Facing the unexpected: Russia and the Covid-19 Pandemic

Provisory remarks on sanitary, economic and political developments

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1. Managing a pandemic crisis. From denial to care?

- Any unusual lag in the political reaction?
  - An apparent 1-month delay of outbreak of the epidemic / Western Europe

- The set of sanitary measures taken
  - Confinement, testing, hospital rearmament
  - Requisition of students & lack of adequate equipment

- The apparent evolution of Covid-19 epidemic
  - Counting deaths: a problem for an authoritarian regime
  - The (1st wave) epidemic seems to be reaching its peak
  - Regional discrepancies (cities / regions)
  - Critics and commentaries

>65 years-old men: 55% of deaths in French hospitals
  - France: 6,0 Mns / Russia: 6,4 Mns
  - =>Underestimation of the death toll in hospitals: by a factor 10 according to some critics (more likely, 2 to 5)

Daily deaths, March-May 2020 (weekly moving average)

United States
  - (Total: 90000)

Brazil
  - (T: 16000)

Russia
  - (T: 2600)

Regional Lockdowns
  - (30/03)

Start of « Nonworking period » (28/03)

Regional Governors’ responsibility

Respirators in St Petersburg

282 000 cases as of May, 17th (6 Mns tests)

Russia (Total: 90000)

Brazil (T: 16000)

United States (Total: 90000)
Covid-19 Pandemic in Russia (Mid-May 2020) – Cases by Regions

Deaths: 29 (Federal authorities) or 657 (Republic’s Ministry of Health)?
2. Impacts on the economy: multiple shocks, one toolbox to address them

- 2.1. International insertion
  - External demand (China-Asia, EU, US)
  - The OPEC+ war and its consequences on oil prices
  - Rouble exchange rate

3. [March - 10 May 2020] / Year 2019:
   - Brent price: -60%
   - Rouble exchange rate: -13%

2. Oil prices and Rouble exchange rate, 2019-May 2020

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Author’s Elaboration. Data: US Energy Information Administration, Central Bank of Russia, Comtrade Database
2. Impacts on the economy: multiple shocks, one toolbox to address them (followed)

2.2. Domestic developments

- The state apparatus: disturbed, but not disorganized
- Budgetary options: strengths and weaknesses
- Lock-down and domestic demand
- Anti-crisis measures
- Current trajectory and previsions

Hit by the Covid-19:
- Mikhail Mishustin (P. M.)
- Olga Lyubimova (Culture M.)
- Vladimir Yakushev (Construction M.)
- Valery Falkov (Education and Science M.)
- Dmitry Peskov (President Spokesman)
3. **Analysis: what kind of path dependency?**

- The current political landscape
- External relations and international insertion
- Relations between society and the political power
Appendix 1
Consequences of the epidemic: Compared evolutions

United States (+2w/EU)
(15/05/2020 Death toll 1600)

Brazil (+2w/USA)
(15/05/2020 Death toll 968)

Russia (+2w/USA)
(15/05/2020 Death toll 113)

Sources : données John Hopkins University, infographie Le Monde, 15/05/2020
Appendix 2. Age pyramids compared: Russia – Italy – France

Hommes de + de 65 ans : >55 % des décès dans les hôpitaux français
- Nombre en France : 6,0 M (8,4 % pop)
- Nombre en Russie : 6,6 M (4,6 % pop)

Source : Le Monde, 16/05/2020