
Armenia Is Trump Card Against Russia

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So, there are obvious signs that the resolution on the Armenia-Russia-EU `conflict' has been made, the scenario of the `conflict' will be used 100% and even more.

It would be ingenuous to think that it could have been otherwise, considering the political ambitions of the European Union and the established mechanism of having decisions on certain, including regional issues agreed with the United States.

Expectations that Armenia would be forgotten did not come true, and this should be acknowledged. Although emotions overwhelmed the corridors on Schuman Roundabout, decisions are not made by officials but politicians, and the Western community has understood that it has received an interesting trump card in the games with Russia and Eastern Europe.

In Armenia they will most probably focus on different objectives relating not only to Russia but also Turkey. In addition, it should be noted that these scenarios had been worked out earlier and should have been implemented after the signing of the Agreement on November 29. Hence, there are no new scenarios, there are only new schedules and order of actions.

Apart from pragmatic motives relating to the geopolitical blockade of Armenia, not just pressure, there are issues relating to the image and authority of the European Union. It is possible that in Armenia hardly anyone noticed but Russia has declared a political war to the European Union, and one can remember a similar situation after the war in Yugoslavia.

Besides, the West must demonstrate to Ukraine that it can assert its position and do it quite rapidly and quite convincingly. Armenia is not Ukraine, and demonstration of continuity of the policy does not require big funds.

In the meantime, on `September 3' the understanding of the reality in the South Caucasus played a big role. Over the years of talks with the European Union Armenia never dared to take initiatives for consideration of `compensatory technologies' in the area of defense; the EU and NATO did not take a step towards enabling Armenia's national security. It was kept in mind that such steps could lead to a confrontation with Russia, and they preferred to bypass Armenia delicately but the counter-partner was too large to be able to bypass during the first attempt.

In this situation one can already announce about a plural fact: over the past year up to the last few weeks European politicians, functionaries and experts repetitively and cautiously asked, `To what extent is the Armenian government determined to sign the `Agreement'?' These and other delicate details are evidence that the West was not confident that the project would succeed because Russia was expected to react.

However, what matters more was not Russia's expected `breakthrough' but Armenia's uncertainty over the level of tolerance of risks. One way or another, further development of relations between Armenia and the Western community, if it ever takes place, will incorporate elements of security. Therefore, it is time to cooperate with NATO first, not with the European

Union, or in a different format...

Who will be dealing with iteration on Armenia's path towards the West? Is the Armenian government considered suitable for cooperation and further dialogue or is it already used material?

The Western community has a rule to block and ignore not states and nations but concrete politicians or political groups, as well as their functionaries. If the current government makes up its mind to thwart Moscow's decision on Armenia's membership to this absurd, this will be to its political credit despite November 3 because the West gets an incredible card in such an attractive game.

This could be predicted because the West needs to resolve the problem here and now, not in the visible future. At the same time, the positions of Europe and the U.S. cannot affect sponsors of pro-Russian politics in Armenia. It may not be related to business and bank deposits, as well as issuance of visa to them and their service functionaries. Their names and positions are known well.

However, despite the current intentions of the West, it would be more desirable to mark time. For the time being, it is hard to understand. It will take time to sober up from the promises of the Customs Union. Besides, Moscow simply can't help its endless foolishness and coarseness, continuing a discussion which seemed to be over. It is necessary to squeeze everything out of this dreadful situation. The Russians are doing it themselves.

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