

# ENERGY RESOURCE AS ECONOMIC BASE OF SOVEREIGN DEMOCRACY

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By the beginning of the second term of presidency positions of V. Putin became so strong that it let formulating of the ideological conception named “sovereign democracy” in Russia, which we can name the Putin’s doctrine. In this doctrine we can clearly see the heritage of the USSR. 3 constituents were the base of Brejnev’s doctrine:

- energy stability
- military stability
- and social stability.

The same constituents can be seen in the programs which are being incarnated today in Russia. In first case this is an idea of Russia as an energy superstate, in the second case this is rearmament of the army and multiple increase of the army budget, in the third case this is realization of national programs.

Today we’ll advert to the first postulate of this doctrine (Russia – energy superstate). In order to realize this idea it was essential to change the situation in the Russian energy, fuel-energy sphere which became a result of the Eltsin’s period privatization. We all remember that oil and gas “oligarches” had a huge political influence during the presidency of mr. Eltsin and in fact they were creating policy of the state.

V. Putin succeeded in changing this situation cardinally. There two main factors: full change of the managers in Gasprom, which resulted in strict obedience of Gasprom to the Kremlin; and Khodorkovskiy’s case. Yukos’ devastation was a very clear signal for oil generals and for other, so called “oligarches”, saying that their political significance no more exists. The state established full control over energy sphere even in case when there is no part of the state in the capital of the company (Lukoil, Surgutneftegas).

The events after 11/09/2001 have enforced the role of Russia in the sphere of global energy security.

The reaction of the western countries on the development of the Russian democracy could not diminish the fact that Russia has always been a secure and predictable partner and supplier of

gas and oil for Europe. President Putin was lucky to perform some great projects (the North-european gaspipeline, treaty between Russia, Greece and Bulgaria on oil-pipeline), which only strengthened the role of Russia. There were a lot of discussions about transportation of oil and gas without involvement of Russia. However it is clear that Russia’s role in the system of energy security has increased and changes of the system can be provoked by the internal issues and not external ones.