INTRODUCTION

This issue of Demokratizatsiya includes articles first presented at a George Washington University conference addressing the question “Twenty Years Since the Collapse of the USSR: What Have We Learned?”\(^1\) The articles published here focus on the topics of history, culture and foreign policy. The previous issue of the journal included articles examining politics, political economy, state and society, and ethnic politics. Together these two issues provide a comprehensive overview of the latest thinking in understanding the evolution of the former Soviet states since 1991 across a wide range of topics.

Additionally, this issue contains an analysis by the University of Toronto’s Peter Solomon looking at the increased use of a form of plea bargaining in Russian criminal courts. The research shows that this new procedure has become widespread in Russia, but that it has not advanced the goal of making the judicial process more adversarial.

Moving forward, we hope to publish a wide range of articles examining all aspects of post-Soviet democratization. We look forward to your continued interest and manuscript submissions (the details for which are available on our website—www.ieres.org).

- Henry E. Hale and Robert W. Orttung

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