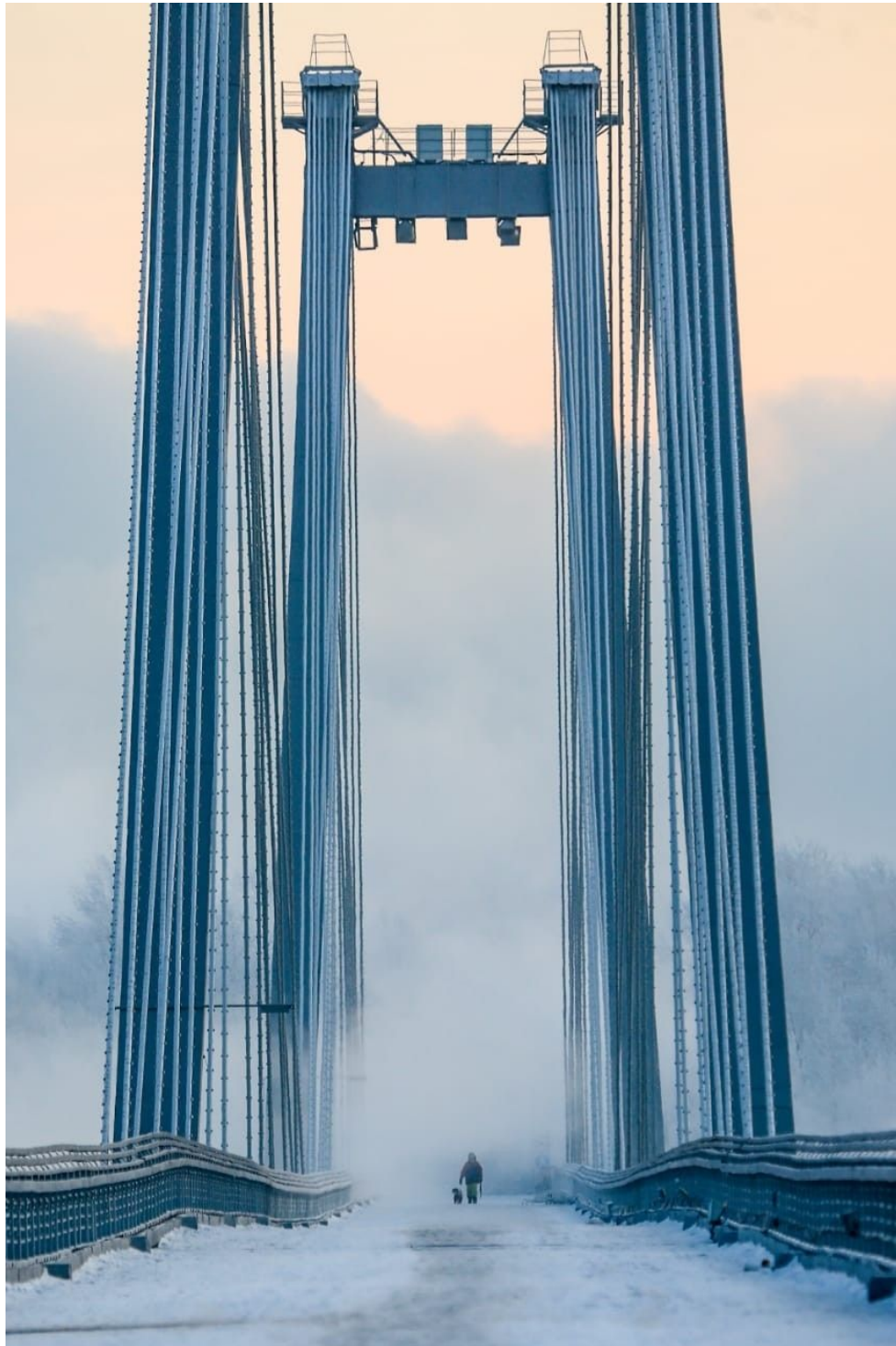


Frozen

by: Артём Аганов



Have you ever come home so frozen that you look more like Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer than a human being? It is when even your mother will not ask you what happened, as she is just as crimson as you are. Would you dare tell her that instead of taking a bus straight home from school you decided to hang out with your mates? Actually, there is no need to. She will see it all from your reddish face and the snow on the eyelashes. Nothing can prevent mad kids from enjoying winter. Who cares? It is either waiting for the summer to come, which will take no less than four months, or having fun here and now. After all, at home is always some hot tea.

Another question would be how to get satisfaction from it all, when you both leave and return home when only street lights try to light up the sidewalks. Try, but in vain. And what on Earth is this foggy smoke... or smoky fog? Not only are the stars hidden but also that cold humid burning smell does not seem to ever disappear from the air you inhale. Fine, I accept that old stoves are incredibly romantic in terms of countryside flashbacks for almost every single person in the town, but why should you keep a wood stove at home?



Calm down, man. It is not that frightening. There are so many beautiful things to see... through the window. Not necessarily one of your own apartment, but any window, coffee shop one, for instance. Perhaps, only I cannot stand the frost.

On the other hand, it is much easier to stay cool and not to burn with anger when the outside temperature is much below zero. Relaxed atmosphere, if any, is provided, so to say. As well as endless forests and rivers flowing whatever the season. So, drink your morning coffee, watch the weather forecast and think of giving our frozen world a visit. If you dare of course.

Russian Housing Shortage

By: Alexander Stallings

When you come to think of housing shortages, we often picture a lack of homes being built around cities and metropolitan areas. In Russia, rather than individual homes, the shortage refers to a lack of apartments and more accurately entire apartment buildings. Traditionally speaking, the traditional Russian family resides in apartment style dwellings opposed to the American archetype of the individual home.

Since the 1917 revolutions, the Russian populous has gone from being 80% rural to nearly 85% urban today. This massive and relatively quick influx of people to the cities called for government housing projects focusing on communal style apartments which featured communal kitchens facilities and bathrooms. ¹

But as this was a state sponsored project, development was slow and production never met the demands of the growing urban population. It would not be uncommon to have 24 people sharing a 7 room apartment in the soviet times.



Even today, some analysts call the housing issue in Russia a housing crisis. Even as more apartment are being built, the costs are growing at an unhealthy rate. With the shortage of apartments both old and new, the costs are increasing with demand as more and more apartments ¹become privatized following the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. This leaves young families in tricky situations as the availability of affordable apartments shrinks until more apartments are built in Russia's urban areas to quell their centuries old housing shortage.

¹ Gunn, Dairmid. "Russian Properties: A History of Russian Housing." *Healthcare | Expatica Russia*, Expatica, www.expatica.com/ru/housing/Russian-properties-A-history-of-Russian-housing_105578.html.

Krasnoyarsk: Siberia May not be What you Imagine

By: Arina Poddubnaya

You can probably imagine Siberia as the coldest place in Russia, thinking that bears just wander around the streets of Krasnoyarsk and that 12 months a year people wear fur clothes. But that's not true. Krasnoyarsk is one of the oldest and biggest towns of Siberia, it was founded in the year 1628 and at this time Siberia was the coldest and most horrific place in all of Russia.



Nowadays things have changed and the climate is warmer than before. Usually winter here not longer than 3-4 months a year and temperature doesn't go lower than -30C (-22F) (speaking the truth, in January 2018 a terrific cold caught citizens of Siberia off guard as temperatures in Krasnoyarsk were as low as -45C (-49F), and in distant forests it was almost -65C (-75F)). Our summer's last only 3 months, but we always have a very colorful and beautiful autumn. You can find a lot of attractions in Krasnoyarsk. For example the nature reserve called "Stolby" where you can stumbleupon wild bears (they go out to find tourists in search of food as well). Another popular place of our city is its centre, there you can find many entertainments and beautiful buildings. But the most important is embankment of the huge river Yenisei, where you can spend a lot of time just enjoying the nature while feeding the ducks. Actually, if you want to visit Krasnoyarsk, come in the deepest of winter: everything is white, bright, and fluffy.

International Sanctions Hurting Russian Economic Potential

By: Shuyang Meng

The Russian economy is growing despite international sanctions on the country. The potential growth that the Russian economy can experience is significantly higher than current economic projections for the nation. Economic growth in the 3rd quarter of 2018 is only 1.4%, despite President Putin's election pledge of targeted economic growth of above the global average of 3.7%¹.



Russia has collected revenue from its oil sales, and allocated enough capital into its reserves. In an effort to accrue enough funding for the federal budget, Russia is being forced to implement an increase in VAT paid by consumers. In spite of the 15% drop in value of the Russian ruble in the past year, the central bank is planning on raising borrowing rates for the first time since the introduction of western sanctions in 2014. This is an effort by Putin to show to the Russian nation and the world that the Russian economy is doing well amidst sanctions. However, top economists agree that the economy isn't performing to its full potential. If that were the case, the Russian economy would certainly grow at a faster rate as a response to the relatively high oil prices in 2018 compared to 2014.

¹ Andrianova, Anna. Bloomberg.com. November 12, 2018. Accessed November 26, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-13/putin-can-t-have-cake-and-eat-it-as-isolation-dents-growth-plan>.

Russia Introduces Retaliation Economic Sanctions on Ukraine

By: Shuyang Meng



Russia is planning on increasing the number of Ukrainian exports that it will ban from entering the country. This is a response to the 2014 Ukrainian Euromaidan protests which ousted pro-Russian president Yanukovich and replaced the Ukrainian government with pro-European factions. Russia has occupied Crimea and supported rebels in eastern Ukraine. Amidst the turmoil, Ukraine posed economic sanctions on Russia, banning certain Russian products from entering Ukrainian markets¹. Russia retaliated and the two nations have been in a state of economic warfare. Ukraine has since signed an association treaty with the European Union in an effort to diversify its export markets and forge closer relations with Poland and Lithuania. However, Russia is still Ukraine's biggest export market to date. Russia accounts for 11% or \$3.85 billion of Ukraine's exports, far larger than Germany and Poland at 5.5% and 5.4%, respectively².

¹ Shtukina, Yekaterina. "Russia May Ban Imports of Some Ukrainian Goods, Says PM." TASS. October 23, 2018. Accessed November 26, 2018. <http://tass.com/economy/1027388>.

² "Ukraine." OEC - Brazil (BRA) Exports, Imports, and Trade Partners. Accessed November 26, 2018. <https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/ukr/>.



Давным-давно, я пошла на свадьбу. Эта свадьба не была нормальной свадьбой. На свадьбе был король и королева с планеты «Класстан». У невесты не было глаз и была фиолетовая кожа. невеста была также королевой. У короля, который был женихом, была оранжевая кожа и пять глаз! На свадьбе было много гостей. Все инопланетяне были одеты в халаты. Начался дождь. потом сотня пришли из подполья и начали петь! У пришельцев была красочная кожа, и они начали танцевать! Гости были счастливы! был стол, на котором было много подарков. Но все подарки были завернуты в алюминий! Как странно! Я думаю, что я была единственным человеком. Король, который также был новым мужем, увидел меня и заволновался. Он думал, что я расскажу другим, что на земле есть инопланетяне. Меня никогда не приглашали на эту свадьбу ... После того как король увидел меня, я начала убегать! Я испугалась до смерти!!!

