

## Russia's Future Viewed From the Future<sup>1</sup>

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The scientific novelty and specific feature of the material, presented in this article, is reflected in the fact that the Russian and world experience of applying various methodological approaches to forecasting the future sustainable development of Russia and the world has been analyzed within the earlier available and the new paradigms of thinking. Forecasting of the future has been addressed through the prism of the author's design – that is, the new methodology for cognition of regularities in development of human community, based on teleological, systemic and cross-disciplinary approach as well as measurability of all processes through one index and one criteria of efficiency. This methodology offered a possibility to view all processes – but not from the past and present as it is done in the existing paradigm of thinking, but rather from the future, in which the time between the need to approach realization of the single goal of development and the possibility to realize the same shall be close to zero.

The research done in the context of the new methodology allows to state that all existing methodological approaches to forecasting the socio-economic development of Russia (as well as any other country and the entire human community) can be only used for a very short period of time. The reason is that they are based on the linear extrapolation of empiric data, on extrapolation of the past and present scientific knowledge, worldview, political systems of states, as well as on extrapolation of endogenous and exogenous factors. Meanwhile, the “painful points” and objects of study from the past would be sustained and prolonged into the future. Moreover, all existing methodologies of forecast may produce a whole range of probabilistic scenarios of development for a more distant future, such as optimistic, pessimistic, inertial, or modernization-based, but all of them would bear the heavy burden of the past and present problems, project them through various admissions to the future, or be just a fruit of imagination of those experts, whose subjective views change depending on the extent, to

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<sup>1</sup> This article was written with support from Russian Humanities Foundation (Grant No. 06-02-00165a).

which their own interests coincide with the interests of forecast-ordering customers. Hence, we may conclude naturally that today there is no problem, which would and might be resolved by traditional methods of forecasting.

At the present time, many scholars, starting to realize this situation, set the task to search new instruments for modeling, forecasting and formulation of development strategies. Moreover, they believe correctly that a new theoretical and methodological basis is really necessary for such search. However, they suggest that the basis should be found in the field of attainments of synergetics – the discipline, which invites researchers to combine problems of different levels forcefully and toughly, and then, in such combination, to seek and try to find the ways of their resolution.

However, if the search of this new basis proceeds from the assumption that it must involve the use of all constructive potentials laid in cross-disciplinary approaches basing on the idea of complexity, non-linearity and self-organization of the world in addressing the timely issues of development, then such search would lead to a blind alley in the course of cognition. Irrespectively of our wish, the human system develops objectively for reduction of time in attainment of the single, shared goal, and along this vector of axis of time all processes of development related to this single goal have the nature of evolution and involution. Hence, at one and the same time of history the processes of evolution and involution development are overlaid in relation of time, and the conclusion is made, like in synergetics, that complexity, crisis, chaos and non-linearity, etc. – all these are the necessary and even useful condition for development. As a counterweight, we see inventions of methods (tight rules) of co-evolution – that is, forceful unification of different-tire world into a single organism. But, exactly because of forceful combination of differently vectored processes (evolution and involution), none of the currently existing methodologies can produce the desired results. On the other hand, the fact that the human systems develops complexly, non-linearly and chaotically confirms once again that we do not have a relevant methodology for cognition.

So, what is the essence of the new methodology for cognition? It has been proved theoretically and confirmed practically that all current contradictions and troubles in the societal development are of systemic nature and cannot be explained and resolved with the help of available scattered knowledge. Therefore, it was required to consolidate those scattered pieces of knowledge systemically through identification of the target development function of the

entire system and any part thereof in whatever the section (civilization, formational, national, confessional, territorial, socio-economic, political, organizational, etc.). It was not only required to identify the goal of development, but rather the ultimate objective, which cannot become a sub-goal of the higher-objective. In other words, it was required to define the objective reason for development of the human system, and to understand that the purpose of human life is not to provide the GDP growth or to produce the maximal possible amounts of weapons for one's own annihilation. The human person must and can only live in order to develop and realize maximally his / her spiritual and intellectual potentials, and at the same to build up the level of his / her consciousness and physical perfection. Further on, the course of research confirmed that in order to assess objectively the system in relation to the identified objective, the whole diversity of processes and phenomena could be analyzed in the prism of a sole index, the time. By applying this index, we can measure and juxtapose the things that cannot be measured and juxtaposed in other indices, and, what is most important, to juxtapose all facets of human and societal life in time, and to identify at what stage of human progress it is located in relation to the ultimate objective. Hence, we came to see that the functional efficiency of the whole system and any of its parts could and should be considered through the sole criteria – that is, the time between emergence and satisfaction of a need of any human person. This new index, never used in forecasting before, shows that if the time tends to reduce continuously, the human system develops efficiently in relation to the objective. As emphasized today by many forecasters, the qualitative indexes of economic growth – for example, GDP – are becoming less significant in the world economy, while the index of development quality comes out to the forefront.

Using the instruments of the new methodology for cognition, in her publications the author offers the analysis and appraisal of the condition of Russia's socio-economic growth, identifies the deeply-set reasons of the current disproportions and negative phenomena, concludes that the existing development model has been entirely exhausted, and presents, at the conceptual level, the fundamental outlines of the searched-for model of Russia's future and mechanism of its realization.

The current situation in the world and Russia is marked by rapid assault of financial and economic crisis along all vectors. The world, again, is faced with the situation, for which it is not prepared. First, there was a hectic search of

the guilty, and only then the efforts were taken to find a prescription to treat the phenomenon. By now, the President and Government of Russia have defined the principles and priorities of anti-crisis policy. The anti-crisis plan with its 55 clauses was published on November 7, 2008. Over 5 trillion Rubles can be allocated to cope with the crisis consequences in Russia, However, on November 20, 2008, at the congress of the “United Russia” Party, when asked “What happens next?”, Prime-Minister Vladimir Putin said candidly that neither he nor anybody else would be able to predict. At the Washington summit of November 15, 2008, leaders of G-20 countries, too, did not find an efficient mechanism to regulate the global financial markets, did not take any measures to contain the decline of the world economy, and simply recorded that the world economy was sliding down unmercifully toward recession.

By all evidence, the attempts being taken are to cure the disease by the post-factum method of trials and errors, without a profound theoretical realization of the crisis phenomena and hence without a guarantee of the full recovery.

Today, when the global economic crisis unfolded, the observers recall Nickolai D. Kondratieff, the author of big cycles of demand-and-supply. Under his theory, the current crisis is a breakthrough from the upward wave appeared in the late 1980s to the downward wave – the period, when the economic system would undergo the “reloading” process and get rid of the “soap balloons” of over-accumulated capital through its massive devaluation. As a result, by this theory, the long and deep depression would be inevitable. And, the main action is still on the way; by Kondratieff’s followers, it will begin some time in 2012 – 2015, when the global economy reaches the lowest point in the downward wave of the fifth K-cycle. We see, however, that even now the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis are tinted in the colors of catastrophe.

The new methodology for cognition makes it clear that if the system is reloaded on the basis of forming an image of the new international financial system, and even if Russia becomes a global financial center, the outcome will be the same: the new spiral of crisis with even more severe implications.

At the same time, according to Kondratieff, every new cycle takes place in new specific historic conditions during formation of a new technological system, at a new level in development of production forces, and hence is not at all a mere repetition of the previous cycle. Therefore, it is important not to wait through the crisis with its social and economic consequences, not to clear-out the same, but rather to define precisely those innovations that

would serve as the engines of growth in the next cycle and lead to the trajectory of evolutionary development in relation to the identified objective of development. Then it would be possible to understand that the complexity, non-linearity and chaos as well as cycles and crises are not an inevitable precondition for development but are rather a result of our unawareness of regularities in development of human community.

Owing to the possibility to forecast the future of Russia and the world from the future, in which the time between the emergence and satisfaction of the need of any specific human person gravitates to zero, we obtain a chance to form Russia's long-term development strategy. This, however, will take place only if we undertake the purpose-oriented work on Russia's socio-economic, political, institutional and science-tech development model, which is relevant to that future.

The view from the future through the prism of the new methodology for cognition made it possible to identify that all development models available currently on the planet (neoliberal, Keynesian, totalitarian, or a mixture thereof) share such main feature as orientation of production to satisfaction of needs (demand) of an abstract end consumer through the elemental, archaic market form of communication with a specific human being. However, with the current rates of changes in economic reality, uncertainty of consumption resulted in emergence and global growth of disproportion between the time of production and time spent for circulation of commodities and money, to entire de-synchronization of these processes). The time for circulation is many times as longer than the time for production. The dynamics of material factors of production is torn far apart from their monetary form. This fact, directly or indirectly, serves the basis for all other disproportions as well as negative and crisis phenomena. For example, according to UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the number of those suffering from starvation in the world has grown by 40 million and amounts to 193 million people. However, by scientists' estimates, the planet of Earth can feed the population several times as bigger than the present world population. Hence, the reason for mass starvation is not to be found in nature but rather in socio-economic human relations as well as in the currently existing, ultimately de-synchronized model of development.

In this sense, the Russian model is the most problematic, as with Russia's territorial dimensions the disproportions between the time for production

and time for circulation of commodities and money are pronounced more strongly than in any other country.

Let us take, for example, such measures as establishment of Stabilization and Reserve Funds, Development Funds and other specialized funds for safe-keeping of national monetary assets, and depositing thereof in accounts with foreign banks and various companies. The very fact of establishing the Stabilization Fund resulted in the arrear of monetary funds without circulation in 2004 by 12 days. As of early 2007, this index grew to over 95 days and quite recently exceeded 100 days. In view of billions-worth sums of money being injected today into the circulation channels, the given index will become many times as bigger. These actions might cause horrible implications for the Russian society and for each individual.

With other macroeconomic factors added, de-synchronization will be even more intensive. For example, such factors as digital inequality among regions, various local government authorities and specific people, as well as the lack of the shared information space and the use of ICT mainly for storage and processing of information for government and corporate needs – all these result in growth of all disproportions in time and in the space of Russia.

The major conclusion that can be derived is the following: the further orientation of production to satisfaction of demand of an abstract consumer would result in accelerated destruction of all kinds of resources and even in extermination of human species as such. That this statement is correct is proved by the current economic crisis.

This systemic crisis is about to cross the reversal point, and then control at all levels and the possibility to create a critical mass of a different model would be lost. The profound reasons are to be found at the systemic level – that is, in the currently existing development model.

Therefore, the main strategic task is to change the contents of national economic and social policy as well as to reorient it to reproductive development trajectory within the country, and only to the ultimate result – that is, to reduction of time between emergence and satisfaction of demand of each specific human person on the base of his / her order.

Moreover, with the current rate of changes in economic reality, it is not sufficient to connect the government budget and private investments to the real growth of labor productivity in order to ensure efficient use of such investments and prevent from the further inflation growth. Such investments

must be connected with productive consumption, so that everything, which is produced, would be actually consumed. This can be only attained through specific orders of specific people, without any redundant production.

As shown by the research, the information and communication technologies (ICT) are to become an efficient instrument to eliminate disproportions and de-synchronization of all processes in time of production and circulation of commodities and money as well as to accelerate such processes synchronously in the vast expanses of Russia. To this end, however, ICT must be considered as a super-modern means of human communication, which, having replaced telegraph and telephone, makes it possible, owing to the current rate of production and consumption, to conciliate human interests in the real-time and online regime.

In the currently existing concept for construction of information society, a specific human individual is only present in the data register, in which he / she has his / her identification code, as a controllable subject for the needs of governance at all levels. In this concept, a specific human individual is missing as the producer and consumer of all goods, and this concept does not offer a possibility to conciliate producers' and consumers' interests in the real time and space.

Therefore, the next strategic task is to build the mechanism that would help to conciliate interests of all participants of reproduction chain, through to the end consumers - each individual. Therefore, at each local level the modern infrastructure must be built on the base of ICT in order to ensure interconnection between producers and consumers.

Furthermore, in this model the ICT, being a super-modern means of instantaneous communication among people, will make it possible to pool their minds for perception, buildup and use of knowledge relevant to the purpose of societal development. Only in such conditions the knowledge would become a true productive force, as the mind of all people would generate new knowledge in the interest of each specific human individual.

The new reality does not proceed from the past experience; rather, it is taking shape here and now from knowledge of the future. Introduction, by applying the ICT, of specific human individual into the system of relations as a producer and consumer of all goods, and conciliation of his / her interests in the real time, through these communication means, with interests of other people – this is the innovation, which, according to Shumpeter, will change

the mode of material production irreversibly in history. According to Kondratieff, this is the innovation that would enable us to proceed rapidly to the qualitatively new cycle in development of human community.

Such measures would provide for rapid and even-paced improvement of all people in the entire space of Russia, and to implement practically Article 7 of the Constitution, under which the Russian Federation is the social state that provides for free development – not just of a man, but every specific individual.

Today, Russia, as compared to other countries, has unique advantages in terms of the need and the possibility to form such development model. The main point is not to miss time!

### **From Editors of Integral Journal**

Фотография книги

In 2008, the “Economika” Publishers issued a book by V.M. Bondarenko: “Forecasting the Future: A New Paradigm”. This book was written after research of such subjects as “Russia’s Future Viewed From the Future” and “Does Russia Have Other Than Raw-Resource Future in the World?” with support, provided by the Russian Humanities Fund (grant No. 06-02-00165a) and “Wealth for All” Charity Foundation named after G.G. Fetisov. The books addresses the main stages in initiation and development of prognostic research methodologies in Russia and other countries, and offers the analysis of some recently published foreign forecasts, directly related to prospects for the global development of mankind. The Russian experience is analyzed through the prism of historical-science generalization of methodological approaches to forecasting. Special attention is devoted to development of Russian (for example, N.D. Kondratieff’s) and borrowed (for example, “Foresight”) methodological foundations and practices of long-term forecasts of socio-economic and science-tech development in the pre-reform period and at the current stage of Russia’s contemporary history. This work has been done within the framework of the existing paradigm of thinking as well as within the new paradigm – that is, forecasting of the future has been analyzed through the prism of the new methodology for cognition.