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A large, white, sans-serif font displays the year '2020'. A blue, stylized face mask icon is positioned over the two zeros, partially obscuring them. The mask is a simple, flat design with two ear loops.

ANNUAL REPORT

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01

GENERAL INFORMATION

The non-profit partnership “Russian International Affairs Council” (NP RIAC) is a Russian membership-based non-profit organization. The partnership was established by the resolution of its founders pursuant to Decree No. 59-rp of the President of the Russian Federation “On the Establishment of the Non-Profit Partnership Russian International Affairs Council” dated February 2, 2010.

RIAC MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY OF RUSSIA THROUGH ITS INTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

RIAC SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN THE STATE, THE EXPERT COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES IN ADDRESSING FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

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Sergey Lavrov

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation, Chairman
of the Board of Trustees of RIAC

”

THE MINISTRY PUTS A PREMIUM ON OUR PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAS TRULY BECOME ONE OF THE KEY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THINKTANKS BOTH IN RUSSIA AND GLOBALLY. WE COMMEND THE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL NOURISHMENT TO THE RUSSIAN DIPLOMACY AS WELL AS EXPERT AND ANALYTICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY.



RIAC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



02

RIAC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

2020 saw the most radical changes in the activities of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC). Our colleagues throughout the world went through similar transformations. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to suspend or freeze a large number of our usual activities, such as workshops and conferences abroad, in-person expert meetings in Moscow and in Russia's regions as well as educational programs and summer schools.

Yet, this time of trials and tribulations has also opened up new opportunities. RIAC quickly adapted to the new realities, switched to holding its activities online and developed new channels for collaborating with our colleagues and partners in Russia and abroad.

With RIAC's online audience having grown during the pandemic, we can confidently say that this growth was also the result of long-term invest-



ment in developing the Council's digital resources. Alongside with traditional reports, analytical articles and videos on our website, this includes our activities on social networks.

Teleworking deprived us of the opportunity to communicate in-person, which is so important for expert diplomacy. However, it also allowed us to significantly expand both the geographical footprint and the audience of our seminars, round tables and conferences. Expert ties and the confidence RIAC had accumulated over the previous years enabled us to conduct productive and fruitful work under the new circumstances. In 2020, we held a record number of RIAC club meetings.

We fully implemented our publishing plans. Books, reports, working papers and policy briefs were published without delay. Moreover, the practice of preparing joint publications was successfully continued and developed. We prepared



such texts with our partners from China, the United States and EU countries.

Clearly, many forms of activities tested during the pandemic will remain relevant even after we have gone back to our usual work mode. Online formats allow us to expand our audience and hold educational events with greater effectiveness.

The Council continued its close expert and analytical cooperation with Russian government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, relevant committees of the State Duma and the Federation Council, and other agencies. RIAC's expertise is in demand among Russian businesses that are proactively engaged internationally.

In 2020, RIAC retained the tried and tested structure of its projects and programs, including country-based projects (Russia's relations with its key international partners), programs in various functional areas (digital security, sanctions policies, peaceful nuclear development, arms control, etc.), educational projects (cooperation with Russian universities, RIAC internships and educational courses).

In 2021, we plan to introduce new substantive areas for our analytics. Our future priorities include the climate agenda and environmental issues in today's international relations. The past year made us stronger and more efficient. Our goal is to make the best use of the achievements of the crisis year and reach a whole new level in the quality of our activities.



РОССИЯ  СЕГОДНЯ

РОССИЯ 

RIA
NOVOSTI

ЦАЙЗЕР
Наталья Гербертовна

ОЗЕРОВ
Олег Борисович

КОРТУНОВ
Андрей Вадимович

КОЧОФА
Анисет Габриэль

РОССИЯ  СЕГОДНЯ

RUSSIA AND CHINA: PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which first hit China, as well as the growing confrontation with the West, Moscow and Beijing proved that their bilateral partnership was stable and rooted in trust. Given the global systemic crisis, Russia and China face new tasks related to the in-depth strategic coordination on a number of issues on the international agenda and securing the national interests of the two states.

China has been one of the key areas of RIAC's program activities since the Council was established. In its research activities, the Council relies on its partnership with leading Chinese and Russian research institutions, including the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Fudan University, the Institute of Far Eastern Studies (IFES) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, etc. In 2020, RIAC and CASS held five roundtables and produced several joint publications, including policy

briefs on "The Significance and Essence of the Strategic Interaction between Russia and China" and "Connecting the EAEU and the BRI: Problems and Prospects." We published the 6th annual "Russia–China Dialogue" report prepared jointly by the Council, the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University and the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Russia, the Council held the annual round table "Priorities for the Development of Russian–Chinese Partnership in the New Era" in Moscow. Having moved online, RIAC also continued its collaboration with other Chinese thinktanks and organizations.

We study both bilateral relations between Russia and China and the approaches of Moscow and Beijing to global issues and multilateral platforms. One of the key topics of the Council's





research in 2020 was collaboration within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS in light of Russia's presidency in both organizations. RIAC increasingly concentrates on the possibilities for Russia and China to cooperate in specific regions and on topical issues.



The Russia–China link has always been the driver [of the SCO], and one that largely determines its future development. We are confident that cooperation between our two countries will receive an additional impetus both during and after the pandemic. We also confirm that we are set to continue our constructive collaboration with all the partners in the Organisation.

Andrey Denisov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to China and RIAC member (speaking at the RIAC and CASS' round table "SCO and Regional Governance: New Ideas and Approaches")

In 2020, the expert dialogue focused on the transformation of the Russia–China partnership during the COVID-19 pandemic and the global crisis. Russia and China demonstrated a high level of trust and mutual support and adopted common approaches to the crucial matters of world order. At the same time, the pandemic identified the limits of mutual trust in Russia–China relations.

Although the two countries succeeded in ensuring a stable political dialogue and a sustainable level of mutual trade in 2020, they still have much work to do in terms of devising new approaches to economic cooperation, searching for new points of growth, resolving long-standing difficulties in the humanitarian sphere, maintaining mutual interest and developing mutual

understanding between the peoples of Russia and China. Bilateral ties and joint projects in new technologies are particularly relevant, and hopes for breakthroughs in this area are pinned on holding the 2020–2021 Years of Cooperation in Science, Technologies and Innovations.

The Russia–China comprehensive strategic partnership is deepening amid the sharp degradation of relations between China and the United States and Russia's continued confrontation with the West.



The special responsibility that rests on the shoulders of Russia and China entails additional, loftier requirements for the global political cooperation between the two states. Today, the question is how to coordinate the two countries' long-term foreign policy strategies more closely and promote joint initiatives that concern the fundamental issues of the future world order.

Igor Ivanov, President of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (1998–2004) ("Searching for a New World")

Joint initiatives on pressing international issues and experience exchange in counteracting external restrictions are becoming particularly important. At the same time, several experts believe that these conditions could lead to the countries' potentials growing in an asymmetrical manner, which could subsequently put Russia into a position of dependence. Balancing the partnership and being flexible in fostering it, diversifying external connections and steadily developing Russia's own potential – all of this should remain Russia's priorities.



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Over the past 70 years, the relations between our two countries have travelled an unusual path, weathered storms and withstood tests to be ultimately transformed into the closest ties between major powers and the most reliable relations between neighbours. In particular, under the strategic leadership of [China’s] President Xi Jinping and [Russia’s] President Vladimir Putin, relations between the two states have transitioned into a new era and demonstrated a new stage of rapid development.

Zhang Hanhui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Russia (speaking at the round table “Priorities for the Development of Russian–Chinese Partnership in the New Era.”)

KEY EVENTS

- January 20 – Round Table “Priorities for the Development of Russian–Chinese Partnership in the New Era” (in conjunction with the Embassy of China in Russia)
- June 2 – Round Table “COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for China’s Foreign Policy and Impact on the China–U.S. confrontation”
- July 2 – Presentation of joint analytical materials prepared by RIAC and CASS
- July 7 – Round Table “Russia–China Dialogue: New Challenges and a New Quality of Interaction” at Rossiya Segodnya (Russia Today) International Information Agency
- September 28 – Round Table “SCO and Regional Governance: New Ideas and Approaches” (in cooperation with CASS)



PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 58/2020.* Russia–China Dialogue: The 2020 Model (jointly with the RAS IFES and the International Research Institute at Fudan University); research team led by Sergey Luzyanin and Zhao Huasheng.
2. *Policy Brief No. 28/2020.* The Significance and Essence of the Strategic Interaction between Russia and China (jointly with CASS). Andrey Kortunov, Ksenia Kuzmina, Daria Tyorkina, Liu Fenghua and Sun Zhuangzhi.
3. *Policy Brief No. 29/2020.* Connecting the EAEU and the BRI: Problems and Prospects (jointly with CASS). Vladimir Petrovsky, Yuri Kulintsev, Alevtina Larionova, Jiang Jing, Chai Yu, Wang Chenxing.
4. *Policy Brief No. 32/2020.* The US–China ‘Decoupling,’ its Impact on the Global Economy and Risks for Russia. Sergey Afontsev.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Igor Ivanov.* “Searching for a New World.”
2. *Andrey Kortunov.* “About the Wise Monkey Who Came Down from the Mountain.”
3. *Ivan Danilin.* “Russia and China’s Dialogue in Innovative Technologies.”
4. *Andrey Kortunov.* “The Battle of ‘Coronavirus Narratives’: Three Lines of Defence Against China.”
5. *Sun Zhuangzhi.* “Cooperation between China and Eurasian States in Building the Belt and Road Initiative.”
6. *Danil Bochkov.* “Will the U.S. be Able to Play the ‘Taiwan Card’ in its Relations with Beijing?”
7. *Pang Dapeng.* “The SCO’s Role in China’s Foreign Political Strategy.”

RUSSIA AND INDIA: TOWARDS A NEW BILATERAL AGENDA

India is a privileged strategic partner for Russia, and Moscow and New Delhi have identical stances on many international issues. At the same time, bilateral economic and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries has long been stagnating, and in recent years interaction has been complicated by their differing approaches to the actions of the United States and China. Russia's priorities today are to preserve a close and trust-based partnership with India in the global and regional contexts and to move ties in practical fields to a new level.

The Russian International Affairs Council traditionally pays great attention to research on Russia–India cooperation and India's foreign policy and collaborates with leading thinktanks and international affairs experts in both states. In 2020, RIAC continued an open exchange of opinions with its long-standing Indian partners: the Indian Council of World Affairs; Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations; and the Vivekananda International Foundation. Round tables attended by eminent experts were held. These included: "Russia–India Relations in the Context of Post-Pandemic Global Order"; "Situation on the Global Energy Market and Prospects for Russia–India Cooperation"; and "Russia–India Strategic Partnership: Assessing Progress and Charting the Path Forward." Besides, RIAC organized a series of smaller expert meetings.

In 2020, Russia and India celebrated the 20th anniversary of the signing the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The two states view each other as important partners, particularly during this time of global turbulence and the novel coronavirus pandemic. Moscow and New Delhi maintain an active political dialogue. Economic cooperation, however, remains highly limited beyond traditional areas. This trend could be changed through implementing joint projects in third countries and developing Russia–India collaboration in pharmaceuticals and new technologies. Russia and India's joint initiatives in the technological sector are particularly relevant in the context of the U.S.–China technological rivalry.

Experts also see increasing cooperation potential in the Russian Far East, including with the participation of third countries, as well as in India's interaction with the Eurasian Economic Union.



Radical political and economic changes in Russia and India, as well as the overall global shifts, could not but introduce fresh nuances and emphases into Russia–India relations. Tellingly, today both Moscow and New Delhi describe their relations not so much as friendship and cooperation as a privileged strategic partnership. The strategic nature of this partnership is confirmed both by the cooperation of the two countries on the key issues in international affairs and by the fact that energy, including nuclear energy, military-technical cooperation, peaceful exploration of outer space or areas that are strategically important for any state, serving as the drivers of Russia-India relations beyond politics.

Gleb Ivashentsov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, RIAC Vice President ("Successes and Prospects of Russia-India Relations")

Russia and India are interested in coordinating their positions on security and development in Eurasia and in the Indian Ocean region more closely. India believes that it would be in Russia's interests to be more involved in Indo-Pacific affairs. This view emphasizes that India's vision of the Indo-Pacific is significantly different from that of the United States, and could entail Russia's involvement.



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We repeatedly said that just like India has an interest in stability on the Eurasian continent, we would very much like Russia to be more involved in what we call the Indo-Pacific. I think the differences between India and Russia are vastly exaggerated. My sense is that when we look at actual interests, there are far more commonalities than there are issues that divide us.

D.B. Venkatesh Varma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Russia (speaking at the round table “Russia–India Relations in the Context of Post-Pandemic Global Order”)

The factors that may have a limited negative impact on the trust-based strategic partnership are the increasing India-China confrontation that Indian experts believe to be a long-term trend, and India’s further rapprochement with the US transpiring against the background of Russia–China partnership further strengthening and the Russia–US tensions continuing. From this point of view, it is extremely important for the two states to engage in an open dialogue and to carefully account for each other’s national interests when developing their global and regional ties.

KEY EVENTS

- July 10 – Webinar “Situation on the Global Energy Market and Prospects for Russia–India Cooperation” (in collaboration with Gateway House)
- July 15 – Round Table “Russia – India Relations in the Context of Post-Pandemic Global Order” (in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs)
- October 20 – Round Table “Russia-India Strategic Partnership: Assessing the Progress and Charting a Path to the Future” (in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs)

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Gleb Ivashentsov.* “Russia–India Relations: Successes and Prospects.”
2. *Dmitry Narkevsky.* “India: Into the New Year With a Heavy Burden.”
3. *Alexey Zakharov.* “The Second Term of Narendra Modi’s Government: From Kashmir’s Integration to the ‘Self-Sufficient’ India.”
4. *Lydia Kulik.* “India’s Digitization: Big Data is the New Oil.”

RUSSIA AND JAPAN: HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Russia is interested in developing comprehensive ties with Japan. However, in spite of the attention that the relations with Russia received under the Shinzo Abe administration and optimistic statements at the highest level, no significant progress has been made in the interaction between the states so far. The Russian International Affairs Council accords a special place in its activities to analysing the challenges and opportunities in Moscow–Tokyo cooperation and stimulating Russia–Japan expert dialogue.

In 2020, RIAC focused its research, among other things, on Japan’s regional policies, Russia–Japan interaction and the prospects for the bilateral relations following Shinzo Abe’s resignation as Prime Minister. Two events were held: a round table discussion on “International Politics in East Asia and Japan. Prospects for Russia–Japan Cooperation” organized with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Russia and an online-discussion on “Countering the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan.” These subjects were also covered in many articles written by RIAC experts and employees and published on the Council’s website.



January 2020 marked the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. Russian and international experts agree that this alliance continues to significantly impact Japan's relations with other states, including Russia. Despite the unstable international situation and the overall crisis developments, cooperation between the United States and Japan currently appears to be one of the most solid alliances in the world. At the same time, Japan abolished plans to deploy U.S. Aegis Ashore systems in its territory in June 2020, and Tokyo was criticized for this step by many of its neighbours in the Asia Pacific.



The Japanese government, under the current Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, has established a very constructive relationship with President Trump [...] Therefore, if Mr. Trump is re-elected, we will get along with his administration [...] However [...] Mr. Trump's narrow focus on American national interests has caused him to overlook the importance of the multilateral international system. Therefore, we would hope for the next U.S. president to attach more importance to multilateral international institutions, such as the UN or the WTO.

Akihiko Tanaka, President of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) (an interview after the round table "International Politics in East Asia and Japan. Prospects for Russia–Japan Cooperation")

Nevertheless, Japan continues to gear its foreign policy towards its alliance with the United States. Therefore, despite certain progress in Japan–China relations, the U.S.–China rivalry still plays the key role in interactions between Tokyo and Beijing. While other states are starting to engage in a more active dialogue with China, the Japanese government faces the urgent question of formulating its position in this respect. As regards security issues in East Asia, both Washington and Tokyo remain staunch supporters of the current system of relations based on bilateral alliances, while other regional actors, Russia included, would like Japan to engage in multilateral cooperation more actively.

2020 turned out to be rather difficult for Japan in terms of its domestic political situation. Experts note that the country successfully overcame the first wave of the pandemic with rather low morbidity figures. Nevertheless, the consequences of the pandemic will certainly have a negative effect on the Japanese economy, which has been in recession for the third decade running.

The sudden and forced resignation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called into question the implementation of both the economic initiatives planned during his tenure and the country's constitutional reform. Two ambitious international goals, namely resolving the conflict with North Korea and the "territorial dispute" with Russia, were not achieved either.



A well-known diplomatic cliché states that Russia–Japan relations have significant potential for development. Yet the obstacles in the way of bringing this potential to fruition are significant, too, as Moscow and Tokyo have clearly seen over the past few years. We should acknowledge these obstacles and account for them in developing Russia's foreign policy towards Japan. This is the only way to safeguard ourselves against the inevitable disappointments and ultimately protect Russia's national interests.

Vladimir Nelidov, instructor in the Oriental Studies Department at MGIMO University; Researcher at the Center for Japanese Studies of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; RIAC expert ("Force Majeure: Shinzo Abe's Resignation and the Future of Russia–Japan Relations")

The flagship event in Russia–Japan cooperation in 2020 was supposed to be the Year of Inter-Regional and Twin-City Exchanges. The idea was to give a new impetus to the relations, which have been spinning their wheels in recent years. The planned events were moved online as far as possible, but the opening ceremony in Hokkaido and many other meetings had to be cancelled on account of coronavirus-related restrictions. The ability of the two countries to make up for the missed opportunities in this area may determine the success or failure of this important resource for promoting dialogue.





KEY EVENTS

- February 7 – Round Table “International Politics in East Asia and Japan. Prospects for Russia–Japan Cooperation” (with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Russia)
- April 13 – online-discussion “Countering the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan”

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Vladimir Nelidov.* “Force Majeure: Shinzo Abe’s Resignation and the Future of Russia-Japan Relations.”
2. *Oleg Paramonov.* “The Most ‘Pro-Japanese’ State is Looking Towards Beijing.”
3. *Denis Fetudinov.* “On Some Areas of the Japan–U.S. Cooperation in Defence Technologies.”
4. *Oleg Paramonov.* “Shinzo Abe’s Indo-Pacific Doctrine: The Foundation of Japan’s Future Foreign Policy.”
5. *Alevtina Larionova.* “State of Emergency Japanese Style.”
6. *Olga Dobrinskaya.* “The Iranian Challenge for Shinzo Abe.”

RUSSIA AND SOUTH KOREA: PROSPECTS FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

In 2020, Russia and South Korea celebrated an important landmark – the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations. The two countries have become much closer during this time, particularly on the humanitarian track. In recent years, Moscow and Seoul have placed an emphasis on intensifying bilateral economic ties. However, breakthroughs here seem unlikely. Security issues concerning the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia are also important subjects in the Russia–Korea dialogue.

The Russian International Affairs Council is very active when it comes to Korea. Building upon the cooperation with its Russian and international partners, the Korea Foundation in particular, the Council organizes open exchanges of opinions between experts from the two countries and regularly publishes analytical materials on matters of bilateral cooperation and the problems surrounding the Korean Peninsula. The policy brief “Russia–South Korea: Ways to Develop Economic Partnership” was published in 2020. The largest event held as part of the project was the round table “The Pandemic and its Impact on Russia–Korea Relations” organized by RIAC and the Korea Foundation.

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Coronavirus is not just a threat, but also [an] opportunity for our [Russia–Korea] bilateral cooperation [. . .] We need to expand our digital economic cooperation and we need to promote, we need to push the negotiation process of FTA. I think we need to include [in the agreement] not only a trade liberalization chapter, but also [a] trade investment guarantee and enlargement chapter between our two countries.

Gu Ho Eom, Director of the Asia-Pacific Research Centre at Hanyang University (speaking at the round table “The Pandemic and its Impact on Russia–Korea Relations: RIAC and Korea Foundation Round Table”)

2020 also marked the 70th year since the outbreak of the Korean War. The conflict turned into a confrontation of the two systems and continues up to this day, albeit in a less acute form, generating instability not only on the Korean Peninsula

but also in the whole Asia-Pacific region. North and South Korea started to step up their dialogue in 2018–2019, and a similar trend appeared in the U.S.–North Korea dialogue in 2020, although nothing really came of either.

Another important landmark of 2020 was the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and South Korea. The initial plan was to hold a Year of Russia–South Korea Cultural Exchanges to mark the event.

The events were postponed until the epidemiological situation in the two countries settled down. Moscow and Seoul are particularly interested in developing economic ties on the Russian Far East and in using the complementarity potential of the two economies as part of the Nine Bridges Initiative. The pandemic, however, has been hindering the implementation of these plans.

In 2020, much attention was given to South Korea’s successes in countering the COVID-19 pandemic. South Korea was among the first states to suffer from the virus and developed a successful model of cooperation between the authorities and the population under a crisis. In taking advantage of the medical advancements, actively resorting to IT, ensuring the transparency of the measures taken and garnering the unconditional support of the population, all of which coupled with the nation’s heightened social responsibility, South Korea could effectively take the spread of the disease under control. The effective measures taken by the government to counter the pandemic endowed President Moon Jae-in with a new “vote of confidence.”



Good-neighbourly relations with the Republic of Korea, which are 30 years old this year [2020], are important to Russia. First of all, in terms of improving the situation on the adjacent Korean Peninsula. We do not need sabre-rattling there by any side. This country is also valuable to Russia as a trade, economic, scientific and technological partner.

Gleb Ivashentsov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, RIAC Vice President (speaking at the round table "The Pandemic and its Impact on Russia–Korea Relations: RIAC and Korea Foundation Round Table")

KEY EVENTS

- April 22 – expert discussion “Korea’s Experience of Overcoming the Coronavirus Crisis”
- May 19 – Round Table “The Pandemic and its Impact on Russia–Korea Relations” (in cooperation with the Korea Foundation)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 33/2020. Russia–South Korea: Ways to Develop Economic Partnership.* Svetlana Suslina and Viktoriya Samsonova.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Gleb Ivashentsov.* “South Korea: Coronavirus is not a Hindrance to the Elections.”
2. *Georgy Bulychev.* “Will the Six-Party Diplomatic Project Help Denuclearize the Korean Peninsula?”
3. *Gleb Ivashentsov.* “Will There be an End to the Korean War?”
4. *Alexander Vorontsov.* “How South Korea Kept the Coronavirus in Check.”
5. *Konstantin Asmolv.* “Kim Jong-un Called for a Head-On Assault on the Economic, Diplomatic and Military Fronts.”

RUSSIA AND THE EURO-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

Seven projects are implemented within this project area:

1. Russia and EU: Partnership Opportunities and Building of a Think Tank Network
2. Seminars with the Embassies of States Presiding in the Council of the European Union
3. RIAC participation in the “Go BIG” project of the European Leadership Network (ELN)
4. Russia and the US: Problems in Bilateral Relations, Regional and Global Challenges
5. Expert Dialogue on the Settlement of the Ukrainian Crisis
6. Russia and Italy: Mediterranean Dialogues. Regional Conferences in Moscow
7. The UK–Russia Dialogue on Security Issues: Prospects of Bilateral Cooperation

Russia and the European Union

The COVID-19 pandemic failed to become a turning point in furthering the EU–Russia relations. The European Union’s policy towards Russia is still determined by the “five principles,” and the sanctions policy is still in place. The European Union, however, remains Russia’s leading trade and economic partner, with the need to find new points of contact with the

EU member states still high on the agenda for Russia. Upon assuming the presidency of the Council of the European Union from Croatia on July 1, 2020, Germany outlined the areas where interaction with Russia could be possible: climate issues; the framework of the EU’s “green transition”; and cross-border cooperation.



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Neither the coronavirus pandemic, nor the economic recession will automatically result in a détente, much less in a reset in Moscow’s relations with its Western partners. Today, we are moving in a diametrically opposite direction: towards a new spiral of tensions and new risks of an out-of-control confrontation. However, this regrettable situation is no reason to abandon the search for agreements, even if we can no longer hope for COVID-19 being of any significant aid for us in this search.

Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Director General and Presidium Member, RIAC member (speaking at the Riga Dialogue 2020 Conference)

European security remains the key item on the agenda. The Ukrainian crisis and the growing confrontation between Washington and Beijing will still have a major impact on the EU–Russia relations. The degree of autonomy and dependence of the European Union and Russia on the United States and China, respectively, will be the deciding factor in their relations. The issues of climate change and technological and economic development are closely intertwined. Experts believe there are prospects for economic and technological cooperation in the areas where Russia's and the EU's climate policies coincide.

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There is a certain foreign political dimension to the COVID-19 pandemic that is beginning to rear its head with increasing frequency and can thus explain the current behaviour of states on the international stage. Coronavirus plays two largely contradictory roles – it accelerates some processes while at the same time putting the brakes on, or even halting, others. The former include, among other things, the geopolitical plans of a number of states, while the latter includes finding solutions to global socio-economic problems and domestic political processes.

*Alexey Gromyko, Director of the Institute of Europe
of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IE RAS),
Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
RIAC member (“Illusions of a New Bipolarity”)*



KEY EVENTS

- February 27–28 – RIAC and EU Delegation to Russia Plenary “Alternative Futures of EU–Russia Relations – Methodology and Perspectives”
- May 21 – online round table with the participation of RIAC members: “COVID-19 Pandemic: The Future of ‘European Unity’ and the EU’s Foreign Policy”
- June 8 – workshop hosted by RIAC, the Embassy of Croatia in Russia and the Delegation of the European Union to Russia “EU–Russia Relations in the Western Balkans”
- June 15 – RIAC and the European Institute of Peace: Dialogue on the Settlement of the Ukrainian Crisis
- June 25–26 – RIAC and EU Delegation to Russia Second Plenary “Alternative Futures of EU–Russia Relations – Methodology and Perspectives”
- July 3, July 28, September 25 – RIAC participation in a series of online discussions as part of the “Go BIG” project of the European Leadership Network (ELN) “Issues in Russia–NATO Relations”
- September 14 – 3rd RIAC and EU Delegation to Russia Workshop on Scenarios for Russia–EU Relations by 2030
- November 2 – workshop hosted by RIAC, the Delegation of the European Union to Russia and the German Embassy on the Consequences of Global Changes and the Future of Russia–EU Relations
- December 10 – 4th RIAC and EU Delegation to Russia Workshop on the Outcomes of the 2020 and the Prospects of Russia–EU Relations

PUBLICATIONS

1. EUREN Report: “Alternative Futures of EU–Russia Relations in 2030.” Sabine Fischer and Ivan Timofeev.
2. *Working Paper No. №58/2020.* “Western Perception of Ukraine in 2019–2020.” Olga Pylova and Anton Naychuk.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. Statement by the Euro-Atlantic Security Leadership Group. Twelve Steps Toward Greater Security in Ukraine and the Euro-Atlantic Region. February 14, 2020.
2. *Vladimir Chizhov.* “COVID-19 Pandemic: The Future of ‘European Unity’ and the EU’s Foreign Policy.”
3. *Andrey Kortunov.* “How the Pandemic Will Change EU–Russia Relations.”
4. *Nikolay Kaveshnikov.* “Scenarios of the EU’s Development.” (in Russian)
5. *Ivan Timofeev.* “Russia – Germany: Perceptions and Motives.”

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES

U.S.–Russia relations are at their lowest ebb since the Cold War and will remain so for years to come, with the ever-present risk of further escalation. Moscow and Washington diverge on an increasing number of dossiers. However, there still exist avenues for selective cooperation. The United States sees Russia as a rival and a partner of its principal adversary, Beijing, with no reason to believe that this perception will change in the foreseeable future. Experts note the negative dynamics of U.S.–Russia relations, the escalating information war, the new sanctions imposed against Russia and the possibility of the United States blackmailing Russia with the threat of a new arms race.

One of the key issues in U.S.–Russia relations moving forward will be the New START. On the whole, we can say that Trump’s presidency demolished the arms control regime that formed the core of U.S.–Russia relations, and the special status of the arms control system is gradually becoming a thing of the past.

Diplomacy is gradually receding into the background in U.S.–Russia bilateral relations, as it is being replaced with sanctions policies. This situation contributes to instability and growing unpredictability. Therefore, new algorithms for U.S.–Russia relations need to be found.

In order to prevent the sides from sliding into a confrontation, Russia and the United States need to strive for transparency and predictability in



their relations, regardless of the outcome of the 2020 U.S. presidential elections. Both Moscow and Washington will benefit from more regular and structured bilateral interaction. The opportunities for cooperation continue to shrink, but they are still there—in the Arctic, on arms control issues and in the Eastern Mediterranean. Mechanisms for easing tensions should be complemented with a diplomatic dialogue that would provide an objective assessment of regional dynamics, the political priorities of the two parties and the “red lines.”



The United States and Russia can avoid an ill-considered and dangerous return to nuclear brinkmanship if they act soon. There is no reason to wait, and extending the New START is the place to begin.

Igor Ivanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (1998–2004), Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, RIAC President; Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 (“A Plea to Save the Last Nuclear Arms Treaty”)

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Russia and the United States remain the world’s leading nuclear powers, boasting the largest strategic weapons capabilities. Moscow and Washington have been engaged in mutual deterrence for decades now. However, an objective analysis of the challenges and threats to Russian and U.S. security shows that the very real dangers that do exist emanate from processes and trends that lie outside the bilateral relations rather than from the two countries themselves.

Igor Ivanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (1998–2004), Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, RIAC President (“Mistrust between Russia and the United States Has Reached an All-Time High”)



KEY EVENTS

- January 21, Moscow – Workshop on U.S.–Russia Relations (in collaboration with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)
- February 21, Moscow – The UN and International Conflict Resolution. A Lecture by UN Ambassador Robert H. Serry
- May 7 – Round Table with the participation of RIAC members: “The COVID-19 Epidemic: Strategies, Trends and Scenarios in U.S. Foreign Policy”
- July 13 – RIAC and the National Committee on American Foreign Policy (NCAFP) workshop on U.S.–Russia Interaction at Present and after COVID-19 Epidemic
- September 22-23 – RIAC–CSIS Expert Meeting on the Prospects for Development of U.S.–Russia Relations

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 31/2020. The Future of U.S.–Russia Relations.* Oleg Shakirov.
2. RIAC and NCAFP Workshop on U.S.–Russia Interaction at Present and after COVID-19 Epidemic: Workshop Results.
3. Expert Dialogue on Matters in U.S.–Russia Relations. RIAC–CSIS Workshop: Workshop Results.
4. RIAC and CSIS joint Report. U.S.–Russia Relations at a Crossroads. Cyrus Newlin, Heather A. Conley, Ivan Timofeev and Natalia Viakhireva.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. Statement by the EASLG: Advancing Strategic Stability and Reducing Nuclear Risks in the Euro-Atlantic Region.
2. *Igor Ivanov.* “Russia and the U.S.: Time to Look for Compromises.”
3. *Andrey Kortunov.* “The U.S. Elections: Trump or Biden?”
4. *Natalia Viakhireva.* “Legging it to the Canadian Border: COVID-19 and North American Solidarity.”
5. *Natalia Travkina.* “The Changing and Unchanged Face of American Racism.”
6. *Alexey Gromyko.* “Illusions of a New Bipolarity.”
7. *Natalia Viakhireva.* “Coronavirus Did Not Stop the USMCA.”



THE MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE: REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN MOSCOW

The Mediterranean Dialogues (MED) is a series of high-level annual international conferences organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) since 2004. MED is a global platform for expert dialogue that is aimed at setting a positive agenda for the Mediterranean countries. In 2017, ISPI invited RIAC to join the MED regional conferences program held prior to the next MED conference in the course of the year. In 2018–2019, RIAC hosted an international meeting and two regional conferences in Moscow. The coronavirus pandemic forced RIAC's 2020 regional conferences to be held online.

In 2020, RIAC held three regional conferences: one on the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for Syria; one analysing the socio-political and economic development of North Africa; and one on the growing regional competition in the Red Sea region and the Horn of Africa.

Nine years later, the prospects of the Syrian war coming to an end remain vague. While Russia and Turkey agreed on a ceasefire in March 2020, clashes still continue in many areas of the country. The COVID-19 pandemic and the U.S. economic sanctions made the economic crisis even worse and caused the standards of living of the Syrian people to deteriorate. Conference discussions touched upon two questions: finding a way to overcome the negative impact of sanctions as well as improve the humanitarian situation; and how to make use of the sanctions to achieve certain political concessions. It was noted that the contribution of external actors to changing the situation in Syria remained ambiguous. U.S. policy is aimed at leadership and regime change in Syria. While remaining Syria's ally, Russia no longer sees its operation there as a major foreign political victory. The role of European nations is too insignificant to change the situation. The principal conclusion drawn by the experts during their discussion is that the ceasefire can prevent a new escalation and a new humanitarian disaster, yet a broader political consensus is required to maintain peace and stability. Attention should primarily be focused on sustaining the nation's standards of living under the current regime and getting international organizations to help Syria, including through the UN support mechanisms.

North Africa has assumed major geopolitical significance over the past few years. Today, security issues in the Mediterranean are intertwined with the challenges emanating from that region. Political instability in several of the region's countries, with Libya at the epicentre. Destitution and the lack of social reforms. Extremism and the growth of terrorism. Armed conflicts and migration flows. These are all the unresolved problems that the international community faces in North Africa. The



region's strategic geographical location, its rich oil reserves and potential for embarking on large-scale infrastructure projects attract the attention of regional powers and global players alike. At the same time, the Libyan conflict could pose a threat to security in the Mediterranean and in Europe if it proliferates across the region. The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the region's political and economic problems. Even though major powers, such as the United States and Russia as well as a number of European and Asian nations, are involved in regional affairs, their engagement has not helped them gain a handle on the main problems, including unstable political regimes, persistent threat to the population, proliferation of jihadism and ongoing military clashes.

Recently, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa have come to the fore of geopolitical competition between the Arab countries, the United States, Russia, China and several European nations, as the region is located at the junction of maritime routes between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea as well as harbors investment opportunities and provides for possible deployment of military forces. Experts, however, have noted that the region's attractive potential for development is comparable to the level of its chronic instability.

The recurring conflict in Yemen and the outbreak of a bloody civil war between the Houthis and the government forces may well result in a humanitarian and environmental disaster and thus require the international community to seal certain agreements. However, Iran's interference and its support of the Houthis block a comprehensive peace settlement in Yemen, while Turkey's regional interventions undermine regional stability. The unresolved diplomatic dispute around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam adds another layer of tensions and rivalry in the region, a trend that will persist in the foreseeable future.

KEY EVENTS

- June 26 – online workshop “COVID-19: The Breaking Point in the Syrian Conflict”
- July 15 – online workshop “Caught in Between Regional Instability and Global Recession: North Africa in the Post-Pandemic Era”
- September 21 – online workshop “Regional Competition and Geopolitical Challenges in the Red Sea Region and the Horn of Africa”

THE NEW AGENDA IN UK–RUSSIA RELATIONS

In UK–Russia relations, 2020 will go down as a period of mistrust and the consistent suspension of all formats of bilateral cooperation. The ascending spiral of sanctions and calls to isolate Russia led UK–Russia relations into a dead-end, which in many ways is reminiscent of the worst period of the Cold War. No dialogue at the government level leads to further destabilization and inflames mutual animosity. Despite the growing tensions between Russia and the United Kingdom, when it comes to advancing a positive agenda and mitigating potential crises in the bilateral relations, there is a channel for the civil societies of the two countries to interact.

In 2020, RIAC continued to implement a bilateral UK–Russia project in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London (RUSI). The project, launched in 2016, aims to analyse security issues through the lens of the bilateral relations, search for ways to resume a track-two dialogue between the nations and offer practical recommendations for the relevant ministries and agencies in both states. Based on the results achieved throughout the year, RIAC publishes annual reports, both

in English and in Russian, which spur broad academic and public discussion in Russia and in the United Kingdom alike.

The project was approved and endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as a successful track-two initiative.

During the period under review, the project focused on the pressing issues for both countries, which include the activities of private military and security companies domestically and abroad; rules



of conduct in the information space; and “codes of ethics” for the media in Russia and the United Kingdom.

” International and national law is currently insufficient to regulate the services that PMCs offer [...] A Russian participant proposed signing up to the Swiss initiative, where 60 states have joined forces to self-regulate. UK and US PMCs already self-regulate, and while self-regulation can be successful for licensing procedures, it is not clear whether this framework can deliver justice in the event of misconduct. It was agreed that licensing of companies, personnel and contracts should be the responsibility of the home state.

*Report No. 55/2020. “UK–Russia Security Relations: Talking to Understand” (in collaboration with RUSI).
Andrey Kortunov, Emily Ferris*

In their discussions, experts noted that the role of private military companies is growing both nationally and internationally, and their involvement in military hostilities inevitably escalates the risk of conflicts. Despite the different approaches adopted by Russia and the United Kingdom to legitimize and regulate the activities of private military companies, the two nations will be able to find points of contact and areas of cooperation in this particular sphere.

As for rules of conduct in the information space, experts from both countries identified significant discrepancies between the media “codes” in Russia and the United Kingdom, yet they agreed that fake news have an increasingly negative impact on politics and society.

” The promotion of false narratives by state and non-state groups has challenged the rules and conventions of the existing information space [...] In Russia, the government has much more control over the media, but there needs to be a common denominator for political systems that imply different approaches to media and the state. Only such a common denominator that is equally acceptable for various political systems makes it possible to expect effective management of international information flows.

*Report No. 55/2020. “UK–Russia Security Relations: Talking to Understand” (in collaboration with RUSI).
Andrey Kortunov, Emily Ferris*

KEY EVENTS

- December 9, London – expert workshop “Private Military Companies in Russia and the UK and their Activities” (in collaboration with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies)
- January 20, Moscow – expert workshop “Rules of Conduct in the Information Space” (in collaboration with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 55/2020. UK–Russia Security Relations: Talking to Understand. In collaboration with RUSI. Andrey Kortunov, Emily Ferris*

SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Four projects are currently implemented in this area:

1. Conflicts in the Middle East: Settlement Tools and Strategies
2. Russia–Turkey Relations: Bilateral Cooperation in the Regional Context
3. Russia–Iran Relations on the Modern Stage
4. Russia and Pakistan: Approaches to Gulf Security

RIAC continued to develop its Middle Eastern research in 2020, with a focus on regional security, the prospects for Syrian settlement and the issues of international aid to the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. The Russian Council also devoted special attention to the changes in the regional dynamics. RIAC fostered cooperation with Middle Eastern thinktanks, and the Middle Eastern track occupied a special place in its work, involving experts from Europe, the United States, China and several other countries.

Our project activities resulted in policy briefs on the current state of Russia’s policies in the Middle East and the challenges faced there, as well as on the similarities and differences between the approaches of different actors to the issues of political settlement in Syria, security in the Persian Gulf, external aid and political risks in the region.

The RIAC report “International Assistance to the Middle East and North Africa: Managing Risks”

holds a special place in Middle Eastern studies and has been highly praised by the Russian and international expert community. As noted in the report, it is in the Middle East that international aid has been used particularly actively as a tool for safeguarding national interests, with such aid having had a tangible impact on political life in the recipient states.

The report conceptualizes these developments through the prism of risk management. Given Russia’s enhanced regional presence, starting with the military operation in Syria launched in 2015, it is particularly important to expand analytical approaches.

This is an essential condition for minimizing the risks stemming from providing aid to Syria, Libya, Lebanon and other states. After all, if these risks materialize, Russia could lose its standing in the region, something it has fought hard for over the past decade.



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Despite the appeals from the UN Secretary-General, from Russia, the US, several leading European states and other members of the international community, military hostilities are still raging in the region; they periodically abate and then flare up again. It takes a strong state, suppressing political violence, and a legitimate authority to succeed in combating the consequences of military conflicts in the Middle East in the middle of the pandemic. In the meantime, these three regional conflict centres have not restored their territorial integrity yet, which is the principal criterion of national sovereignty. The prospects for complete settlement appear quite vague.

Aleksandr Aksenonok, RIAC Vice-President, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation (“The Coronavirus and Conflicts in the Middle East”)

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The widely popular “black swan” theory considers unexpected grave consequences of “black swan” events, i.e. unpredictable incidents that are hard to predict. When Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the world-renowned Lebanese-American risk-manager, economist and writer, was developing this “black swan” theory, he probably was not yet entirely aware of the fact that his native region had already been transformed into an incubator of such events.

Vitaly Naumkin, Academic Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, member of the RIAC Academic Council (“The Wings of a ‘Black Swan’ over the Middle East”)

In 2020, RIAC continued to focus on the issue of Syrian settlement, analyzing the approaches of various parties. The series of important events organized by the Council opened with a joint RIAC – International Crisis Group (ICG) press conference “The Syrian Reconstruction Effort: A Look from Russia and a Look from the EU” held at the Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency press room on February 19. In addition, RIAC held workshops in conjunction with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and the Institut Montaigne (France) that also focused on the prospects of the Syrian situation. Furthermore, RIAC published a working paper entitled “Russia and the EU in Syria: Need for New Approaches?” which was prepared by Russian and European experts who wrote that “a Russian–European dialogue on a set of specific issues could be helpful [...] despite persisting differences with regards to the stabilisation of Syria, as well as other issues that strain EU–Russia relations.”

RIAC developed its institutional contacts with Syrian thinktanks—in particular, with the Damascus Center for Research and Studies – Medad (DCRS, Syria). The two held a workshop in Damascus in 2019, which helped promote further contacts and launch an exchange of publications in 2020. Aqeel Saeed Mahfoud, head of the Political Studies Department at Medad, published an article entitled “What Do the Syrian People Expect from Russia?” where he offered his analysis of the uncertain political and economic situation sur-



rounding Syria, the American sanctions, and the prospects of starting and maintaining a “strategic dialogue” between Russia and Syria. As a follow-up to the discussion, Aleksandr Aksenok, RIAC Vice-President, wrote an article “Russia and Syria: Nuances in Allied Relations” specifically focusing on Russia–Syria relations, where he noted that “the challenges and threats that Syria currently faces are economic, and the destructive effect of the sanctions, and the U.S. “Caesar Act” in particular, coupled with the coronavirus pandemic, make the situation worse.”

The authors of another working paper, “Russia and Iran in Syria and Beyond: Challenges Ahead,” prepared by RIAC in collaboration with the Institute for Iran–Eurasia Studies (IRAS), approached the Syrian issue from a slightly different perspective. Assessing Russia–Iran cooperation on security issues in Syria and in the Middle East in general, the experts noted that the current Astana process remained relevant for Syrian settlement. The resolution of the Syrian issue itself should be fit into the broader context of regional de-escalation, where Moscow and Tehran are the requisite elements of the regional security architecture.

In 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presented its Concept on Collective Security System in the Persian Gulf. Throughout 2020, RIAC experts discussed the provisions of the concept and the means of promoting it with representatives of different states. As for the security in the Gulf, special mention should be made of the seminar “Russia and Yemen: Security in the Gulf and the Red Sea Region” that RIAC held jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in the Russian Federation. In addition to the immediate regional actors, the inclusion of other interested parties proved

quite useful. In 2020, the new project “Russia and Pakistan: Approaches to Gulf Security” became an important research track. As part of this project, the report “Russia and Pakistan in the Middle East: Approaches to Security in the Gulf” was prepared in collaboration with Pakistan’s Strategic Vision Institute (SVI).

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If one side of the conflict considers “strategic ambiguity” as its comparative advantage or pursues the strategy with the goal to “escalate in order to de-escalate,” no crisis management mechanism is likely to work [...] No crisis management mechanism is a panacea for security challenges in the region. Still, one should underestimate this mechanism, if the only alternative in the nearest future is the complete vacuum of de-escalation instruments that regional players could rely on in times of crises...

Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Director General and Member of the Presidium, RIAC member; Michel Duclos, Special Advisor — Geopolitics, Former Ambassador, Institut Montaigne (“A Crisis Management Mechanism in the Middle East Is Needed More Than Ever”)

The authors of the RIAC–SVI report believe that it would be wise for Russia and Pakistan to work through the options of promoting cooperation in the Persian Gulf within the SCO. Both Moscow and Islamabad should continue steering their neutral diplomatic courses towards the Gulf states that are locked in conflict. Security in the Persian Gulf should rest on a policy of inclusivity and respect for the interests of other parties. Enhanced regional infrastructural connectivity would have a positive effect on Russia and Pakistan’s interactions with South Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries.

KEY EVENTS

- February 19 – joint RIAC and International Crisis Group press conference “The Syrian Reconstruction Effort: A Look from Russia and a Look from the EU” in Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency press room
- April 15 – RIAC and HSE School of Asian Studies online discussion “Libyan Crisis: Current Status and Prospects for Settlement”
- May 14 – RIAC and Institut Montaigne (France) online expert discussion “The Approaches of Russia and France to Security in the Persian Gulf”
- May 30 – RIAC and Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund webinar “COVID-19: The Future of the Middle East and the Oil Market”
- June 3 – RIAC and European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) expert discussion on the prospects of Syrian settlement
- June 10 – RIAC and Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) online roundtable “Russia, Iran and the World in a Pandemic: Prospects and Scenarios”
- June 17 – online roundtable discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa
- July 13 – RIAC and HSE School of Asian Studies at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs round table “ISIS 2.0 and the COVID-Jihad: How is the Middle East Coping with the Epidemic?”
- July 16 – RIAC and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS, Pakistan) held an expert seminar “Russia’s Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”
- July 28 – RIAC and Center for Political Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel seminar “Assessing the Middle East conflicts (Lebanon, Iraq and Libya). View from Russia and Israel”
- November 3 – RIAC and Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in the Russian Federation seminar “Russia and Yemen: Security in the Gulf and the Red Sea Region”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 50/2020. Russia and Pakistan in the Middle East: Approaches to Security in the Gulf.* Grigory Lukyanov, Julia Rognifard and Mohammad Waqas Jan
2. *Report No. 62/2020. International Aid to Countries of the Middle East and North Africa: Managing the Risks.* Vladimir Bartenev.
3. *Working Paper No. 57/2020. Russia and the EU in Syria: Need for New Approaches?* Andrey Kortunov, Volker Perthes, Alexey Aksenenok and Muriel Asseburg.
4. *Working Paper No. 59/2020. Russia and Iran in Syria and Beyond: Challenges Ahead.* Andrey Kortunov, Mehdi Sanaei, Alexey Khlebnikov and Mahmood Shoor.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Vitaly Naumkin. “The Wings of a ‘Black Swan’ over the Middle East”*
2. *Andrey Kortunov and Michel Duclos. “A Crisis Management Mechanism in the Middle East Is Needed More Than Ever”*
3. *Aleksandr Aksenenok. “The Coronavirus and Conflicts in the Middle East”*
4. *Maxim Suchkov. “Russia in the Middle East: “Be with Us – and Remain Yourself”*
5. *Ruslan Mamedov and Grigory Lukyanov. “Playing Pick-Up-Sticks in Libya – 2”*
6. *Igor Matveev. “The Caesar Act: A New Challenge for Syria?”*
7. *Aqeel Saeed Mahfoud. “What Do the Syrian People Expect from Russia?”*
8. *Aleksandr Aksenenok. “Russia and Syria: Nuances in Allied Relations”*

RUSSIAN STRATEGY IN AFRICA

The subject of Africa appeared relatively recently on the RIAC agenda. The first ever Russia–Africa Summit held in October 2019 demonstrated Russia’s interest in returning to the continent and developing mutually beneficial relations with African countries. In 2020, RIAC launched a project to analyse the interests of Russia, the European Union and Asian countries in Africa. The project aims to study the strategic approaches of Russia and its foreign partners to African countries as well as forecast medium- and long-term international trends on the continent. The project was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and subsequently approved by Mikhail Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Presidential Special Envoy for the Middle East and Africa.

In its research activities as part of the project, RIAC relies on cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission and leading Russian thinktanks, including the Institute for African Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences, the African Business Initiative Union (ABI Union), the Centre for African Studies of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, the Centre for African Studies at the Institute of World History under the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Peking University. RIAC and its partners organized five expert round tables, a scientific and practical conference and a media conference at the Rossiya Segodnya international information agency, which featured the presentation of a joint report by RIAC and the ABI Union entitled “Africa-Russia+: Achievements, Problems, Prospects.”





Africa's new political and economic realities make traditional interaction models virtually unacceptable. Colonial or neo-colonial approaches to building bilateral relations, and the desire to obtain maximum profits while expending minimal efforts, are becoming a thing of the past. Today, all parties are increasingly interested in finding "win-win" cooperation models and studying the continent carefully, paying particular attention both to the expanding spectrum of opportunities and to the challenges that come with them.

Report No. 53 / 2020. Africa–Russia+: Achievements, Problems, Prospects (in collaboration with the Africa Business Initiative Union). Andrey Kortunov, Nataliya Zaiser, Elena Kharitonova, Gabriel Kotchofa, Dmitry Ezhov and Lora Chkoniya

Research as part of the project focuses on Russia–Africa bilateral relations, as well as on Russia's multilateral relations with its partners on the continent on the basis of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs. Despite stable GDP growth, enhanced nation-building, the advancement of the newly created African Continental Free Trade Area as well as economic cooperation, issues surrounding the stability of political systems and jurisdictions remain pressing, as does the need for social reforms and the settlement of military conflicts. RIAC pays great attention to the war in Libya as one of the most violent conflicts in Northern Africa and the stances taken by international players.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global crisis have exacerbated Africa's political and economic problems. Some countries are becoming increasingly dependent on external aid, including medical equipment and medicines supplies. At the same time, in some African countries, authoritarian leaders have taken advantage of the situation by resorting to violence and coercion to solve their domestic problems.



With COVID-related issues moving to the forefront of the global agenda, the traditional priorities of African countries related to socioeconomic modernization have inevitably been put on the back burner.

The pandemic will serve as a convenient backdrop for authoritarian leaders in certain African countries to step up their regimes and move further and more decisively away from the liberal-democratic models of the Western mould.

Andrey Kortunov and Nataliya Zaiser (Working Paper "The Future of Africa against the Background of the Pandemic")

Ongoing regional conflicts and the involvement of international players increase tensions amid the pandemic and hinder the advancement of trade and investment. These and other issues were discussed during online expert round tables on the development of African countries in the context of the pandemic, the results of which were published in the Working Paper "The Future of Africa against the Background of the Pandemic."

During an online round table, the ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of African states to the Russian Federation expressed their gratitude to RIAC for the opportunity to exchange views on foreign policy and the economic aspects of Russia–Africa relations. They suggested that RIAC set up a platform to discuss potential projects with thinktanks in their respective countries. RIAC will continue to work with African diplomats and thinktanks in Africa on foreign policy, the global economy and international security.

RIAC worked together with the Institute of International and Strategic Studies at Peking University to prepare a joint report that analyses the Russian and Chinese strategies in Africa and puts forward recommendations for the governments of both countries.



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2020 was a time of trials and tribulations for the whole world, an historical line in the sand separating the old era from the new. Not a single country, society or sector of the global economy has remained unaffected by the dramatic events of the past few months. It is pointless arguing about whether or not the world will be a different place after the dramatic events of 2020 because the world has already changed, even though we are not out of the woods yet.

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium of the Russian International Affairs Council, RIAC member (Report "World Order Crisis and the Global South")

KEY EVENTS

- January 28: Expert meeting “The Scenario for Libya: Assessments of the Current Situation, Further Dynamics and Multilateral Agreements. The Role of Russia in Resolving Tensions in the Region.”
- February 11: Media conference “The Russia–Africa Summit: 100 Days Later”
- February 20: Scientific and practical conference «Africa–Russia+: Achievements, Problems, Prospects”
- April 29: Online discussion “The Future of Africa against the Background of the Pandemic”
- May 15: Online conference for Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of African states to the Russian Federation “Development of Russia–Africa Relations after the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- June 18: Online expert meeting with researchers from Peking University
- June 24: Online working meeting with representatives of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 53 / 2020. Africa–Russia+: Achievements, Problems, Prospects* (in collaboration with the Africa Business Initiative Union). Andrey Kortunov, Nataliya Zaiser, Elena Kharitonova, Gabriel Kotchofa, Dmitry Ezhov and Lora Chkoniya.
2. *Report No. 59 / 2020. World Order Crisis and the Global South* Andrey Kortunov.
3. *Working Paper No. 56 / 2020. The Future of Africa against the Background of the Pandemic.* Andrey Kortunov and Nataliya Zaiser.
4. *Policy Brief No. 25 / 2020. Trade, Investment and the AfCFTA.* Authors: Lora Chkoniya and Ovanes Oganyan.
5. *Policy Brief No. 26 / 2020. A Russia–EU–Africa Energy Strategy. Nuclear and Renewable Energy Security.* Authors: Romain Pradier and Carla Leonetti.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC

The Arctic region faces serious geopolitical, socioeconomic and environmental challenges. The trend towards the securitization of the Arctic has intensified since 2014 against the backdrop of the Ukrainian crisis and the aggravation of Russia's relations with the United States and other Western nations.

The region remains one of the few examples of successful cooperation on a wide range of issues. That said, there is no way of telling how long the Arctic can remain untouched by the negative influence of global politics.



Russia and the United States have adopted similar or corresponding positions on a number of issues in the Arctic, which is a good sign in terms of the prospects for fruitful interaction among the countries in the region. There is room here to maintain or even advance a dialogue in this area, including on security issues.

Fyodor Voytolovsky, Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, RIAC member

At the same time, while it is entirely possible that geopolitical tensions could subside, the socioeconomic and environmental issues will persist and even worsen. The dramatic decline in icecaps in the Arctic Ocean and other worrying changes caused by global warming have brought about consequences that we are only just beginning to realize. These changes might make the Arctic Ocean more accessible for development, but they damage marine ecosystems and threaten the wellbeing of the Arctic population, whose lives and livelihood depend on the state of the Arctic Ocean.

Despite these problems – and, in a sense, thanks to them – the governments of the Arctic states

interested in an effective development of the Arctic Ocean, as are the region's inhabitants and other parties. It is time to devise and put forward a project that envisions more effective governance mechanisms that will facilitate the achievement of both short- and long-term common interests in the hope that politicians will find an opportunity to implement the project.



The dramatic warming of the Arctic climate and related ecological changes taking place in the region suggest that possible widespread, unexpected, and rapid adverse change may be on the horizon. Recent studies indicate that the chance that Arctic States may need to address such broader and more complex emergency conditions will increase in coming years, perhaps sharply. Arctic Council Members could make much greater use of the Council as a vehicle to facilitate and coordinate the scientific, economic, and social aspects of responses they would take in the event of such broader emergencies.

Andrei Zagorski, Head of the Department for Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Studies at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russian Academy of Sciences, and David Balton, Senior Fellow at the Polar Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars, former Deputy Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries (Report "Implementing Marine Management in the Arctic Ocean")



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The lack of alternatives to cooperation among the Arctic states, which was a common theme in the 1990s and 2000s, is now a thing of the past. Relations between Russia and the four Western Arctic states will remain tense in the foreseeable future. However, the Arctic hasn't yet become the setting for a new Great Game. While the disagreements between states are evident, cooperation has not stopped completely, and the preference for dip-

lomatic rather than military conflict resolution still prevails. Relations between Russia and the West in the Arctic are still somewhere between cooperation and confrontation for now, but are moving in the direction of greater competition.

Dmitri Trenin, Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, RIAC member ("Russia and China in the Arctic: Cooperation, Competition, and Consequences")

KEY EVENTS

- February 6: Expert round table and conference "Russia and Denmark: Issues of Cooperation in the Arctic and the Baltic Sea Region" in Copenhagen organized by the Danish Foreign Policy Society and RIAC.
- June 4: Presentation of the Joint RIAC and Woodrow Wilson Center Report "Implementing Marine Management in the Arctic Ocean."
- September 29: RIAC participation in the Northern Sustainable Development Forum "Investments in the Arctic."
- October 14: Expert seminar to discuss the Joint RIAC and Woodrow Wilson Center Report "Implementing Marine Management in the Arctic Ocean."

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 56 / 2020*. Implementing Marine Management in the Arctic Ocean. David Balton and Andrei Zagorski.
2. *Report No. 54 / 2020* (joint report by RIAC and the Danish Foreign Policy Society). Danish-Russian Interfaces: The Arctic and the Baltic Sea Region. Natalia Viakhireva, Roman Maika, Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, Søren Liborius, Mette Skak and Per Carlsen.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Natalia Viakhireva*. "The Return of the United States to the Arctic"
2. *Andrey Todorov*. "The Svalbard Treaty: A Vivid Mosaic of Interpretations"
3. *Ilya Kramnik*. "High-Latitude Opposition"
4. *Elena Norkina*. "Climate Resilience in the Arctic: Mitigation and Adaptation under the International Climate Change Regime"



Иван
ТИМОФЕЕВ

Андрей
КОРТУНОВ

FUNCTIONAL PROJECTS



RIAC

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

TOGETHER TO A GLOBAL WORLD

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ANTI-RUSSIAN SANCTIONS: AREAS OF ESCALATION AND COUNTERACTION POLICIES

The international sanctions policy is one of the few areas that has remained almost completely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic downturn it has caused. While the global-scale sanctions pressure at the global scale was largely averted in 2020, for many countries sanctions remain one of the key foreign policy instruments.

A number of major sanctions policy trends are of great importance to Russia. Despite the relative slowdown in the amount of the sanctions pressure on Russia, sanctions continue to be one of the main risks for the country's economy. Renewed sectoral sanctions, "Navalny Affair" sanctions and the threat of new restrictive measures, in particular with regard to Russia's sovereign debt, have become a fixture of Russia's relations with the United States and the European Union. The accumulated negative inertia in bilateral relations means that we should not expect the existing sanctions regimes to ease off any time soon.

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Economic sanctions have become one of the factors of the global economic order over the past two decades. It is with great regret that I must say this, but it's true [...] The current situation proves that we will have to live under sanctions for a long time. And we have to tailor our future development with this in mind.

Sergey Dubinin, Member of the Supervisory Council, Chairman of the Remuneration and HR Committee at PJSC VTB Bank (Round Table "Sanctions in the Era of the Coronavirus. Is a Breakthrough Realistic?")

Amid the persisting search for new sanctions policy instruments and mechanisms, the United States is improving the inter-agency coordination of its regulators, the European Union is promoting new initiatives on common sanctions mechanisms, and the United Kingdom has effectively created its own version of the American infrastructure for applying restrictive measures. China has been forced to develop its own mechanisms of restrictive and coercive measures. These factors create additional risks, not only for individual states, but

also for global production chains and the global economy at large.

The growing animosities between the United States and China is another aspect of sanctions risks. The cases of Huawei, ByteDance and several other companies indicate that U.S. regulators are increasingly exerting sanctions pressure on Chinese businesses. The fact that many Chinese manufacturers play a key role in various technology sectors means that this risk, along with any retaliatory measures that Chinese regulators might come up with, is ever present for Russia and the world as a whole.

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The economy is becoming a concentrated expression of politics. Economic interests are subordinated to political considerations. This, of course, is true not only of Russia. The state of affairs in U.S.–China relations offers an even clearer illustration of how political interests dominate. The sanctions policy presents a range of complex theoretical and practical policy issues. For example, what does sovereignty mean in the age of sanctions?

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium of the Russian International Affairs Council, RIAC member (Round Table "Sanctions in the Era of the Coronavirus. Is a Breakthrough Realistic?")

RIAC has been actively studying the issue of sanctions since 2017. The Council's sanctions research program extends beyond simply preparing analytical materials and includes monitoring the legislation of the initiating and target countries, creating relevant databases, working with the expert community in Russia and abroad, developing educational programs (including a special course for MGIMO University), and preparing anthologies of academic articles on international sanctions policies for publication.

In 2020, RIAC's work in this area focused on the dynamics of the anti-Russian restrictive measures as well as issues of the international sanctions policy in general and the impact of sanctions on global business and compliance issues. New



research areas include examining the most common causes of sanctions violations by companies and the most common misconceptions about how to avoid “secondary sanctions.” The results of this work led us to a number of conclusions about the need for objective and universal compliance, which not only serves as a kind of insurance against unwanted consequences in the form of penalties and other types of liability, but also as a significant mitigating circumstance in the event a sanctions violation occurs.

KEY EVENTS

- May 29: Round Table “Sanctions in the Era of the Coronavirus. Is a Breakthrough Realistic? (in conjunction with *Rossiyskaya gazeta*).
- October 21: Webinar “Sanctions Risks for Russian Business: Factors that Deserve Special Attention and Error Correction” (in conjunction with Interfax)
- December 16: Conference “Sanctions Risks: 2020 Results and Predictions for 2021”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 65 / 2020. Anti-Russia Sanctions: 2020 Results and Looking Towards 2021.* Ivan Timofeev, Vladimir Morozov and Yulia Timofeeva.
2. Anthology. “The Sanctions Policy: Goals, Strategies and Instruments.” Second edition, expanded and amended.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Ivan Timofeev.* “Post-COVID-19 Sanctions Policies”
2. *Ivan Timofeev and Margarita Khomenko.* “Managing Sanctions Risks: Seven Stereotypes and Five Elements”
3. *Ivan Timofeev.* “European Paradox: The U.S. Sanctions Policy against EU Business”
4. *Yulia Timofeeva.* “The U.S.–China Confrontation: New Tasks, New Tools”

POLITICAL RISKS FOR RUSSIA'S PEACEFUL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Today, Rosatom's commercial activities extend far beyond Russia's borders. The company is developing large-scale nuclear projects in almost every corner of the world, bringing in money to Russia's federal budget, much as strengthening and harmonizing the country's relations with the countries that export Rosatom's services.

In 2020, Rosatom implemented projects worth over \$130 billion in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. At the same time, despite the company's obvious success in the nuclear field, with new construction technologies on the rise and new markets emerging, Rosatom is beginning to feel the pressure of the competition on the nuclear infrastructure construction market.

The Middle East is one of the key regions in the field of nuclear construction, and its needs and capabilities afford considerable opportunities for Rosatom. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran and Turkey have expressed their desire to develop nuclear industries of their own and diversify their sources of power, which creates an extremely attractive climate for foreign construction companies.

The Middle East is particularly important for Rosatom on account of Russia's standing in the region. As an "honest mediator," Russia tries to maintain friendly relations with all the key actors in the Middle East, which remains an extremely difficult task given the mutual hostility and distrust that exists among the main regional players. Fostering economic ties with the region could help entwine Russia's interests with those of the regional countries and consolidate Moscow's presence in the Middle East. What is more, the cost of building nuclear facilities can run into tens of billions of dollars, which promises to be extremely

beneficial for the Russian federal budget in the long term.

However, despite the obvious potential of new export markets for nuclear construction services, there are certain risks associated with working on expensive large-scale projects in relatively volatile regions, such as Africa and the Middle East. For example, the political systems of the countries in these regions are particularly susceptible to shocks, ranging from mass protests to coups to civil wars. Besides, the risk of new military confrontations breaking out in the Middle East and Africa is particularly high. All this could prove a significant obstacle to the successful implementation of Rosatom's construction projects, and in some cases could make their completion impossible or financially inexpedient.

The main goal of this project is to identify the unique risks posed for Rosatom by emerging nuclear infrastructure construction services export markets. This also involves assessing the opportunities that the projects in these regions could create for Russia. Having analysed and compared the possible risks and opportunities of Rosatom's activities in Africa and the Middle East, one can draw conclusions on the feasibility of and prospects for Rosatom's construction projects in these regions.

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 61 / 2020. Rosatom Projects in the Middle East: Development Prospects and Possible Challenges.* Pyotr Kortunov.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND PROSPECTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously complicated the movement of peoples around the world. However, international migration processes remain one of the main items on the global agenda. The events of 2020, extending beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing global economic downturn, include aggravating tensions between the global centres of power and the growing number of increasingly violent regional conflicts, all of which have exacerbated problems associated with development and population mobility.

Sustaining and developing human capital as well as reducing the negative consequences of the mentioned trends will be the main problem in the medium term.

Bearing in mind that this problem stands acute both for the European Union and Russia, RIAC has launched the “International Migration Processes: Trends, Challenges, and Prospects” project, studying the current global migration dynamics, the best EU migration policy solutions, and whether the experience of other countries could be applied to Russia.

In 2020, RIAC hosted the Sixth International Conference on Migration on the subject “International Migration and Human Capital in the Context of COVID-19” and in collaboration with the RANEP Centre for Theoretical and Applied Political Science and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The conference is one of the largest expert events on migration issues in Russia, as it brings together representatives of the expert and academic communities, international organizations and NGOs.

The experts who took part in the conference agreed that the COVID pandemic is not the only factor affecting migration flows in Russia and

around the world, whose impact is rather short-term. Far more serious are the consequences brought about by the economic downturn, sanctions, and other crisis phenomena that abound in global politics and economy. The surge in unemployment caused by the economic slowdown will lead to increased competition between the local population and the arriving migrants, and many foreign workers will subsequently be “squeezed out” of the labour market. At the same time, long-term demographic and economic trends will push governments to liberalize their migration regimes and more actively include migrants in the economy.

The participants also touched upon such issues as the contribution that migration makes to the development of human capital and the measures that could be taken to exploit the potential of the newly arrived population in a more efficient way. The problem of ensuring access to education, including vocational courses and other related services, persists. These issues pose a serious challenge for states, individual regions, municipalities and local communities; however, there are examples of migrants being successfully integrated into the education system and thus involved in the development of human capital in host countries.

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Sergey Andreev.* “A Second Immigration Crisis?”
2. *Dmitry Poletaev.* “Migration Consequences of the ‘Perfect Storm’: What Effect Will the Coronavirus Pandemic Have on Migration Issues?”

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS OF CYBERSECURITY

RIAC continues to pay special attention to international information security issues, which have only worsened against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hackers take advantage of the coronavirus in criminal purposes, carrying out cyberattacks on healthcare organizations, biomedical research facilities, financial and educational institutions, and international organizations. With the entire global economy suffering as it is as a result of the pandemic, their actions make the situation even worse. The United Nations estimates that cyber-crime cost the world's governments \$1.5 trillion in the first nine months of 2020 alone, while unofficial sources put that figure at \$6 trillion.



The IT world was faced with a unique information security challenge during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19, and from an organizational and technical point of view, it is vital that we learn from the experience of secure computer network operation during the pandemic.

Aleksey Markov, Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Ph.D. in Engineering, Professor at Bauman Moscow State Technical University, RIAC expert

While high-level negotiating platforms, such as the Open-Ended Working Group on ICT (OEWG) and the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace (UN GGE) do exist, they have not eliminated a number of international information security issues. No confidence-building measures in cyberspace have been developed and there is no universal “cyber code” setting out the rules and norms of behaviour in cyberspace. As is noted by Andrey Krutskikh, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on International Cooperation on Information Security and Director of the Department of International Information Security, at a time when chaos in the digital realm is only increasing, “in the generally accepted diplomatic sense, negotiations are not

being conducted”. However, we are witnessing an increase in the number of unsubstantiated accusations of cyberattacks aimed at countries that have nothing to do with it.

Accusations of ICT interference significantly destabilize relations between states and hamper the dialogue on cyber issues. As a solution, some governments have proposed unilateral deterrence measures as well as strengthening their offensive and defensive capabilities in cyberspace. In addition, several countries are openly discussing their right to inflict preventive cyber-attacks against potential adversaries, including against critical infrastructure.

However, it is unlikely that such unilateral actions will solve the problem at hand. Common, mutually acceptable rules of the game are needed to reduce the risk of confrontation in the digital realm.



In the context of growing tensions between the United States and Russia, it is especially important that we develop international rules of behaviour in the global information space on the basis of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, such as non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, respect for sovereignty and the non-use of force and the threat of force in international relations.

Elena Zinovieva, Deputy Director of the Centre for International Information Security, Science and Technology Policy at MGIMO University

RIAC teamed up with the Advisory Board of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe (FES ROCPE) and RAND Corporation to launch the project “Political Intervention in the Digital Age,” which seeks to develop acceptable standards for all and a code of conduct in the digital environment to counteract interference in the internal affairs of states using ICT.

EVENTS

- October 7–9: Online meetings of the working groups of the joint RIAC – FES-ROCPE – RAND Corporation project “Political Intervention in the Digital Age”

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Anastasia Tolstukhina*. “Business and the State: Together into the Brave ‘Cyber World’?”
2. *Anastasia Tolstukhina*. “The Fight of Global Tech Companies against Terrorist Content on the Internet”
3. *Alexey Markov*. “Information Security in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic”
4. *Elena Zinovieva*. “The Problem of ‘Digital Interference’ in U.S.–Russia Relations”
5. *Arthur Khetagurov*. “CyberUkraine. The Potential and Competencies of Ukraine in Information and Cyber Security”
6. Interview with *Anastasia Kazakova* on Kaspersky Lab’s participation in the UN’s cyber initiatives

ORGANIZING INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEW OF RUSSIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

Today, the role of international cooperation is becoming increasingly important in scientific research. A growing number of breakthrough developments are made by multinational teams of researchers. On the one hand, the growing economic independence facilitates this—globalization of the economy has a knock-on effect on science, and pilot projects in fundamental and applied sciences serve as drivers of economic growth. On the other hand, universities and research centres are becoming more international than ever before, and this also has a positive effect on the scientific development.

International expertise is an integral part of global educational, scientific, innovative networks and communities (primarily in relevant scientific disciplines and interdisciplinary fields). Currently existing practices show that international expertise in various scientific, educational, and innovative projects, big and small, allow us to tackle several interrelated challenges:

- allowing for the most objective, impartial and independent assessment of the projects and ideas submitted for consideration and minimizing possible personal and other factors that could influence an internal peer review;
- providing an idea of the general level of projects and programs submitted for consideration compared to their leading foreign counterparts (schools, research teams, individual researchers, etc.);
- remaining one of the most effective tools for promoting Russian science and education on the global market and affording the

opportunity to familiarize the international expert community with project ideas, concepts and methodological approaches as well as with scientific infrastructure of the countries that organize respective tenders. As a rule, experts and organizations involved in evaluating projects do their part in terms of developing various forms of international scientific, educational, and innovative cooperation.

RIAC puts a premium on expanding the international cooperation of Russian educational and research institutions, encouraging the international academic and educational mobility and promoting Russian research abroad.

In 2020, RIAC continued its work with the Russian Science Foundation (RSF), organizing and supporting international expertise in scientific and technical programs and projects submitted to the RSF for consideration. RIAC organized international peer review of 696 projects submitted to the Russian Science Foundation competition “Scientific Research Conducted by Research Teams Led by Young Scientists” as part of the Presidential Programme for Research Projects Carried out by Leading Scientists, including young professionals, in 2020. The Council also selected 100 foreign researchers to be included in the RSF international experts pool and conducted its own research to suggest recommendations on research ethics and devising a mechanism for the Russian Science Foundation’s principles to be implemented with allowances made for the best practices of foreign foundations.

Residence Countries of Foreign Researchers Taking Part in Peer Review of Projects Submitted to the Russian Science Foundation for Consideration in 2020, %

Germany	24,09
India	10,36
United States	9,52
United Kingdom	8,68
Italy	6,16
France	5,04
Austria	3,92
China	3,36
Greece	3,08
Spain	3,08
Belgium	2,24
Other	20,45

ВЫХОД



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



DIGITAL INTERNATIONALIZATION OF RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

One of the main tasks facing Russian universities is to strengthen their competitive positions on the global education market. Accelerating global processes, digitalization-driven education, the rise of the Internet and social networks and the growing role of English as a *lingua franca*—all this forces higher education institutions to improve their English-language resources online. Social networks and English-language websites are one of the most important tools when it comes to international marketing of higher education. The effective use of digital resources has become an important factor in exporting educational services and in improving the image of Russian higher education abroad.

RIAC first started researching the English-language web-content of Russian universities in 2015, using a methodology developed by the Council's staff. The results of the new study were presented in Report No. 47 / 2020 "Web Internationalization of Russian Universities (2020)."

In 2020, RIAC hosted a round table entitled "Online-Channels of Promoting Russian Universities in the World Market of Educational Services," which was timed to coincide with the publication of RIAC's annual report. More than 20 people took part in the event, including representatives of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad, and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo), and experts in the field of higher education. The participants discussed the role of English-language web resources in promoting Russian universities on the global educational markets as well as the dynamics of the development of English-language digital resources among Russian universities. The experts shared their views on what Russian universities need to do in order to increase their presence in the English-language segment of the Internet and make their marketing strategies more effective.

The "Web Internationalization of Russian Universities (2020)" report was presented during the meeting. The study showed that 44 of the 67 universities analysed (65.7 per cent) had improved their performance as compared to the previous year.

Despite the generally positive trend, the analysis leads us to the conclusion that many universities are still far from exploiting the full potential of English-language versions of their websites. Only 10.5 per cent of the websites analysed had 67 per cent or more of their content available in English (compared to 8.9 per cent in 2019); 64.2 per cent were between 34 and 66 per cent "complete" with English-language content (compared to 53.7 per cent in 2019); and 25.4 per cent have less than one third of their content available in English (compared to 37 per cent in 2019). The most complete sections on university websites in terms of the availability of information in English were "Contact Information," "About the University," "Admissions," "Social Life," "Partners" and "News," while the sections that are generally lacking information in English are "Careers," "Library," "Departments and Faculties".



The effectiveness of English-language resources is an important factor in exporting educational services, promoting universities and increasing the attractiveness of Russian education abroad.

Ivan Timofeev, Director of Programs at the Russian International Affairs Council (speaking at the round table held on July 17, 2020)

A comparative analysis revealed that the leading Russian universities are ahead of foreign universities that appear in the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings, both in terms of electronic internationalization in general and in terms of the number of sections of their websites that have English-language versions; however, they lag behind in the "Departments and Faculties," "Alumni" and "Careers" sections.

Judging by the state of English-language websites, only 28 per cent of the participating universities are successfully meeting the tasks set by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation's Project "5-100", while mere 12.8 per cent satisfy the goals set forth in its "Export of Education" project. These goals include promoting research services, attracting foreign students, young researchers and

teaching staff, etc. The pace at which the universities participating in the “5–100” Project develop English-language sections of their websites has significantly slowed down, with an average of just 61.1 per cent of their online resources available in English (up from 59.7 per cent in 2019). Work on individual blocks has shown positive dynamics. As for the development of digital resources of universities participating in the “Export of Education” initiative, these institutions are not only actively producing English-language versions of the basic sections of their websites but also starting to focus more on foreign partners. However, the level of content in most blocks remains average or below average, which is obviously not good enough when it comes to exporting educational and research services abroad.

In 2020, RIAC decided not to compile a rating of the English-language accounts of Russian universities on social networks. The 2019 ranking revealed serious issues with the content policies of universities, especially in terms of their social media marketing strategies. The authors of the 2020 report thus limited themselves to recommendations on working with English-language accounts on social networks. Recommendations will prove more useful than ratings given that universities need to change their content strategies as soon as possible, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The consequences of the pandemic and the global economic crisis will affect government programs that finance the export of education. I think that funding will be reduced in many countries. However, there are a number of other processes that are rapidly changing the educational services market. We have to monitor and assess these changes, including in terms of the additional problems and opportunities they may bring.

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium of the Russian International Affairs Council, RIAC member (speaking at the round table held on July 17, 2020)

Universities today are unable to work with audiences in the traditional manner. They could use the opportunities of today to build content strategies that focus on their specific communication goals and respond dynamically to the ongoing changes. A content strategy in general, and a social media marketing strategy in particular, should solve the problems that all target audiences face.

KEY EVENTS

- May 12: Online RIAC– Rossotrudnichestvo conference “Public Diplomacy and Russian Universities in the Modern ‘Digital World’”
- July 17: Round table “Online Channels for Promoting Russian Universities in the Global Educational Services Market”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 57 / 2020. Web Internationalization of Russian Universities (2020). Authors: Ivan Timofeev, Elena Karpinskaya, Daria Yarkova, M. Frantsuzova and Ivan Bocharov.*

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Elena Karpinskaya. “COVID-19: How it Impacts Higher Education”*
2. *Maria Bocharova and Zhanna Trunkova. “Use of English-Language University Websites and Social Media to Recruit Foreign Applicants”*
3. *Elena Karpinskaya. “Overseas Students are Scarce Resource”*
4. *Olga Bakumenko. “International Digital Marketing of Russian Universities: Current State and Development Prospects”*
5. *Elena Karpinskaya and Ivan Bocharov. “Online Channels for Promoting Russian Universities in the Global Educational Services Market. Takeaways from the RIAC Round Table”*
6. *Daria Yarkova. “Higher Education into the Digital Age: Predictions that Came True and Future Prospects”*

INTERNSHIPS

More than 80 students from Russian universities (in particular, Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Higher School of Economics, Russian State University for the Humanities, St. Petersburg State University, Moscow State Linguistic University and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation) and universities around the globe (Princeton University, John Hopkins University, London School of Economics and Political Science, Strasbourg University, to name but a few) completed internships at RIAC in 2020. It is noteworthy that Russian interns included students from universities located in different regions of Russia. The spread of the coronavirus infection did not prevent the students from completing

their internships as planned, thanks to the remote program that was put in place. During their internships, students had the opportunity to work on RIAC projects that especially interested them. The internship combined work on these projects (helping to prepare events, researching information, compiling databases) with work on students' own papers and research projects under close supervision of their mentors.

As part of the 2020 internship program network, RIAC set about creating a network of future international relations experts. Information about the interns, their research interests and publications and their work can be found on RIAC's website. RIAC hopes to keep interns involved in its activities after they have completed their programs.



«My internship at RIAC provided me with a unique experience in international relations. During the program, I got first-hand insight into how analytical materials are prepared, had the opportunity to attend several discussions with experts and, most importantly, was able to try my hand at writing analytical articles myself. The recommendations and advice of my mentor helped me to finally settle on an area of research. I am convinced that RIAC is the perfect platform for developing young international relations experts. I would like to thank RIAC for this opportunity!»

*Yana Ovsyannikova, RIAC intern,
Moscow State Linguistic University student*



«At RIAC, I acquired a deeper understanding of the complex interactions between countries and the importance of promoting political dialogue. The RIAC mentors and the tasks I was assigned helped me feel involved in the Council's work. I was happy to see that RIAC welcomes new perspectives, as this has allowed me to look at my own research in a different light and publish relevant articles.»

*Alexis Legigand, RIAC intern,
MGIMO student,
graduate of St. Olaf College*



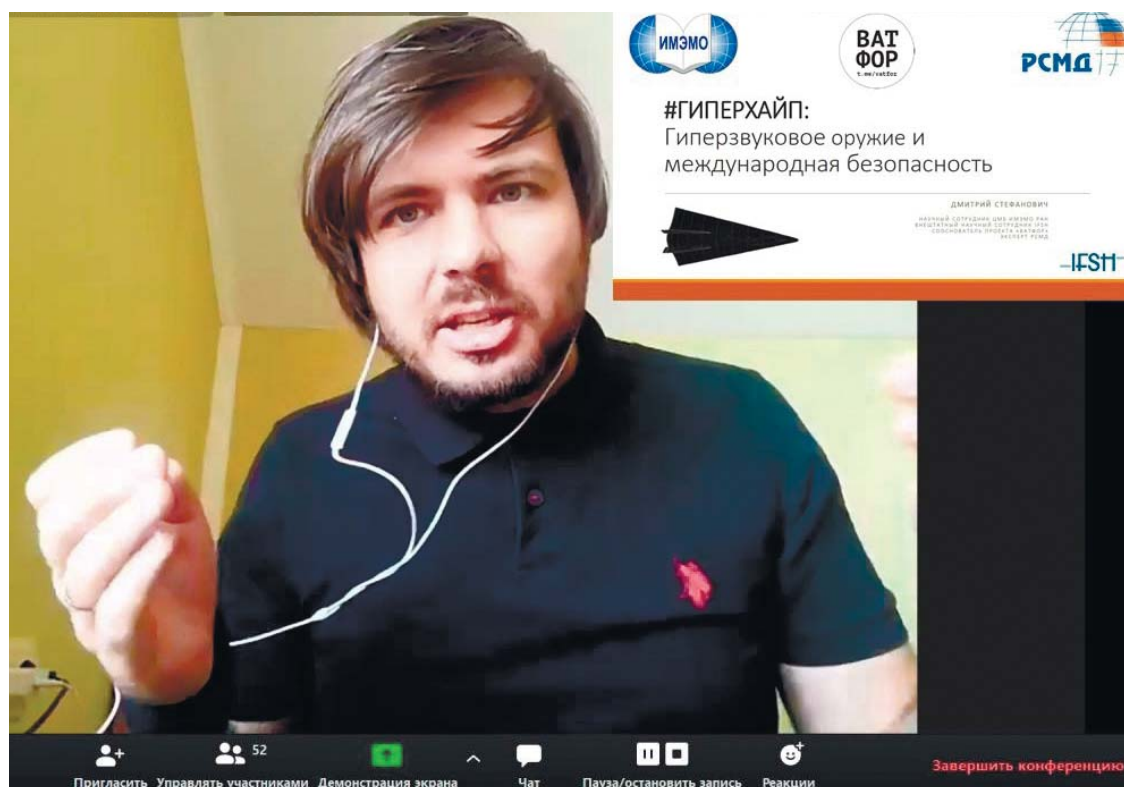
PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In 2019, RIAC held a number of public outreach activities aimed at young experts and everyone interested in various aspects of international affairs. A large number of events were moved to the online realm.

The new season of the *Urbi et Orbi* city breakfasts kicked off at the start of the year. The range of topics covered at these breakfasts was expanded to include “How Video Games Influence International Relations” and “The Impact of Public Narratives on Foreign Policy.” A number of these events were organized in partnership with other organizations. City breakfast partners included the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INION RAN) and the Vatfor project.

Over the course of four seasons, RIAC’s city breakfasts have proved to be an extremely popular platform among experts and the public at large. The format presents RIAC experts with the opportunity to chat with Moscow residents in an informal setting and explain what is at the core of the processes taking place in the world today.

RIAC continued its close cooperation with the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, where it offers lectures on current international issues as part of the Tverskaya XXI project. *International Affairs* magazine serves as the official media partner for the events.



EVENTS

City Breakfasts:

- February 13: "When Will the Libyan Crisis End? RIAC City Breakfast"
- March 5: "Can the Euro Beat the Dollar?"
- April 9: "Hypersonic Weapons and International Security" (with Vatfor)
- May 22: "International Relations in Video Games: Nothing Personal, Just Business?"
- June 25: "The 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections"
- July 23: "How Narratives in the Public Consciousness Influence Foreign Policy"
- August 6: "The 75th Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings: Lessons for International Security"
- September 24: "The Age of the Optimal Society. Russia, the U.S. and China – A Game of Survival"
- October 29: "The Trump Phenomenon and the U.S. Presidential Elections"

Lectures at the State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia:

- February 6: Igor Makarov. "How Is the Climate Agenda Changing the Global Economy?"

CLUB MEETINGS

Four “club meetings” of RIAC members and experts were held in 2020. These were attended by high-ranking Russian diplomats, international relations scholars, business community and leading media outlets representatives. The meetings addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on today’s international relations, key trends in the contemporary world order, and the risks and opportunities for Russian foreign policy under the new conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in a most severe global crisis. In recent decades, there is hardly an event that has had a similar shock effect virtually everywhere in the world and encompassing so many areas of human life. The pandemic has hit the global economy hard. The first wave dealt a crushing blow to the drivers of the global economy, namely China, the United States and the European Union.

One of the main trends in international affairs today is the rapid deterioration of U.S.–China relations against the background of the pandemic and the ensuing global economic crisis. Animosity between the two powers have been building up for some time, finally spilling over into an open rivalry in 2020. This has primarily been prompted by China’s technological, economic and military growth, which the United States sees as a long-term strategic threat. The escalation of the rivalry between the United States and China is fraught with two global risks: 1) the severing of economic interdependence between the two countries, which, given their place and role in the world economy, may lead to a massive global economic shock; and 2) political and military confrontation coupled with an arms race and potentially open military hostilities.

Experts note that China has established itself as a new economic, technological and military-political pole on the world stage. Beijing’s foreign policy is characterized by increasing activity, and it is gradually moving beyond the Asia Pacific region. China has become an economic giant, and its military, political and technological potential continue to grow. The country’s economic growth is a direct consequence, among other things, of its involvement in the Western-centric global economy. Containing China will thus mean pushing the country into the margins and excluding it from the Western technological environment and value

chains (which is already the case in a number of industries).

There is a certain lack of unity between the United States and the European Union, although it does not stretch to all spheres. Despite the criticisms within the European Union of Donald Trump’s policies and the fact that the two partners disagree on a number of issues, including their approaches to the Iranian nuclear deal, Nord Stream 2, defence spending and several aspects of trade, transatlantic ties remain strong. The EU officially recognizes the U.S. as a key and uncontested partner. Nevertheless, there is reason to believe that the parameters of this transatlantic partnership may change. Just how involved Washington’s European allies will be in the confrontation between the United States and China remains to be seen, although the architecture of the relations continue to be stable.

The balance of power within the West will be of great importance for the future world order. We are approaching a historical fork in the road for U.S.–Europe relations. While the European Union continues to be an “economic giant” and a “political dwarf” on the international stage, it is gradually gaining in its foreign policy potential. The official pan-European foreign and security policy is moving along successfully, and Brussels increasingly utilizes non-military tools of influence. If the European Union tended to mainly rely on soft power, economic influence and the “power of standards” in the past, it is now resorting ever more frequently to coercion, primarily in the form of economic sanctions. The European Union is still a long way from creating its own autonomous armed forces and security structures, although the potential is certainly there.

The growing confrontation with China means that the Middle East is losing relevance on the U.S.

foreign policy agenda. Until recently, the region was seen as crucial to the fight against Islamic radicalism, but it has receded into the background to become a “non-core” asset. RIAC members agree that Washington will seek to reduce its military presence in the region while maintaining its influence there.



EVENTS

- May 7: Round Table “The COVID-19 Epidemic: U.S. Foreign Policy Strategies, Trends and Scenarios”
- May 21: RIAC Round Table “COVID-19 Epidemic: The Future of ‘European Unity’ and EU Foreign Policy”
- June 2: Round Table “COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for China’s Foreign Policy and Impact on the China–U.S. Confrontation”
- June 17: Roundtable “COVID-19 Epidemic: Implications for Conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 34 / 2020. COVID-19 and the Situation in the Modern World: Risks and Opportunities for Russian Foreign Policy.* Ivan Timofeev

JOURNALISTS' COMPETITION

RIAC launched the Nationwide Contest for Young Foreign Affairs Journalists in 2012 in conjunction with the Russian Union of Journalists and the International Affairs magazine as well as with the support of the Interfax news agency and Russia in Global Affairs magazine. The competition is open to full-time and freelance journalists of Russian print and online media who are under the age of 36.

On November 5, 2020, RIAC presented the results of the VIII Annual Nationwide Contest for Young Foreign Affairs Journalists. A total of 161 papers were received, 122 of which were accepted for consideration. Over the course of nine years, the contest has proved itself as one of the leading platforms for young foreign affairs journalists.

The latest edition of the Contest was launched in August. As per tradition, the information partners for the project included Expert media holding and the School of Future International Relations Experts at the Higher School of Economics.

BEST ANALYTICAL ARTICLE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

[Alexandra Stepanishcheva](#)

– “Army on Call. Chapter 3. Clerks in Body Armour” (*Snob*)

BEST INTERVIEW ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

[Irina Polina](#)

– “Polish Foreign Minister: Warsaw Ready for Dialogue with Moscow on Complex Issues” (TASS)

AWARD FOR A REPORT ON AN “ORIGINAL TOPIC”

[Tikhon Sysoev](#)

– “The Time of Global Historical Projects is Over” (*Expert*)

BEST REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

[Anna Kantamirova](#)

– “Our Sister Lives on in the Body of Meng Xianguo!”: The Story of How Soviet Nurses Donated Skin to a Chinese Child (*Amurskaya Pravda*)

NOVICE FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNALIST (prize shared by two journalists):

[Polina Sentebova](#)

– “Pierre Malinowski: Countries are Different, but They Share a Common History” (*Moskovskaya Pravda*)

[Matvei Tsarev](#)

– “Time to Collect Stones. Five Reasons for the Failure of the Middle East Settlement” (*Military Review*)

STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PAPERS
SUBMITTED:

161

NUMBER OF PAPERS
ACCEPTED FOR
CONSIDERATION:

122

OF THE PAPERS ACCEPTED:

MOSCOW:

42%
(67 PAPERS)

ST. PETERSBURG:

2%
(4 PAPERS)

KRASNOYARSK:

1%
(4 PAPERS)

PAPERS WERE ALSO
RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED
STATES, CHINA, ARMENIA,
BOLIVIA, POLAND, BELARUS
AND FRANCE

FEMALE ENTRANTS:

38%

MALE ENTRANTS:

62%

THE AVERAGE AGE OF ENTRANTS WAS 27
(WITH THE YOUNGEST BEING 16)

THE MOST POPULAR CATEGORY WAS "BEST ANALYTICAL ARTICLE
ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS" – 43% OF APPLICATIONS),
FOLLOWED BY "BEST INTERVIEW ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS" (24%)

03

RIAC
IN THE MEDIA

In 2019, the Russian International Affairs Council consolidated its position as one of the most recognizable and respected sources of information on international relations and Russian foreign policy. The Council successfully moved its traditional formats online, including round tables and media conferences with RIAC experts and partners at the offices of *Rossiya Segodnya* and *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*.

RIAC was cited 17,200 times in various publications in 2020, up 24 per cent from the previous year (according to Integrum). The Council is regularly among the most-cited thinktanks in the Russian media.

RIAC has established partner relations with a number of leading Russian internet media. In 2020, projects were continued with Expert.Online, *International Affairs* magazine, and the GlagolevFM online radio station.

RIAC experts write articles for *Kommersant*, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, *Nezavisimaya gazeta*, RBC, and *Izvestiya*. RIAC also develops cooperation with leading Russian news agencies: *Rossiya Segodnya*, TASS, *Interfax* and *Sputnik*. RIAC members and experts regularly appear on major Russian and international television channels and comment on international affairs issues. In addition, the Russian International Affairs Council collaborates with popular media outlets from the United States, China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and other countries.

Коммерсантъ

МИР

GLOBAL TIMES

Channels

Does China-US c
meet Russia's int

By Andrey Kortunov Source: Glo
2020/7/17 10:13:40

«Недоверие между Россией и
США достигло невиданного
уровня»

Бывший глава МИД РФ Игорь Иванов
перспективах отношений Москвы и
Вашингтона

★ 🗨 🌐 📧 📧 📧

"Коммерсантъ" от 16.09.2020, 12:53




Фото: Анатолий Жданов / Коммерсантъ


В августе американский журнал Politico опубликовал три статьи, авторы которых представляют свои взгляды на то, как США и Запад в целом, должны выстраивать отношения с Россией. В первой статье, опубликованной в августе и соавтором которой является бывший американский военачальник, говорится, что «политика Вашингтона не работает». Текст «переосмыслен».

В дождливый сезон не обойтись без зонтика

Андрей Кортунов о настоящем и будущем режима контроля над вооружениями

★ 🗨 🌐 📧 📧 📧

"Коммерсантъ" от 31.07.2020, 13:00



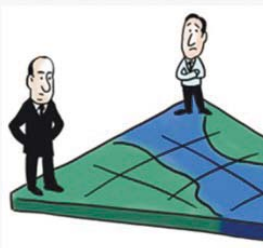


Illustration: Liu Rui/GT

Presidential election campaigns have a detrimental impact on the consistency of national policy. This is because the nation is often distracted by domestic partisan politics. Presidential campaigns also put immediate political considerations ahead of long-term strategic goals. An incumbent president seeking re-election must demonstrate to the electorate that he is tough and decisive in dealing with international issues, especially, with foreign adversaries. This often leads to a policy of being soft, weak and too accommodating towards enemies, rivals and competitors. As a result, the nation is exposed to a waterfall of hawkish demands for escalation of the "US-China" trade war.

Global Times Published:

onfrontation
terests?

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КОРОНАВИРУС НЕ ОСТАНОВИЛ USMCA

Почему Канада, Мексика и США обновили правила торговли

Наталья Вяжирева

Об авторе: Наталья Сергеевна Вяжирева – кандидат политических наук, эксперт и программный менеджер Российского совета по международным делам.

Теги: пандемия, коронавирус, торговое

Коммерсантъ

МИР

Почему США и ЕС не удается изобрести «осипед»

граммный директор РСМД Иван Тимофеев о перспективах санкционного давления на Белоруссию

Коммерсантъ" от 01.09.2020, 10:43




Фото: из личного архива

Августовский кризис в Белоруссии вернул на повестку дня вопрос о западных санкциях. Угроза ограничительных мер на фоне массовых протестов после президентских выборов 9 августа

15.07.2020 18:49:00

Иностранные студенты – дефицитный ресурс

Российские вузы сравнили по качеству онлайн-ресурсов на английском языке

Елена Карпинская

Об авторе: Елена Олеговна Карпинская – заместитель программного директора Российского совета по международным делам.

Теги: вузы, индекс, электронная интернационализация, иностранные студенты, пандемия, коронавирус

Все статьи по теме "Коронавирус COVID-19 - новая мировая проблема"



В ближайшие несколько лет ожидается спад спроса на зарубежное образование и обострение конкуренции между университетами за иностранных студентов. Фото Reuters

Российский совет по международным делам (РСМД) выпустил пятый доклад, посвященный вопросам электронной интернационализации российских вузов. На основе авторской методики эксперты РСМД провели анализ англоязычных ресурсов 67 российских вузов. Эксперты рассматривают контент университетского сайта с точки зрения содержательного наполнения. Англоязычные порталы взяты в качестве объекта анализа постольку, поскольку английский язык на данный момент –



MANIFESTATION DU 16 AOÛT 2020, À MINSK. PHOTO : TATYANA ZENKOVICH/EPA

INTERNATIONAL VU DE MOSCOU

Par Andreï Kortounov | 17 août 2020

Andreï Kortounov est le directeur général du Conseil russe pour les affaires internationales (RIAC), l'un des plus prestigieux cercles de

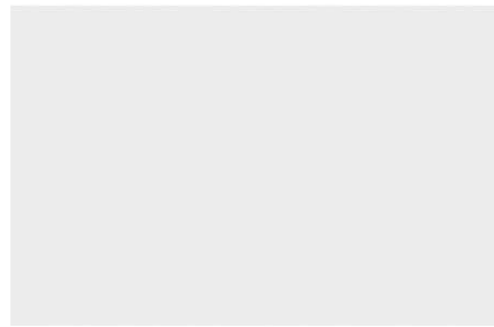
ises.

matiques que la actuellement pourraient rd en Russie.

e Loukachenko est-il position est-elle capable

Коммерсантъ

МИР



«Политические соображения могут перевесить опасения за стабильность рынков»

Программный директор РСМД Иван Тимофеев о санкционных итогах сентября

Коммерсантъ" от 01.10.2020, 14:54



Фото: Дмитрий Духанин / Коммерсантъ | купить

Дело Алексея Навального увеличило риски санкций для России. Новые ограничения вряд ли появятся мгновенно. Однако вопрос с повестки дня не исчезнет. ЕС и США исходят из двух посылок. Первая – против Алексея Навального применялось отравляющее вещество группы «Новичок». Вторая – дело Алексея

04

RIAC WEBSITE

RUSSIANCOUNCIL.RU

AVERAGE MONTHLY TRAFFIC IN 2020:

519,000

Growth from previous year:

≈ 45%

Annual traffic in 2020:

6.4 million

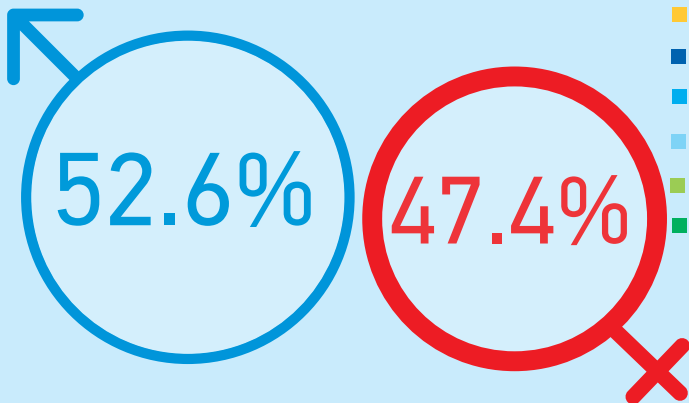
In 2020, a large portion of scientific, educational, political and public life moved to the Internet, leading to a spike in online activity. This could not but have an effect on the number of visitors to the RIAC website. The RIAC website maintained its position as one of the most popular and well-respected internet resources on international affairs while significantly increasing its audience: by over 45 per cent compared to the previous year. The biggest increases were among the younger (under 24) and older (over 55) demographics. In terms of geography, the number of visitors from North America, Eastern Europe, South and Central Asia and Africa grew most.

The website's broad appeal can be put down to the fact that it publishes analyses by leading Russian and foreign experts and is transparent when it comes to covering RIAC's activities. RIAC publishes up to 18 exclusive analytical pieces and as many as 20 news articles about its program activities every week. Our expert comments feed is updated daily and is taken from publications in open sources.

NUMBER OF VISITS TO THE RIAC SITE PER MONTH:
519,000

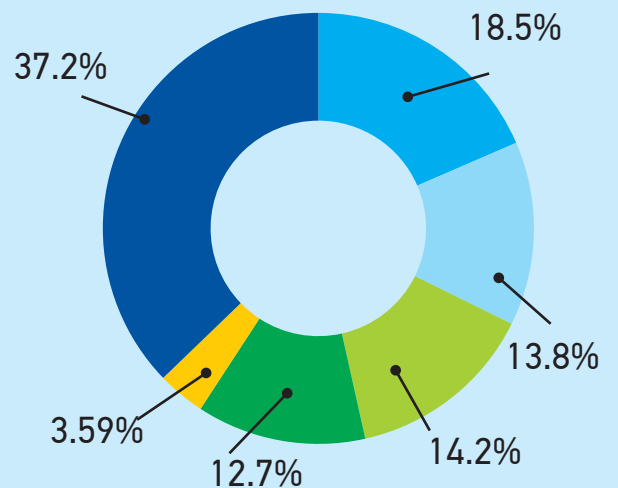
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS TO THE SITE IN 2020 EXCEEDED
6 MILLION

GENDER



AGE

- < 18
- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- 45–54
- > 55

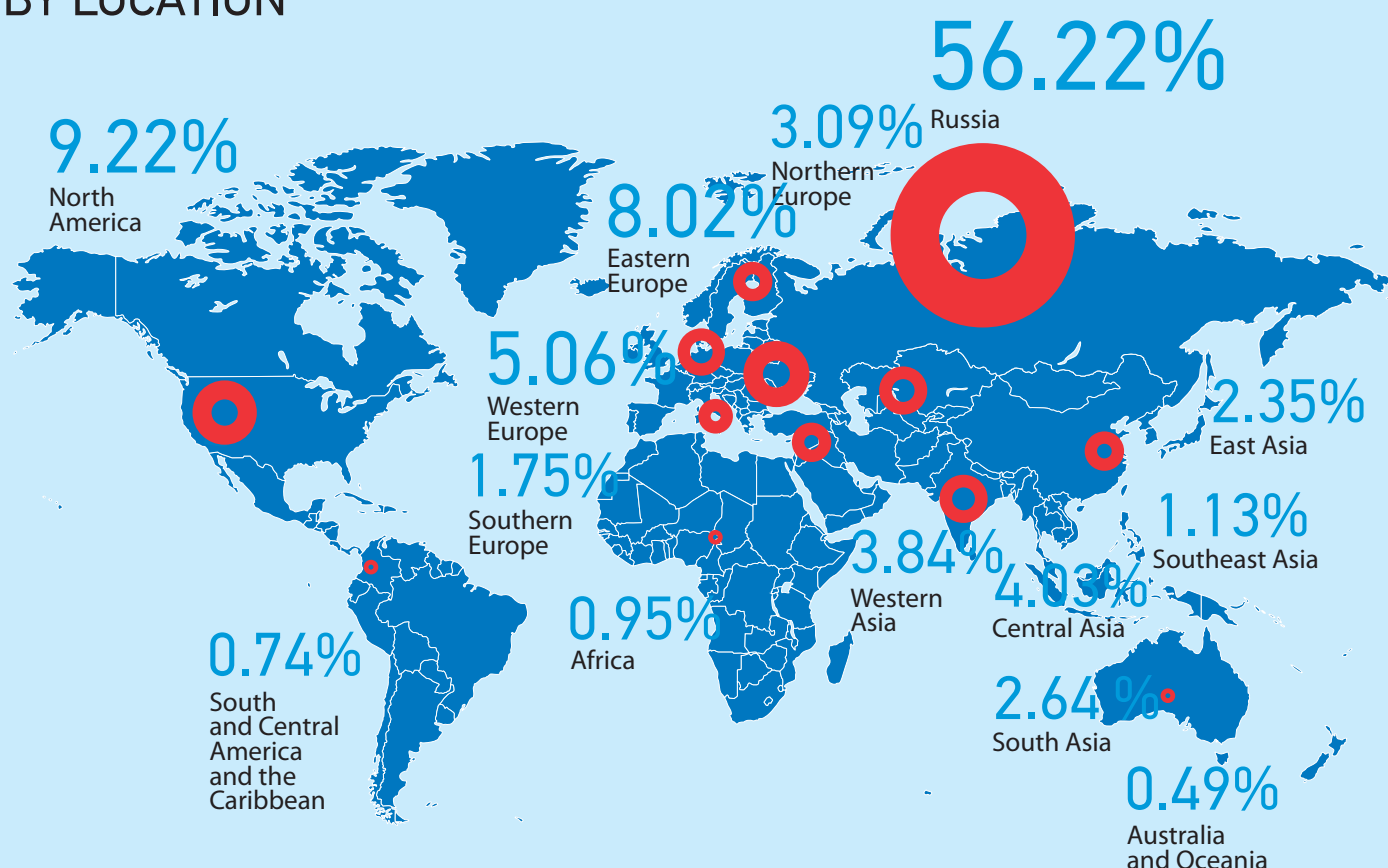


WEBSITE VISITOR DYNAMICS 2012–2020

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
408,000	884,000	1,003,641	1,100,000	1,560,000	1,836,000	3,066,406	4,427,311	6,431,983

* 2020 figures are for the 12-month period from November 2019 to October 2020.

BY LOCATION



TOP-10

COUNTRIES BY NUMBER
OF VISITORS

- 1 Russia
- 2 United States
- 3 Ukraine
- 4 Kazakhstan
- 5 France
- 6 India
- 7 United Kingdom
- 8 Belarus
- 9 Germany
- 10 China

MAIN SOURCES OF TRAFFIC



Search engines

45.2%



Social media

29.5%



Links or bookmarks

20.8%



Other websites

4.5%

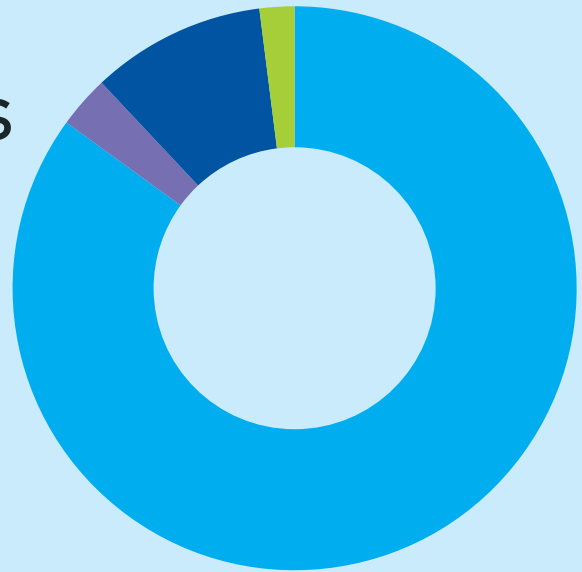
05

FINANCIAL INDICATORS

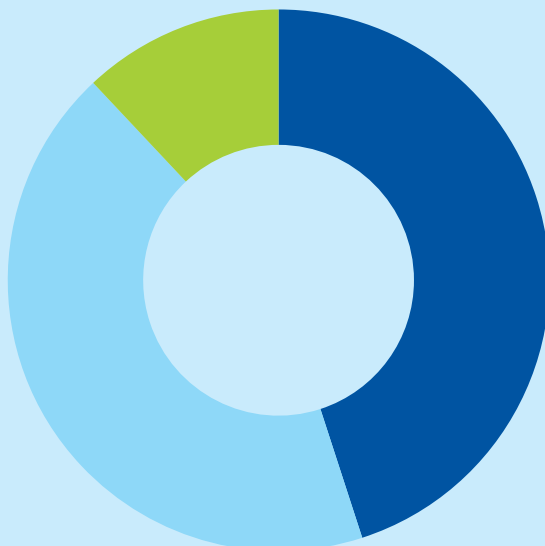
2020 BUDGET

98,838,400 roubles

- Subsidies – 84,238,400 roubles
- Commercial activities – 3,000,000 roubles
- Membership fees – 9,600,000 roubles
- Donations – 2,000,000 roubles



SPENDING BY PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN 2020



- Events – 43%
- Analysis – 45%
- Publications – 12%



RIAC MANAGEMENT

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The RIAC General Meeting is the highest governing body of the Partnership. The key function of the General Meeting is to ensure the compliance with goals of the Partnership.

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Anatoly Kulikov

Army General

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Viktor Larin

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Dmitry Livanov

RIAC member

Viktor Loshak

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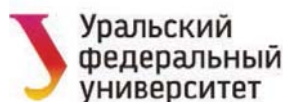
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