
What Must Be Changed In Our Country

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The country expects changes. They expect new people in government who will work in a new way. However, before starting anew it is necessary to evaluate the past to know what needs to be changed. Certainly, it is something that a think tank should deal with - to evaluate the foreign, economic and social policies of the government over the past decade. However, now we can already analyze what we can see with the naked eye.

Over the past decade Karabakh has had regress regarding the foreign policies. The NKR representatives do not take part in the talks, and the conflict started to be viewed as a confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The international mediators and the Armenian government demonstrate that they do not make decisions without consulting the Karabakh authorities. However, these do not replace full participation of Karabakh in the talks.

The positive thing is the continuation of the cease-fire, as well as the fact that Karabakh proved capable of existing independently and even developing. The negative thing is too much dependence on Armenia in foreign policies, passivity in information policies. Karabakh has become a tacit space, and anyone except its citizens attends to its fate.

In home policies too, there are two tendencies. The positive thing is the full reconstruction within a few years after the devastating war.

All the infrastructures work - roads, energy, services. In addition, new branches of economy emerged - mining and tourism. Apartments, schools and hospitals are being built.

The negative thing is that despite having declared a liberal economy the government continues to make most decisions. At martial law it helps control economy and social problems, but this approach also deprives many people of equal opportunities to run business.

Independent businessmen are highly dependent on government consumption, tax officers, monopolies, regional "shadow" projects and the favor of the government.

The negative thing about the economic policy is the lessening of investments, which is due to the high risk, as well as the weakening confidence of the Diaspora in the transitions in Karabakh.

In state building, there is considerable progress. In particular, all the basic institutions of public administration have been shaped, elections are held, the government agencies operate. The negative thing about this is the deficiency of the democratic transition: democratic institutions exist whereas the mechanisms which connect them often fail. In particular, there is a parliament but it does not perform a real supervising function. There are courts but they are not perceived as arbiters of justice. There are a number of newspapers but the public opinion does not shape public policies.

Each of the abovementioned disadvantages and advantages has its cause and mechanism of existence. A realistic evaluation of the situation,

departure from political and personal interests and the desire to build a normal country may become the basis for the activities of the new government.

Very often the shortcomings in our life are explained by the absence of a national doctrine, ideology. An average person cannot understand what a national strategy is. He or she instinctively knows that the goal of any government should be guaranteeing security of its citizens in a definite territory, providing equal opportunities for life and economic prosperity, as well as protecting the rights and dignity of everyone. The goal of the government is to give a person freedom to live and work without shortening other people's freedom.

Unfortunately, the government often fails on its main function.

Moreover, it abuses its power to improve its own life. And it forgets that it is supposed to serve people who share common interests in the given territory.

And with regard to changes, the upcoming reforms should be viewed in this light: the government must focus on man, the official must respect a person. Will the president be able to get the public administration work in this way? If yes, the reforms will be successful, and life will improve. Meanwhile, if the government's attitude toward people remains the same, many will feel deceived.
