



The Kremlin's Critique of Western Values

OE Watch Commentary: Nikolai Patrushev is a former Director of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), Secretary of the Security Council of Russia since 2008, and by all accounts, one of Putin's closest and most trusted advisors. The accompanying excerpted commentary by Patrushev in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* provides insight into the Kremlin's critique of Western values. Patrushev argues that the West is forcing its values on Russia and many other countries. Patrushev asserts the majority of the world opposes these values, especially the imposition of Western-style "freedom and democracy" which the Kremlin has cited as the cause of much of the current instability in the Middle East. Specifically, he claims that these values "cannot exist in [certain places] ... due to historical, religious, ethnological, and other reasons" and their imposition has led to the "tragedies of Iraq, Syria and Libya."

Patrushev believes that Russia offers an alternative to the West (particularly the United States and United Kingdom). As Patrushev states: "Russia, in fact, offers a new civilizational choice, the content of which includes equality, justice, noninterference in internal affairs, and the absence of a mentoring tone and any preconditions for mutually beneficial cooperation." A major component of this Russian worldview is the belief of 'noninterference in internal affairs.' Russian commentators often point out that NATO set a precedent for using military force when it attacked, and later portioned, Serbia over Kosovo. Unsurprisingly, Patrushev makes no mention of the now acknowledged use of Russian troops to annex Crimea and reported use of Russian troops in Eastern Ukraine.



Nikolai Patrushev.

Source: Duma.gov.ru via Wikimedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikolai_Patrushev#/media/File:Nikolay_Patrushev_2019.jpg, CC BY 4.0

In many ways, Patrushev's commentary is much more important than Chief of the General Staff General Valeriy Gerasimov's often misunderstood article of 2013, "The Value of Science is in the Foresight: New Challenges Demand Rethinking the Forms and Methods of Carrying out Combat Operations." Patrushev succinctly explains the Kremlin's understanding of the reasons for deteriorating relations between Russia and the West, Russia's counternarrative, and path for Kremlin leadership on the world stage. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

"New western values have turned into the imposition of an alien worldview on the planet..."

"Russia... offers a new civilizational choice, the content of which includes equality, justice, noninterference in internal affairs, and the absence of a mentoring tone and any preconditions for mutually beneficial cooperation."



The Kremlin.

Source: Pavel Kazachkov from Moscow, Russia / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>); [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moscow_Kremlin_at_night_\(7990921836\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moscow_Kremlin_at_night_(7990921836).jpg)



Continued: The Kremlin's Critique of Western Values

Source: Nikolai Patrushev, "Нужны ли России "универсальные" ценности? (Does Russia Need 'Universal' Values?)," *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* Online, 18 June 2020. <https://rg.ru/2020/06/17/nuzhny-li-rossii-universalnye-cennosti.html>

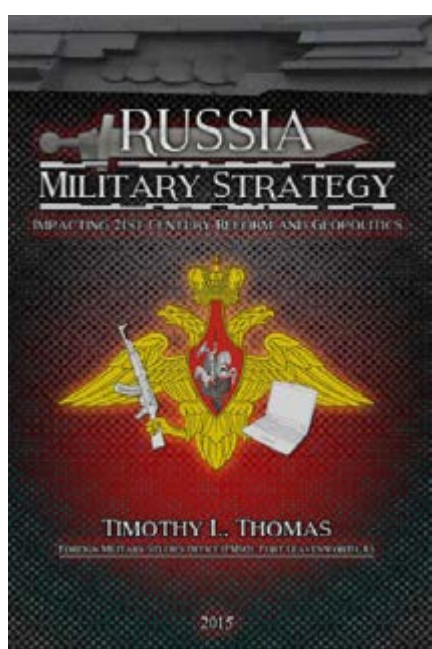
The system of traditional Russian values, which formed over centuries, serves as the spiritual and moral foundation of our society. This system was at the basis of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, which was of global historical importance. This very foundation allows us to protect and strengthen sovereignty and to build the future regardless of all the difficulties and contradictions of historical development...The values of our multiethnic and multireligious society should be protected from the aggressive promotion of values of the neoliberal trend which in many respects contradict the very essence of our perception of the world and are being actively imposed by our geopolitical opponents in the fight for influence on the development of civilization and their dominance in the world...We usually refer to values that are not inherent in our Russian society and that are dominant in foreign culture as "Western values."...It must be noted that some European values, for instance, an eight-hour working day, equality between women and men, or women's electoral rights appeared solely thanks to the events that took place in Russia in 1917...In the social sphere, neoliberalism imposes individualism, egoism, the cult of pleasure, unrestrained consumption, and absolutizes the freedom of any self-expression...

It is no longer about replacing some values with others. We should talk about the emergence of a new ideological system that ultimately aims to destroy any traditional religious and spiritual-moral values as the fundamental basis for the cultural and political sovereignty of countries and nations...New western values have turned into the imposition of an alien worldview on the planet. The ideologues of the west put whole countries and nations before a choice -- either you accept "universal values" or your values will be wrong and immoral...Thus, any attempts to standardize Russian or other values under the officially accepted "universal" ones are a manifestation of sociocultural aggression aimed at destroying traditional value systems in a particular state.

The impact of these norms on the international security system has been equally devastating. Replacing international norms with the law of the strong, with fire and sword, imposing "freedom and democracy" where they cannot exist in such a Western sense, by definition, due to historical, religious, ethnological, and other reasons, has already led to the tragedies of Iraq, Syria, and Libya. A separate shameful page of history for all NATO countries was and will always remain the barbaric bombing of Yugoslavia.

An offensive is being conducted on "all fronts" of this "hybrid" war. The direction of the main blow was chosen to blur the traditions of various peoples that have developed over the centuries, their language, faith, and historical memory of generations. Such norms and values cannot be accepted by the multiethnic Russian nation under any circumstances. Against this background, the question of what Russia offers the world in return is very important. In contrast to the West, Russia, in fact, offers a new civilizational choice, the content of which includes equality, justice, noninterference in internal affairs, and the absence of a mentoring tone and any preconditions for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Russia proposes that national sovereignty, including cultural and spiritual and moral sovereignty, be elevated to the status of the greatest value and the basis for the subsequent construction of human civilization. There is no doubt that the number of followers of such a choice in the world will grow, creating more and more favorable conditions for the development and prosperity of different countries and nations.



RUSSIA MILITARY STRATEGY: IMPACTING 21ST CENTURY REFORM AND GEOPOLITICS by TIMOTHY L. THOMAS

Russian military's main tasks are to maintain the combat readiness of the Armed Forces and to ensure the Russian Federation's defensive capability. Russia's military heritage will assist this process tremendously. Combat readiness includes updated strategic thought, new equipment revelations, and future-war projections. Defensive capability includes not just protecting Russia's territory, but also the security of the nation's national interests and conduct of geopolitics. Capturing the essence of these developments is the goal of this book. In the process a few templates for understanding Russian military thought and actions are offered for further consideration and use.

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