

Sergey Naumov

## DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATIONS IN THE RUSSIAN PUBLIC SPACE UNDER CONDITIONS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES<sup>1</sup>

***Abstract:** The paper deals with the relations between economic and political dependency as reflected in the mood of the Russian population. In the first part the author explains the concept of economic dependence and compares the way it is understood in the Russian culture and in Western cultures. Further the author provides and outline of the history of Russia with focus on the economic conditions in the country in relation to the mass mood. He argues that the former is not a basic factor determining the mass mood and social and political activities of Russians. The author's ideas are based on data from sociological research carried out by the "Public Opinion" Foundation agency in 2009. In the conclusion the author refers to the consequences of high-speed reforms on the one hand and the favourable assessment of President's Putin politics during the period 2006-2008 on the part of the Russian population as a development that is congruent with that in other transition economies*

***Keywords:** mass mood, index of social optimism, social and political dependence, social and economic development, democratisation, economic culture, political representation, public opinion, public space, the Russian Federation, Russian society, Vladimir Putin presidency*

**JEL:** P 16

Russian society entered the new millennium with new expectations. Change of political elite has brought changes in moods and rebirth of old hopes. However, in comparison with the period of active democratisation, the Russians, being tired of social shocks and endless changes, did not relate the new power to the right of participation in the process of governance and decision making. They hoped for stabilisation and possibility to adapt, finally, to new conditions. Before coming to analyse some existing economic and political representations in the Russian public space, I would like to refer, firstly, to some historical aspects of our country.

<sup>1</sup> Paper is written within the project "Creation of a Multi-Factored Model of the Deprivation Analysis of a Society's Conflict Potential in Conditions of Structural Transformations" (project of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research 09-06-903362-IO-Ocer\_a).