

1. The Outcomes of Putin's Governing (by Lev Gudkov). Various aspects of the Russians' attitudes to the foregoing to the Parliament and President elections, mass understanding of the meaning of elections and electoral attitudes are scrutinized in the paper. It is pointed out that the elections will take place in the atmosphere of the growing political apathy of population, of routine traditionalism and awareness of predetermined results of voting that are becoming prerequisites and psychologically favorable environment for gaining ground authoritarianism. The author assumes that the Soviet system decay as that of any post-totalitarian regime goes on with different speed in various systems of society. The greatest changes are observed in economy, technology, mass culture. Political power structures carrying out symbolic functions for the national whole turn out to be extremely conservative.

2. The Crisis of Occupational Education: Are Employers Anxious about it? (by Marina Krasilnikova). In her paper the author analyzes the data of Monitoring of Russian Education Economics carried out regularly by State University — Higher School of Economics, namely the three waves of employers' surveys on the issues of personnel occupational training. The author points to the employers lack of interest in the quality of occupational training of their employees: they prefer to assess the suitable workers in the old customary way: personally, by eye, at a guess and not to use independent criteria of their occupational education. Krasilnikova regards such situation as an inevitable consequence of employers' underestimating the role of employees as a factor of production. In employers' minds manpower is still the least deficit factor and therefore selective, economical, rational attitude to the employed workers is not a characteristic feature of an employer. The costs for personnel training and retraining are extremely insignificant

and hence are not burdensome for employers, that is why they are not interested in independent evaluating the quality of occupational training of the labor force they are going to employ.

3. International Research PISA and the Issues of Higher Education Development (by Olga Karpenko, Margarita Bershadskaia, Julia Voznesenskaya). The paper puts forward the issues of generalized assessment of school education quality. The traditional methods of such evaluation confined mainly to testing knowledge and skills envisaged by school curriculum should give way under globalization to new methods based on assessing competence. It is in this context that the authors scrutinize the findings of international research of school students' achievements PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) which allows estimating the level of accomplishment in competence of school students, differentiation of these indicators in participating countries as well as differentiation within the countries with large territory, considerable stratification of society, great inter-regional differences (as, for example, in Russia). The Russian part of PISA is carried out by the Center for Education Quality Assessment of the Institute of Training Contents and Methods, Russian Academy of Education. The data set forth allow the authors to draw a conclusion that the distribution of countries according to the levels of school students' functional literacy is determined by differentiation of higher level which characterizes the openness of a country's educational system on the whole. According to PISA data, the greatest achievements were displayed by school students from Finland, Republic of Korea, Hong-Kong and Japan, next came pupils from Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Macao, Belgium, and Switzerland. In this context loss of leading positions by such countries as the USA, Russia,

France, Germany, Britain is connected by the authors with considerable obstacles to the development of national educational systems of these countries in accordance with international requirements of the present and the future.

4. On the Types of Contemporary Russian Pop-music Listeners in Youth Audience (by Pavel Lebedev). The article dwells on normative styles of music listening among Russian youth and is grounded on the findings of the survey carried out by Levada-Center in April-March, 2007 in Moscow, Yekaterinburg and Voronezh. On the basis of the cluster analysis of the survey data four groups were picked out that are differentiated by various characteristics of popular music to which young people attach great importance (text and possibility of its memorizing,

emotionality, suitability for dancing and other situations, the supposed audience, etc.). Socio-demographic and socio-cultural characteristics of these groups of respondents are described in the paper.

5. On the Distant and Close Approaches to Establishing VCIOM (by Boris Grushin). In the paper finished not long before his decease B.Grushin narates in detail and with documents about the stages of moving to establishing VCIOM (All-Union Center for Public Opinion Research) through ideological and bureaucratic hindrances in 1983–1987.

6. Information: Surveys' Findings

I. Technical Notes

II. Attitudes, Opinions and Evaluations of the Population (July, 2007)

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