

Valdai Club Session. The New Asian Geopolitics and Political Economy: Opportunities for Russia

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Asian Region is becoming the centre of global development

“Probably one of the centres, or even the most important centre of global development has moved to Eurasia <...> We understand and consider these processes as universal, as a kind of association that allows to weave the canvas of a new global world. One of many forms of these interconnections is the building of new regional globalization that will further expand <...> The entire configuration of the world largely depends on the efforts made by these countries,” Andrei Bystritsky, Chairman of the Board, Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai Discussion Club; Professor, National Research University Higher School of Economics.

“Growth of economic and political importance of Asian countries, both major ones, like India and China, and smaller ones <...> is changing the whole geopolitical map of the world. Today the Asian region is becoming not only the workshop, the smithery, where most goods for global markets are produced, but also a source of ideas, investments and political influence,” Timofei Bordachev, Director, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, National Research University Higher School of Economics; Programme Director, The Valdai Discussion Club.

“Now everybody knows that Asia is the driver of modern economic growth, as China and India have shown. Since 2009 China has been the largest automobile, concrete and textile producer in the world <...> At the same time, this territory is a real centre, a hub and a generator of various problems of the 21st century; it consumes more energy than any other region,” Kim Jin Hyun, Chairman, World Peace Forum.

Economic growth needs a stable political system

“Unless there is political stability and political transparency, even with all necessary prerequisites, the economy is going to be stuck <...> Economic opportunities is not everything; we need to have a stable political system that fosters economic development,” Damdin Tsogtbaatar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

Multilateral approach in international relations is the most effective one

“After many years of diplomatic experiments and due to the transformation of the international system and the Chinese internal affairs, China finally realized that the multilateral approach in diplomacy is the most effective one,” Lanxin Xiang, Professor, The Graduate Institute, Geneva; Director, Centre of One Belt and One Road Studies, China National Institute for SCO International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation.

PROBLEMS

Lack of consolidated international institutions and standards

“With the rise of China, in the next 15 years water boundaries will change <...> We will have a different Indian Ocean, a different Pacific Ocean <...> We have to create a new international code of conduct in the sea <...> the sovereignty in the sea will also change,” Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation.

Need for new political architecture of Eurasia

“The human understanding of how the world is organized, in the physical sense, how it is structured, has changed. <...> Now Asia is rising, China has put forward the initiative ‘One Belt and One Road’ as well as a suggestion to create a southern corridor on the Russian side, along with the participation of other neighbouring countries in joint projects. We are fundamentally uniting Asia and Europe to create a kind of supercontinent <...> This supercontinent requires new political infrastructure, it requires political organization,” Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation.

“What is centre and what is periphery in modern world <...> Mongolia is not periphery anymore, rather Europe is periphery; location has not changed, unlike everything else,” Fyodor Lukyanov, Research Director, Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai Discussion Club; Chief Editor, Russia in Global Affairs Journal.

SOLUTIONS

Creation of new institutional architecture

“Russia, Korea, Japan and any other countries should work together, cooperate to build a new political order that will allow us to manage this new geographic distribution,” Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation.

Development of joint infrastructure and social projects

“Recently we signed an agreement on transit shipments with Russia <...> Already 33 countries are working on fighting bureaucratic and administrative barriers that hinder transit shipments,” Damdin Tsogtbaatar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.