literature, dialectical cognition and institutional analysis. The set of tasks to be analyzed determined the need to use appropriate methodological tools, namely, civilizational, historical and institutional approaches [5].

The information base of the study was statistical materials of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, monographs and publications of Russian and foreign periodicals, information and analytical resources of the Internet, as well as the current regulatory framework and executive documents. Materials of monographs and articles of leading contemporary Western and Russian scholars on this and related issues, documents and materials of ministries and departments of the Government of the Russian Federation, publications and press materials, official statistics of the Russian Federation are used critically [6].

III. RESULTS

In the last decade of the twentieth century (especially in the initial period of modern reforms), Russia has talked a lot about permanent but unsuccessful attempts to transfer the Russian economy to market mechanisms. However, a more detailed analysis of the historical development of our state allows us to speak of all Russian reforms as institutional transformations in the economic sphere.
In line with the model of forced modernization, which some authors call “imperial”, Russia managed to maintain state independence by maintaining the military-political status of the state and strengthening military-technical power through the development of the military-industrial complex.

Changes in the institutions that accompany such a process of modernization are only a consequence and serve the best, quickest, and most effective achievement of the goal. At the same time, Russia is still committed to the national basic values that define as mentality, spirituality (the priority of spiritual values over material values), the ability to recognize "common" more important than private", all this allows us to preserve our cultural and civilizational identity [7].

Mentality can change with natural changes in the environment (both natural and artificial) in historically long periods, and these changes are evolutionary in nature. With the violent transformation and the transition from the foreign institutional environment of official institutions, carried out "from above", the mentality of people cannot accept such changes. At the same time, leaving the deeper layers of the mentality unchanged, changes in various spheres of life of the ethnos lead to changes in deeper layers, strengthening certain traits and weakening others. Based on the analysis, we can conclude that the changes in the mentality are rather weak, which began with the fact that the reforms did not give the right result [8].

Their goal was to create a market economy and a "democratic" society destroying the traditional institutions of all spheres of life of the Russian (then Soviet) society and transplanting the institutions of the Western model.

That is, Russia embarked on a path penetrated with modernization - Westernization, the goal of which was the rapid construction of a market economy without taking into account the features of the historical development of the Russian state, its own institutional environment and the mental characteristics of the population.

Moreover, if necessary, the was the task to destroy the stereotypes of traditional cultural behavior in the event of their inconsistencies with the Western way of life.

The history of the 1990s, which became a period of active attempts to introduce liberal principles of economic management everywhere, including in the social sphere, convincingly showed all these complications in the social life of society, which inevitably arise in this case.

There are several reasons why the concept of orthodox liberalism cannot be applied in Russia, especially at the stage of the formation of market relations. Firstly, there are a number of noncompetitive activities in the market economy, which is especially characteristic of the sphere of social services. The simplest solution in this case is to increase prices and reduce the load because of staff reduction, cost savings, misuse of fixed assets and, most importantly, because of reduced availability of the services offered [9]. Even if this solves the economic problems of the survival of social enterprises, this cannot correspond to their original tasks of maximum satisfaction of the social needs of the population [10].

The problems of the social sphere cannot be solved only through market mechanisms, therefore, in those areas of human activity where the market is impossible or insufficiently effective, it is necessary not to weaken but strengthen the governing and regulating role of the state. Secondly, the market inevitably leads to economic and social stratification of society, does not guarantee the preservation of the stability of the social position of the individual and does not guarantee an income sufficient for the reproduction of labor [11]. You cannot underestimate the danger of aggressive competition, the desire to drive out less influential competitors from the market, the ability to use harsh methods of exploiting labor, etc. Therefore, the state should mitigate the negative impact of the market, especially during the transition period of the population's adaptation to new socio-economic conditions [12]. Thirdly, during the period of economic crises that are an integral part of market relations, the needs of the population for social support are growing, especially in transition periods, which in fact are one of the main crises, a turning point in the life of society [13].

However, since the economic development of the state, the planning and implementation of reforms, their progress and their consequences are directly related to the prevailing mentality in this society, economic thinking shows the complete inconsistency of the western mentality and the corresponding institutions with Russian stereotypes, which led to unexpected results for reformers, but predictable [14].

At the same time, from the analysis and observations of all the changes in the contemporary Russian character that took place in the last decade, it can be concluded that the massive offensive of Western forms and institutions on all fronts: the economy, culture, and the social sphere, has led to the fact that economic processes have significantly accelerated [15].

IV. DISCUSSION


Now, a huge number of scientific facts have been accumulated about the economic development of Russia. Many scientific sources put them into circulation. The literature of both theoretical and applied nature is quite extensive and contains generalizations on various aspects of Russia's economic life, especially on the problems of the current reform process and the problems of institutional transformation [17].

Common to most of these studies is the recognition that reforms in the Russian economic sphere did not take into account the unpreparedness of both the economic system and society as a whole to institutional transformations imposed
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from above, the main characteristic of which is the foreign origin of their origin [18].

Existing publications differ in the variety of methodological and theoretical approaches. Many aspects are limited to a narrow period and are not retrospective.

Dubov I.G., Levita R.Y., Maimin E., Oleynikov Yu.V., Pantinini I.K., Pisemsky V.A., Kholodkov V.V. and other authors [19] develop various aspects of the problem in their works.

A large number of works have many points of view, differing in approaches and decisions on such issues as the goals of the strategy and their ranking by importance and time, the need and content of the necessary institutional changes, a set of tools for solving the problems of the problem, etc. There was a definite shift in the development of a strategy for social and economic development that receives authoritative approval, but the neoliberal ideology that is being implemented in Russia is fraught with errors both in setting goals and in choosing the means to transfer the economy [20].

V. CONCLUSION

Proceeding from the peculiarities of Russia and its historical traditions and taking into account the history of the formation of the Russian mentality and its characteristics that do not comply with Western standards, on the one hand, and the need to reform the entire economic life of society, on the other hand. It can be argued that Russia needs a transition to reforms that do not contradict the Russian archetype and form a model of organic development for Russia that would correspond to the Russian mentality and the requirements of the current stage of technology development of humanity.

The real revival of the Russian economy can only happen with a purposeful and conscious installation and use of the only factor capable of preserving the economic and political independence of the Russian state - the national consciousness of people.

The strengthening of people's self-awareness is connected with educational and religious spheres. Here also belongs the model of the economy, which is the national mentality of Russians.

An analysis of the peculiarities of the national mentality of Russians should help in the correct choice of the way of reforming Russia and the only possible model of development for Russia [21].

The analysis of the dynamics of the indicators of social and economic development in Russia in recent years indicates the presence of the most acute contradictions that persist in the social sphere. It also shows the excess of the known thresholds of social instability (decile factor, etc.), demonstrates the inadequacy of efforts to improve the basic characteristics of the level life in Russia.

Meanwhile, not all opportunities for reforming and improving the social sphere were used. The experience of social risk insurance was not sufficiently involved, the possibility of passive accounting of passive participation in solving social problems by enterprises that were allowed to drastically reduce and commercialize social infrastructure [22].

Active development of options for strengthening the social policy of the state and attracting additional organizational opportunities to increase the pace of social development can solve most social contradictions, given the potential of the Russian economy and the prospects for democratic development.

References

