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**ETHNO-SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES
IN THE VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT:
CURRENT SITUATION AND DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT**

Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Political Sciences by
specialty 23.00.05 (Political regionalism). Ethnopolitics

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Relevance of the research topic. Globalization, explosive migration, and the development of powerful mass media contribute to the growth of the diversity of the ethno-confessional population composition in many countries, including Russia, which, of course, has led to the actualization of the issue of ethnic integration and state security. In this regard, the study of modern integration processes, the experience of international and interfaith harmony and cooperation on the scale of the country and its multi-ethnic regions has become a popular task, both scientific and political.

The solution to this problem is in the guidelines of the "Strategy of the state national policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025". The key guideline is the integration and strengthening of the unity of the Russian nation at the all-Russian, regional and local levels.

Historical practice shows that the authorities' disregard of public sentiments leads to an escalation of social tension, radicalization of ethno-confessional relations, and provokes separatism. A number of unsolved social problems: the polarization and marginalization of society, the breakdown of social relations only exacerbates the situation. In such circumstances, the right choice of social and national policies aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for citizens, regardless their ethnic or religious affiliation can prevent the development of intolerant moods and act as a guarantor of political stability. This can be done if the experience (both positive and negative) of previous generations is taken into account, especially at the local level. In this context, the regions that are characterized by a high level of sociodynamics and multi-ethnicity of the population are of the greatest interest.

Russia is a multi-ethnic state that includes 85 regions that differ from each other in many parameters and characteristics. There are large substantive differences in ethno-social processes in each region. At the same time, there is a common thing. This common thing is integration, cohesion, solidarity, the achievement of which is one of the most important conditions for the harmonious coexistence of numerous ethnic groups. That is why in modern Russia these processes became more important and are in the center of attention of both the scientific and political community.

In such conditions, questions on the identification of the main factors that determine the features of the transformation of ethnic communities, namely, their formation, functioning and effective development on the territory of the Russian Federation, become relevant.

The degree of the problem development. Due to the fact that the problem under study is of an interdisciplinary nature, it should be noted that the phenomenon of self-consciousness and its structure do not have an unambiguous interpretation. The analysis of special scientific literature allowed us to conclude that when considering the concept of "ethno-social integration processes", there are still many unresolved issues.

The attempt to define the concept of "ethno-social processes" makes it difficult to combine it with the essence of such concepts as "interethnic relations" and "ethnic identity". The dissertation examines one of the many levels of ethnic identity that determines its social nature.

The focus is primarily on the characteristic features of the social environment that forms ethnic identity. These include: status relations of ethnic groups in contact, real socio-political conditions, the number of ethnic groups, the orientation of an ethnic group to a certain type of social development (modern – traditional; individualist – collectivist), as well as ethno-contact conditions (mono-ethnic or multi-ethnic environment).

Problems of state regulation efficiency in the conditions of globalization of ethno-social processes are reflected in the works of R. G. Abdulatipova, A. R. Aklaeva, E. M. Arutyunova, V. S. Buyanova, A. N. Z. Dibirova, L. M. Drobizheva, V. Yu. Zorina, V. V. Koroteeva, V. A. Mikhailova, V. V. Stepanova.

The works of V. A. Tishkova, A. N. Chumakova and other scientists are devoted to the same problems.

V. Yu. Zorin believes that despite the "centuries-old traditions of positive regulation of international relations accumulated by our state, additional analysis of modern practices and mechanisms for implementing state national policy, formation of new accents and guidelines is currently required...".

The study of international relations by L. M. Drobizheva is based on sociological methods. She developed a theory of structural features of ethnic and

state-civil identities and ways of their formation. The author deals with both cross-cultural interaction and the development of ways to prevent and resolve inter-ethnic conflicts. L. M. Drobizheva's works consistently assert ideas of a civil (political) nation.

The study of national politics aspects and the theory of the nation occupies an important place in the works of the Russian ethnologist and historian V. A. Tishkov, who raised a number of topical issues related to the concept of ethnicity and its connection with politics, nation, people, state, democracy, and power.

A. V. Shevchenko in his works considers methodological approaches to defining inter-level integration processes of national security, studying the mechanism of socio-psychological integration of the community, giving their conservative ways of integration the ability to protect the community from destruction, preserving the stability and spiritual integrity of its mindset.

A. N. Mikhailenko analyzes the influence of integration processes on the security factor in the modern world development, including the demographic and political-economic crisis in the European Union.

The theory of integration processes of political, social, economic, legal and cultural spheres of society at the all-Russian and regional levels is studied in the works of O. A. Alekseenko, E. M. Arutyunova, Yu.V. Arutyunyan, U. Bek, L. F. Boltenkova, N. F. Bugay, V. V. Gaiduk, M. N. Guboglo, A. F. Dashdamirov.

We would also like to mention the works of L. M. Drobizheva, E. Zagrava, K. V. Kalinina, N. P. Medvedeva, V. I. Mukomel, E. A. Pain, S. A. Pistryakova, Yu. V. Popkov, V. A. Tishkov, and others.

The problems of this topic were also analyzed by Yu. Bromley, V. Mau, N. Omuraliev, A. Panarin, P. Ratlend, and others.

Vladimir Mau, as Chairman of The Expert Council under the Government Commission on economic development and integration, in his works notes the manifestation in recent years of such negative trends as etatism and populism, the impact of globalization and, as a result, the emergence of various economic factors that affect social and political polarization in society.

Integration processes, capturing new areas of social activity during of globalization, are increasingly becoming the subject of close attention of scientists both domestic and foreign (U. Beck, E. Durkheim, D. Lockwood, T. Parsons, Y. Habermas, etc.). D. Lockwood divided integration into social integration, where the principles are formed on the basis of social relationships, and system integration, where the nature of relationships between individual parts of the entire social system is considered. Social relations in the context of systemic integration are often contradictory, and a conflict form of integration characterizes a society with class differences.

U. Beck thinks it is unlikely to achieve integration in societies based on individualization. T. Parsons notes that ethnic groups in the nation-state should not be dissolved in the national community. In his opinion, ethnic pluralism is a serious challenge for modern democracies, and it is the strengthening of the common civil basis of a modern nation that is the way to overcome ethnic conflicts and the predominance of ethnic loyalty. Yu. Habermas writes that the state can demand political loyalty from its citizens, but not cultural assimilation.

A great contribution to the study of ethnosocial processes in the regions of the Volga Federal district was made by domestic scientists V. S. Vorontsov, A. M. Pykov, M. N. Guboglo, S. K. Smirnova, V. A. Tishkov, O. N. Chirkova, V. A. Shehmameteva.

However, the problems and experience of ethnic and social integration in a large and dynamically developing multinational federal district have not yet been sufficiently studied, which led to the choice of the topic of this dissertation.

The main purpose of the study is to analyze the dynamics of ethno–social integration processes development in the Volga Federal District.

In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks **were solved**:

1) to reveal the concept of "ethno-social integration" and how it is connected with the concepts of "ethnos", "nation", "ethnicity";

2) to make a selection and to analyze scientific and analytical works in the field of ethno-social integration processes practices in Russia and abroad;

3) to conduct a comparative analysis of aspects of ethno-social integration processes in the regions of the Russian Federation based on the development of methodological tools that are most suitable for implementing the main goal of the study and identifying the features that exist in cross-cultural contacts;

4) to identify the most important determinants that influence the formation of ethno-social integration processes in the Volga Federal District;

5) to reveal the specifics of adaptation of forced migrants in the Volga Federal District; to form scientifically based recommendations for improving this process;

6) to study interactions and contradictions in interethnic relations in the Volga Federal District.

The object of the study is ethno–social integration as a phenomenon (product) of ethnic self-consciousness caused by the interaction of different ethnic groups and national minorities.

The subject of the study is the dynamics of integration processes development in the Volga Federal District, best practices in achieving international harmony.

The empirical base of the study is statistical data of Russian Federal State Statistics Service, Federal Migration Service of Russia, Migration Service of the Volga Federal District; regulatory legal acts of international, federal and regional levels; data from all-Russian census survey, 2010.

The chronological framework of the study is determined in accordance with the need of an insight into the history of legislative initiatives in the field of control over the integration processes in the Volga Federal District. Applied analysis primarily focuses on data from the implementation of programs and projects in the 1990s and 2019.

The main hypotheses of the study:

1. Ethno-national consciousness as an integral formation can be defined by a wide range of socio-psychological phenomena that characterize the ethno-social interaction of ethnic groups.

2. Ethnosocial territorial systems of the local level (the living space of interaction between ethnic groups (national minorities)), which are determined by the phenomena of ethnic self-consciousness of a particular people, form the living space of the entire state, which, in turn, is determined by the national (ethno-national) consciousness of society as a whole.

3. The levels of tolerance and ethnic identity can be determined using territorial-administrative, spatial, age, and socio-professional factors, which as a result substantiates the uniqueness of the ethno-national identity of a particular society.

4. In the Volga Federal district, as in other "problematic" regions of the Russian Federation, as a result of the effective policy of the center since the early 2000s, the factors that formed a negative environment in the sphere of interethnic relations have sharply decreased. At the same time, there are still challenges in the district (migrant phobia, Caucasian phobia, language problems) that dictate the development of new forms and an effective system in the field of ethno-political relations.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research is based on general scientific fundamental principles in the field of national policy and interethnic relations.

Studying the ethno-social integration processes of the Volga Federal District population, we used both scientific and theoretical concepts and socio-psychological practices, as well as specific data from sociological surveys.

Based on a large amount of factual material, we have studied the features of ethno-social processes, interethnic and intercultural interaction between representatives of different nationalities living in the Volga Federal District, the largest multi-ethnic region of the state.

A theoretical and methodological approach to the study of the characteristic features of ethno-social and intercultural interaction of the Russian state' ethnic groups was developed. It defines ethnic identity as a complex integral structure with interrelated elements.

The novelty and theoretical relevance of the study are as follows:

1) The study of ethno-social processes in geographically and demographically related regions was expanded (using the example of the Volga Federal District, the North Caucasus Federal District, the Central Federal District, and Kazakhstan). This made it possible to compare and analyze the similarities and differences of ethno-social policy in these regions and foreign countries, its historical and modern aspects, their interrelation, features of its implementation depending on the subject of the Russian Federation, its positive potential, to reveal existing shortcomings, suggest new approaches and forms to reduce interethnic tension, and form conditions for further development of integration processes.

2) The definition of "ethno-social integration" as a "social integration with ethnic tones" is suggested. This definition can also be attributed to such composite concepts as "ethnopolitology", "ethnoconflictology", "ethnopsychology", "ethnoculturology", "ethnology", "ethnolinguistics", "ethnography";

3) The concept of "state regulation of ethno-social processes" as the government bodies activity, officials and civil society institutions aimed at decent work and minimizing property stratification in society and between regions is suggested;

4) the peculiarity of transformation of the ethno-social process components ("ethnicity", "interethnic relations") in relation to other categories is determined. According to the author, the positive aspects of the ethno-social process should create conditions for ethno-social integration, which can be defined as a process of combining ethnic communities into an integral system with the preservation of the ethnic and cultural identity of its groups for the harmonization and settlement of inter-ethnic relations. In our opinion, this term, without denying the significance of the existing categories, more fully and clearly defines the nature of this process.

5) The phenomenon of ethno-social processes in the conditions of living in a foreign cultural environment is analyzed. Based on the analysis of historical, climatic, demographic, religious and migration factors, the diversity and effectiveness of currently implemented forms of ethno-social policy are considered, their positive aspects and disadvantages are identified, the reaction of the population

to them, the degree of their satisfaction and the impact of these forms on the improvement of political, socio-economic and cultural life. These factors make it possible to keep abreast of the ongoing processes, correct existing shortcomings in a time, relying on expert opinions, cooperation between the authorities and civil society, and to create prerequisites for further development of ethno-social integration processes in the country's regions.

The practical relevance of the study is in the scientific solution of problems that are interrelated with domestic ethno-social integration processes in the context of globalization. Today, the need for a clear understanding of ethno-social processes is due to the state of international relations at the state, regional, and local levels and the influence of external factors, which is closely related to the existing problems of relations between the state, civil society, and the ethnic group.

Timely prevention of increasing inter-ethnic tension, which is provoked by globalization processes, is possible only if there are conditions for the harmonious development of these components. The statements set forth in this work can be used in the practical work of state authorities and local self-government when creating a new doctrine of the Strategy of state national policy, in the work on improving legislation regulating the interaction of the state and ethnic communities, aimed at consolidation of the Russian nation in the context of globalization.

Statements for defense:

1. Analysis of the dynamics of ethno-social integration processes in the Volga Federal district is characterized by the positive indicators, which is confirmed by studies on the methodology of well-known sociologists L. M. Drobizheva, V. I. Mukomel, E. M. Arutyunova, conducted during the implementation of the project of the Distribution Scientific Center for interethnic problems of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (head – academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences V. A. Tishkov).

2. Theoretically, the author reveals the essence of the concept of "ethno-social integration" and how it is interfaced with the concepts of "ethnos", "ethnicity" and "nation" (as a co-citizenship). According to the author, the breakdown of this balance

leads to interethnic and political conflicts. This conclusion is also based on the practice of ethno-social integration processes in a number of foreign countries.

3. Based on a comparative analysis of ethno-social integration processes in the regions of Russia and the identified features in cross-cultural contacts of the Volga Federal district, which determine the specifics of migrants adaptation, the author suggests strengthening the purposeful creation of an information environment based on basic ethno-cultural components containing common historical roots and other factors that bring people together.

4. The main task of ethno-social integration processes in the Volga Federal district is to ensure that the relationship between the living space of the local level and the living space of the entire state is not interrupted. It is achieved by a verified policy in interethnic relations and fostering a sense of solidarity among the Russian people.

Approbation of the dissertation research results. The author made a report on the dissertation topic "Combating extremism in the Volga Federal District" during the all-Russian scientific and practical table "Theory, legislation and practice of countering the ideology of extremism among young people" (20.11.2017) at the Samara State University of Economics.

The results of the dissertation research are tested: in 2018 when developing the work program on the subject "National and federative relations", the discipline "Sociocultural aspects of migration processes in the Russian Federation" at the National and Federative Relations Department of the Institute of Public Administration and Civil Service of RANEPА. In 2017 when developing and implementating the work programs for bachelor's degree programs and master's degree programs in the discipline "Political science" at the International Law and Political Science Department of the Law Institute of Samara State University of Economics.

Furthermore, the results of the dissertation were presented at international conferences (Sochi, 2016; Moscow, 2018; Samara, 2018, Moscow, 2019, Samara, 2019), including a report "Ethnosocial integration as a factor of political stability" at

the International conference session "Public administration and development of Russia: national goals and institutions" (22.05.2019) at the Institute of Public Administration and Civil Service of RANEPA.

The dissertation was discussed and recommended for defense at the National and Federative Relations Department of the Institute of Public Administration and Civil Service of RANEPA.

On the topic of the dissertation, the author published six articles in peer-reviewed journals of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Russian Federation list, one of which is in English and in a foreign scientific publication. The total volume of the author's scientific publications is 15.4 printed sheets.

The structure of the dissertation consists of the purpose, objectives, concept and logic of the study. The study consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, and a list of references.



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