

Too Heavy a Hand?

Top-Down Management

Yanukovich's Blitzkrieg

Bracing for Violent Times

An Ambitious Reform Program

The new president has so far been successful in waging a political blitzkrieg against his opponents. However, the cost of restoring Russian-style top-down control has been high: it has eroded democracy (mainly by neglecting legal procedures, the division of power and the role of the legislature, and by endangering the freedom of the media). That has further deepened societal divisions, and increased social tensions. Add to this the ceasing of tradition that limited violence in Ukrainian politics, and the closing off of safety valves – and the picture of potential revolt becomes menacingly clear.

The persistent trend of public debt accumulation raises several dire prospects>>>