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Economic Crisis through the Lens of Political Discourse

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The speech presents a study of metaphors describing the economic crisis of 2008-2009 as seen through the lens of the discourse of Russia's major political party ("United Russia"), www.er.ru. The content analysis of metaphorical context allows for the discovery of the main strategies of describing the crisis adopted by the Russian establishment: they range from denial (Putin's idea of *Russia as a safety island*) to looking for silver linings (metaphors of *curing* and *a good chance to clean the economic system*).

In the course of analysis of the pro-government political discourse, special attention is paid to (1) numerous "calming" or "soothing" metaphors that help model false economic reality and (2) reconstruction of the semantic evolution of "crisis" as an economic term.

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