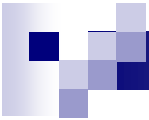




# **Russia-West Relations: Alternative Futures**

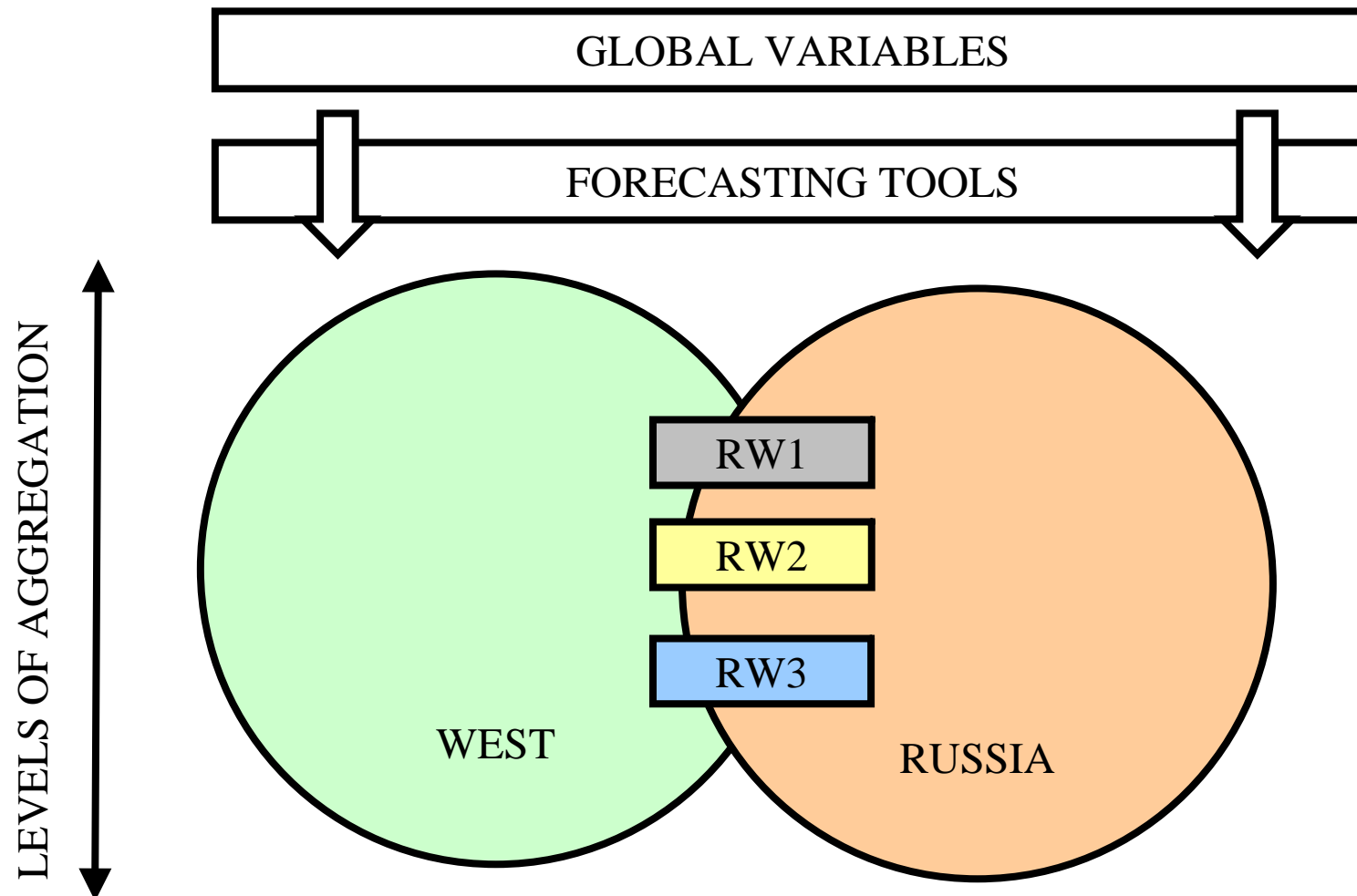
**Sergei Medvedev,  
Higher School of Economics,  
Moscow**



# Prolegomena and Prejudice

- Traditional preconception: Russia's future uncertain ("the sick man of Europe"), its relations with the West contingent on domestic developments
- No independent variables like "the future of Russia"
- All variables interdependent: Russia, the West, the global system...
- Future of the West is probably more open than Russia's
- Future of the global system even less certain, and...
- ... are "Russia" and "the West" relevant units of forecasting ?

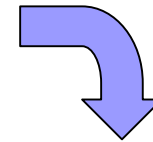
# Building the scenarios



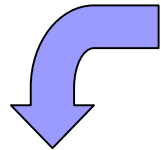


# Global Variables (Forecasting Tools)

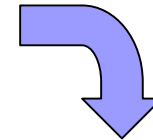
1. Globalization vs. Resistance



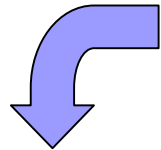
2. Decline vs. Comeback of the State



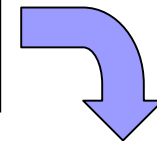
3. De-Securitization vs. Re-Securitization



4. Commercialization vs. Ideology



5. Isolationism vs. Imperialism/Interventionism



6. Conservatism vs. Revisionism



# Russia-West scenarios

- *Den' oprichnika* (Vladimir Sorokin)
  - Russian nationalism/isolationism
- The New Liberal Imperialism (Robert Cooper)
  - West-dominated globalism, incorporation of Russia
- *Mille plateaux* (Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari)
  - The rhizome: A postmodern pluralist setting



## *Den' oprichnika (2042)*

- Caricature nationalism: From language (*mobilo*) and dress to politics (Tsar, boyars)
- Totalitarian system: *Oprichniki*, executions
- Isolationism (the Western and Eastern Walls)
- China a key global power and ally (Sinicisms)
- “The Road” (Guangzhou-Paris)
  - Customs, corruption
- “The Pipeline” (East and West)



# The New Liberal Imperialism

- The global system (World-system) has survived
  - West dominant: control of info networks + selective military intervention
  - Global informational oligarchy
- Russia integrated as a semi-periphery
  - Protecting the infrastructure of the global system
  - Elite incorporated as an operator of resource export on behalf of the global system
  - Elite controlling the population by means of political technologies/manipulation and controlled repression
- Russia as a loose set of regions catering to various parts of the global system



## *Mille plateaux*

- Global system overwhelmed by new security challenges
  - Demography, terrorism, resource distribution...
  - “Nomadic war machines”: Micropolitics of the rhizome
- Retrenchment of the US, stagnation/disintegration of the EU
- Nationalism, sub-nationalism, localism
- Russia-West relations: Segmentarity, de-territorialization, de-institutionalization, and, once again...
- Are “Russia” and the “West” relevant units of forecasting?





# Scenarios are ideal types, not forecasts!

