

I. ОБЩАЯ ЧАСТЬ

Выполните на русском языке реферирование каждого из предложенных текстов, развернуто объясните, почему каждый из авторов задаёт в статье вопрос.

1. *From 'Democracy and State Effectiveness' by Shaoguang Wang, 'Introduction':*

'In the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the "third wave" of democratization reached its climax, many were very optimistic about the future of the unfolding "worldwide democratic revolution." Now, a decade and half later, the optimism has somehow faded away. Even though, as a legitimate form of government, democracy has become 'the only game in town' in nearly 100 countries, among those countries, over a dozen have suffered "democratic breakdown" or "democratic reversals," and most transition states stuck in what Thomas Carothers calls "gray zone." This is a zone in which the word "democracy" is often associated with such negative adjectives or prefixes as "façade," "phony," "defective" "partial," "incomplete," "illiberal," "sham," "ersatz," "low intensity," "semi-," and "pseudo-" (Carothers 2002). The unexpected development has consequently directed analytic attention increasingly from explaining democratic transition and consolidation to assessing the quality of democracy.

Why does the quality of democracy vary from country to country? Or more generally, what are the conditions for a high quality of democracy?

2. *From "'Russian Soul' & Economic Modernization', by Yevgeny Yasin, 'Introduction'*

'As the history of post-Soviet Russia advances, each additional year provides more evidence that the process of change will be dragged-out and controversial. We are increasingly often turning to most inertial factors affecting the country's economic growth – the system of values and culture in the broad sense of the word. It seems apparent that a successful economic modernization in Russia will be highly contingent upon the evolution of our culture, values, informal institutions, as well as the direction these factors will take in the future. The importance of this evolution goes beyond the shaping-up of a social context of modernization. Its deep-rooted implication is that we must become different ourselves in order to make Russia an economically affluent nation.

'Many Russians hold to the idea that their country is unpromising and affluence will always remain beyond reach. Such is our national character and cultural tradition and there is really nothing we can do about it, they say. The Bolsheviks pressed forward with their revolution in the hope that a totally different system of economic relations would eventually change the character of the nation, but their aspirations were to be proven futile. There is a saying that a farmer can be pulled out of a farm, yet the farm will never be pulled put out of his soul. Is that really truth?

'Another adage says: "It is no use trying to change things that are not liable to change." It implies that cultural specificity and national values must be factored into reform strategies in order to avoid disrupting a nation's identity. If that is so, is the goal of bringing Russia to a level of affluence with other advanced nations a realistic one?

II. СПЕЦИАЛЬНАЯ ЧАСТЬ

Выберите и выполните только один из блоков заданий специальной части.

Блок 1. «Региональный блок: Китай»

Дайте развернутый ответ (на русском языке) на каждый из вопросов блока.

1. What is the Chinese conception of "human rights"? Is the meaning of "rights" in Chinese political discourse different from the Anglo-American tradition? Discuss the Chinese conception of "rights" within the context of universalism vs. cultural relativism debate.

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2. What were two positive and two negative results of the policy of “Reforms and Opening up,” launched by the Chinese government in 1978, for [a] the Chinese people domestically and [b] China’s international economic position? Discuss using names of the leaders and specific events.

Блок 2. «Региональный блок: Корея»

Дайте развернутый ответ (на русском языке) на каждый из вопросов блока.

1. How do you think for what reasons American influence remains still strong in South Korean both domestic and foreign policy? What should be done to reduce American influence in South Korea today? When and in what forms did anti-Americanism display in South Korean politics?

2. What factors determine a vitality of North Korean model of socio-economic development? To what extent reforms are possible in the current North Korean political situation? What factors prevent from a reformist way of development?

Блок 3. «Региональный блок: Япония»

Дайте развернутый ответ (на русском языке) на каждый из вопросов блока.

1. Trace the development of the strategic partnership between Japan and the US on security, defense and political issues. Include leaders’ names and dated events. Discuss the role of current Japan-US security arrangements.

2. Discuss the patterns of inter-firm relationships in Japan and their contribution to the economic growth after the Second World War. Include cases of kigyō shudan and keiretsu. Think of future prospects for corporate groups in Japan.

