

F305 Russia Study Group - Week 3

First, let me reiterate my thanks to the three volunteers who gave outstanding presentations in class yesterday -- and to the two who will try to follow their lead next week.

Here are your reading assignments on next week's topic, *The Russian Economy*. As usual, you don't need to read them all, but I encourage you all to glance through the first reference.

CIA World Factbook, Russian Economy (<http://tinyurl.com/3anysy>)
Danger of Economic Collapse (Johnstown Foundation, PDF)
Medvedev's Investor Charm Offensive (Bloomberg, PDF)
IMF Warns Russia (Financial Times, PDF)
How to Steal a Russian Airport (NYTimes, PDF)
O.E.C.D. Anti-Bribery Pact and Russia (NYTimes, PDF)
More RU Billionaires (Moscow Times, PDF)

[Note: The PDF documents will be loaded on DocStore]

Discussion topics:

1. Capital flight vs. foreign investment – Role of the new sovereign investment fund RDIF (Gloria Loew)
2. Recent Western oil company experiences with Russian investments (Helen Anderson)
3. What does economic “modernization” mean and can it be accomplished without political reform?
4. How would WTO membership affect the RU economy?

Gordon