Russia After Crimea: How the Dramatic Transformations of 2014 Scrapped the Achievements of Post-Soviet Development
Part of IERES's Behind the Headlines Series

with
Maria Lipman,
Visiting Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

In a matter of just one year, Russia has turned to an anti-modernization path. Its foreign policy is now informed by a confrontation with the West and by increasing isolationism. Domestically the regime has rejected even the appearance of political competition and become more personalistic and authoritarian. Facing rapid economic decline, the government has opted for a mobilization economy with inflated defense expenditures, and business interests are increasingly trampled by priorities determined by the top decision-maker and his innermost circle. The government has pursued a zero-tolerance policy with regard to any manifestations of autonomous civic and political activism. Social diversity has given way to a uniformity forged by unquestioning loyalty to the nation’s leader, as well as anti-Western and anti-liberal perceptions. The ideological realm is heavily dominated by rising nationalism, conservatism and aggressive xenophobia. Vladimir Putin holds absolute sway over Russia; in this environment there is a virtual taboo on any discussion of a Russia after Putin. In other words, Russia has turned its back on its own future.

Maria Lipman is an internationally recognized expert on Russian politics and the media. Currently, she is a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. She was the Editor-in-Chief of “Pro et Contra,” a policy journal published by the Carnegie Moscow Center, from 2003 till 2014. Before joining Carnegie Moscow Center, she was co-founder and Deputy Editor of two Russian weekly magazines: Itogi (Summing Up), published in association with “Newsweek,” and Ezhegodnyy Zbornyi (Weekly Journal). From 2001 till 2011, Lipman wrote an op-ed column on Russian politics, media and society for the Washington Post. She has contributed to a variety of Russian and US publications, including The New Yorker and has written a monthly blog for The New Yorker online since 2012.

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