

**REVIEW FOR THE BOOK: SHOKHIN S.O., KUDRYASHOVA E.V. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING IN CONTEMPORARY RUSSIA, MONOGRAPH. MOSCOW, MGIMO UNIVERSITY PUBL., 2022. 126 p. ISBN 978-5-9228-2622-8 (PRINT)**

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In 2022 the MGIMO University Publishing house has released the monograph authored by S.O. Shokhin and E.V. Kudryashova "The Legal Framework for strategic planning in contemporary Russia". This review represents the book for the international audience. There is also a discussion of the monograph's key points.

**Keywords**

Strategic planning, state  
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Comparative public governance is challenging the researchers in the turbulent world. There is a whole variety of approaches, disagreements, and controversies in the views on political life and governance standards. Social sciences in 21st century sought for a greater comparability of research findings, however, it remained unattainable, and more questions were provoked rather than common orientations for compatibilities were found. Still the dynamics of social processes encouraged studies which lead to better understanding of political institutions and public administration in different parts of the world [1]. The leading think tanks and academic institutions around the world are directing their attention to research in comparative politics, administration, and their legal aspects. This is also true of the leading Russian think tanks including the Moscow Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University).

In 2022 the MGIMO Publishing house has released valuable research on the strategic governance in Russia – the monograph by S.O. Shokhin and E.V. Kudryashova “The Legal Framework for strategic planning in contemporary Russia”. The book presents insights into the nature of strategic vision in the Russian Federation with a special focus on the legal aspects of strategic planning on the federal level.

The research is published in English and appeals to the international academic audience. Numerous evidence and facts about the development of the strategic planning system in the Russian Federation during recent twenty years are outlined in the book. The facts and their analysis provide a solid basis for further discussion. However, this is not a mere accumulation of facts about strategic planning.

The analysis of the recent two decades is underpinned by investigation of the roots of the contemporary trends which go back into the soviet times. The authors demonstrate that the contemporary system of strategic planning has its roots in previous experience of Russia when it was a Russian Soviet Socialistic Republic within the USSR. Planning was mentioned in the soviet constitutions among the principles for economy and later for all the social life paradigm. The soviet concept influence keeps on manifesting itself nowadays in the current public governance concepts of Russian Federation. For example, the Federal law No. 172-FZ of June 28, 2014 “On strategic planning in Russian Federation” gives the definition for public governance. The law makes it clear that public governance is subdue to the top strategic planning goals. Giving priority to planning over other aspects of public governance is assumed by the authors to derive from the previous concept of planning as a constitutional principle.

As implied by its title, the book deals with the legal aspects of the strategies in Russia. The legal framework is mainly formed by the Federal law “On strategic planning in Russian Federation” and, therefore, it is in the focus of the reviewed book. At the same time, it is not a pure commentary to the law. The speculations in the text cover the undergoing political processes which finally received the legal status. The book highlights the social and political consensus on the configuration of strategic vision formalised in the law. This consensus is clearly articulated in the main goals of the system of strategic planning in Russia. The sustainable social-economic development and ensuring of the national security are the core of the strategic planning system. This setting provoked some discussions as to whether there is a dualistic but unique goal or whether there are two autonomous goals. The outcome of this discussion affects the general understanding of the strategic planning in Russia. Once these goals are merged in one than all the efforts in the security field can be attributed to the social-economic development. This is widely used for presenting the achievements in economy currently. The social economic growth looks more impressive once the results of the industry working only for the national security are blended with other sectors of economy. There are also studies rightly suggesting that the state policy of ensuring national security is crucial for maintaining the sustainable social-economic development of Russia and increasing its competitiveness [2]. This is not the only example of the important outcomes of the discussion on one dualistic or two separated strategic goals in Russia. This illustrates how authors identified and revealed the most important and acute issues which go beyond just legal regulation and its interpretation. While the book deals with the law, it offers speculations on its context considering the law to be the art of possible.

Internal strategies influence the international relations [3; 4] and vice versa the external context influence the domestic strategic planning. The authors look at the opportunities for strategic planning in current politics and international relations as well as at the historical experience. The first chapter reminds the experience of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (abbreviated as Comecon, or CMEA). Shortly after creation of CMEA in 1949 there was an attempt to create supranational bodies including an authority of central planning. This attempt failed, nevertheless later a coordinating body – the CMEA Committee on cooperation of planning activity – was founded and succeeded. It is suggested in the book that experience of CMEA could be valuable for the current international integration processes. The Eurasian integration processes and the role

of coordinating supranational strategies are discussed in the book. Several provisions in the Eurasian Economic Union documents on the coordination allow to develop strategies and implement them. According to the book the strategic documents of Eurasian Economic Union have impact on the process of strategic planning in Russia and other member-states as an important contextual factor [5, p. 33–34].

This book is a part of an extended discussion initiated by the authors in the academic journals [6–9]. This may be the reason why the book is not a thick folio. Seems like the authors have sought to expose the essence of their ideas and concepts in a concentrated manner for the international reader. Still, some of the

findings could be further outlined and evaluated in more details with more facts and evidence. Despite this comment the authors managed to present their vision in a systematic and coherent way.

The book under review facilitates the understanding of strategic governance and long term vision in Russia displaying the issues which worth attention and discourse. The book offers a thought-provoking exercise and undoubtedly situates itself as core research on strategic planning best practices. It is a great contribution to the comparability of research in public governance providing a basis for exchange of ideas between academics from around the world and for appreciation of the development of strategic planning in Russia internationally.

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