

MODERNIZATION OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF RUSSIA: TARGETS AND PRIORITY DIRECTIONS

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Abstract: The article examines the issue of modernization of the political system of Russia. Formation of a democratic political system is an integral part of Russia's modernization strategy. The relevance and objective need to develop an innovative strategy for the modernization of the political sphere of life in Russian society is determined by the inefficiency of existing political institutions, outdated principles, methods, technologies of organization and management, their inconsistency with modern realities, effective resolution of internal problems and global external challenges. The objective meaning of modernization is determined by modern Russian conditions, the nature of issues and contradictions that require their urgent solution. The study purpose is to develop a strategy for the

innovative development of the political system of the Russian Federation. Achievement of this goal requires consideration of the basic conditions and contradictions of the modern development of the political system of the Russian Federation, the most important areas and priorities that contribute to its modernization. As a methodological base for the study, the work includes the following approaches and methods: systemic, structural-functional approaches, sociological, logical, historical and comparative methods, as well as analysis of conditions and contradictions that need to be resolved and contribute to the modernization of the political life of modern Russia. As a research result, we came to the following conclusions:

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1. Modernization of the political system of the Russian Federation is an objectively necessary process. However, it is not the result of consensus, but a competition between innovators, conservatives and observers.

2. The strategic goal of modernizing the political system of Russian society is to make Russia one of the leading sovereign powers, with a republican democratic form of government, in which a person lives freely and comfortably.

3. Modernization of the political system shall cover the institutional (state, parties), communicative, regulatory and spiritual and ideological subsystems of Russia.

4. The result of democratic modernization of the political system shall be the formation of political institutions that really reflect and express the interests of social groups and strata and contribute to the formation of solidary community.

5. Creation of a system of ideas and values understandable to the majority of the population, and capable of uniting various layers and groups to carry out modernization.

6. As a result of modernization of the political system as a system of determining goals and priorities, the innovative mechanism becomes an inherent attribute of the development of Russian society. This is the strategic goal of modernization in Russia.

Keywords: modernization, political system, innovation development strategy, civil society, democratic rule of law.

Introduction

The model of socio-political, economic and spiritual development of Russian society that has developed in the post-Soviet era shows its weak efficiency: reforms are often replaced by counter-reforms and do not produce the necessary results, the stability that remains in society does not contribute to the formation of conditions and prerequisites for the country's modernization.

According to the World Bank, Russia's GDP has grown on average by 0.4% per year - which is 8 times slower than the global economy as a whole (31.2%) - over the past 10 years. The lag behind the US GDP was 4 times

(16.2%), and the Chinese economy grew by (101%), writes Finanz.ru [1]. All this indicates the lack of an effective coherent development strategy for our society. The lack of a clear and adequate answer to the challenges of globalization and internal development of Russia itself contributes to the fact that the need for renewal and radical changes in Russian society is increasingly recognized not only by scientists, but also by a significant part of business and active citizens.

Most publications on the strategy of innovative development of Russia deal with a complex of problems of social, organizational, scientific, technical and technological development of modern Russian society. A similar logic is visible in the National Development Projects of Russia until 2024, the main purpose of which is to improve the social and economic situation in the Russian Federation, improve the quality of life, and create comfortable conditions and opportunities for self-realization for all citizens of the country [2, p. 766-771; 3, p. 122-129].

However, in this form, National Projects cannot fully solve the problem

of modernization, since they include neither modernization of the public administration system, nor reform of the judicial system, nor modernization of the political and legal aspects of political life, nor the problem of society's democratization. Without these crucial aspects of the life of modern society, the modernization process will not lead to a systemic change in Russian society as a whole.

In recent years, a large number of Strategies and Programs have been adopted. For example, two Strategies for the Information Development of Russia were adopted: one - in 2008, the other - in 2017. Two large-scale Development Programs of Russia were also developed - for 2020 and 2030. An analysis of these Programs indicates that the government is looking for the ways to development, but does not want to radically change anything.

Methods

Application of a systematic approach allows considering modernization of the political system of Russia holistically, in the unity of its main components, looking at the dynamics of changes. The structural and

functional approach to the study of the process of modernization of the political sphere of life helps to identify its role in the development of modern Russia. Historical and comparative methods in the study of the process of modernization of the political system in Russia allowed identifying issues and contradictions, their genesis and current status. An analysis of the trends and main directions of modernization made it possible to identify and determine the strengths and weaknesses of the modern political process in Russia.

Results And Discussion

After the start and successful completion of the Syrian campaign, Russia's sovereignty has significantly strengthened in world politics.

Developed 10 years ago, the concept of sovereign democracy also received its embodiment and implementation. However, as N.A. Baranov notes: "...sovereign democracy becomes an obstacle to the expansion of democratic freedoms and practices in society... and helps to strengthen state control over all aspects of society. ...Management mechanisms remained bureaucratic, often not transparent, and

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therefore not accessible for influencing decision-making by the opposition and other socio-political forces" [4, p. 22-24].

Based on the identified conditions and reasons for the need to modernize the political system of the Russian Federation, the following development directions can be distinguished:

1. Scientific and public examination of the modernization strategy.

Due to the weak structuredness and fragmentation in its development, modern Russian society is completely dependent on the political or ruling elite. The ruling elite itself has different views on the need to update and modernize Russian society (innovators and conservatives). The main task of the strategically minded political elite of Russia is to integrate the initiative and active part of Russian society around the modernization project with the mandatory use of modern information and communication technologies and the manifestation of the best leadership qualities.

The development of a modernization strategy itself shall undergo a scientific (Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation, scientific and university community) and public examination (Public Chamber and public associations, including discussion on the Internet). This will contribute to the legitimization of the modernization project itself, increase public confidence in the innovative part of the political elite, as well as the formation of communicative feedback channels, ethical standards of interaction between the elite and the civil society institutions, and the public.

2. Democratization of political institutions.

The problem of democratization of Russian society is basic and fundamental, since it is aimed at forming a modern Russian nation, capable of identifying itself as the most important subject of political power, participating in governing the country and exercising its subjectivity in the preparation, adoption, execution and control of socially significant political decisions. Of course, with a variety of forms of citizen participation in the

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management of public and state affairs, democracy, first of all, shall promote the development of subjectivity, independence, real involvement of the population in the process of democracy (from municipal, cooperative democracy, democracy of public organizations and joint-stock companies, to the use of certain provisions, theories and practices of community democracy) [5; 6].

It is necessary to accustom people to political participation gradually. It is most accessible to do this at the place of residence. The municipal form of democratic participation contributes to the formation of responsibility for their small homeland. To do this, one can use a variety of forms: participation in meetings, gatherings, which discuss issues of improvement and environmental safety; participation in the discussion of municipal projects that determine the agenda and development prospects; and participation in local elections and referenda forms the responsibility of citizens for the decisions they make. Using these channels of citizen participation in governance forms the experience of interaction between

citizens and authorities, and shows the real possibilities of democracy.

It is necessary to use the experience of public associations that verify and control the activities of the authorities in developing direct democracy. In this regard, the work of the Federal Public Chamber deserves attention. For example, the work of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation received the support of citizens, primarily in expert assessments of a number of bills that have gained democratic nature and become better due to amendments. Another example of the interaction of civil society and the Government is the activity of the All-Russian Popular Front. In November 2018, ARPF launched a mobile application "People's Control", available on Google Play and Apple Store, which has been downloaded by more than 30 thousand people, and which makes it possible for everyone to monitor how the "May Decree" of the head of state is implemented in the region, how the results of 12 national projects affect the quality of life of Russians, and to take a direct part in this work. However, there are not so many such positive examples

of interaction between civil society and the Government.

Today, in the presence of huge financial resources, the task of their rational and effective use shall concern not only the Government and deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. It is necessary to actively include the public, the scientific community in this process: RAS, university science, scientists, who are able to competently discuss the most important socially significant problems and provide an independent expert assessment of the plans and actions of Russian government.

Public policy needs an independent and disinterested arbitrator, who is able to resolve the dispute fairly in accordance with legal norms, and it shall be higher than the parties to the conflict in this respect. In addition, it shall be indifferent to the subject, which the parties have not divided. Such a function in a democratic state of law is performed by the court. Also, the arbitrator's function in public policy can be performed by independent media capable of shaping public opinion, legislative institutions in which society, through its representatives, determines

laws and norms of behavior that contribute to finding a balance of interests. Modern Russian media shall become as independent as they were in the early 90's of XX century. It is necessary to legislatively introduce restrictions on the possible interference of the owner in the editorial policy for this purpose.

The nascent civil society of Russia has great democratic potential, the activity of which shall be aimed at actively protecting the interests of citizens and their associations, forming an active civic position, as well as rejecting paternalistic ideology and generating critical analysis for the activities of the authorities.

Improvement of the existing legislation, governing the activities of the main subjects of politics, is an important aspect of democratization of the political system. The quintessence of this issue is that many of the repealed legislative norms and regulations were real steps in the actual movement of Russian society towards democracy. Their repeal cannot be explained on the basis of situationality or certain personalities. It was a process of moving away from a democratic focus. The need

to remove legal barriers to democratic modernization is an urgent task for the representative power. However, the adoption of laws on non-governmental organizations and on pension reform does not contribute to the establishment of a democratic public policy. Such activity of the Russian legislators is beyond the real movement towards democracy and modernization of the political system.

In order for the existing parliament of the Russian Federation to carry out the necessary legislative work in a quality manner, it shall be independent and professionally competent. The process of forming modern representative institutions of state power does not express the prevailing diversity of political preferences of Russian citizens. Numerous violations of the free will of citizens do not contribute to the formation of representative institution, expressing the will and interests of citizens. According to the results of recent elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation, only 47.9% of voters came to polling stations. According to a survey conducted by Levada Center, 25% of the population of

the Russian Federation expressed their confidence in the Federation Council, in the State Duma - 23%, while the distrust was 26% and 32%, respectively, in October 2018 [7].

In the absence of a stable party system, a return to a mixed majority-proportional election system in the State Duma of the Russian Federation helps to reduce the tendency to depersonalize power, its alienation and removal from ordinary citizens. However, this measure cannot solve the problem of responsible government. A transition to the formation of a government on a party basis, that is, to a parliamentary republic with a weak party system and political parties, will also not solve this problem. It would be more effective to form a presidential republic, where the head of state simultaneously performs the function of the head of executive branch, while strengthening the independence of parliament, through an appropriate system of checks and balances.

As a modernization of the existing system of separation of powers in Russia, we can propose the endowment of the legislative and judicial branches of government with greater autonomy and independence. The

sovereignty and independence of our parliament can be implemented through empowering it to carry out a parliamentary investigation. In our opinion, this will contribute both to enhancing the legitimacy of its activities and to increasing the ability of the Russian parliament to exercise control over the executive and judicial branches of government. With the professional and responsible implementation of this function, parliament can turn into one of the authoritative political institutions.

An urgent problem of modernization of the political system is communication between society and authorities. The Russian political communicative process needs to create effective feedback between civil society and government. It is necessary to remove bureaucratic and administrative barriers that interfere with the interaction of the parties. Moreover, the creation of such an effective model of political communication is necessary both for society and authorities. Society is interested in the authorities, having an adequate idea of its needs and problems, since the needs and interests determine the formation of the political development strategy, the program of the

ruling political party and the political course of the government.

The authorities also cannot carry out their activities effectively without appropriate feedback channels. Of course, modern Russian authorities quite often use “manual control” methods, which have recently failed, in their work. Quite often, we are faced with a situation where inaccurate, and often belated, information cause irreparable damage to the society and the state, and the price of erroneous decisions can lead to the most dangerous consequences.

2. Formation of the system of values that are understandable, accessible, and uniting various layers and groups of society for political modernization.

It is not easy to do this, since the practice of managing and reforming the life of Russians has very often led not to improvement, but, on the contrary, to deterioration of the living conditions of the bulk of citizens [8, p. 29].

This problem can be treated much wider. One should talk about the spiritual component of the

modernization process, which includes the following ideas: freedom, equality, democracy, pluralism, competition, federalism, and justice. The publicity and democracy of promoting ideas consists in the possibility of their unhindered distribution, accessibility and openness to the civil society.

And finally, political parties, regional elite, and media shall be included in the discussion on the problems of political modernization of society, in addition to developers and expert community [9; 10]. In the modern era, the problems of modernization of Russian society shall be reflected in the information space. In the practice of working with the public of state bodies, political parties, and state media, a special focus, reflecting the process of implementing modernization projects, shall be present on an ongoing basis.

Conclusions

The indicated directions and modernization of the political system of modern Russia shall ultimately lead to the formation of such political institutions that can represent the interests of all social groups and layers and contribute to the formation of a

solidarity community. Society and government shall have constant interactive communication with various institutions and associations of citizens, including opposition.

The results of modernization process shall be available to all citizens on the Internet, which will allow them monitoring and offering their options for making adjustments to the implementation of the country's modernization process.

Summary

In conclusion, it shall be said that the result of coordinated modernization work of society and authorities shall be a political system that will correspond to modern realities and contribute to the establishment of a new democratic Russia.

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