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EU-Russian Economic Cooperation in English-language Publications

The topic of economic relations between Russia and the European Union also dominated in non-Russian literature. This was logical, since the basis of the power of the European Union in the world is its trade, investment ties, as well as technical assistance programs. In addition, Russia is an important partner for the EU, although the United States, China and Switzerland hold the leading positions, so the first two partners attract more interest from foreign researchers. Russia is important for the European Union as a supplier of energy. Brussels has traditionally felt its vulnerability here; therefore, research on cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas, especially geopolitical ones, was particularly numerous and varied. However, non-energy economic ties were also examined.

Firstly, there were numerous works devoted to the traditional for economists analysis of empirical material (trade turnover, capital flows, their dynamics, direction, source of origin in the EU (including breakdown by country). At the same time, special attention was paid to investment processes (especially in this area Finnish specialists).

Furthermore, possibilities of deepening the relationship between Russia and the EU, the integration of Moscow and Brussels, including through the Common Economic Space, the possibility of building a free trade zone and the beginning of the Partnership for Modernization were examined. However, the integration type of relations were often treated skeptically. The negative effect of corruption and the unreformed nature of the Russian economy, lack of the necessary institutions were specifically noted. Researchers also monitored changes that the

enlargement of the European Union would bring, changes in its internal functioning (for example, in the field of foreign investment following the Lisbon Treaty). However, changes in the EU as factors of economic relations between Russia and the EU attracted less attention in Western studies compared to problems of the Russian economy and its legal regulation.

Non-Russian studies have paid much more attention (compared to domestic work) to such aspects as trade conflicts (for example, non-tariff barriers, phytosanitary measures, security measures in aviation), the potential impact of trade liberalization (including in connection with Russia's accession to the WTO). These topics attracted the attention of political scientists, specialists in international relations, and not just economists. Works analysing the successes of research and innovation cooperation as well as research on cooperation in the field of transport should also be mentioned in this respect.

The attention of foreign researchers was also focused on the EU's technical assistance to Russia and how it shaped the reforms in Russia, and also forced the evolution of trade and economic ties between Moscow and Brussels. In other words, unlike domestic research, the approach to EU technical assistance was less formal. In addition, a significant place was devoted to the way in which trade and economic relations between Russia and the EU can affect political changes in Russia, how the EU's civilian power manifests itself in the dialogue with Moscow. This is also based on the traditions of studying the EU and its economic ties abroad.

Since 2014, non-Russian research has also focused on sanctions, including their impact on the Russian economy, politics and external actions, as well as on how the relations between Russia and the EU will change as a result. In this case, two extremes could be identified. Either researchers referred to the experience of South Africa and Iran, emphasizing the effectiveness of sanctions (the weakening of the Russian economy provided the basis for this), or they emphasized the ineffectiveness of restrictive measures: the fact that they provoke only strengthening of authoritarian regimes and import substitution. In any case, unlike Russian-language studies, work on sanctions outside of Russia made an attempt to comprehend restrictive measures conceptually, and not just to systematize empirical information.