



Faculty
of Social Sciences

Center for Stability and Risk Analysis

Moscow,
2023



Andrey Korotayev, Director of the Center

1. History of creation

The idea of creating the Center arose immediately after the beginning of the events of the Arab Spring in 2011, when it became clear that the approaches to the study of revolutions available at that time had failed to predict such a large-scale protest wave. Leading academic centers both in Russia and abroad tried to understand what driving forces and factors contribute to such global revolutionary waves. The HSE University was no exception, where in 2013, first, as part of the Center for Fundamental Research, and then as part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Scientific and Educational Laboratory for Monitoring the Risks of Socio-Political Destabilization was established. The laboratory was headed by Andrey Korotayev, a Russian scientist known for his interdisciplinary work, one of the pioneers of cross-cultural research in Russia and one of the founders of the theory of nonlinear evolution.

Askar Akaev, the first president of Kyrgyzstan and a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, became the scientific director of the laboratory. Askar Akaev and Andrey Korotayev (together with the full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Viktor Sadovnichy) successfully predicted the 2011 second wave of global financial and economic crisis. Through the efforts of this group of scientists, a mathematical model of the demographic future of Russia was also created, which made it possible to identify ways out of the Russian demographic crisis. At the very beginning of the 2010s, the research team of the laboratory gave the first and most convincing explanation of the Arab Spring phenomenon, which subsequently formed the basis of the fifth generation of revolutionary theory.

In 2023, the Research and Educational Laboratory for Monitoring the Risks of Socio-Political Destabilization was reorganized into the Center for Stability and Risk Analysis (CSRA). The Center specializes in studying various manifestations of socio-political transformations both at the global level and at the level of macroregions and individual countries. Much attention is paid to the study of the Afrasian macrozone of instability, which includes a vast region from Central Asia to the Sahel. The staff of the center conducts both quantitative research using specialized databases and qualitative research using unique data collected during their field work.


The study of socio-political systems is an extremely complex process. Is it possible to describe their development by any fairly simple patterns? Modern achievements in the field of social sciences give an unequivocal answer: yes. Transformations of socio-political systems can indeed be modeled and predicted.

Andrey Korotayev,
Director of the Center



2.

Our
Goals



The center specializes in a comprehensive study of the processes of transformation of socio-political systems.

GOALS

- 1 Monitoring of global development trends.
- 2 Study of the socio-political context of the countries of the Afrasian macrozone.
- 3 Quantitative analysis of factors of stability of socio-political systems and risks forecasting.

3. Center team



Andrey Korotayev
Director of the Center



Askar Akaev
Scientific Supervisor of the Center



Leonid Issaev
Vice Director of the Center



Leonid Grinin
Chief Research Professor



Alisa Shishkina
Leading Research Professor



Sergey Kostelyanets
Senior Research Fellow



Andrey Zakharov
Senior Research Fellow



Anton Grinin
Senior Research Fellow



Evgeniy Ivanov
Research Fellow



Vadim Ustyuzhanin
Junior Research Fellow



Jameelah Musieva
Junior Research Fellow



Mir-Ali Askerov
Junior Research Fellow



Yegor Fain
Junior Research Fellow



Elena Voronina
Junior Research Fellow



Ilya Medvedev
Junior Research Fellow



Yakov Liokumovich
Intern Research Fellow



Micah Zing
Intern Research Fellow




Ilya Sumernikov
Intern Research Fellow



Julia Voskoboinik
Intern Research Fellow

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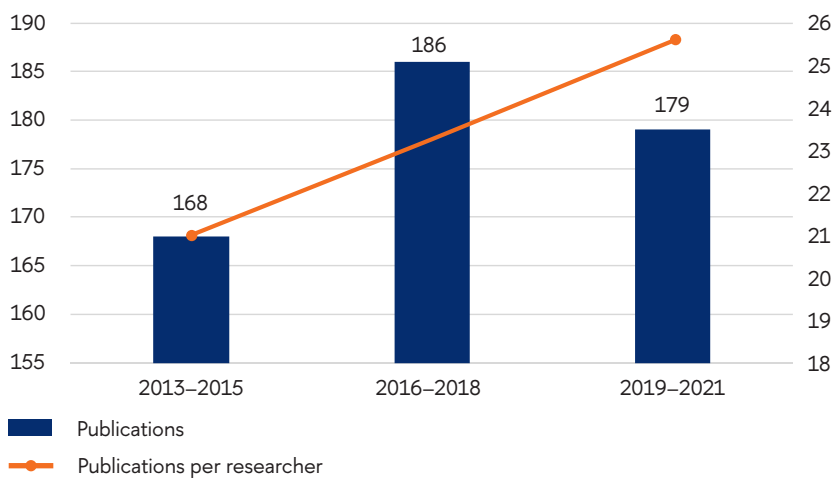
Activities

- 
- Carrying out fundamental scientific research and implementation of applied projects.
 - Creation of own databases.
 - Participation of the Center in the educational activities of the University.
 - Working out of development scenarios and applied solutions for the countries of the Afrasian macrozone in the 20th century in the context of Russia's national interests.
 - Participation in joint projects with foreign research institutions and think-tanks.

5.

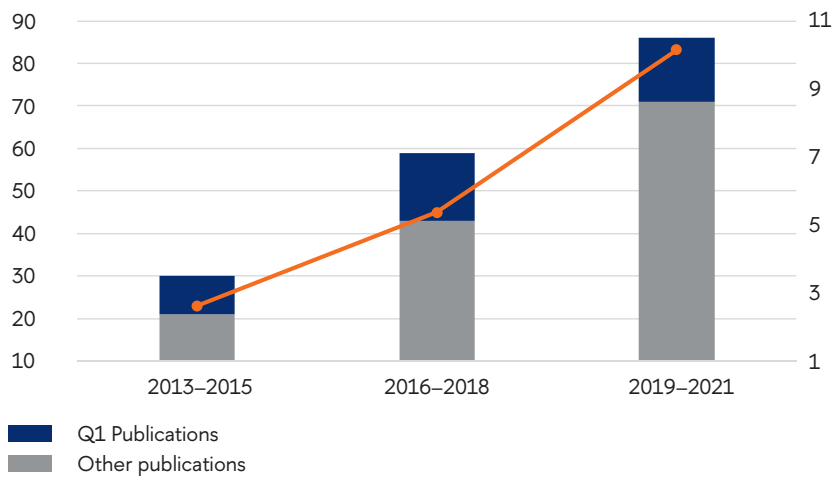
Science

Figure 1
Dynamics of publication activity for three-year periods



- More than 500 scientific publications.
- 57 monographs, 11 of them indexed in Scopus/WoS.
- A steady upward trend in publications per employee.

Figure 2
The structure of publications of CISR employees in indexed journals.



- Over 170 publications in journals indexed by Scopus/WoS.
- More than 50 publications in Scopus/WoS (Q1).
- A steady trend towards an increase in the number of high-ranking publications per 1 employee (~ 4 times in 10 years).

Table 1
Citation rates for key staff of the Center

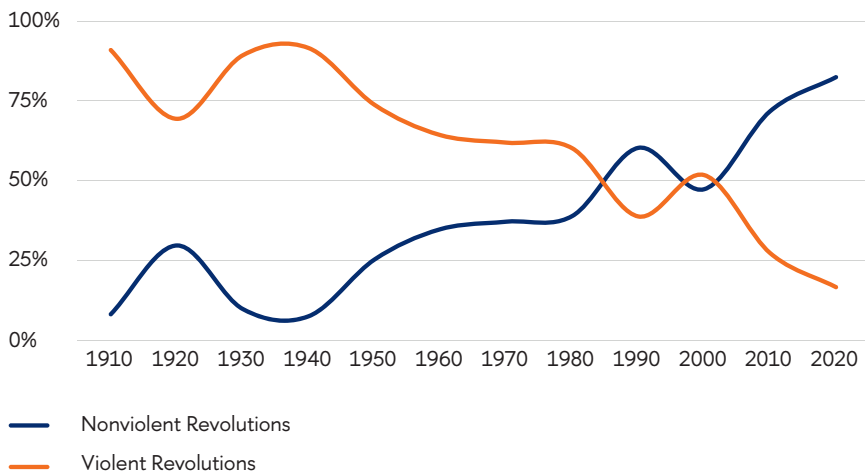
| | Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI) | | Scopus | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|
| | H-index and percentile | Number of citations | H-index | Number of citations |
| Andrey Korotayev | 53 (1) | 20 205 | 26 | 2035 |
| Leonid Issaev | 21 (1) | 1 939 | 11 | 303 |
| Askar Akaev | 25 (1) | 4 474 | 7 | 247 |
| Alisa Shishkina | 17 (1) | 1 048 | 12 | 292 |
| Yevgeny Ivanov | 3 (14) | 62 | 3 | 39 |
| Leonid Grinin | 48 (1) | 14 880 | 17 | 896 |
| Sergey Kostelyanets | 10 (6) | 412 | 1 | 5 |
| Anton Grinin | 14 | 886 | 9 | 195 |

6.

Key
Results

Contribution to the development of the fifth generation of the theory of revolution

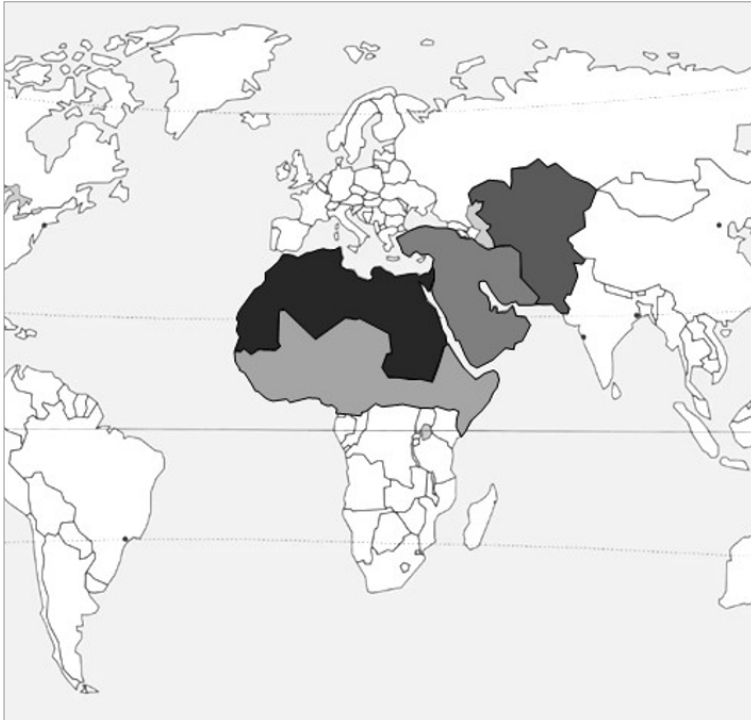
Figure 3
**Dynamics of armed and unarmed revolutionary episodes
in the world over the past 110 years**



- Armed and unarmed revolutions are studied separately: different causes, success factors and consequences.
- A trend towards an increase in the share of unarmed revolutions has been identified.
- New quantitative methods are used: machine learning, robust estimation, non-parametric methods, cross-cultural studies.

Afrasian macrozone of instability

Figure 4
Afrasian macrozone of instability

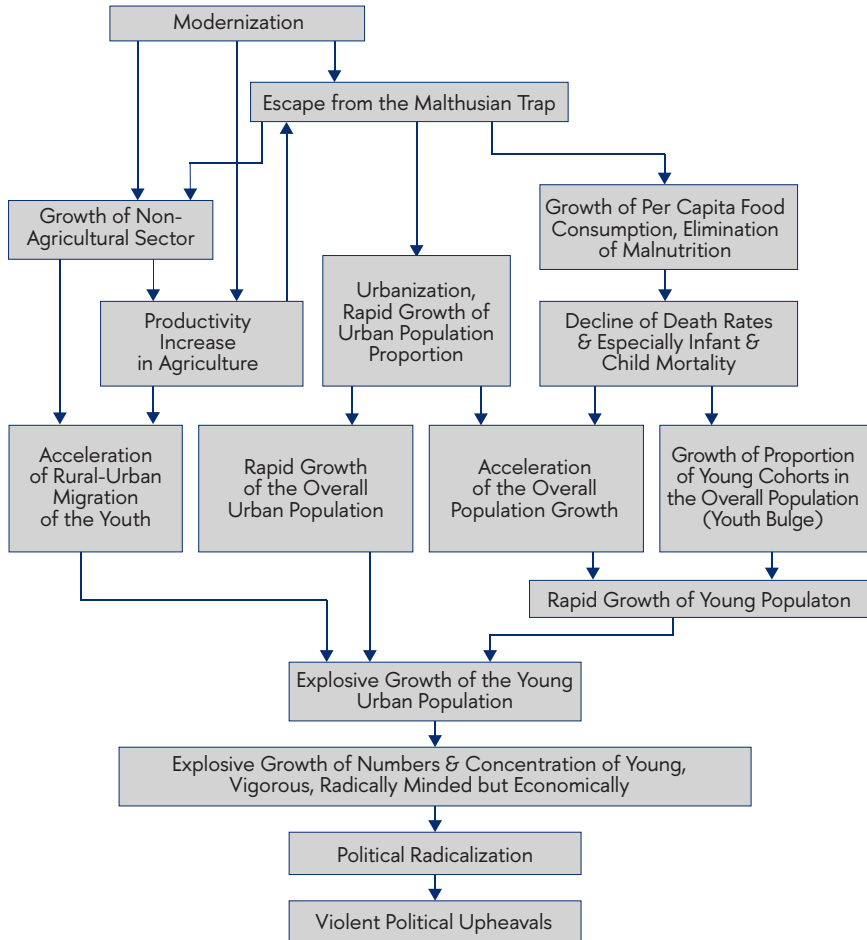


- For the first time, the term «African macrozone of instability» was introduced into circulation.
- Most of the terrorist activity since 2011 has been in this macroregion. The causes of such a geographical distribution are revealed.
- The specifics of revolutionary instability are highlighted, and factors of destabilization are identified.

The phenomenon of «trap at the escape from the trap» in modernizing societies

Figure 5

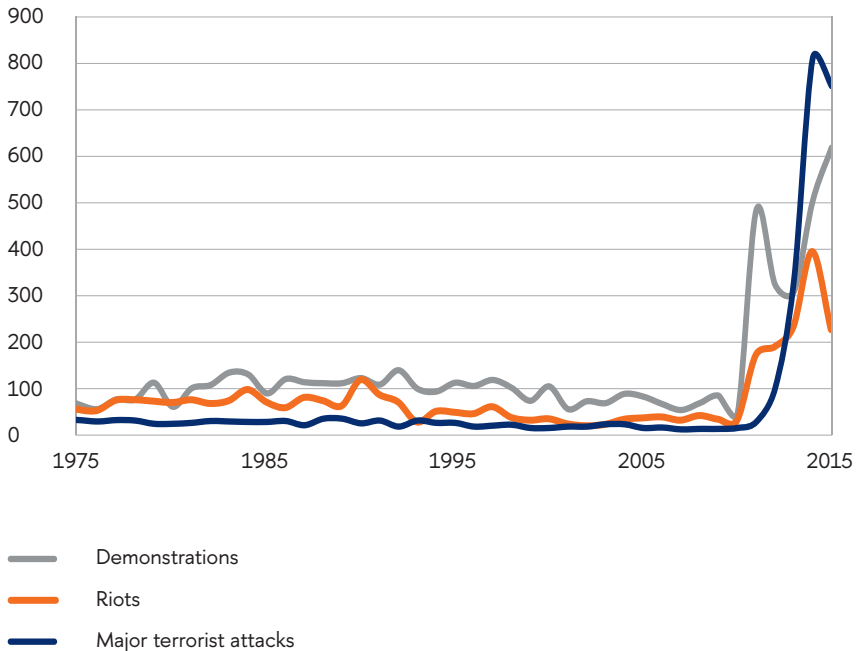
A cognitive scheme explaining the mechanism of the «trap at the escape from the trap» phenomenon



- The model formally describes the phenomenon of successful modernization culminating in a revolutionary explosion.
- With the help of the model, the phenomenon of the Arab Spring is explained.

The Arab Spring as a trigger of global phase transition

Figure 6
**Dynamics of episodes of socio-political destabilization
in the period 1975–2015**

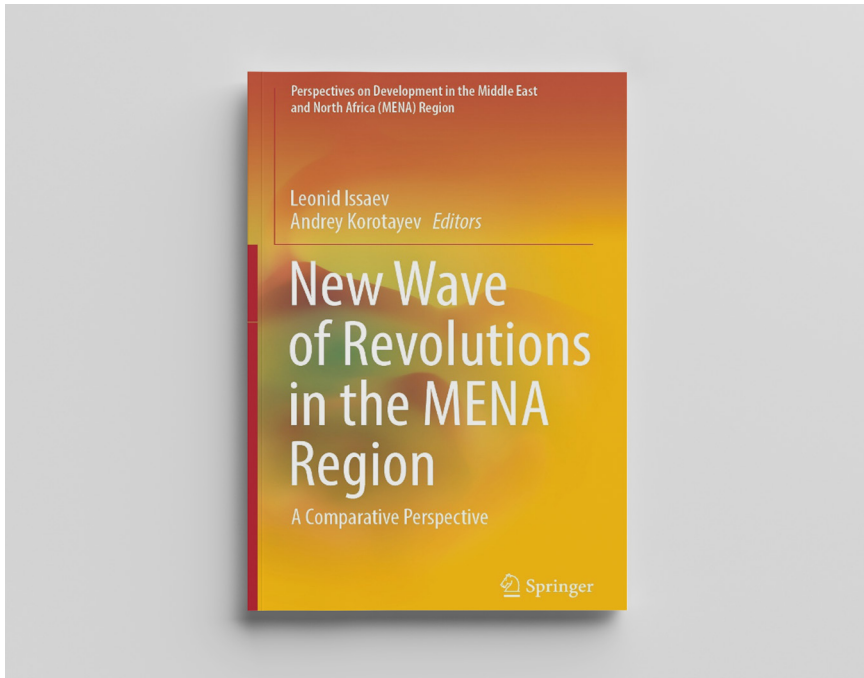


- A qualitative change in the global protest dynamics in the early 2010s is shown.
- The echo of the Arab Spring, which was expressed in the global growth of protest activity around the world is highlighted.
- It is shown that the Arab Spring acted as a trigger for a global wave of destabilization, which significantly exceeded the scale of the Arab Spring itself and affected absolutely all world-system zones.

Comprehensive analysis of the Arab Spring 2.0

Figure 7

**Publication dedicated to the second wave of destabilization
in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa**

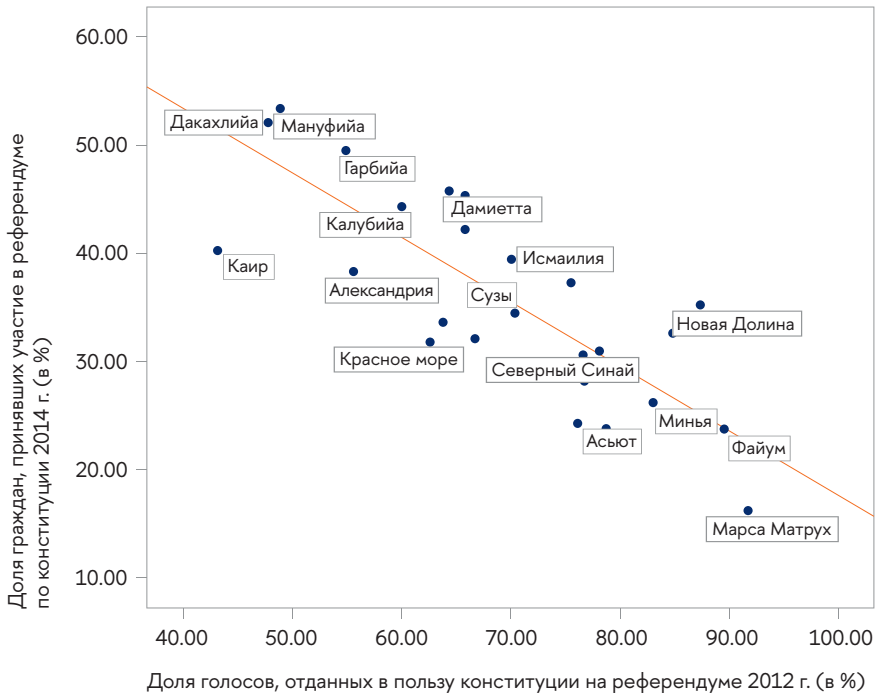


- A new wave of revolutionary activity was revealed in the Middle East and North Africa region at the end of the 2010s.
- The main trigger of the Arab Spring 2.0 was economic dissatisfaction (due to rising fuel and food prices, unemployment, etc.), which very quickly turned into political protest.
- The pronounced maximalist orientation of political protest in the Arab countries significantly distinguished the second revolutionary wave from the first one, which had a very personalized and anti-dictatorial character.

Methodology for identifying electoral preferences in Arab countries in closed systems

Рисунок 8

Distribution of regions in Egypt according to the level of turnout and support for constitutional reform in 2012



- The percentage of abstentions in electoral autocracies provides insight into the number of dissenters.
- The example of Egypt shows how the percentage of abstentions correlates with the proportion of support for the opposition represented by the «Muslim Brotherhood»¹.

¹ A terrorist organization, outlawed in Russia.

Federalism and decentralization in the Middle East and Africa

- The first comprehensive study of the problem of federalism in the Arab countries.
- It is shown that the problem of unresolved decentralization of the Arab states is an important factor in the destabilization of not only political regimes, but the entire political system.
- An answer is given to the question why for some countries the events of the Arab Spring turned out to be not fatal, affecting only the ruling dynasties or individual rulers, while in other countries the revolutionary processes led to transformation into failed states.

Contribution to the study of socio-political dynamics in the countries of Central Asia

- A description of the socio-political structure of the states of Central Asia in the post-Soviet period is given.
- The main trends in the transformation of the socio-political systems of the region are identified.
- Key challenges and risks for the states of Central Asia are listed.
- The export potential of instability from the Central Asian region to Russia is studied.
- Jumps in protest activity in Kyrgyzstan in 2020 and Kazakhstan in 2022 were predicted.

7.

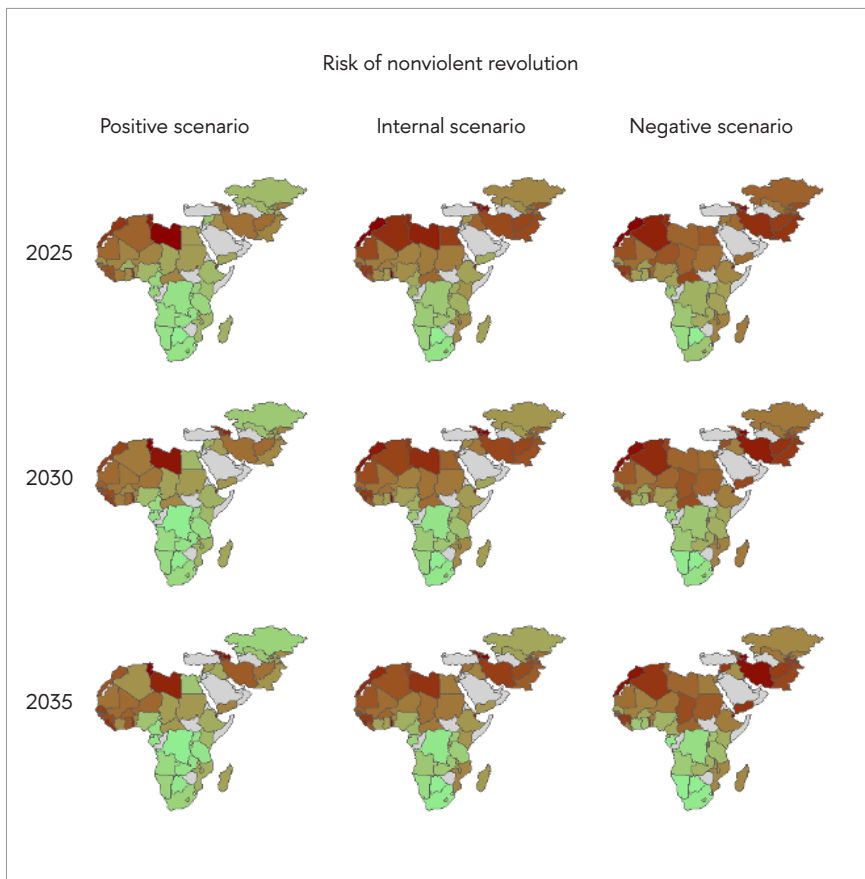
Databases

1. Database of revolutionary events of the 21st century:

- 1) all regions of the world from 2000 to the present are taken into account;
- 2) a formal description of 207 revolutions throughout the world is given;
- 3) actively used for research (at least 7 scientific papers with database analysis have been published).

Figure 9

Risk Potential of Unarmed Revolutions in the Afro-Asiatic Macrozone in the 21st Century

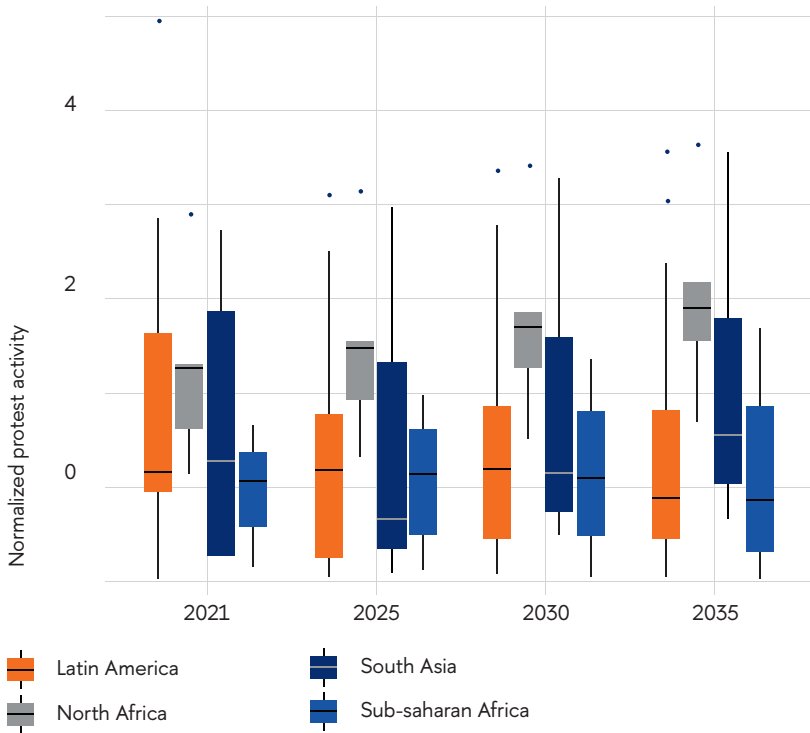


2. Database of protest activities based on media content:

- 1) more than 300 thousand texts in 9 languages collected;
- 2) all regions of the world from 2005 to 2020 included;
- 3) high potential for application of machine learning methods.

Figure 10

Indicators of protest activity for the regions of the world with a forecast up to 2035



3. Database of historical crises and their consequences:

- 1) in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna;
- 2) the database covers the history of mankind from 9600 BC;
- 3) hypotheses about the evolution of conflicts in the observable history of mankind are tested.


Basic research is a priority area of the Center's activities. For 10 years of work, we have managed to turn into one of the world's leading centers in the field of the study of modern revolutions.

Leonid Issaev,
Vice Director of the Center



8.

Education

- 
- Development by the staff of the Center of 17 author's courses.
 - Interaction with educational programs:
 - «Political Science»;
 - «Computational Social Sciences»;
 - «Politics. Economics. Philosophy»;
 - «Comparative Politics in Eurasia»;
 - «Public Administration»;
 - «Population and Development».
 - Supervision of more than 80 bachelor's, master's and PhD theses.
 - Implementation of 36 research projects at the «Project Fair»

9.

Project
activity



8

grants from Russian
Science and Russian
Foundation for Basic
Research

11

projects of the HSE
Basic Research
Program

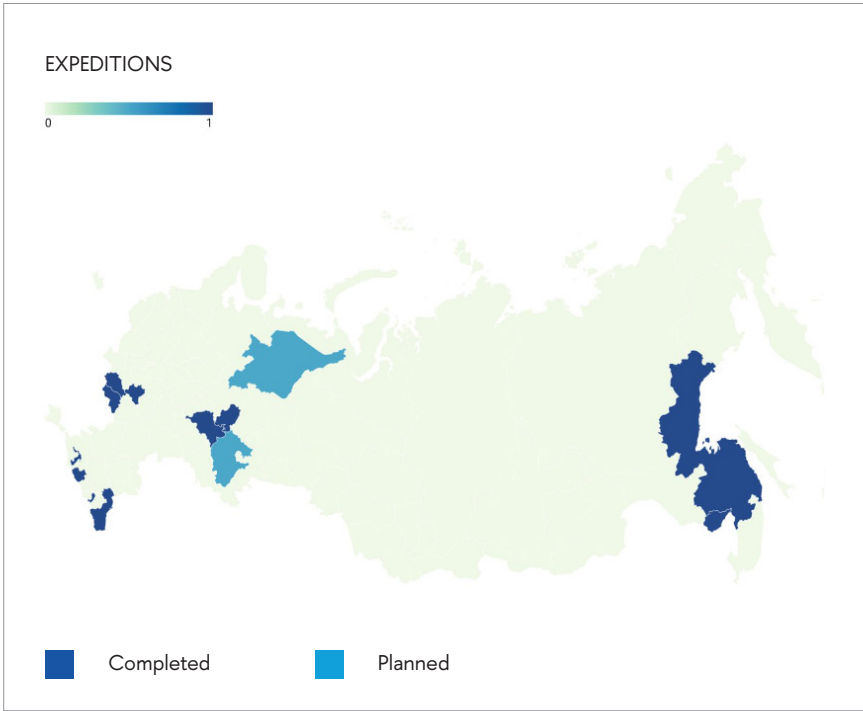
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HSE local
projects

10. Field research

9 field studies within the program «Open Russia»

Figure 11
Geography of expeditionary research in Russia



Islamic education in the regions of Russia (2019 - present)

- A bank of interviews with representatives of Islamic educational institutions in Russia has been created and is regularly supplemented.
- The motivation of students when entering Islamic universities, as well as their career trajectories has been analyzed;
- A social portrait of a student of an Islamic university in Russia has been compiled;
- A comprehensive analysis of the quality of education and the potential for the inclusion of Islamic education in the all-Russian educational system has been carried out.

Syrian refugees in Russian regions (2017–2018)

- Database of interviews with Syrian Circassians in the republics of the North Caucasus has been collected.
- A comprehensive analysis of the processes of integration of repatriates into host communities has been carried out.
- A social portrait of the Syrian repatriate in the republics of the North Caucasus has been compiled.
- The nature of their interaction with locals and authorities has been analyzed.
- The risks and prospects for the influx of repatriates due to the Syrian crisis have been assessed.

Foreign expeditions

Figure 12
Geography of foreign expeditions



- Regular annual field studies in Africa and the Middle East;
- Formation of the Atlas of Instability of the Afrasian Macrozone based on the results of field studies.
- Preparation of recommendations for the economic and political activities of the Russian Federation in the countries of the Afrasian macrozone.

It is impossible to imagine the activities of the Center without field research. This allows not only to collect primary data, but also to involve students in active scientific work.

Yevgeny Ivanov,
Research Fellow of the Center



11. International cooperation

Qatar

- Gulf Studies Center QU
- Al Jazeera Center for Studies

UAE

- FARAS Center

Hungary

- The Africa Research Institute,
University of Óbuda

Austria

- Complexity Science Hub

Morocco

- Institute for African Studies

Türkiye

- TOBB University
- Sharq Forum

Africa

- South African Institute of International Affairs
- Institute for Security Studies
- Centre d'Analyse sur la Gouvernance et la Sécurité au Sahel
- Afro-Middle East Centre

Iran

- Shahid Beheshti University
- The Institute for Iran-Eurasia Studies

Saudi Arabia

- Centre for Research and Intercultural Communication in Riyadh

Pakistan

- Strategic Vision Institute

Egypt

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

Somalia

- Hiraal Institute

Notes

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