

FOCUS ON RUSSIA

The Candidates and Russia

By Erik Christensen and William Partlett

As expected, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was elected this week as the new president of the Russian Federation with 70% of the vote. These elections were little more than a democratic charade. The Kremlin manipulated the media, the party system, and the courts to ensure a stable transition within the country's political elite...

<http://www.fpif.org/>

Will Russia's New Leader Continue Down Putin's Path?

By Michelle Bussenius

Outgoing Russian president Vladimir Putin's handpicked successor, Dmitry Medvedev has won the presidential election. Will change in leadership signal the beginning of a new era in Russian politics, or will Medvedev follow the path his predecessor forged?

<http://www.hoover.org>

The Arms Race Myth, Again

By Richard Perle

With a stridency reminiscent of the Cold War, outgoing Russian President Vladimir Putin charged last month that with U.S. plans for a limited defense against ballistic missiles, "a new arms race has been unleashed in the world." He vowed to field new weapons, which have been under development for years, "in response." The same day, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he

anticipated "hundreds of thousands of missile interceptors all over the world ... in the foreseeable future."...

<http://www.aei.org/>

Why Russia Holds "Elections"

By Anne Applebaum

According to the Putinist explanation of history, the fall of the Soviet Union was not a moment of liberation but the beginning of collapse...

<http://www.aei.org/>

Yushchenko Looks to Grand Coalition to Replace Tymoshenko

By Taras Kuzio

On March 15 the government of Yulia Tymoshenko will mark its first 100 days in office, a period that has been a baptism by fire. Not only has the government faced relentless attacks from the opposition Party of Regions (PRU), it has also faced a parliamentary lockout and an antagonistic Russia. As former National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) secretary Volodymyr Horbulin noted, each time Tymoshenko heads the government, Russia deploys energy pressure against Ukraine....

<http://jamestown.org/>

EUROPE

The Pain in Spain

By Desmond Lachman

One has to pity the incoming Spanish prime

minister. For whoever wins the March 9 Spanish elections will be spending his term dealing with the economic consequences of the bursting of Spain's housing market bubble. And, within the constraints of Euro membership, he will be doing so without the benefit of an independent interest rate or exchange rate policy at a time when global credit markets are under unusual stress...

<http://www.aei.org/>

South Stream Gas Project Defeating Nabucco by Default

By Vladimir Socor

Gazprom's blitzkrieg capture of five European Union member countries for its South Stream project, preempting the EU- and U.S.-backed Nabucco project, has shattered the credibility of Brussels' and Washington's energy security agendas. Country after country (excepting the lone holdout, Romania) have succumbed to the Kremlin-backed project because the Western one had neither gas resources, nor investment funds to offer after five years of efforts to obtain them...

<http://jamestown.org/>

Kosova: The Next Phase

By Janusz Bugajski

I will briefly address the four questions posed concerning the strategic challenges facing the United States and Europe in the aftermath of Kosovo's independence...

<http://www.csis.org/>