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RETHINKING RUSSIAN ECONOMY: NEW DEVELOPMENTS, NEW FRAMEWORK, NEW CHALLENGES

Abstract

The good governance means during complicate times to keep in mind that danger can appear not only from the external forces, but also from the domestic ones. Both directions request a careful approach and some prognosis, to find the main menaces and to adopt a strategy to solve them. The 2022 year brought a difficult situation for Eastern Europe, both for EU member and non-member states. A central place in this equation is reserved for *Russian Federation – the biggest country in the region,* but also the political actor who face one of the most peculiar transitions in economic and administrative areas. The next decade will offer to Russian state many challenges in the economic sphere, able to force Moscow government to rethink the national economic framework and to also rethink a new way for industrial, technological, and agricultural development. The key purpose of this analysis is to briefly present the general context of the Russian economy, its development prospects, vulnerabilities, and strengths that will determine its development options in the coming decades. In view of the size of the possible analysis, which would require a volume, mainly statistical and historical methods will be used, without forgetting, however, that understanding the

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degree of complexity of an economy lies in a multitude of factors, from geography to demography, from finance to currency and from political analysis to university education.

Key Words: Russian economy, developments, vulnerabilities, framework.

1. The geopolitical knowledge of states in the 21st century requires a rich documentation of several spheres of activity, among which the economic aspect is one of the most important. In practice, even if we do not always consider this broad area of human activity, the need to understand the geopolitical choices of leaders and governments necessarily also involves analysing certain economic data.

But it would be a mistake to believe that it is only the economic criterion that makes the difference in terms of political actions and especially in the sphere of geopolitics. There can be no perfectly mathematical relationship between economics and politics, no matter how hard the various ideologues of the left try to prove it¹. At the same time, to believe that the behaviour of politicians is perfectly rational, textbook-like is equally wrong² – because antipathies or different political coalitions are not always the result of strictly political/economic/voting competition.

However, one fact must be kept in mind: economics has both its laws and its long-lasting results. A poorly managed economy will have its effects for decades to come, and not only in this area, but also in others, such as the life expectancy of citizens, their height, migration to certain urban areas, wage policies, sports results, etc. The situation of the two Koreas, where the poor side has substantially lower life expectancy and average height, should be an example to any government that believes that today's misguided economic policies will not have long-term consequences, and in this respect one part of Eastern Europe has its own lessons to teach the world³.

¹ Dow, Sheila C. 2003. "Understanding the relationship between mathematics and economics", Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, 25:4, 547 – 560, DOI: 10.1080/01603477.2003.11051379.

² Lodge, Martin and Wegrich, Kai. 2014. *Rational tools of government in a world of bounded rationality*. Discussion Paper no: 75, London: London School of Economics and Political Science. https://www.lse.ac.uk/accounting/assets/CARR/documents/D-P/Disspaper75.pdf.

³ For more explanations see Landes, David. 1998. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some are So Rich and Some So Poor*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

This is a very important thing to bear in mind: until the early 20th century, economics was more about what people's skills and nature did together. Thus, droughts and locust invasions created problems; the absence of a good irrigation infrastructure could lead to famine and major population losses; the absence of certain technologies meant that certain natural resources were consumed unnecessarily or with less effect than new technologies could, etc. But the former century brings with it a major diversification of economic branches, increased productivity in agriculture – which will more than quadruple the planet's population in less than 100 years (from 2 to 8 billion)⁴, so that many countries of the world have the capacity to produce goods on their own that a hundred years ago were (or could only be) produced in one place (country).

If in the 19th century Great Britain was presented as "the world factory", in the last decades the same phrase has returned to China, without neglecting the contribution of India, Japan, Germany and – especially the US. Industrial capacities installed – or possibly built from scratch in a few months or years – in country X or Y are no longer always a technological (manufacturing) secret, unless the quality of the product is superior, and in this respect, we have the series of negotiations between the USA and the Netherlands on the microchips production⁵. Otherwise, any country can set up a factory to produce reasonably high-quality mobile phones, or high-quality textiles, cars, ships, planes, etc. The level of education that is available today in the technical universities of any country surpasses any 18th century' dream, and the number of young people who can learn the knowledge needed to produce different categories of goods is in the order of millions every year.

The consequences of these unique realities in world history are many, but two of them are of more interest in this text.

First, almost all countries have come to be in particularly stiff competition over investment in technology as well as exports of goods. At the same time, there is also a corollary: people today have needs or wants that did not exist before – or were possible in such small quantities that they did not affect the trade balance of countries at all. Thus, the wardrobe of a woman with average financial power was until the 20th century of a small size, but today it gives rise to jokes; people in northern Europe (for example) did not know about bananas, mangoes,

⁴ Statista. 2023. "Estimated global population from 10,000BCE to 2100". https://www.statista.com/statistics/1006502/global-population-ten-thousand-bc-to-2050/.

⁵ Haeck, Pieter. 2023. "EU sidelined in US – Dutch deal to block chips exports to China". *Politico*. https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-sidelined-in-us-dutch-deal-to-block-chips-exports-to-china/.

kiwis, let alone have eaten them; the possibility of having used means of transport of various kinds (planes, cars, bicycles, mopeds, etc.) was 0. These needs, however, lead to brutal competition to attract investment and the development of foreign markets, and trends in one sphere of the economy will be followed by the emergence of factories that will produce the required goods.

The second aspect of particular importance is the quality of leaders and their competence in economics – and implicitly in geopolitics. From the 20th century onwards, natural disasters could hardly be blamed for the population standard of living: the increase in agricultural production made famine in many cases just a memory, which our ancestors could not have imagined. But this has led people to demand more social rights, a higher standard of living, and good medical care – which would extend the average life span beyond 80 years. All these things put pressure on national budgets – but they are not impossible, if the leadership of countries and the public administration implementing policy decisions are of good quality. Moreover, today's global information space leads to a mirror view of the performance of the world's countries, so that even less developed countries can see the good practices and results that developed countries have achieved. In practice, political leaders today must compare themselves not only with potential competitors at home. but also with those abroad, who are seen as the yardstick of economic and political-administrative success.

2. In all aspects of geopolitics, economics is involved, to varying degrees.

At the same time, there is a question called "the great powers of continental and global geopolitics", which are capable of influencing the fate of several countries by themselves, either through their classical economic capabilities or through other characteristics that count in the various rankings and competitions (size of population, geographical location, presence of an important natural resource in huge quantities, which places it among the top producers in the world, etc.)⁶. Global rankings seem to be a 21st century trademark; however, they are a necessity in geopolitical planning, and any government wishing to develop certain sectors of economic and/or geopolitical activity must follow them closely.

Although it is perhaps no longer fashionable to talk in terms of the great powers, the reality is more prosaic and at the same time

⁶ A simple search on the most popular search engine for "geopolitical rankings" yields approximately 9.95 million results.

impossible to avoid. If at the end of the 20th century one could talk about the great powers' activities intensity reduction because a unique context made the world think more about peace and prosperity, the situation is different in this decade. More than ever, it is necessary to address the issue of great powers in this decade because this is a decisive time for two issues that affect the whole planet, and solutions will not be able to come – with all due respect to the people there – from Benin, Togo, or Western Samoa, for example.

The first problem we will have to "solve" in this decade is the implementation of Artificial Intelligence algorithms on a large scale in the global economy. This time, the almost theoretical discussions of previous decades are replaced by practical realities, where different professions – including Hollywood actors, as we can see these weeks – must face the increasingly active and consistent presence of products of this kind of "intelligence". Although we are not yet in front of the sci-fi movies imagined after the 1960s, it is still a reality that in front of the huge electronic machinery the human being is vulnerable, and good jobs are also starting to be affected by standard procedures created/ weakened by machines, which simplify the work of operators, but at the same time give employers more power over their employees. Without detailing all the transformations that Artificial Intelligence will bring to the economic sphere, it is worth noting that in the direction of geopolitical competition these new forms of activity will be intensely used by states against capitals considered rivals⁷.

Either way, the millions of jobs that will be affected will force governments to find new ways to support and change national economies. It is obvious that countries with economic and political potential (not necessarily in that order) are forced to find solutions that will have to be replicated or adapted in countries of low geopolitical and economic size. At the same time, the increase since 1990 in the number of cross-border travel makes migration to rich countries increasingly strong, meaning a transfer of wealth to poor countries, but – above all – a real brain drains. Basically, the major powers in this decade will provide the main lines of economic recovery and development at continental and global level but

⁷ Indermit, Gill. 2020. "Whoever leads in artificial intelligence in 2030 will rule the world until 2100". *Brookings Institute*. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/whoever-leads-in-artificial-intelligence-in-2030-will-rule-the-world-until-2100/.

⁸ Ilzetzki, Ethan and Jain, Suryaansh. 2023. "The impact of artificial intelligence on growth and employment". *Center for Economic Policy Research*. https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/impact-artificial-intelligence-growth-and-employment.

will at the same time benefit (based on the wages they can still offer) from a huge recruitment of intellectual elites from poorer countries. In relation to the present text, we must bear in mind that between the Pacific and the Mediterranean, the Russian Federation has the greatest chances of recruiting intellectual elites from other countries, and not China, Iran, Turkey, or Israel, because the political-administrative typology of the latter does not easily allow the migration of foreigners and implicitly the modification of ethnic relations on the labour market.

The second issue that will decisively alter our lives this decade is global climate change. It is the human factor that has achieved a spectacular 8-fold increase in population over the last 150 years, which means that in 2023 the population of the planet is over 8 billion people. However, these billions of inhabitants have a standard of living that 200 years ago not even the most powerful autocrat on earth could have had - and in this regard let's consider just two characteristics: the quality of medical care and the ability to store culture on devices that can be used repeatedly without damage. Most of these increases in the quality of life are the product of the human mind, but at the same time they consume the planet's natural resources, from water to various metals, which has led to a decrease in biodiversity and at the same time a decrease in forest areas. In relation to the figures that give human consumption of natural resources, we therefore have countries that are in great ecological distress, while others are more capable of preventing the problems of this aggressive behaviour towards nature.

As all forecasts show, population growth will not stop this decade, at least globally – because Europe will see the first reversal of this trend. In this sense, it is obvious that the trends of consumption of the planet's resources will not stop, especially as the psychology of the last decades has been that of "the man who has everything in his own home, usually as a landlord". All this will increase the pressure on ecosystems, and global warming will become even more pronounced. In this situation, droughts and desertification will advance, and more millions of people will be threatened in cities on the edge of seas and oceans. A migration of people to more protected inland locations is inevitable, but this does not mean that the entire urban and industrial infrastructure can be relocated, and especially not at affordable cost. Equally inevitable is a migration of people from poor countries threatened by rising seas

⁹ Weber, Hannes, Sciubba, Jennifer D. 2018. The Effect of Population Growth on the Environment: Evidence from European Regions. Eur J Popul. 35(2):379-402. Doi: 10.1007/s10680-018-9486-0.

to countries that have sufficient space (first) and reasonable economic prospects for development.

The desertification of hundreds of thousands of square kilometres – mostly in Africa and Asia – will have disastrous effects on the entire planet, relative to the fact that these two continents are also the most populated. At the same time, the cooler parts of the continents – either in latitude or altitude – will become more habitable, with an increase in their own agricultural potential. This enormous transformation – unique in the history of conscious humanity – has no way of being stopped, and as an effect we will witness in the coming decades a different process of weakening or deterioration of the economic, demographic, and geopolitical positions of several countries.

It is more than obvious that it is necessary to combat the various phenomena that shape and accentuate climate change. However, this is where the two discussions arise: at what cost (first), and who will bear them (second)? Countries with a low standard of living will demand a greater contribution from the major powers, because the latter have more financial resources per se. At the same time, the major powers will become targets of migration from all over the planet, because poverty – which will be accentuated in the coming years by the implementation of Artificial Intelligence – will force people to leave their own countries even more. Hence, a complicated discussion, because it is hard to believe that the major powers will accept a substantial increase in their financial contributions to climate change, but above all they will consider large migrations as a threat to their national character. The political changes that such migrations may bring – and rather they are becoming inevitable - in the domestic politics of destination states will probably work against them, but climate and economic conditions will not offer many options to those within striking distance of the seas and oceans.

3. Among all the countries of the world, the Russian Federation has a unique place in the economy¹⁰. The size of its territory and its northern latitudes give it a unique perspective – although partly Canada will enjoy roughly the same advantage. Basically, the northern economic space will be staked out from this decade onwards by these two countries, which are the major beneficiaries of global warming. Both have large areas and so global agriculture will rely heavily on the performance of

¹⁰ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 2013. "Russia. Modernizing the economy". https://www.oecd.org/about/publishing/Russia-Modernising-the-Economy-EN.pdf.

the new Russian Canadian lands; among these the Russian Federation will be by far the biggest winner of this transformation.

Having already become a global force in agriculture in recent decades, the Russian Federation now has the chance to become the number one power in this sphere of human activity. Providing food – long a problem for the inhabitants of the Soviet Union – will become easier for the inhabitants of the great northern power, and in the medium- and long-term domestic prices for grains, vegetables and animal products will fall, which will have a major effect on the direction of migration from Asia.

Russia's density is not spectacular, being in fact the lowest among the major geopolitical powers (less than 10 inhabitants per sq.km.). There will undoubtedly be a problem here, as the transformations that the climate will bring in these years will be visible from anywhere in the world – the internet being, among other things, the global television that broadcasts continuously. From this perspective, it will be interesting to see what the Moscow government's policy will be regarding the acceptance of various migrants on the Russian Federation territory, in relation to the language issue (migrants will have to know the official language of the state) and the age structure of the Russian population.

It is equally obvious that the transformation of the territory of the Russian Federation will be accompanied by the need to increase the housing infrastructure in the northern area, which is still underdeveloped. However, federal budget funds will have to be directed to the northern provinces of the country, as they will start to take over part of the population – either as seasonal migrants or as residents who will change their residence to the north. New road networks will have to be developed, both for the export of agricultural products, but also for the development of infrastructure for housing, especially as the northern part of Russia is an area with large, fast-flowing rivers that will require the construction of large bridges capable of supporting substantial vehicle traffic to transport goods to the borders of the country¹¹.

Being able to secure your own food is the first step towards autarchy. In any situation, the need to eat cannot be eliminated by the various gadgets, and in a time when food quality has declined (a global phenomenon, unfortunately), countries that will have enough space to grow food will quickly have to solve a problem: creating varieties that

¹¹ United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). 2012. "Policy Implications of Warming Permafrost". https://epic.awi.de/id/eprint/33086/1/permafrost.pdf.

correspond to the new climatic conditions. Genetics will be called upon to solve this problem, and the quality of agricultural education in the Russian Federation is one of the highest, so it is foreseeable that this issue will be resolved within a reasonable timeframe. However, it should be added that biological processes are not completely mechanical, and it will not happen that a square kilometre of desert in Africa or Asia is instantly replaced by a square kilometre of new agricultural land from Russian or Canadian permafrost. It will be a long-term operation, probably stretching over three decades, and this does not mean that efforts cannot be made to halt or reduce desertification in areas where irrigation systems can do it. It is clear, however, that budgetary priorities in the coming years in several countries in the wider Mediterranean basin and the "Fertile Crescent" will have to change, and that forest planting and land improvement issues will take precedence.

The same global warming will play an important role for freight transport in trade relations between Europe and Asia. Population growth is accompanied by increasing demand for goods, from food to products that satisfy everyone's hedonism. If the Russian Federation's economic relations with the world will be more easily satisfied in terms of food by sea transport across the Black Sea, there is another aspect in which Moscow's interests will be involved. Specifically, a good number of East Asian countries produce and export electronic goods to Europe, the global market being dominated by Eastern firms. In the current geographical and temperature configuration, most shipments are made through the Malacca Straits, which has a huge trade traffic. But in recent years the northern route – which involves moving goods between the two major international trading points via the Arctic Ocean – is beginning to take hold, as the ice no longer lasts as long, and the size of the areas not covered by it grows. Over time, this area will be particularly important for the Russian Federation, which will also be able to benefit from different transit fees for goods using the northern route, because the distance is shorter, and the speed of delivery increases by a few days with each shipment.

4. Another peculiarity of the Russian economy is the preponderance of natural resources — more precisely, their extraction and sale on international markets — in impressive quantities, which will make it one of the most important countries in this sphere of activity¹².

¹² Joint Research Centre, European Commission. 2022. "Russian trade in non-food raw materials". https://rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/uploads/Russia trade fiche JRC.D3 FINAL.pdf.

In view of this important feature of the Russian economy, the question arises whether it is possible to change this export model.

The answer is more difficult to give, and for this we should not blame the situation of Moscow – Kiev relations in recent years. The first element of the answer is strictly related to the capacities of the Russian subsoil, which contains certain elements in larger quantities than other countries. Here a remark is also necessary: as a rule, good governance manuals consider a state that has no problems at all with the supply of goods and no demographic problems, and therefore issues of legislation, public administration, and justice (mainly) are considered. As the diversity of states is great, and two states do not have the same geo-morphological structure, it follows that their development prospects are also different.

Throughout history Russia has had an important commercial dimension in the exploitation of its own resources because it was able to take advantage of a rich subsoil, but especially of neighbours who did not have the same quantities of metals and hydrocarbons, which made exports have a natural path, from Moscow to the West (more), and in recent decades also to the East. Throughout history Russia has had an important commercial dimension in the exploitation of its own resources because it was able to take advantage of a rich subsoil, but especially of neighbours who did not have the same quantities of metals and hydrocarbons, which made exports have a natural path, from Moscow to the West (more), and in recent decades also to the East. This dimension will be just as strong in the future because the planet's population is not shrinking, the need for goods of all kinds is still growing – even if the price issue is still dampening this buying frenzy – and other large quantities of resources can only be discovered on our planet with difficulty, making their extraction and introduction into consumption expensive.

An important clarification is necessary in the context of the problems that the Russian economy has had in recent years. As a result of the sanctions imposed by the major Western powers, the price at which Russian oil is traded at low levels, and there is a sanctioning of transport companies that take this hydrocarbon from the ports of the Russian Federation (mainly, maritime insurers do not offer this guarantee to transport contracts). Without discussing now how long this sanctioning may last, it should be borne in mind that the need for oil consumption is still growing, globally, even if interesting – perhaps even important – steps have been taken in recent years to add other forms of energy to the national mix. However, even if there are major improvements in

various new technologies, oil cannot be dethroned in this decade, and hydrocarbon consumption is not one that can be easily replaced in terms of the configuration of each country's energy and industrial systems (the petrochemical industry is not limited to the production of petrol, diesel, and kerosene). At the same time, the discovery of new oil fields is not easy, and neither is their extraction in a profitable way in all countries of the world. Therefore, it is impossible to replace the Russian Federation's power in the sphere of oil and gas production, and this is something any government should consider. As it always happens, new technologies will be available to rich countries first, and cars that used to consume mostly outdated fuels will be sold to poor countries. For the inhabitants of those countries, driving a car is progress, but they will still consume oil and even more, relative to the age of the cars they buy. That is why the dream of some to eliminate Russia from the big oil scene is naive and not at all productive¹³.

But oil price volatility is affecting many producers, who are trying to keep control of the amounts they can collect from large customers. In this respect, the Russian Federation could try to play a more pronounced role with OPEC countries to benefit from additional revenues¹⁴. However, the fact that many oil-producing countries do not have sufficiently diversified economies is a major obstacle to development, which makes it difficult for them to comply with a global agreement, and this is also damaging Moscow's budget. Global warming may give solar energy an extra chance on the global stage, which will increase pressure in part on the big hydrocarbon suppliers, but for now this moment is biding its time.

5. The Russian Federation has a similar problem with other raw materials, of which Russian soil is full. Industrial needs are still growing, and even the new 3D printers are not capable of operating on the same huge scale. So, any desire to eliminate Russia from international markets is equally naive and unproductive. "Finding viable alternatives" to what Russian companies are extracting from the rich subsoil would involve both prospecting operations in many countries around the world, with no guarantee of either positive results or of getting them in a short timeframe. But there is one thing the government in Moscow must bear in mind,

 $^{^{\}rm 13}$ International Energy Agency (IEA). 2023. Oil Market Report – July 2023. https://www.iea.org/reports/oil-market-report-july-2023.

¹⁴ About Russian relations with the OPEC see Krutikhin, Mikhail and Overland, Indra. 2020. "OPEC and Russia A happy pro forma marriage". https://nupi.brage.unit.no/nupi-xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/2683374/2020+-+OPEC+and+Russia,+a+happy+pro+forma+marriage.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=2.

and that is the volatility of prices, which can be politically influenced, which can make the supply of goods to North America and the EU – the richest regions of the planet – financially bearable for them, but expensive for the rest of the continents. Obviously in this hypothesis all producers will want to sell to the two areas mentioned above, because they also have the capacity to pay their invoices on time, which would make the Russian Federation sell mainly to countries on other continents, which do not have the same solvency. In any case, the relationship between politics, economics and physical realities will not be an easy one, but in time it will settle into normal parameters, as no other country can replace Russia's unique raw material capabilities.

However, the discussion of the revenues that feed the budget of the Russian Federation is more complex, including in relation to what we were saying in another section of the text, namely that of global labour market transformations¹⁵.

The fact that a country has high-capacity natural resources is not a problem and – also –it is not a mistake that it wants to sell part of them. However, we are no longer in the era before the steam engine, when mass production was less available, but we are now in a dimension of history in which it is precisely the repeated production of goods that gives a country its strength. It is not at all accidental that the big companies producing consumer goods that are in great demand by the people of any country (if they can afford to buy them) become very rich. The production of electronic goods, cars, clothing and footwear, fine beverages, chocolate, etc. has made certain companies have huge turnover figures and a universal spread, in relation to different types of branding (companies that commoditise natural resources operate in a different type of market, controlled by governments, which makes them have higher revenues, but also less contractual freedom).

In this sphere, however, the Russian economy is not a performing one, most of the companies that are present in this area are either from the North America – EU group or from the Far East – the Greater Chinese Sea area (China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan). There cannot be sufficient international performance if there is not a large group of products that impose a certain type of 'country brand'. Here it is necessary to reorient the performance of Russian technical universities – some of the best in the world – towards the creation of consumer goods at a higher quality level,

¹⁵ Kudrin, Alexey. Knobel, Alexander. 2018. Russian budget structure efficiency: Empirical study. Russian Journal of Economics 4(3): 197-214. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3897/j.ruje.4.30163.

able to compete with products from China and the EU. It should be borne in mind that after 1991 the market of the former constituent republics of the USSR was dominated by European and Chinese products, so that after 2022, because of Western sanctions, a good part of the products of European economies will no longer be sold in large quantities on the Russian market. However, after 30 years of buying these products, many Russian citizens are now faced with a problem: who will repair and maintain in the future the technologically superior Soviet goods purchased? Unless Russian companies intervene quickly and develop new, high-quality products, either the products purchased before 2022 will not work, or Chinese companies will completely dominate. Either way, the Soviet technological model has proven its limitations, and now the only option for the Russian economy is to create its own consumer goods, because seeing a dominance of Chinese products is not a medium and long-term solution for the workforce in Russian cities either.

6. The Soviet economic and technological model did not prove to be competitive in the long run, and the end was a sad one, based on which a good part of the factories had to be closed, because better products came from Western Europe and especially less energy and raw material consuming. After all, the replication of this model caused big problems in other countries, which did not have enough natural resources, which made them end up after 1990 in a closed path of prosperity, being forced to turn to the other model.

It is obvious that the Russian Federation's universities of merit will find ways to create new elites, more adapted to the economic and political context of the coming decades. It is equally certain that the new changes brought about by the climatic, demographic and Artificial Intelligence context – on a global level – will offer new prospects for development, as well as the creation of a coherent and far-reaching strategy for a country that is capable of great achievements. The large quantities of natural resources, the patriotism of citizens and the quality of education will continue to be a foundation of the Russian state's power, and it remains only for political leaders to organize these assets in functional terms, thus bringing positive results in the economic sphere and in the development of the standard of living of everyone.

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ПРОМИШЉАЊЕ РУСКЕ ЕКОНОМИЈЕ – НОВИ РАЗВОЈ, НОВИ ОКВИР, НОВИ ИЗАЗОВИ

Апстракт

Добра власт означава разумевање како у сложеним временима опасност може да се појави не само од стране спољашњих сила већ и унутрашњих. Оба приступа траже пажљиво разматрање и одређену прогнозу, како би се детектовале кључне претње и како би се усвојила стратегија за њихово решење. 2022 донела је тешку ситуацију за Источну Европу, и за чланице ЕУ као и за оне које то нису. Средишње место у овом изједначењу припада Руској Федерацији – највећој земљи у региону, али исто тако политичком актеру који се суочава са једном од најнеобичнијих транзиција на економском и административном плану. Следећа деценија донеће руској држави много изазова у економској сфери, који ће приморати власт у Москви да поново промисли национални економски оквир, као и нове облике индустријског, технолошког и пољопривредног развоја. Основна сврха ове анализе је да се укратко представи општи контекст руске економије, перспективе њеног развоја, рањивости и предности које ће одлучити њене развојне опције у следећим деценијама. Обзиром на величину могуће анализе, која би захтевала целу књигу, користиће се већински статистичка и историјска методологија, али без заборављања како разумевање нивоа сложености економије лежи у различитим факторима, од географије до

демографије, од финансија до валуте, од политичке анализе до универзитетског образовања.

Кључне речи: руска економија, развој, рањивости, оквир.