

ALEXANDER DYNKIN

President, Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russia

Alexei Kudrin and a group of experts are currently working on the comprehensive programme of modernisation and institutional build-up. The biggest departure from previous reform programmes is not just an economic exercise in the field of economy. This is a more comprehensive set of roadmaps in the legal sphere, in education, foreign affairs, defence policy, culture, etc. [...] The recent World Bank Doing Business assessment for next year puts Russia in 35th position, which is five steps up. In 2012, we were in 124th position. It is a substantial skyrocketing of the entrepreneurial climate domestically. [...] The demise of empires almost always brings tectonic shifts in the world order, and it also leaves long-lasting territorial conflicts. The Kashmir conflict has continued for 70 years since the British departure and gave us two nuclear states. The fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Sykes-Picot legacy largely fed the current bloody events in the Middle East. The Stalin-Khrushchev borders drawn inside the Soviet Union, according to certain political expediency, have left many territorial mines. It is curious that there are so many fervent supporters of the Stalin-Khrushchev legacy in the West. In 2007, at the Munich Security Conference, Putin warned about the period of Russia's retreat and of the West exploding the troubles of the post-Communism transformation. He said that sidelining and marginalising Russia is over. It was portrayed as an effort to launch a new Cold War. At the NATO summit in Bucharest, he declared that the fast track for Georgia and Ukraine, or the third wave of NATO enlargement, was unacceptable for Russia. [...] I do not know what the world order will be in 20 years. Much courage and imagination is needed to take the road not travelled before. Without a new mode of dealing with each other and communicating with each other, it would be impossible to find more promising growth.