

Andy Schmitz
Andy R. Schmitz
11 Oct 2009

Investigating the Russian Psyche Strong Public Order Above All Else

Since the beginning of modern history, Russia has had three distinct types of government. The Czarist Russia, reaching into a previous era; the Soviet era, exploring a new form of government; and the Putinocracy, stabilizing the previous experiment. The commonality between all three major shifts in government has been a destruction of public order; either political, economic, or social in nature. All three aspects of public order are linked, and controlled exclusively, by the autocratic power of the state. The political differences between the governments are significant, in theory; but each shares a common political culture of strength, unity, and stable political order above all else. In essence, and in fact, the political culture of Russia is based solely on the state providing strong, stable public order; whereas the focus of that public order may change.

Russian citizens, of all generations and eras, put importance on the state to provide a strong public order. Each transition between governments was caused because of a failure of one of the aspects of public order. The Czarist Russian government put a precedence in strong political order, but ignored the economic and social concerns of the Russian people. The government crumbled when the political strength failed because of World War I. That ushered in a new Soviet government better equipped to jump-start economic order. The Soviet government crumbled when that economic leg failed to create progress in the 90's. That led to the quasi-democratic government of Putin. His Putinocracy fixed the economic issues plaguing the Soviets and was able to focus on all three aspects of public order; political order, economic order, and social order. At each stage in the diversification of Russia, political order was deemphasized, in minor amounts, allowing for more public discussion; but not outright democracy. The Russian people, and in particular the Russian state, believe a strong political is essential for the development of both economic and social order. Each type of government established public order; but the Putinocracy is the only government to balance all three aspects

of public order. As a prediction of the future, if the Putinocracy of Russia is to fall and be replaced by true democracy, it will require a destruction of social order; the very aspect of public order that Putinocracy developed after stabilizing economic order.

The political cultures of each government are similar, but do have major differences. Each government has a very strong, core-belief of political order. The reason this aspect is shared among all three is because the Russian people REQUIRE their government be strong; almost to a macho, male standard. The reason Russia unique standard of government is based on a long history of isolation, opposition, and independence from other nations. Beginning from the Principality of Muscovy, the Russian state has been surrounded by people opposed to it's existence. The Mongol rulers certainly didn't want an independent Russia. The independence and welfare of the state has been opposed by the Mongols, the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania, Sweden, Austria, The Ottoman Empire, and a Kaiser-run Germany. In World War II, Stalin finally found an ally (Nazi Germany), only to be back-stabbed and attacked. After begging the Allied Powers for years to open a Western Front, the Invasion of Normandy only occurred once the USSR started pushing the Nazi armies back on the Eastern Front. Some historians argue the Western Front was opened, not to defeat Germany, but to prevent the Communists from controlling Western Europe. The dropping of the atomic bomb was not to persuade the Japanese to surrender, but to frighten the Communists. Before the Allied Powers even defeated Germany, they were already posturing and moving against Russia. This has lead to a Russian culture of independence and distrust of all other nations. Even today NATO, the enemy of the USSR, is expanding and inviting former Soviet Satellites into it's alliance. Throughout Russia's entire history, they have never had a significant ally, and worse, have been fervently opposed by every other major power. This is why Russians require a strong government above all else. Without it, Russia would be carved into pieces by her enemies. This is the Russian psyche; and unfortunately, the political reality they live in.

Because of the Russian psyche, and their dependence on a strong, central government, Russia will never be a full and open democracy like the various western powers desire. Eventually, the social order of Putinocracy will go through a crisis and will be replaced by something else. However, due to hundreds of years of constant opposition, that government will continue the tradition of strong, centralized power in the Russian State. It will, however, expand

and improve upon the social order that Putinocracy developed, to create a powerful, stable, and balanced nation. Russia will come to this point on their own, without help from other nations. It is therefore in the interest of other nations to decide to help or hinder the newly reformed Russian State. Following the patterns of history, Russia has gone from the frying pan to the fire, countless times; and at each step has simply emerged with a stronger shell. The end of this era of government will not be the end of Russia, but a new beginning. If the United States opposes Russia, they will, once again, be without allies and be facing united opposition. Whether Russia or the United States will emerge victorious will depend on China's development to that point. If China is still under-developed and export-driven, they will support the United States, as being forced out of the United States economy would be disastrous. This will tip the power balance to the United States, as both Europe (to Russia's West) and China (to Russia's South) will carefully support the United States. But if China has come to power and can thrive independently, China will stay neutral, selling arms and secrets to both, hoping for mutually assured destruction, so they will merely inherit power. To oppose that, both Russia and the United States will play another Gentleman's (Cold) War to oppose each other, while also preventing China to get their fingers into the world affairs. The political aims of empires are not necessarily to build themselves to greatness; but to prevent others from getting their first. While the tri-polar power structure of 1984 will not be so dramatic (changing alliances mid-speech), each world power will maintain hostile relations without erupting into general warfare. In that tri-polar structure, Russia will likely hold the upper hand, because the US and Chinese economies will have been linked for a long time, and won't be accustomed to a hostile political situation. Of course, all this depends on the United States' opposition to Russian power. If Russia and the United States can heal their differences and become allies, a very different structure will occur. This, given the course of human history, will likely not occur. It would rely on the United States supporting Russia and offering an *honest* helping-hand. It will also depend on Russia on overcoming their history of betrayal and trusting that hand. As one can tell, neither option is likely to occur.

-Andy R. Schmitz-

Copyright 2009