

## **Economic approaches to the study of relations between Russia and the European Union from the perspective of foreign researchers**

Unlike Russian colleagues, foreign authors analysis of the relations of Russia and the European Union from the perspective of political economic analysis have focused mainly on several aspects of relations in recent years, pushing the issues of long-term prospects for economic development to the background. There are few reasons for that, the most common - pessimistic assessment of the Russian economy, which is believed by a number of researchers, if not in a stagnant state since the mid-2000s, then in a state of lack of development and the emergence of new significant phenomena. The period of Dmitry Medvedev's "modernization" of the Russian economy attracted little attention with slogans, but resulted in restrained and critical assessments of the researchers. The authors particularly point out that the stated goals of expanding the share of the innovation component in the national economic result have not been achieved, and the hope to provide greater freedom for small and medium-sized businesses associated with high technology was not justified. In addition, these publications are often associated with projects for the development of political and economic spaces and road maps, where special hopes were placed on expanding energy, transport dialogue, and "partnership for the sake of modernization" (D. Averre, C. Fernández, S. Babones, C. Baxon, G. Friebel, R. Pittmann, J. Timmermann, J. Zveinert, M. Emerson, and others). In the methodological plan, functional economic analysis and marginal analysis dominate here, placing the main hopes on the assessment of marginal utilities in making political economic decisions, as well as the structuralist approach in political economy reading.

Today, it is possible to distinguish quite clearly the researchers who analyze the economic and political state of Russia and the relations between Russia and the European Union, into several large

groups. The first group is represented mainly by researchers of sectoral development of relations that operate using methods of economic functional analysis. Much attention is paid to specialists working in energy and raw materials cooperation.

There is a large list of authors who, from different points of view and over the past several years, consistently assess the prospects for energy (primarily gas) cooperation, both through the prism of participation in the process of state ("non-market") actors, and from the perspective of liberalization market in Russia and the EU, or simultaneous liberalization mainly on the basis of political and statistical analysis methods: P. Aalto, J. Bosse, D. Johnson, K. Liuhto, P. Noel, M. Martin, M. Miant, J., Drahekopil, I. Over Andes M.Kler, K. Stege, Ya.Sviek-Karpovich, A.Pami, J.. Stern, Tekin A., D. Finon, A. Schmidt-Felzmann.

Gradual strengthening of Russia's influence in the borders of the former USSR, strengthening of political quasi-economic pressure on the economy connected with Russia had a significant impact on the relations of the European Union with these countries. Some authors politically write about this process, as well as about Russia's search for new forms of economic cooperation in the post-Soviet space, discourse in the categories of regionalism, integration and rivalry. Others point to the use of economic and raw materials as tools of brutal neo-realism. In all cases, researchers note the emergence of a new "non-cooperative" factor in Russia's economic and political cooperation with the EU countries, as well as in the relations of the CIS countries with the European Union. The latter include researchers: D. Averre, R. Berrios, S. Blockmans, D. Dettek, G. Van der Loo, J. McAllister, N. McFarlane, A. Menon, N. Robinson, S. White, E. Wilson and others.

The development of events in Ukraine and the subject of sanctions became a separate topic of research for Russian-European relations. From the point of view of political economic analysis, the focus here was on economic relations, the audit of cause-effect relationships in previously closely connected production chains, and elements of economic and mathematical modeling. (Kr.Dzhasievich, A.Jaj, M.Bernard, T.Maltby, M.Orienshtein, J.Sharples). Direct economic cooperation also attracted the attention of individual experts. At the same time, it should be noted that the same decline in interest to the study of individual cases and the analysis of statistical data due to a certain stagnation and degradation of the level of collection of economic and financial statistics. Considerable attention was paid to the evaluation of statistical data, the prospects for the development and regulation of trade liberalization in connection with Russia's accession to the WTO. Special attention was paid to the use of narrow methods of economic analysis, quantitative methods for assessing the prospects for cooperation in individual sectors: industrial production, wood processing, food industry. At the same time, Russia's refusal to follow the expected path to the standards of a market economy, in the political perception associated with the role of Vladimir Putin, led to increased state participation in economic sectors, a

reduction in the window of opportunities for cooperation with European companies, a reduction in investment rates, speed of development and, as consequence, loss of interest of researchers. This was the hardest hit by German and Finnish investment programs, so the interest of experts from these countries is more justified on this issue. It is possible to note works and authors E.Johnsa, K.Liuhto, K.Punnonemi, K.Raik, A.Seppo, K.Stoner, M.MakFaul, M.Sizu, T.Takiris, T.Forsberga and others.

Speaking about the future prospects of research in the political economy, one should believe that the trend will continue to assess the consequences of economic sanctions and the destruction of economic ties between Russia and Ukraine. At the same time, it is unlikely that these issues will be considered in the key to Russian-European relations, with the exception of the energy issue. In the absence of allusions to the resumption of the dialogue, it is likely that the political economic discourse will gradually narrow down to discussions within the framework of discussions of the prospects for energy cooperation, incl. on pricing and supply routes.