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**STRUCTURAL TREND IN WORLD ORDER FORMATION: REVISIONISM VS. STATUS-QUO**

Analysis of American and Russian views on the present international situation demonstrates very divergent evaluations of each other’s behavior, and different approaches to structural and institutional organization of the world. Without blaming each other, we need to look more or less objectively to the results of American dominant world regulation by 2017. It is necessary to mention starting potential of different players in 1991-1992, when the bilateral world order ended, and there was not any visible threat to the US, Europe and Russia. There was an opportunity to use this favorable situation and go more conciliatory and peaceful path. The only superpower could have demonstrated its constructive attitude (if there was any) in dealing with the rest of the world, and with Russia. At the beginning of the 1990s China, India, Brazil, Turkey were not ready and did not have potential to behave as great powers. Their visible rise happened in 2000s. Russia was seeking a true strategic partnership with the United States. It was not a socialist country any more, was open to cooperation with the West, and sought to be a market economy. Most of the problems for Russia were of internal character.

The United States did not see any problem with structuring new world order – it was announced as unipolar and stable. Russia rejected unipolarity and stood for polycentric world meaning that there will be no American hegemony, other great powers will participate in world regulation, and their interests will be respected. Great power mentality is inherent part of Russian traditional political culture. It was a mistake to expect that Russia will subdue to American dominance and will stop to object to growing military presence of American military bases in Eurasia, its active (often anti-Russian) policy in post-Soviet countries, its interference into Russia’s political life.

One more mistake of the United States was making messianic ideology a driving force of its hegemonic global policy. And what was more, Russia from the very beginning rejected humanitarian military interventions and return to military build-up and enlargement of military bloc – NATO. Though often such policy was announced as an answer to “Russia’s aggressiveness”, it was American ambition and desire to establish 100% defense for America and project its military presence in Eurasia and in the world.

Structural and institutional steps made by the United States in 1990s initiated destructive trends in international politics. Small countries that could not defend themselves started to look for “defense umbrellas”, but some of small and medium range countries started military build-up. Big countries – Russia and rising powers like China, India, and Turkey answered with military build-up.

Due to American quite realist global strategy disguised by “liberal rhetoric” the world returned to its traditional competitive and unstable development, new challenges emerged: lack of great powers consensus and structural reconfiguration. It is useless to put all responsibility on “bad Russia”. It is time for the United States to acknowledge its mistakes and start a new constructive dialogue with leading world powers, first of all with Russia and China. It is a big challenge for the American mainstream political elite who has been living with the assumption that America can do whatever it wants, and whatever America is doing – is right. The new cold war announced by the Obama administration, and the situation in nuclear sphere with North Korea are mostly American products[[1]](#footnote-1). Do we need to cherish the memory of H. Truman? The time is to say farewell to any kind of wars, and rely on diplomatic and more humane methods of world problems solutions.

1. Shakleina Tatiana. Cold War as Part of American Global Strategy // International Trends. Vol. 14. № 1 (January – March 2016). P. 39-46 / <http://intertrends.ru/userfiles/img/files/Shakleina.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)