

ON THE NEW EDITION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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- - The special emphasis of the new version of the Russian National Security Strategy on information security and protection of traditional spiritual and moral values is evidence of further attempts by the Russian leadership to limit external pressures, especially from Western countries, on domestic political processes in Russia and its partners.

- The adoption of the document immediately after the release of the communiqué following the NATO Summit and the EU document on EU-Russia relations, in which Russia is identified as a threat, is a signal of Moscow's reluctance to compromise and make concessions in dialogue with the West, including security on the European continent and the determination of the Russian leadership to further "raise rates" in opposition to it.

- The strategy identifies the Western democracies as the main opponents of Russia, and as the partners and allies - China, India, members of the Eurasian Economic Union, CSTO, BRICS, SCO and RIC¹.

¹ E A E U (Eurasian Economic Union), CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), RIC (Russia, India, China).

- In the field of foreign policy, the document focuses on the development of relations with the CIS countries, and identifies attempts at external interference in their internal affairs as a threat to Russia's national security.

- The declaration in the Strategy of measures to strengthen "fraternal ties" between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples indicates a probable change in the approaches of the Russian leadership to Ukraine especially against the background of a return to the ideological cliché of "one people" in defining relations between Russia and Ukraine as well as the division into "people" and "leadership" of Ukraine in the rhetoric of the President of the Russian Federation.

On July 2, this year President of the Russian Federation V. Putin by his decree adopted a new National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation (hereinafter - the Strategy), the text of which was discussed on May 28, this year at a meeting of the Security Council of the Russian Federation. It replaces the previous document of 31 December 2015, and is in fact an updated version. According to V. Putin, the Strategy takes into account new trends in the military-political situation in the world and determines Russia's reaction to current threats.

The Strategy for the first time enshrines the concept of "sovereign statehood of" ("sovereign statehood of Russia"), which means the ability of the state to pursue an independent foreign and domestic policy, as well as to effectively counter external pressure. It is stated that this ability became possible with a consistent course of the Russian Federation to strengthen defense capabilities, internal unity and political stability, to modernize the economy and develop industrial potential.

According to the Strategy, the further formation of a just society and the prosperity of Russia is possible with a harmonious combination of a strong state and human well-being. This requires concerted action to implement Russia's strategic national priorities aimed at neutralizing external and internal threats and creating conditions for achieving national development goals.

The main provisions of the Strategy:

1. Analysis of the global security environment.

The document enshrines the thesis of the formation of a multipolar world order against the background of the loss of Western leadership and reducing the attractiveness of the Western model of socio-economic moral and value path of development, the emergence of *new global and regional centers of influence*, as well as the rules and principles of the world order. The desire of the West to preserve its own hegemony, the crisis of modern models and tools of development, global inequality, the desire of multinational companies to limit the role of the state is accompanied by interstate contradictions, weakening international institutions and increasing risks to global security. Global instability and the intensification of radical and extremist sentiments in society contribute to the exacerbation of interstate conflicts by finding external and internal enemies, destroying the economy, traditional values and ignoring fundamental human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, the Strategy states that against this background, *Russia is increasing its capabilities*, namely internal stability, economic, political, military and spiritual potential, *which ensures the status of one of the influential centers of the modern world*. The cohesion of Russian society and the desire of Russian citizens to take a more active role in the public life of the state were noted. *The successes in ensuring the economic resilience of the state in the face of economic sanctions*, in protection against military threats, and in overcoming attempts at external interference in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation are emphasized.

2. Threats and challenges to the national security of the Russian Federation.

1) *Increasing the threat of the use of military force* in conditions of geopolitical tensions and intensification of interstate contradictions. *Updating this tool to achieve the subjects of international relations of their geopolitical interest*. Ignoring the principles of international law, the crisis of international regimes and institutions lead

to tensions and aggravation of the military-political situation, in particular on the borders with Russia.

2) *Identification of Russia by a number of countries as a threat or military adversary.* This creates the possibility of escalating conflicts into local or regional war with participation, including and nuclear powers. *The situation is exacerbated by the use of cyberspace and outer space for hostilities.*

3) *Subversive activities of certain states,* aimed at intensifying disintegration processes in the CIS, severing ties with Russia and its traditional allies.

4) Conducting unfair competition, applying protectionist measures and sanctions against Russia and its partners. Using climate change and environmental issues to limit Russian companies' access to foreign markets, curb the development of Russian industry, control over transport routes and development of the Arctic region.

5) *Attempts to isolate Russia, which hampers multilateral cooperation* in other areas of global and regional security, including the fight against terrorism, extremism, crime, drug trafficking and etc.

6) Use of information space to interfere in the internal affairs of the state and carry out destructive actions in order to provoke social tension, proliferation, extremist and terrorist propaganda, etc.

7) The policy of unfriendly *states on the purposeful erosion of traditional values,* distortion of world history and Russia's place in it, as well as the rehabilitation of fascism.

8) Deliberately prevent the use of "soft power" by Russia, including the use of the Russian language, the activities of the Russian media and information resources abroad, and the imposition of sanctions against Russian athletes.

9) Increasing *the role of foreign states in using the unfavorable socio-economic situation to radicalize the protest movement* and promote centrifugal processes in Russian society.

3. Russia's policy to neutralize threats and challenges to national security.

Among the national interests and priorities, for the first time, the "preservation of the people of Russia" and its combination with the development of human potential is determined. The main goal in this direction is the sustainable growth of the duration and quality of life of the population, as well as ensuring the social level and educational and humanitarian development of citizens. The existence of socio-economic problems of Russians is recognized, which leads to "growing needs of society in improving the efficiency of public administration, ensuring social justice, strengthening the fight against corruption and misuse of budget funds and state property."

The Strategy traces the attempt to use the conservative narrative as a tool for ideological response to the promotion of the values of liberal democracy in Russian society. Thus, a separate section highlights the *protection of Russian traditional spiritual, moral, cultural and historical memory*. The document argues for the destructive effects of the globalization of culture and technology on traditional culture and values. The United States and its partners, multinational corporations, foreign nonprofits, non-governmental organizations, extremist and terrorist organizations have been directly accused of attacking Russia's traditional spiritual, moral, and cultural-historical values, in the "*westernization*" of culture, which poses a danger of losing Russia's "cultural sovereignty".

Traditional Russian values include life, dignity, human rights and freedoms, citizenship, patriotism, service to the Motherland, high moral ideals, strong family, creative work, the priority of the spiritual over the moral, humanism, charity, justice, collectivism, mutual aid and mutual respect, historical memory and succession of generations, as well as the unity of the peoples of Russia.

In order to protect these principles, it is proposed, among other things, to strengthen civic unity, protect historical truth and memory, strengthen the institution of the family and family traditions, strengthen the cultural sovereignty and cultural

space of the Russian Federation. The importance of spiritual and moral education of citizens on historical and modern examples, support of religious organizations of traditional denominations, protection of the Russian language as the state language, struggle against ideological and value expansion and external informational and psychological influences on the Russian society are emphasized.

Unlike the previous version, the Strategy pays special attention *to ensuring the security of the Russian Federation in the information sphere* - the use of tools to control and combat illegal and destructive activities on the Internet, creating a secure information environment, strengthening international cooperation on information security.

4. The main directions of Russia's foreign policy.

The Strategy declares that Russia pursues a consistent, independent, multi-vector, open, transparent and predictable foreign policy and prefers political means, especially diplomatic instruments and peacekeeping, in resolving international and domestic conflicts. Russia will help strengthen the international legal system, support international peace and security, counter the use of military force not provided for in the UN Charter, improve mechanisms for collective security at the global and regional levels, and support strategic stability.

The document *clearly states the priority of the CIS region in Russia's foreign policy*. Thus, the deepening of cooperation within the Commonwealth and with the so-called "Republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia" both bilaterally and multilaterally (within the EAEU, CSTO and the Union State). Russia seeks to develop a general partnership and strategic cooperation with China and a special privileged strategic partnership with India. The priority of developing cooperation within the BRICS, SCO and RIC is preserved. Russia is committed to helping to overcome and prevent tensions and conflicts in its neighboring territories, as well as to increase its role in peacekeeping.

The document declares *Russia's support for its allies and partners in resolving defense and security issues, as well as neutralizing attempts at external interference in their internal affairs*. The strengthening of "*fraternal ties*" between *Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians* is prescribed. The intentions to support compatriots living abroad in preserving their rights, including - All-Russian cultural identity.

The new version of the Strategy *lacks Russia's position on domestic political processes in Ukraine* and the conflict in Donbas. The text of the previous version of the 2015 document accused the US and the EU of supporting the "unconstitutional coup in Ukraine", which led to a deep split in Ukrainian society and the emergence of armed conflict. It was argued that the strengthening of the right-wing nationalist ideology, the purposeful formation of the Ukrainian population as an enemy in the form of Russia, an undisguised bet on the use of force to resolve internal contradictions, and a deep socioeconomic crisis make Ukraine a long-term source of instability in Europe and directly near the borders of Russia.

Finally, the Strategy consolidates Russia's intentions to explore outer space, the oceans, the Arctic and the Antarctic.