

ESI MANUAL

THE RUSSIAN DEBATE ON THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: WHO IS WHO?

Part 1: Russian Print Media

Berlin – Istanbul, December 2009



~ Contents ~

NEWSPAPERS.....	3
DAILIES	4
WEEKLIES.....	12
NEWS AGENCIES.....	14
WEB-MEDIA.....	17
ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDIA	26

NEWSPAPERS

Most widely read Russian newspapers by **circulation** and Average Issue Readership (AIR).

Paper	Owner	Circulation	Average Issue Readership (AIR)
DAILY NEWSPAPERS			
Moskovsky Komsomolets	Pavel Gusev	2.040,000	----
Komsomolskaya Pravda	YeSN	640,900	2.171,500
Rossiyskaya Gazeta	Russian government	218,905	1.160,900
Izvestiya	SOGAZ	177,000	420,200
Novaya Gazeta*	Staff (majority shareholder)	171,000	---
Kommersant	Alisher Usmanov	125,000 – 135,000	371,600
Vedomosti	Independent Media	73,000***	195,000
Nezavisimaya Gazeta**	Konstanin Remchukov	56,940	70,100
WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS			
Argumenty i fakty	Promsvyazbank	2.750,000	7.934,000
Expert		90,740	---
Kommersant-vlast'		60,000	---
Russian Journal		2,000	---
ENGLISH MEDIA			
The Moscow News	RIA Novosti	45,000	79,500 ¹
The Moscow Times		35,000	41,400

Sources: *prosmi.ru* for circulation, *tns-global.ru* from September 2008 – February 2009 for Average Issue Readership, circulation for Russia

* Source for Circulation of Novaya Gazeta: National Circulation Service, Russia, 2007

** *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* (March – July 2007, only Moscow)

*** TNS Gallup Media 2008

Other Source: <http://www.mediaguide.ru/?p=list&screen=1&page=9&sort=1>

With circulation and rank

Source for weekly newspapers www.prosmi.ru

¹ RIA Novosti, „The Moscow News erneuert ihr Design und wirft einen neuen Blick auf Moskau,“ 23 April 2009. <http://de.rian.ru/society/20090423/121274058.html>

Dailies

Novaya Gazeta
Новая Газета
www.novayagazeta.ru

Novaya Gazeta was founded in 1993 by journalists who previously worked with Komsomolskaya Pravda. The paper is known for its in-depth investigations on sensitive issues such as high-level corruption, human rights violations, and abuse of power. In 2006 the former President Mikhail Gorbachev and the businessman Alexander Lebedev bought 49% of the newspaper. Novaya Gazeta has a staff of 60 journalists and is one of the few newspapers to report in detail on the liberal opposition. It has paid a heavy price for its critical stance, however. Three of Novaya Gazeta's reporters have been killed. One of them was the investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who gained international recognition for her independent coverage of Chechnya and the North Caucasus. In October 2006 Politkovskaya was shot dead outside her Moscow home.

Novaya Gazeta comes out three times a week (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) with some English-language pages. Every Friday Novaya Gazeta publishes a supplement on political and social issues.



Dmitri Muratov is founder and **Editor-in-chief** of Novaya Gazeta.
E-mail: 2009@novayagazeta.ru



Andrey Lipsky is **deputy chief editor** and responsible for news and the press.
E-mail: 2009@novayagazeta.ru



Vitali Semyonovich Yaroshevky is Deputy Chief Editor and head of the foreign desk.
E-mail: 2009@novayagazeta.ru

Nadyezhda Prusenкова is press officer of Novaya Gazeta
E-mail: pr@novayagazeta.ru

Southern Caucasus Coverage



Yelena Milashina works for the special reports department.
E-mail: 2009@novayagazeta.ru

Her articles on Georgia: http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/?auth=391&sb_a=1 (in Russian only). Milashina interviewed Kakha Bendukidze on 19 November 2007: <http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/2007/88/21.html> (in Russian only). She also filed a report entitled “Grisha and Zema” on Tskhinvali one month after the war: <http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/2008/68/17.html> (in Russian only). At the beginning of December 2008 she wrote about peace and humanitarian aid in South Ossetia: <http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/2008/89/22.html> (in Russian only).



Natalya Rostova wrote on mass media in the Russian-Georgian war in August 2008.
E-mail: 2009@novayagazeta.ru

Her articles: http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/?auth=114&sb_a=1 (in Russian only)



Alexander Mineyev is correspondent in Brussels and covers NATO and Georgia

His articles: http://www.novayagazeta.ru/data/?auth=99&sb_a=1 (in Russian only)



Nezavisimaya Gazeta
Независимая газета
www.ng.ru

Nezavisimaya Gazeta is an influential privately-owned daily. The paper was founded in December 1990 and was owned by Boris Beresowsky's Media Group until 2005. Nezavisimaya Gazeta occupies a prominent position among the upmarket Russian press, targeting educated and politically active Russians. It is regarded as a prestigious platform for politicians, businessmen and academics. It also publishes eight supplements each week on topics such as science, regional news, economy and diplomacy. In August 2005 Konstantin Remchukov, at the time a Russian government adviser, acquired the paper.



Konstantin Remchukov appointed himself Editor-in-chief in February 2007.
E-mail: info@ng.ru

Responsible for the political coverage is **Alexandra Samarina**.
Svetlana Gamova is head of the 'politics of the near abroad' desk.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

Georgia: Yury Simonyan is correspondent in Tbilisi. He also publishes articles on the website of the weekly journal Expert and writes for Moskowsky Komsomolets
 His articles in Russian:

http://www.ng.ru/search/?stream_id=documents&query=%D1%E8%EC%EE%ED%FF%ED

Eteri Kakabadze (Какабадзе Этери) is also correspondent for Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Sh. Rustaveli
 Prosp. 42, 380008, Tbilisi, Phone: : +995 32 92 32 12, +995 32 94 25 49

ВЕДОМОСТИ **Vedomosti**
Ведомости
www.vedomosti.ru

Vedomosti is one of Russia's leading business broadsheets. Although the circulation is comparatively small, the paper is considered one of the most objective and reliable sources of information in Russia. It was founded in 1999. Published in conjunction with the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times, it intersperses articles by Russian journalists with translated material from both publications. It includes sections such as "Politics and Society" and "Companies and Markets". Vedomosti is owned by the Independent Media Sanoma Magazines publishing house, which belongs to Finland's Sanoma Media Group. Sanoma also owns Moscow based English language newspaper The Moscow Times.



Editor-in-chief is **Yelisaveta Osetinskaya**.
 Phone: +7 495 956-34-58
 E-mail: osetinskaya@vedomosti.ru.



Head of the political desk is **Maksim Glikin**.
 E-mail: m.glikin@vedomosti.ru



The head of the influential comment page department is **Maksim Trudolyubov**. E-mail: trud@vedomosti.ru



Editor of international news is **Michail Overtshenko**.

E-mail: overchenko@vedomosti.ru.



Moskovsky Komsomolets

Московский Комсомолец

www.mk.ru

The popular **Moskovsky Komsomolets**, founded by journalists, is a nationwide daily newspaper covering social-political issues for a mass audience. It first came off the press on 11 December 1919 and is one of the oldest newspapers in Russia. Moskovsky Komsomolets is now circulated in all 89 subjects (administrative regions) of the Russian Federation. Much of the paper's reporting focuses on issues of interest to people living in the capital, who form its core readership. The paper also publishes a series of regional editions and supplements tailor-made for audiences in the former Soviet republics. It is well known for exposing corruption among senior officials, and expresses broad support for the policies of Moscow's long-serving mayor, Yuri Lushkov.



Pavel Gusev is Editor-in-Chief. He has held the job since 1983, an unusually long stint in Russia's volatile media market. He is believed to own much of the newspaper's stock.

Phone: +7 95 259 50 36



Yelena Korotkova is head of the CIS countries' and regional policy department with a staff of 12 correspondents in countries such as Ukraine, Latvia, Armenia or Georgia.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

Georgia

Yury Simonyan is correspondent in Tbilisi. He also works for Nezavisimaya Gazeta and writes for Expert Journal.

Armenia



Pyotr Maghdashyan is correspondent in Yerevan. He also works for Radio Russia.

Phone/Fax: +374 10 53 79 55

E-mail: pmaghdashyan@hotmail.com

Daily newspapers owned by the state or by institutions with close links to the Russian government.

ИЗВЕСТИЯ

Izvestia

Известия

www.izvestia.ru

Izvestia, founded in 1917, is one of the oldest newspapers in Russia. It was popular, highly respected and continued to enjoy wide readership in the 1990s, primarily among intellectuals and academics. In June 2005, the media arm of the state-controlled energy giant Gazprom bought a majority stake. Although some observers thereafter criticised the paper for adopting a clear pro-Kremlin line, the new owners cited commercial considerations as a reason for changes in the paper's coverage. In May 2008 Gazprom sold its stake in Izvestia to the SOGAZ insurance company. SOGAZ is part of a group controlled by the St. Petersburg-based Bank Rossiya whose co-owner, Yuriy Kovalchuk, is widely reported to be a close associate of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.



Vitali Abramow has been Editor-in-Chief since October 2009. He had previously been Deputy General Director for regional development of state-owned Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

E-mail: info1@izvestia.ru

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

Georgia

Kirill Kolodin is correspondent in Tbilisi.

His articles on Georgia: <http://www.izvestia.ru/georgia1/> (in Russian only)

Коммерсант.ru

Kommersant
Коммерсантъ
www.kommersant.ru

The liberal **Kommersant** newspaper is one of Russia's leading business broadsheets and the flagship of Kommersant publishing house. Founded in 1989, the paper was originally a weekly publication, but expanded in 1992, styling itself as Russia's first business daily. Once owned by the exiled oligarch Boris Berezovsky, the paper was bought in August 2006 by Alisher Usmanov, a steel tycoon who also runs a subsidiary of Gazprom and owns a major stake in the English football club Arsenal. Despite its purchase by the Kremlin-friendly Usmanov, Kommersant retains its reputation in Russia as "independent". It has 15 regional offices from St. Petersburg in the north to Chabarovsk in the Far East.



Andrei Vasilyev is head of the editorial departments at the Kommersant daily, the political weekly Kommersant vlast, the economics weekly Kommersant dengi, as well as other publications belonging to Kommersant Publishing House.

E-mail: vasilyev@kommersant.ru



Azer Mursaliyev is Editor-in-chief of Kommersant daily. He has two deputies – Ilya Bulavinov and Alexander Stukalin.

E-mail: mursliyev@kommersant.ru



The foreign department has a staff of 8, headed by **Leonid Gankin**.

E-mail: gankin@kommersant.ru

Southern Caucasus Coverage



Alexander Gabuyev is a commentator, focusing on Georgia, gas and Turkey-Russian relations. E-mail: gabuyev@kommersant.ru

His articles: <http://www.kommersant.ru/authors/author.aspx?id=41> (in Russian only)



Olga Allenova is a special correspondent and covered the Russian-Georgian war and South Ossetia. E-mail: kommersant@kommersant.ru, Together with **Georgy Dvali**, editor at the news desk, Allenova reported from Tbilisi: <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc.aspx?DocsID=1154791>

Other articles: <http://www.kommersant.ru/doc.aspx?DocsID=1144650> (in Russian only)

E-mail: allenova@kommersant.ru

**КОМСОМОЛЬСКАЯ
ПРАВДА** 

Komsomoskaya Pravda
Комсомольская Правда
www.kp.ru

Komsomolskaya Pravda, established in 1925, reached the height of its popularity in 1990 when its peak daily circulation of almost 22 million secured an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. Since then, it has built its reputation on a gentle nostalgia for the Soviet period, firm backing for Kremlin policy and a keen interest in celebrity news and scandal from home and abroad. The paper is currently owned by the Russian energy ECN Group. It is led by Grigory Berezkin who has close links to Russia's gas giant Gazprom.



Editor-in-chief and General Director of the Komsomolskaya Pravda is **Vladimir Sungorkin**.

E-mail: kp@kp.ru



Alexei Ganelin is Chief Editor (in Russian: Chef Redaktor) and, as such, the second most influential editor. He acts as connection between the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial staff. Phone: +7 495 777 02 84 E-Mail: kp@kp.ru

Yelena Tshinkova writes regularly on Georgia.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus:

Georgia

Irina Baramidze Phone: +995 32 38 24 04 / Phone: +995 32 934 822, Fax: +995 32 933 873



РОССИЙСКАЯ

Rossiyskaya Gazeta
Российская Газета
www.rg.ru

Rossiyskaya Gazeta was set up by the Russian government in 1990, before the collapse of the Soviet Union. It remained fully government-owned thereafter. The paper is authorised to publish all new laws in full, heralding their entry into force, decrees of the president and resolutions of the government. Despite its affiliation, Rossiyskaya Gazeta has been known to voice criticism of ministerial policy. The paper's managing director has dismissed the widely-held view that it is a

government mouthpiece, describing it instead as an “independent media outlet”. By its own account Rossiyskaya Gazeta’s audience are “well-balanced adults with conservative views”.



Editor-in-chief is **Vladislav Fronin**. He has two Deputies – **Yuri Lepsky** and **Natalya Tatarinova**.

E-mail: office@rg.ru

E-mail: politika@rg.ru

Rossiyskaya Gazeta has correspondents in Ukraine and Belarus and Georgia. The coverage of the southern region of Russia and partly of the Russian-Georgian war was run out of the regional office in the southern city of Stavropol.

The Stavropol regional correspondent is **Svetlana Emelyanova**. E-mail: stav@rg.ru
She covers the Kabardino-Balkarskaya Republic, Northern Ossetia, the Stavropolsky region and the Chechen Republic.

Weeklies



Argumenty i Fakty
Аргументы и Факты
www.aif.ru

With almost 3 million copies, the popular weekly **Argumenty i Fakty** has the highest circulation of any Russian newspaper. Founded in 1978, it quickly gathered a strong following, reaching a reported circulation of more than 33 million in 1990. After 1985, during Glasnost, Argumenty i Fakty was one of the leading publications. Although its readership is now considerably smaller, the paper's mix of political analysis and speculation, patriotic sentiment, high-profile interviews, regional supplements and consumer advice has ensured its prominence on Russia's news stands. One of Russia's largest banks, Promsvyazbank, has a controlling interest in the paper. On its website AiF describes its readership amongst others as "working people, intellectuals and politicians".



Editor-in-chief is **Nikolai Zyatkov**.
E-mail: moskva@aif.ru

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

The aif-weekly has three offices in the Southern Caucasus.

Georgia

AiF Tbilisi

Phone: +995 32 93 38 73, Fax: +995 32 93 48 22

Armenia

AiF Yerevan

Phone: +374 10 53 90 14, Fax: +374 10 53 90 11

E-mail: argumenti@mail.ru

Azerbaijan

AiF Baku

Phone: +994 12 97 12 13, E-mail: vham@mail.ru



Expert
Эксперт
www.expert.ru

Expert, founded by a group of editors and journalists who departed from Kommersant publishing house, is Russia's leading business weekly magazine on political and business issues. It is currently part of Expert Group, a publishing, conference and research company based in Moscow. Since 2002 the magazine nominates its Person of the Year – one or several individuals who significantly influence economic, business, political or social development in Russia. In 2003, two of the nominees were Roman Abramovich and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, key shareholders of the Sibneft and Yukos oil companies, respectively. They were hailed for adopting corporate governance policies that helped run their companies efficiently and profitably. The magazine is distributed in Russia and the CIS countries. The website is also in English.



Editor-in-Chief is **Valery Fadeev**. He is also Director of the Institute of Public Engineering, Chairman of the business journalism guild "MediaSoyuz", as well as a member of the Russian Social Council for the Development of Education, the General Council of the All-Russian public organization "Business Russia", and the Social Council for National Reward. Fadeev is Professor at Moscow State University's Higher School of Economics.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

Georgia: Gevorg Mirzayan



Russian Journal
Русский Журнал
www.russ.ru

Russian Journal is a primarily Russian-language website. It was the first political tribune on the Internet. The daily online publication is devoted to cultural, political and social issues. The original Russian Journal was founded in July 1997. The English version was launched in December 2001.



Gleb Pavlovsky, an influential Kremlin-adviser and self-described "political technologist", is the Editor-in-chief. He is the founder of the Foundation for Effective Politics, which he presides (see also think tank section). He actively participated in parliamentary and presidential election campaigns. Pavlovsky is also the founder of a number of influential Russian media networks such as Gazeta.ru, Strana.ru, SMI.ru, Kreml.org, Liberty.ru and others. He is Professor at Moscow State University's Higher School of Economics.



Boris Mezhuev is Deputy Chief Editor. He is a former Editor-in-Chief of the Political News Agency website and former Deputy to the Editor-in-Chief of Smysl magazine. Mezhuev has appeared in different magazines and newspapers such as Polis, Pro et Contra and Political Magazine. After the Russian-Georgian war in August 2008 he argued against recognizing South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states. (Russian Journal, 12 August 2008, <http://russ.ru/Mirovaya-povestka/Vernite-Shevardnadze!>)

NEWS AGENCIES



Interfax
Интерфакс
www.interfax.com

Interfax is the major Russian news agency and the only fully private-owned one.

Alexei Meshkov is Editor-in-Chief of General Information Services.

Correspondents in the South Caucasus

Georgia: Vakhtang Lomtadze: Phone: +995 32 96-47-26 Fax: +995 32 95-08-25

Armenia: Arman Tarjmanyanyan: Phone/Fax: +374 10 24 24 91; E-mail: tagarm@rambler.ru



ИТАР-ТАСС
ИТАР-ТАСС
www.itar-tass.com

Itar Tass, the state-owned successor to the Soviet news agency TASS, is one of the largest Russian information agencies. It has pages in English.

Vitaly Ignatenko is General Director.

Pavel Mikhalev is Deputy Director General and Director of Foreign News

Phone: +7 095 2297925

E-mail: itar@itar-tass.com

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus:

Georgia: Tengiz Patchkoriya: Phone/Fax: +995 32 98-95-47

Armenia: Tigran Liloyan: Phone/Fax: 374 10 52 02 42; E-mail: tass@arminco.com



RIA – Novosti
Риа Новости
www.rian.ru

Ria Novosti, also state-owned, is one of the leading Russian news agencies. Besides Russian, it has pages in English, German, French, Arabic and Chinese.

Svetlana Mironyuk is Editor-in-Chief.

Denis Perepelizyn is Deputy Chief Editor:
E-Mail: perepel@rian.ru

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus

Georgia

Maria Kvaratscheliya: (office Director) Phone: +995 32 93-51-20; Fax: +995 32 93 17 49

Armenia

Gamlet Matevosyan: Phone: +374 10 54 14 11; E-mail: adem@arminco.com

REGNUM Regnum.ru
ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЕ АГЕНТСТВО www.regnum.ru

Regnum.ru is a federal news agency which started working on 23 February 1999 when it merged with a group of web-based information agencies including Baltika, KNews, MurmanNews and MariNews. Regnum established its own network of correspondents and made the platform available to local politicians as well as non-governmental organisations. A selection of articles is translated in English.



Editor-in-Chief is **Modest Kolerov**. He is also Chairman of the Union of the Svobodnaya Rossiya public association and co-founder of Regnum. Kolerov is Professor at the Department of Information Policy of Moscow State University's Higher School of Economics and Valid State Counselor, Class I. He is a former head of the Russian President's Department for Interregional and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries (2005-2007) and holds a PhD in Historical Sciences.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus:

Transcaucasian Editorial Bureau in Armenia

Chief Editors: **Vigen Hakobian, Armenika Kivirian:** Phone/Fax: +374 10 53 72 47; E-mail: regnum@netsys.am; Web Site: <http://www.regnum.ru>



Information Agency ROSBALT
Информационное агентство РОСБАЛТ
www.rosbalt.ru
www.rosbaltsouth.ru (Rosbalt-Kavkaz)

Rosbalt is an information agency with headquarters in St. Petersburg and regional offices in Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, and Rostov-on-Don (covering the Caucasus region), as well as in Ukraine and Latvia. The Rosbalt-Kavkaz division provides extensive coverage of the entire Caucasus region.

Headquarters in St. Petersburg:

IA Rosbalt

Ul. Rubinshteina, 30 A (main office), 191002 St. Petersburg, Russia

Fax: +7 (812) 320 50 43

Rosbalt-Kavkaz, Regional office in Rostov-on-Don:

Address: ul. Sotsialisticheskaya, d. 74 (ofisnyy tsentr Kupecheskii Dvor), office 404, 344022 Rostov-na-Donu.

Tel. +7 (863) 268 94 83

Maria Kustova is the website editor. Tel. +7 (812) 320 50 43

Dmitry Remizov is Press Center Director. Tel. +7(863) 250 66 90

Correspondent Samvel Martirosyan

City/Region Yerevan

Tel./Fax +374 10 43 58 14

E-mail sammart@arminco.com

WEB-MEDIA



Newsru.com

Newsru.com, formerly the website of the Channel NTV, is one of the largest and most viewed news portals in Russia. From mid-October to mid-November 2009, according to the Rambler Top 100 index, the Newsru.com website had over 183,000 unique visitors per day.²

Editor-in-Chief is **Yelena Bereznitskaya-Bruni**

Newsru.com also runs *Inopressa.ru*, a website providing Russian translations of selected articles published by foreign (primarily Western) mass media.

Tel. + 7 (495) 755 77 67

E-mail: editors@inopressa.ru



Lenta.ru

www.lenta.ru

Lenta.ru is a web-based daily newspaper founded as a result of cooperation between the Foundation for Effective Policies, the Rambler Internet holding, and a team of internet professionals who created the Gazeta.Ru project. Lenta.Ru is among the top 5 most widely read online news outlets, boasting nearly 220,000 unique visitors per day.³

Editor-in-Chief: **Anton Nossik**

Executive Secretary: **Yulia Minder**



Pravda.ru

www.pravda.ru

Pravda.Ru (known as *Pravda On-line* until 2003) is one of the first and most popular online resources in Russia. Launched in January 1999, *Pravda On-line* was established by a group of journalists who had previously worked for the famous Soviet *Pravda*. *Pravda.Ru* is also published in English, Italian and Portuguese, with the English version being one of the leading Russian information sources used by foreign readers.

According to the Rambler Top 100, from mid-October to mid-November *Pravda.Ru* was the 14th most visited website in Russia in the news media category, attracting an audience of over 62,000 unique visitors daily.⁴

Editor in Chief is **Andrey Chereshnev**

² <http://top100.rambler.ru/top100/Media/rate25.0.shtml.ru>

³ <http://top100.rambler.ru/top100/Media/rate4.0.shtml.ru>

⁴ <http://top100.rambler.ru/top100/Media/rate4.0.shtml.ru>

**Vadim Gorshenin**

Chairman of the Board of Directors, former Editor-in-Chief

gorshenin@pravda.ru

Address: Ul. Staraya Basmannaya, d. 16, str. 1a, Moscow

Mailing address: 105066, a/ya 26, "Pravda.Ru"

Tel. +7 (499) 267-48-60; 261-45-85

Fax: +7 (499) 267-48-60

E-mail: home@pravda.ru**Газета.ru****Gazeta.ru**www.gazeta.ru

Gazeta.ru is one of the most popular Russian newswires on the Internet. It publishes news on social, political, cultural, and sports issues. It was founded in December 1998.

Michail Michaylin has been Editor-in-Chief since 2006.

ВЗГЛЯД
ДЕЛОВАЯ ГАЗЕТА**Vzglyad**www.vz.ru

Vzglyad, launched in 2005, is an online publication providing news coverage and analysis on a wide range of economic, political, social and cultural issues. Its target audience is primarily the business community. From the very start, *Vzglyad* was designed to compete with other leading business publications such as *Kommersant* and *Vedomosti*.⁵ In July 2009, *vz.ru* was the ninth most visited online resource in Russia (and fifth most visited in Moscow).⁶ *Vzglyad*, as well as the internet daily *Dni.ru* (see below), is owned by the Russian media holding Newmedia Stars.

Address: Luzhnetskaya naberezhnaya, d. 2/4, str. 16, 119270 Moscow, Russia

Tel./Fax: + 7 (495) 926-93-75

E-mail: info@vz.ru

⁵Oleg Kashin, "Surkov Network" (in Russian), *OpenSpace*, 12 February 2009, <http://www.openspace.ru/media/net/details/7946/page1/>

⁶RuMetrika, "The Ratings of Online Resources in Russia" (in Russian), *Rambler- RuMetrika*, 18 August 2009. http://rumetrika.rambler.ru/publ/article_show.html?article=4022



Dni.ru
www.dni.ru

Dni.ru is a popular Russian online daily which first appeared in December 2000. It is also one of the first large online media outlets in Russia. *Dni.ru* is owned by the media holding Newmedia Stars (together with other media such as *Vzglyad* and the *Russia.Ru* TV channel). According to the Rambler Top 100 index, *Dni.ru* consistently ranks among the top ten most visited news websites, attracting an average of 149 000 visitors per day (as of November 2009).⁷ According to the *Dni.ru* website, the portal's audience consists primarily of young (age 25 to 45) professionals with a high level of income.⁸

Konstantin Kondrashin is Project Director and Editor-in-Chief

Elena Kalashnikova and **Valery Kopotin** are political analysts

Address: Luzhnetskaya naberezhnaya, d. 2/4, str. 16, 119270 Moscow, Russia
E-mail: dni@dni.ru



Polis
www.politstudies.ru

Polis is a web-journal which appears 6 times a year (in Russian and English). Short summaries of articles in both languages are available on its website.

Sergi Chugrov is Editor-in-Chief.
E-mail: new-polis@politstudies.ru



Strana.Ru
www.strana.ru

Strana.Ru is a Russian National News Service owned by All Russian State Television and Broadcasting Company, or VGTRK. Its founder is the influential Kremlin adviser Gleb Pavlovsky, head of the Effective Policy Foundation.

General Director and Editor-in-Chief is **Marina Litvinovich**.

⁷ <http://top100.rambler.ru/top100/Media/rate4.0.shtml.ru>

⁸ Dni.Ru, "About the Project" (in Russian), updated 18 April 2008, <http://www.dni.ru/about/2008/4/18/140208.html>

ПОЛИТ.РУ

Polit.ru
www.polit.ru

The **polit.ru** daily on-line publication was launched in 1999 as part of Zhurnal.ru, later becoming an independent web site covering Russian politics, economics, international news and cultural issues.

Editor-in-Chief: **Andrey Levkin**



Politcom.ru
www.politcom.ru

Politcom.ru was founded in 2002 by the Center for Political Technologies to publish comment and analysis. It attracts an average of 6,000 visitors per day.

General Director: **Igor Bunin**
 Editor-in-Chief: **Dmitri Orlov**



Agentstvo Politicheskikh Novostey (APN)
Agency for Political News
www.apn.ru

APN is the main publication of the Institute for National Strategy. The founders' goal was to provide "politically active audiences with exclusive information on the political situation in Russia and the rest of the world."⁹ **APN** prides itself on introducing a "new generation of experts" and providing independent analytical commentary on political issues.¹⁰



Konstantin Krylov has been APN's Editor-in-Chief since September 2007. Born in 1967 in Moscow, he is also President of the Russian Social Movement, which espouses a nationalist ideology.

E-mail: krylov@apn.ru

APN regularly publishes opinion columns on various issues. On the conflict in Georgia, it published a number of contributions which mostly weighed in favour of the Russian government's course of actions in the conflict.

Alexander Khramchikhin, a military expert, authored "It's Better to Be an Aggressor than Nothing at All" (in Russian), 8 August 2008, <http://www.apn.ru/column/article20565.htm>

⁹ APN, "About the Project," <http://www.apn.ru/about/>.

¹⁰ APN, "About the Project," <http://www.apn.ru/about/>.

Sergey Markedonov, a political scientist, wrote “One Has to Clearly Define the Limits of the Military Operation” (in Russian), 9 August 2008, <http://www.apn.ru/opinions/article20594.htm>

Pavel Svyatenkov, a political scientist, wrote “The First Russian-American War” (in Russian), 11 August 2008, <http://www.apn.ru/column/comments20612.htm#comments>



Vestnik Kavkaza
The Caucasus Messenger
www.vestikavkaza.ru

Vestnik Kavkaza is a recently launched information portal which is the result of a joint project of the Russian State University for the Humanities and Moscow State University. *Vestnik Kavkaza*, online since June 2009, is an e-daily covering the Caucasus region. There are plans for turning *Vestnik Kavkaza* into a full-fledged information agency.

Chairman of the Editorial Board is **Dr. Yefim Pivovar**, the head of the Center for Information and Analysis of the Post-Soviet Space and a Professor at the Russian State University of the Humanities and Moscow State University (see profile in the IAC section).



Alexey Vlasov is Editor-in-Chief
Cand. Sc. in Hist. General Director of the Center for Information and Analysis of the Sociopolitical Processes in the Post-Soviet Space. Vlasov's research interests include the history of Central Asia and the Caucasus.



Georgiy Kalatozishvili
Regional Correspondent in Tbilisi, Georgia



Regional Correspondent in Yerevan, Armenia, is **Susanna Petrosyan**



Inosmi.ru
www.inosmi.ru

Inosmi.ru (an abbreviation standing for “foreign media”) is a website that publishes Russian translations of foreign news stories. Since most Russians don’t read foreign news in the original, this is one of the few available sources for many. Online since February 2004, Inosmi.ru is affiliated with the Russian information agency *Novosti* and receives government funding. In 2007, Inosmi.Ru received the RuNet Award from the Russian Federal Agency for Print and Mass Media in acknowledgement of its “contributions to the development of Russia’s Web segment.”¹¹ In 2007 the website had an average of over 70,000 visitors per day.¹² Inosmi has been criticized for devoting disproportionate attention to articles critical of Russia.¹³

Editor-in-Chief is **Marina Pustilnik** (since April 2009)

¹¹ RIA Novosti, “RIA Novosti Internet project InoSMI wins award,” 27 November 2007. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20071127/89858586.html>

¹² RIA Novosti, “RIA Novosti Internet project InoSMI wins award,” 27 November 2007. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20071127/89858586.html>

¹³ BBC Russian, “The Inosmi Reader Is an Inosmified Person. Interview with Yaroslav Ognev, Inosmi’s Editor in-Chief” (in Russian), *BBC Russian*, 27 November 2007. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/russian/in_depth/2007/rus_elecs/newsid_7115000/7115241.stm

WEB PUBLICATIONS REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION

Кавказский Узел

Caucasian Knot

www.kavkaz-uzel.ru (Russian)

www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/ (English)

The **Caucasian Knot** online information portal was launched in 2001 by Memorial, an international human rights NGO, and is available in Russian and English (since 2003). Since 2007, the Caucasian Knot has been functioning as an independent online resource characterized by a strong human rights focus. It is also one of the most comprehensive Russian-language sources on the North and South Caucasus. According to the official website:

“The main aims of the "CAUCASIAN KNOT" are to ensure free access to truthful and non-engaged information about events in the Caucasus; inform the Russian and global community about violations of human rights, situation in armed conflict zones, cases of ethnic or political discrimination and refugees' problems; and provide information support to promotion of civil initiatives and independent mass media.”¹⁴

The Caucasian Knot maintains a network of correspondents throughout the Caucasus region.

Tel./ Fax: +7 (495) 699 60 54

Gregory Shvedov is Editor-in-Chief.

Correspondents in the Southern Caucasus:

Armenia: **Lilit Ovanisyan** and **Ashot Ter-Grigoryan**

Azerbaijan: **Faik Medzhid**

Georgia: **Alyona Aleschenko**, incl. Abkhazia: **Anzhela Kuchuberiya**

¹⁴ Caucasian Knot, “About Us,” June 2009, <http://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/AboutCaucasianKnot>

Каспаров.ru
интернет-газета
Гарри Каспарова

Kasparov.ru
www.kasparov.ru

Kasparov.ru is an online newspaper launched in May 2005 by Garry Kasparov, the Russian world chess champion and political activist. The website is seen as an important resource for the political opposition in Russia; featured materials include news, analysis, and opinion. Kasparov.ru maintains a wide network of regional correspondents and often acts as a political watchdog, providing detailed coverage of various protests and abuse of power by the government. Kasparov.ru also runs a LiveJournal blog where readers are invited to comment on the articles and express their views.

E-mail: info@kasparov.ru

Editor-in-Chief: **Yulia Galyamina**



Olga Gulyonok is Political Analyst and Commentator

Irina Inashvili is Kasparov.ru correspondent covering Georgia



Ezhednevnyi Zhurnal, EJ. ru
Ежедневный Журнал, EJ.ru
www.ej.ru

Initially, **EJ.ru** was the online version of Ezhenedelnyi Zhurnal, a weekly periodical published from 2001 to 2004. Launched in November 2001, EJ.ru was sponsored by Russian oligarch and media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky. Today, EJ.ru is an exclusively online resource which primarily represents the view of liberal intellectuals, many of them highly critical of the Russian authorities.

E-mail: info@ej.ru

Editorial board:

Alexander Ryklin and Alexander Goltz are the Editors-in-Chief.

Olga Pashkova is General Director.



Journalists covering the South Caucasus:
Yulia Latynina (see TV and Radio section)

A list of her *EJ.ru* publications can be accessed at <http://ej.ru/?a=author&id=12&all=true> (in Russian)



Grani.ru
www.grani.ru

Grani.ru is an online daily which is viewed as presenting more oppositional views and not shying away from criticism of the government. Grani.ru has been online since December 2000 and has since changed its format twice. The Grani.ru website contains permanent sections on a number of controversial issues including “Political Prisoners” and “Protest Actions.” Regular columnists writing for Grani.ru include such well-known public figures as dissident Valeria Novodvorskaya and journalist and political scientist Andrei Piontkovsky. Until 2005, the media outlet formed part of the media holding owned by oligarch Boris Berezovsky and was subsequently purchased by businessman Leonid Nevzlin, a former member of the board of directors of the Yukos oil company and the president of the Russian Jewish Congress.

In September 2003, the Moscow Prosecutor’s Office searched the premises of *Grani.Ru*; speaking later on the Ekho Moskvy radio station, Boris Berezovsky said the search took place in preparation for the upcoming elections and that “the real reason for the search was the fact that this company is financed by me.”¹⁵

In 2008, Yulia Berezovskaya (no relation to Boris Berezovsky), the General Director, stated in an interview that Grani.ru became an “online platform for the opposition” and that she was aware of the “accompanying risks.”¹⁶ In February 2008, Grani.ru launched a special project called Grani TV – a videoblog featuring well-known politicians and other public figures, as well as Grani.ru columnists, experts and readers. Registered users are able to rate and comment on each video entry.

Yulia Berezovskaya is General Director.

Vladimir Korsunsky is Editor-in-Chief

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¹⁵ “Moscow Prosecutor’s Office Searched the Office of the Online Outlet, Grani.ru” (in Russian), *Newsru.com*, 19 September 2003. http://palm.newsru.com/russia/19sep2003/grani_ru.html

¹⁶

ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDIA



The Moscow Times – independent
English-language daily
www.themoscowtimes.com

The Moscow Times is an English-language daily newspaper published in Moscow since 1992. The paper regularly publishes articles by prominent Russian journalists, many of whom take critical positions towards the current Russian government. The paper itself is often regarded as a source of high quality journalism. It is frequently cited by foreign media as a source for Russian political and economic news.

The Moscow Times is typically given out for free at hotels, cafés and restaurants that cater to English-language “expats”, though it is increasingly being read by English-speaking Russians. It has a good English website where the print articles are published. It is also available by subscription

Until 2005 the paper was owned by Independent Media, a Moscow-registered publishing house that also prints the daily business newspaper *Vedomosti*, *The St. Petersburg Times* (the equivalent of the Moscow Times in St. Petersburg) and Russian-language versions of popular glossy magazines such as *FHM*, *Men's Health* and *Cosmopolitan*. In 2005, Independent Media was acquired by the Finnish publishing group SanomaWSOY.

Editor-in-Chief of The Moscow Times is **Andrew McChesney**.

Nabi Abdullaev is News Editor.
E-mail: abdullaev@themoscowtimes.com



The Moscow News
www.mnweekly.ru

The Moscow News is one of the few English-language newspapers published in Russia. It is also the oldest one, dating back to 1930. In 2007, the weekly had a circulation of approximately 30,000; however, according to the then-Editor-in-Chief Robert Bridge, this figure was somewhat misleading because “the Moscow News ha[d] the highest Internet subscription rate among all the English language newspapers in Russia, including the Moscow Times.”¹⁷ By April 2009, according to Gallup Media, the circulation figures had increased to 45,000 copies, with an estimated readership of 79,500.¹⁸ The Moscow News is partially owned by RIA Novosti, but according to current Editor-in-Chief Tim Wall, it has a fully independent editorial policy.¹⁹

Address: Zubovsky Boulevard 4, 119021 Moscow, Russia
Tel. + 7 495 645 65 65.
E-mail: info@mnweekly.ru

¹⁷ RIA Novosti, “At 77 Years, Retirement Not in Sight,” 15 October 2007, <http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20071015/84024628.html>

¹⁸ RIA Novosti, „The Moscow News erneuert ihr Design und wirft einen neuen Blick auf Moskau,“ 23 April 2009. <http://de.rian.ru/society/20090423/121274058.html>

¹⁹ RIA Novosti, „The Moscow News erneuert ihr Design und wirft einen neuen Blick auf Moskau,“ 23 April 2009. <http://de.rian.ru/society/20090423/121274058.html>



Tim Wall

Editor-in-Chief (since February 2009)

t.wall@mnweekly.ru

Journalists covering the South Caucasus include:

Anna Arutunyan

Recent articles:

“A Tale of Two Tskhinvalis” (7 September 2009)

<http://www.mnweekly.ru/news/20090907/55387489.html>

“Georgia row escalating” (8 May 2009), <http://www.mnweekly.ru/news/20090508/55376541.html>



Russia in Global Affairs

<http://eng.globalaffairs.ru>

Russia in Global Affairs was founded in 2002 to examine Russia's foreign relations and its positions on a number of international issues. The Editorial Board features Russian and foreign statesmen, intellectuals, analysts and commentators, e.g. Sergei Karaganov from the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt, and the former German chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The Russian version appears every two months, while the English one appears on a quarterly basis. The periodical publishes views on WMD proliferation, terrorism, national and religious extremism, economic crises, organized crime, drug trafficking, AIDS and ecological disasters. The journal also translates selected articles from Russian periodicals into English. It is co-founded by the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Izvestia daily newspaper. Chairman of the Board of Trustees is the Interros Holding Company's President Vladimir Potanin.

E-mail: info@globalaffairs.ru



Fyodor Lukyanov has been the Editor-in-Chief of Russia in Global Affairs since it was founded in November 2002. He is a member of the Russian Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, an independent organization providing foreign

policy expertise. He is a frequent commentator for a number of media outlets, including the business daily Vedomosti, the Moscow Times, Segodnya, Moskovskie Novosti, Vremya MN, Vremya Novostei, the Echo of Moscow radio, and Gazeta.ru. He also frequently comments Russian foreign policy for international media. Lukyanov has an extensive background in media, having previously worked as a correspondent and editor for the Voice of Russia radio station and Russia's Channel 3 television station. Phone: +7 (495) 980-7353; E-mail: editor@globalaffairs.ru



Sergey Karaganov has been Chairman of the Editorial Board of Russia in Global Affairs since November 2002. He has been working at the Institute of Europe of the Academy of Sciences of USSR/Russia since 1988 (he has been Deputy Director since 1989). He is an expert on economic aspects of Soviet and Russian foreign policy, defense policy, security, and economic facets of Russian-European interaction. In the mid-90s Karaganov was named by the New York Times (USA) as one of the world's top foreign policy specialists. According to a 2005 poll by Foreign Policy (USA) and Prospect (UK) magazines, he also ranks among [the world's top 100 public intellectuals](#). Karaganov graduated from the Department Economics of the Moscow State University. E-mail: cfdp@online.ru

RUSSIA PROFILE
Published by Independent Media for RIA Novosti

Russia Profile
www.russiaprofile.org

Russia Profile is an English-language information service offering expert analysis of Russian politics, economics, society and culture. Its founding partners are RIA Novosti, The Moscow Times, and the Center for Defense Information.

Editor-in-Chief and founding Editor of Russia Profile is **Andrei Zolotov, Jr.** He is also an adviser to the chief editor of RIA Novosti.

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