

Abstract

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**Symbolization of the political
process in Russia**

Symbols are the products of common attributions of meaning or value to persons, objects, gestures, things. Such a meaning is socially generated and cannot be inferred directly from the object itself [Cobb, Elder, 1973]. In contemporary Russia symbols became an important medium of public opinion aggregation and articulation. Taking into account the weak multi-party system, lack of the discussion concerning the development strategy of Russia, perceived impossibility for any oppositional force to come to power, namely symbols became the objects of political contest crowding out struggle for the tangible resources. Therefore political polarization in Russia manifests itself not so much through the struggle between political movements as with self-articulation of particular actors and communities using emotionally loaded symbols. A heated debate around the film "Matilda" accompanied by performative role [Kember, Zylinska, 2012] of the new media, the resentment of the liberal audience towards TV series "The Sleepers" and personally its director, anger provoked by the speech of Russian teenager from Novy Urengoy in the German parliament concerning the WWII, persecution of Kirill Serebrennikov and actual prohibition of the film "The Death of Stalin" nowadays are the main issues in the Russian political agenda. The role of the official authorities in certain situations may be interpreted as the act of censorship. On the other hand, government tries to implement the function of arbiter in order to prevent the full-scale conflicts between highly symbolized political groups.