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**INTERACTION OF RUSSIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC  
MOVEMENT: CURRENT PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS**

Abstract to the dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Political Sciences

Specialty 5.5.4. International relations, global and regional studies

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Poroshin D.A. on the topic: “ Interaction between Russia and the International Olympic Movement: Current Problems and Prospects ” submitted for the degree of Candidate of Sciences in specialty 5.5.4 “International Relations”.

In recent years, relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee have reached a crisis point, characterized by the use of the International Olympic Movement's resources to exert political pressure on the Russian Federation. With the consistent strengthening of its geopolitical position in the world, the Russian Federation is facing resistance to its foreign policy activities, which is also reflected in the sphere of sports. Despite Russia's willingness to compromise, the International Olympic Committee is increasingly becoming a tool of influential globalizing actors, preventing the restoration of an equitable sports and political dialogue from being recognized. A way out of this situation for the Russian Federation could be a reformatting of the Olympic Movement in a multipolar world, supported by its allies and coordinated with international organizations.

**Relevance of the topic .** The participation of the Russian Federation in the International Olympic Movement is currently complicated by a number of international political circumstances requiring a comprehensive scientific and theoretical analysis. Over the past decade, Russia's sports community, including the public associations and organizations representing it, has been significantly limited in its opportunities to participate in the development of global Olympism. Russian athletes and coaches, national teams, and sports federations are subject to unlawful discriminatory measures by supranational Olympic organizations and the international sports bureaucracy. Events in recent years demonstrate the biased nature and increasing scale of the discriminatory policies pursued by the leadership of the International Olympic Movement against Russian sports diplomacy. While the IOC's restrictive measures against Russian Olympians in 2014–2015 were justified by the need to adhere to the principles of sports ethics, by the mid-2020s they had become directly linked to the Russian Federation's foreign policy in the

post-Soviet space. It's becoming increasingly clear that the Olympic sports sector is becoming a site of international political confrontation. As a result, restoring Russia's status as a global sporting power requires not only the development of effective management and diplomatic approaches, but also the activation of the scientific community to understand the causes of the crisis in relations between Russian sports organizations and the IOC, as well as to formulate strategic priorities for overcoming the ongoing conflict.

The relevance of the topic of interaction between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement is determined by a number of factors.

First, there is an objective need to fill gaps in scholarly understanding of the specific development of the modern International Olympic Movement, taking into account current geopolitical and humanitarian trends. The growing political influence on the development of global sport and the identification of the relationship between this process and the consequences of the era of globalization necessitate expanding theoretical understanding of the evolution and place of the Olympic Movement in the modern system of international relations. Furthermore, it is important to explore the relationship between the activities of the International Olympic Movement and the ideological and political expressions of the will and interests of the political elites of leading global and regional powers.

In this context, the task arises of analyzing the evolution of the International Olympic Movement through the lens of the transformation of the IOC's role in the post-war and post-bipolar periods. Current events involving the Olympic Movement's governing structures require the application of analogy and comparison with historical precedents of the exploitation of Olympism's resources and achievements for ideological and geopolitical purposes.

Secondly, there is an urgent need to intensify the Russian Federation's efforts to protect the interests of individuals, society, and the state in global sport. This, in turn, necessitates the development of a set of coordinated solutions aimed at countering the discriminatory policies of the supranational sports bureaucracy. Currently, there is no consolidated position on the Russian side regarding the role

and place of Russian Olympism in the context of the transforming global sports architecture. There is a growing pluralism of approaches and opinions on how to overcome the crisis in relations with the IOC while simultaneously striving to preserve the national and state interests of the Russian Federation. Insufficient attention to the development of Russian sports diplomacy is one factor in the low effectiveness of foreign policy efforts to lift restrictions imposed on Russian athletes and sports associations. Restoring Russia's position in international sport requires a conceptual justification and consistent implementation of strategic decisions.

This explains the problematic aspects of the interaction between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement during the period 2014–2024. In the context of these processes, it is necessary to establish the cause-and-effect relationships that led to the IOC's consistent discrimination against Russian athletes and sports federations, as well as to identify the nature and focus of the supranational sports bureaucracy's strategy with regard to the Russian Olympic development system. Resolving these issues will allow us to develop a regulatory and conceptual framework to counteract unlawful restrictive decisions made within the framework of communication between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement.

Thirdly, research into the interaction between Russia and the International Olympic Movement is particularly relevant in the context of upholding the fundamental principles of global sport. The need to counter the erosion of Olympic ideals and ensure equal representation of all countries in international sporting institutions is facing resistance from the Western-centric governance model entrenched within Olympic structures. These emerging challenges affect not only the political leadership of the Russian Federation and representatives of the sports community, but also all supporters of classical Olympism in a globalizing world.

Overcoming the negative consequences of the sanctions policy of international sports organizations against Russian athletes highlights the need to rethink and strategically develop the Russian Federation's sports diplomacy.

**The object of** the study is international interaction in the sphere of relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement.

**The subject of** the study is the problems and prospects of interaction between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement during the formation and development of a multipolar system of international relations.

The aim of the study is to identify opportunities for improving interaction between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement in the context of the transformation of international relations in the 21st century .

**objectives :**

1. To conduct a theoretical analysis of the genesis of the Olympic movement in the context of the development of this area of international relations on the eve of the onset of the post-bipolar period.

2. To examine the evolution of the political role and ideology of the International Olympic Movement in the post-bipolar world.

3. To determine the significance of international sports relations in the context of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation in the context of a multipolar system of international relations.

4. To identify the problems of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee in modern conditions.

5. Develop proposals to overcome the crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement

6. To formulate priorities for the participation of the Russian Federation in the development of world Olympism in the 21st century.

**The normative sources** of the dissertation can be classified into three key groups:

a) international legal treaties and agreements in the field of world sport; b) regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation (current and no longer in force), as well as regulatory documents of sports committees and federations; c) minutes of plenary sessions and joint statements of the governing bodies of state power of the Russian Federation on issues of sports policy and sports diplomacy.

**The scientific novelty** of the dissertation research is determined by filling the gaps in scientific knowledge regarding the process of interaction between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement, which finds concrete expression:

- a theoretical analysis of the development of the International Olympic Movement in relation to the specific context of the global political process at important stages of international relations in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, which allowed for the formation of ideas about the transformation of the humanistic Olympic project, the prerequisites for the politicization of world sport, and the dependence of the IOM's activities on the ideological and political factors of global and regional politics. Based on this, a periodization of the politicization of the institutions of world Olympism is presented, highlighting the "Coubertinian," post-war, and post-bipolar/multipolar stages of this process;

- in examining the current stage of the evolution of the political role and ideology of the International Olympic Movement and its characteristic transformations, caused by the influence of the era of globalization and post-bipolarity, identifying the reasons for the transformation of the field of Olympic competitions into one of the sectors of international political struggle, explaining the contradiction between the increase in the International authority and influence of the IOM and the inability of its institutions to manifest themselves as independent international actors, which allows the leading actors of globalization to use the achievements and resources of Olympism for the purposes of ideological and geopolitical confrontation.

- in determining the significance of international sports relations of the Russian Federation in ensuring the national and state interests of the country in the context of a multipolar system of international relations, which is associated with the conceptual support for the adoption of strategic decisions to restore the position of Russian sports diplomacy and the adjustment of the idea of the effectiveness of existing channels of interaction in the field of world sports and the clarification of



the role in this process of the organizational structures of the International Olympic Movement.

- identifying problematic aspects of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee, establishing the conditions for the escalation of Russia-IOC relations during the international crisis of 2014-2024, determining the cause-and-effect relationships of the IOC's transition to consistent discrimination against the Russian side, and the nature and direction of the strategy with respect to the domestic system of Olympic development. Based on an analysis of documents related to decisions of officials within the framework of international sports policy, the work for the first time identified the problems of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee from the standpoint of political science.

- in expanding the research field of political science on the issue of developing proposals to overcome the crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement, which has not previously been presented in scientific works, in the development of regulatory documents for 2022-2024, which will substantiate the political-diplomatic, judicial-legal, informational-educational, economic directions of the strategy of Russian sports diplomacy to solve the problem of the gradual reintegration of Russian sports organizations (federations) into the world Olympic system, arguing for the development of a conceptual document (Strategy), to restore the rights and opportunities for participation of Russian athletes and federations in world sports

- in formulating priorities for the participation of the Olympic institutions of the Russian Federation in the development of world Olympism in the 21st century, which are associated with attracting partnerships with federations of friendly states to reform the management system of the Olympic movement, cooperation with UN institutions, reorganization of the structure of anti-doping legislation and administration, and the establishment of alternative international and regional associations of world sports.

**The theoretical significance** of this study lies in its systematization of existing political science approaches to defining the political component in the formation and development of the International Olympic Movement. The author's findings expand the research field through the prism of the interplay of humanitarian, ideological, and power-political aspects of international relations. The dissertation's conclusions and recommendations contribute to understanding the evolution of the political role and ideology of International Olympic sport as a factor in global politics in the context of a post-bipolar and multipolar world. Specifically, the author formulates proposals for periodizing the history of Olympism in the context of global political developments and argues for an original understanding of the problem of the politicization of high-performance sport.

**The practical significance** of this dissertation lies in its exploration of specific issues of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement, proposing solutions for government agencies, Russian sports diplomacy entities, and public associations in their interactions with supranational institutions of global sport in key areas. The research materials can be applied to higher education programs in international politics, particularly in the areas of soft power and sports diplomacy.

**Research hypothesis** : Over recent years, relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee have become critical, characterized by the use of the International Olympic Movement's resources for political pressure on the Russian Federation. With the consistent strengthening of its geopolitical position in the world, the Russian Federation is facing resistance to its foreign policy activities, which is also reflected in the sphere of sports. Despite Russia's willingness to compromise, the International Olympic Committee is increasingly becoming a tool of influential globalizing actors, preventing the restoration of an equitable sports and political dialogue from being recognized. A way out of this situation for the Russian Federation could be a reformatting of the Olympic Movement in a multipolar world, supported by its allies and coordinated with international organizations.



**The structure** of the study includes an introduction, three chapters, six paragraphs, a conclusion and a bibliography.

**Key words:** International relations, International Olympic Committee, International Olympic movement, post-bipolar world, sanctions, globalization, Olympic Games, Russian Olympic Committee.

The **Introduction** substantiates the relevance of the study, formulates the object, subject, purpose and scientific objectives, defines the theoretical, normative and empirical sources of the dissertation, its theoretical and practical significance.

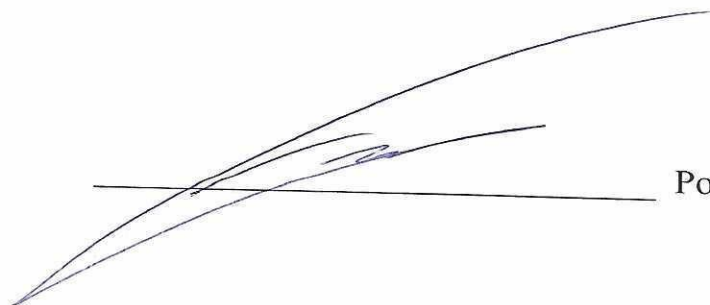
**In the chapter I "The International Olympic Movement in Political Thought "** A theoretical understanding of the genesis of the Olympic movement in international relations is carried out , and the evolution of its political role and ideology in the context of a multipolar world is studied.

**In Chapter I I " The Current State of Relations between Russia and the International Olympic Movement"** The article characterizes international sports relations in the context of the foreign policy of modern Russia and identifies problems of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Committee .

**In Chapter I II "Prospects for the participation of the Russian Federation in the international Olympic movement at the present stage "** substantiates the author's assessment of the possibility of overcoming the crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and the International Olympic Movement , and defines the priorities for the participation of the Russian Federation in the development of world Olympism in the 21st century

**conclusion** notes that overcoming the systemic challenges facing global Olympism requires reforming the existing order of global sports governance, which can be substantiated by expanding the research tools of international relations theory. Proposals and recommendations for improving cooperation are being developed. This strategy should be aimed at overcoming the current crisis in relations with the International Olympic Movement and restoring Russia's position as a full participant in the global sports process.

At the same time, engaging the resources of intergovernmental organizations and international legal institutions in addressing this challenge is particularly important. The success of modern Russia's foreign policy strategy in the humanitarian sector of international relations largely depends on its ability to establish partnerships with constructive forces within the International Olympic Movement. Thus, the Russian Federation's interaction with the International Olympic Movement should be viewed as part of a broader process of transforming global humanitarian institutions in the context of a changing world order. The emerging conflictual nature of these relations is due not only to foreign policy contradictions but also to the systemic problem of political bias, institutional inconsistency, and a lack of universal mechanisms for equal participation. Under these conditions, Russian sports diplomacy must not only adapt to new realities but also propose alternative models of global sports interaction focused on the principles of equality, legal certainty, and non-discrimination. Russia's strategy for participation in global Olympics requires not only the restoration of its lost position but also active engagement in the formation of a new architecture for international sports cooperation.



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