

## **Contemporary Russia: between Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism?**

The contemporary Russian political system must be classified as non-democratic due to the definitional impossibility to alternate the elite of public authorities. Indeed, it is not clear which type of non-democratic political regime it exactly is. The primary objective of the research is to determine both the location of the Russian political regime on the continuum between its extreme points, i.e., the ideal types of authoritarianism and totalitarianism, as well as the direction, and the extent of its change since February 2014, when the armed conflict with Ukraine has started. The final date of the period pointed out is the moment when Russian reserve funds will deplete. To solve the research problem it is essential to verify three specific research hypotheses. Their application to the potential of transforming bureaucracy and power structures in the party-state apparatus, the scale of changing social consciousness between statocratic, fundamentalist way of thinking (based on emotional mentality) into totalitarian political gnosis, as well as translocation of social actions from widespread apathy to mass and controlled mobilisation. On the base of critical interpretation of world specialist literature, it is necessary to construct very precise and empirically applicable typology and subtypology of non-democratic political regimes theoretical categories. This theoretical basis will allow proper collection and interpretation of sources, and their transformation into arguments and counter-arguments for or against the hypotheses verification. This is feasible, with the use of content analysis method and on the basis of a number of techniques and research tools. Some of them, concerning large data sets (media and social networks) are released by Integrum Worldwide Company. The research results will be: original categorial grid creation and a definition of the Russian political regime transformation determination, including explanation of their circumstances and consequences.