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### **Debates on the Eurasian / post-Soviet integration in the studies in Russia**

From the beginning of 2010s a significant number of studies have been published in Russia on the issues of the Eurasian or post-Soviet integration and its comparison with integration processes in other regions of the world, primarily with the European integration. The interest of researchers in this field has intensified after the initiative of the Eurasian integration was put forward by Russia in 2011-2012 and, then, the Treaty on the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was signed in 2014. An important place in the academic debates on the Eurasian integration is occupied by the issue of the sustainability of the Eurasian economic integration as well the possible modalities for development of the relations between the institutions the EAEU and the EU.

Regarding the main directions of the studies devoted to the Eurasian integration there is a large number of literature that have focused on the definition and conceptualization of the "Eurasian" in the context of today's domestic political debates in Russia. The spread of opinions on this issue is quite wide. In many works the concept of "Eurasian" is analyzed through its historical context, often there are references to the ideas of the so-called "Eurasianism" that was cultivated during the interwar period by some circles of the Russian emigration, as well the multiple interpretations of the Eurasian political doctrines that dominate today. So, there are papers that try to construct the "Eurasian idea", "Eurasian model" and mostly illiberal "Eurasian values" that could form the basis of the Eurasian integration, quite often the "Eurasian" and "European" values are compared and contrasted. Some works correlate the processes of the Eurasian integration with the concepts of the "Russian world" and the evolution of the Russia's statehood.

Yet there is also an approach that discusses the Eurasian / post-Soviet integration in less ideology-driven manner thus focusing primarily on the economic interests and rationales of the post-Soviet countries. Such representation of the “Eurasian concepts” leaves a room for the criticism of some aspects of the Eurasian integration as well for "eurasoscepticism" where the possible “finladisation” or “resovietisation” of the post-Soviet states are precepted negatively as the legitimate concerns. Also, some studies have been devoted to the terminological aspects of Eurasianism and the Eurasian integration.

Besides the works that have focused on the Eurasianist concepts there is a rather large number of studies that have analyzed the post-Soviet / Eurasian economic integration (first of all, institutions of the EAEU, decision-making process, legal regimes, concrete areas of the economic integration as well the political aspects) and compare it with the processes of the economic integration in other regions of the world. In particular, a significant part of literature has been devoted to the comparative analysis of the institutions and legal norms of the post-Soviet / Eurasian integration and European integration, some researches have raised an issue of comparability of these types of the economic integrations taking into account the differences in the political, economic and societal structures of the EU and the EAEU member-states as well the differences in demographic and economic balances within the EU and EAEU. Some studies have explored the prospects for cooperation between the EAEU and third countries and integration blocs including the discussions on the modalities of possible cooperation between the institutions of the EAEU and the EU (so-called “integration of the integrations”). There also have been studies that have analyzed the EU perception of the Eurasian integration and the EU policies towards the EAEU.