

Modernization of Control and Measurement Materials (CMM) for the Modules “History of Russia” and “Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation” for the Comprehensive Test for Foreign Nationals Wishing to Obtain a Residence Permit (In the Light of the Reform of the Migration Legislation of Russia)

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Abstract

In view of the reform of the immigration legislation of the Russian Federation, the article analyzes the process of modernization of control and measurement materials (CMM) in the modules “History of Russia” and “Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation” for the comprehensive test for foreign nationals wishing to obtain a residence permit. It is noted that preparation for the testing of this category of foreign nationals requires a more in-depth study of subjects compared to migrants applying for a work permit or a patent. Particular attention is paid to the methodology of development of such tests, the results of which will enable foreign citizens not only to check their knowledge, but also to master the syllabus better.

Keywords: *comprehensive test, control and measurement materials, residence permit; module, History of Russia; Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation; foreign nationals; adaptation; integration; ethno-cultural isolation; test task; requirements; testing*

1. Introduction

Migration processes play an important role in socio-economic and demographic development of modern Russia. In this context, the problem of adaptation of migrants has become one of the key issues of the modern Russian society. With reference to Russia as a multinational and multi-confessional state, the basis for social and cultural adaptation and integration of the foreign citizens living on its territory is the compliance with the legal regulations and rules of conduct adopted in the Russian society and respect for the state language of the country and the culture of its peoples. This was the reason of the introduction of a comprehensive test in the Russian language, Russian history, and the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation for foreign citizens arriving in Russia to work and to obtain a temporary or

permanent residence permit.

Control and measurement materials (CMM) for the modules "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" and "History of Russia" for foreign citizens wishing to obtain a residence permit were developed in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, and other normative legal acts of the Russian Federation in conjunction with the Strategy of the State National Policy of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2025, approved by Presidential Decree of 19.12.2012 #1666 (Presidential Decree of 19.12.2012 #1666 "Strategiia gosudarstvennoi natsional'noi politiki Rossiiskoi Federatsii na period do 2025 goda" [Strategy of the State National Policy of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2025]), the Concept of the State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2025 (Kontsepsiia gosudarstvennoi migratsionnoi politiki Rossiiskoi Federatsii na period do 2025 goda [The Concept of the State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2025]), the Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2025 (Kontsepsiia demograficheskoi politiki Rossiiskoi Federatsii na period do 2025 goda [The Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2025]), the Concept of Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation until 2020, the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2020 (Strategia natsional'noi bezopasnosti Rossiiskoi Federatsii do 2020 goda [National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2020]), and other strategic planning documents, as well as with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and Russia's obligations under international treaties in the field of migration.

The preamble to Federal Law #109-FZ (18 July 2006), "On Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Russian Federation" says that migration registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation is a form of state control over migration and aims to provide and execute the guarantees stated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation with regard to the right of everyone lawfully staying in the Russian Federation for freedom of movement, choice of place of residence within the Russian Federation, and other individual rights and freedoms, as well as the implementation of the national interests of the Russian Federation in the field of migration (Federal Law of 18.07.2006 #109-FZ "O migratsionnom uchete inostrannykh grazhdan i lits bez grazhdanstva v Rossiiskoi Federatsii [On Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Russian Federation]).

The purpose of this article is to analyze in the light of changes in the migration legislation of the Russian Federation the process of modernization of the control and measurement materials (CMM) in the modules "History of Russia" and "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" for the comprehensive test for foreign students wishing to obtain a residence permit, which require seeking legal means of adaptation of foreign citizens to the new socio-cultural environment. The need for a solution of this problem is caused by the new requirements to the procedure of preparation for the comprehensive test and the test tasks themselves for foreigners wishing to obtain a Russian residence permit.

The knowledge of the Russian language and the basics concepts of national culture and law, the knowledge of the past of the host country is becoming a prerequisite for the life and work of the applicants for a Russian residence permit, and not only creates conditions for overcoming their ethnic and cultural isolation, but also forms a tolerant attitude to Russian realities and local population.

The acquired knowledge is intended to facilitate not only the process of adaptation, but of true integration of foreign nationals who wish to live in Russia. That is why the State Duma adopted Federal Law #74-FZ dated 20.04.2014 "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation,"" which obliged foreign nationals (except for highly qualified professionals) to pass a test for the knowledge of the Russian language, Russian history, and basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation (Federal Law of 20.04.2014 #74-FZ "O vnesenii izmenenii v Federal'nyi zakon "O pravovom polozhenii inostrannykh grazhdan v Rossiiskoi Federatsii" [On Amending the Federal Law 'On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation']]).

The preparation of this law was preceded by the development of requirements (standards) for the level of proficiency in the Russian language, the knowledge of Russian history and the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation, the strategies of educational policy in respect of foreign citizens arriving in the Russian Federation as a factor of their socio-cultural adaptation and integration. In this view, efforts were made to solve the problem of determining the methods and approaches used in developing the content comprehensive test introduced since January 1, 2015, defining the criteria of the test assessment, identifying the expert assessments, which have formed in the society in relation to the test, and the parameters of the approbation of the test tasks in the local testing centers in Russia and abroad.

2. Methods and Materials

To study the problem, we used scientific and special principles and methods, including the dialectical method, which requires the study of all things and phenomena with account of their constant change and development, and a systematic method that is used in the light of reform of the immigration legislation of Russia at the modernization of control and measurement materials (CMM) in the modules "History of Russia" and "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" for foreign nationals who want to obtain a residence permit.

In this work, we used theoretical approaches and scientific advances that have developed in the modern test science that is part of psychology. As far back as in the 19th century, British scientists (Galton and McKeen) proved that the properties of the human personality and, of course, the knowledge that the person has could be measured and converted into a numerical form. Currently, the whole range of problems associated with this kind of measurement is defined as qualimetry (measurement of quality—*English*: quality) of the human and education. In this case, the range of interests of test scientists includes pedagogy and everything related to the measurement of the pedagogical knowledge obtained in the process of learning. In this case, the object of pedagogical measurements is Russian as a foreign language, the history of Russia, and the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation. The tool for such measurements are tests. In this view, we used methods such as a laboratory and natural experiment; psychological modeling, observation in test situations, and others. The comparative method was used when making comparisons of the control and measurement materials for different categories of foreign nationals.

In one way or another, the issues of phonetic interference at teaching Russian to foreigners and of overcoming it with the help of test methods were approached in the studies of Kisliitsyna, Pashkov, Fedotova, and others. The problem of testing itself has had a wide coverage in the Russian pedagogical literature (Avanesov, 2005; Andriushina, 2005; Balykhina, 2007; Koreitseva, 2013; Bezborodova, 2013). The fact is that Russia has more than 20 years of experience in testing of Russian as a Foreign Language (TORFL). Test materials in the Russian language for foreign nationals in the system of state testing are diagnostic and in compliance with the objectives of linguodidactic control should give an idea of the level, at which the tested person, for whom the Russian language is not native, speaks Russian. These materials address an unlimited contingent of people, including migrant workers who choose Russia as the place of work and residence. The existing standards, scientific and methodical descriptions, and developed approaches differentiate the universal characteristics of the test as a product of linguodidactics.

The issues of developing a technique of training and testing foreign citizens in Russian history and the basic concepts of the Russian legislation were studied by Russian scientists, such as Dolzhikova, Kozmenko, Moseikin, Arslanov, Bukalerovala, Kiselev, and others (Dolzhikova, Kozmenko, Moseikina, Kiseleva, and Kazhaeva, 2014; Kozmenko, 2014; Dolzhikova, 2015; Moseikina, 2015). In recent years, the exam test tasks have been developed and standard tests have been published for foreign citizens who pass a comprehensive test in Russian as a foreign language, the history of Russia, and the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation (Klobukova, Kozmenko, Dolzhikova, Arslanov, and Moseikin, 2015; Klobukova, Kozmenko, Dolzhikova, Arslanov, and Moseikin, 2015). However, their publication does not compensate the absence of developed and time-tested techniques of tests application in the course of training and examinations for foreign citizens. For example, while in a regular school, tests are used primarily for monitoring and evaluating the knowledge, the paramount importance for the audience consisting of foreigners is their teaching function, which, in any case, should come to the fore in relation to the thematic tests.

3. Research

The module "History of Russia." In the Russian Federation, targeted tests were developed in the aspect of linguodidactic testing for different groups of tested persons: a test for citizenship, a test for migrants, and a test for free determination of the command of the Russian language (TORFL). The content and form of the test is determined by the State Standard of Russian as a Foreign Language, developed in Russia and meeting all the parameters recognized in the international language testing practice. In the case of the Russian language, it is not just about the control of the verbal abilities in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, but also about the test for the knowledge of the system properties of the Russian language in grammar and vocabulary. As for the requirements for the knowledge of the history of Russia and the basic concepts of the Russian legislation, as well as the examination tasks for this category of people as migrant workers, they have been developed in the Russian Peoples' Friendship University for the first time.

In the development of methodological basic concepts of the comprehensive test modules, the main goal was to provide a single (unified), independent, standardized control in order to identify the level of formation of the communicative, social, cultural, and legal competencies required for foreign citizens.

Currently, there is differentiation of test tasks for three categories of foreign nationals. For the historical and legal modules, it is only expressed in the number of questions: 10—for migrant workers, 20—for applicants for a permanent or temporary residence permit. But following the proposals of the Federal Migration Service of Russia, delivered in June 2014, a new specification has been developed, based on which the test materials for foreign workers, applicants for a temporary or permanent residence permit have been differentiated.

With account of the challenges of the time and proposals of experts for the category of foreign nationals applying for a residence permit, it was decided to complicate the structure of the test, as this status is a step toward citizenship.

As part of the development of testing techniques on the history of Russia for foreign nationals applying for a residence permit, each test task was standardized first in the approbation groups, then in the certification tests. All this allowed creating the control variants for standard tests, which were included in the integration test for foreign nationals.

Herewith, first of all the basic purpose of the test was taken into account—the final check and evaluation of the knowledge gained by foreign nationals as a result of preparations for the comprehensive test for the historical module. The tests have been compiled in accordance with the content of the Requirements for the "History of Russia" module and regulatory requirements to the level of preparedness of foreign nationals.

The final test of history includes tasks that check mainly the knowledge of facts, phenomena, and concepts. In addition, the developers of tests took into account the peculiarities of preparation of foreign nationals, their level of knowledge of the Russian language. Incidentally, the requirements include a provision according to which during the testing a foreign citizen has the right to use the vocabulary of historical terms and concepts (including translated into his native language).

It should be noted that the test tasks have been formed by the problem-chronological principle, presenting the history of Russia as a continuous integrated process. They reflect the main trends of the political, social, economic, religious and confessional, and cultural development of the country. They reveal the content of the historical process at the problem-theoretical level and provide an idea of the diversity of the history of Russia. In the tests, particular attention is paid to the culture and traditions of Russia, the relations between the center of the Russian state and the national margins in the XIX - XX centuries, as well as the economic and cultural cooperation between the peoples of the country.

Complication of the tests for the category of foreign nationals applying for a residence permit required setting more demanding requirements to both the scope of checked knowledge, and the complexity of prepared tasks. In particular, the test of the history of Russia (as well as the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation) will consist of two subtests. The first one includes 20 multiple-choice tasks (one correct answer out of three proposed). In the first subtest of the history of Russia, the tasks are grouped by the problem chronology principle. Tasks 1-6 cover the period of the IX-XIX centuries, and 7-16—the XX-early XXI centuries. The knowledge of monuments of culture, traditions, and holidays is checked in tasks 17-20, which contain the culturological component.

The second subtest includes five tasks with freely constructed-response items, three of which date back to the IX-XX centuries (one question of them is for the knowledge of chronology, another—of historical personalities, the third one—of the monuments of Russian and Soviet culture); and two assume control of the knowledge of the modern history of Russia. For example, the examinees are asked to answer the question, what monument is the symbol of St. Petersburg, or what the name of the holiday celebrated in modern Russia on November 4 is, or who conducted the policy of perestroika in the USSR, as well as what state document was passed in Russia on December 12, 1993. The requirements for minimum amount of knowledge on the history of Russia additionally include new mandatory dates and persons related to Russian science, culture, and sports.

Thus, a foreign national applying for a residence permit receives the final mark for the history of Russia as a result of the examination test. The tests have passed repeated expert evaluation and have been modified and refined in accordance with the comments made. It should be noted that the actual content of the tests, the clarity and conciseness of their structure convert testing into one of the ways of teaching foreigners.

The purpose of introducing the module "History of Russia" as part of the comprehensive test is the creation of socio-cultural conditions necessary for the adaptation of foreign nationals to the life in the modern Russian society. Mastering the material of the course involves the acquisition of knowledge about the major milestones of the history of Russia, the most important cultural monuments, national holidays, state and public figures of the country, etc. Ultimately, the program module on the history of Russia is aimed at developing certain spiritual factors in foreign nationals, contributing to their socio-cultural integration.

Furthermore, the acquired historical knowledge will allow a foreign citizen to master the strategies of tolerant social and interpersonal interaction in accordance with the cultural and historical traditions and customs of the Russian society. Having learned the basic facts and key events in the history of Russia, the most important achievements of culture and spiritual values that have emerged in the course of historical development of the country, foreign nationals (migrants)

must be able to not only associate them with a specific period, but also find their manifestations in today's society.

It should take into account the fact that after the collapse of the Soviet Union in a number of new independent states of the former Soviet Union, school programs of the national history were developed aimed at the formation of anti-Russian sentiments in the younger generation. For example, the program of high school of Ukraine has interpreted all the country's past as the progressive development of the national Ukrainian statehood. Russia has been presented as the "oppressor" (Portnov, 2013), the main culprit of today's misery and suffering of the Ukrainian people (Uroki ukrainskogo. Chemu uchat shkol'nikov uchebniki ukrainskoi istorii? [Lessons of Ukrainian. What do Ukrainian history textbooks teach students?]; Sernik, I. Rossiia v ukrainskikh uchebnikakh istorii [Russia in the Ukrainian history textbooks]). Learning the course of history developed for foreigners will help revise the negative image of Russia, form a respectful attitude to the Russian national values and laws, the state language and culture, to the state symbols of the Russian Federation. It should take into account that it is impossible for migrants to interact without the acquired knowledge with the local population and to create an atmosphere of ethnic tolerance.

In other words, the course of history is important for the Russian society, as well. The fact is that an uninformed, ignorant of local customs and traditions person faces problems in relations with the surrounding world. In the unusual cultural and living conditions, he will face great difficulties in fulfilling himself in the professional sphere. It is necessary to take into account the fact that the rejection by foreign citizens of the Russian realities, conflicts arising between Russian and foreign citizens most often are caused by ignorance of the laws and cultural features of the host country. Ignoring by foreigners of local national traditions, a lack of understanding of the specifics of the Russian mentality that has been forming for centuries of the historical development of the nation and that determines its behavior patterns creates additional tensions in the country that can lead to social upheaval. The course of history is designed to just minimize the negative consequences of the process of adaptation of foreign nationals and create the spiritual prerequisites for their social integration.

Taking into account the importance of the course of Russian history, as well as differences in the levels of training of foreign nationals, special attention during its development was paid to the teaching methods, as well as preparing and conducting tests. Herewith, the accumulated over many years methodical experience in teaching foreign students in Russia was used as well as the established practice of testing Russian as a foreign language. However, it was necessary to take into account the specifics of the audience, offer one's own methodological solutions primarily based on the fact that the bulk of foreign citizens had arrived in Russia from the CIS countries and had a relatively low level of training. The developed module on the history of Russia contains the optimal minimum information set out in a concise form and is equipped with a dictionary of historical terms and concepts.

An analysis of the performance of tests allows determining the effectiveness of the educational process at every stage and carry out adjustments to the content and methods of teaching the history of Russia.

The module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation." The training course aimed at preparing for the test of the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation targets studying the regulations, helping foreign nationals to become aware of the state and law in Russia, to be able to evaluate various legal relations and comply with local regulations. Special attention in the control and measurement materials for the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" is paid to the elucidation of the key terms and concepts that underpin the presentation of the material and to the study of the terms.

After the changes to the migration legislation were made, a significant upgrade of the control and measurement materials (CMM) for the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" was required for the category of foreign nationals wishing to obtain a residence permit.

It is important to bear in mind that since the adoption of Federal Law #115-FZ of 25.07.2002 "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation" and until now (thirteen years), it has been amended 70 times, twelve times in 2014, and three times in this year already. Therefore, the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" in the constant conditions of reforming the immigration legislation underwent reasonable changes. Foreign nationals entering the territory of the Russian Federation should be aware of the legislative reform, especially concerning their rights, legal status, and responsibilities.

Now, foreign citizens entering Russia and not specifying in their migration cards "The purpose of arrival"—"Work" will not be able to obtain permits for employment in the country.

The term for obtaining work patent is extended to 90 days. Herewith, a prerequisite is introduced—to apply for a patent no later than 30 days from the date of entry into the country. In case of violation of these conditions, the person will be deported from Russia and will not be allowed to return earlier than in 90 days.

Work permits are abolished. At the same time, a single patent can be used for working for a legal entity and an individual. The territory of validity of the document is limited to the region, in which it has been obtained, and the price for

it (the tax on personal income) can be set by regions themselves. In connection with the cancellation of the work permit scheme and the change of labor patents, taxation of each foreign employee will be equal to the taxation of citizens of Russia—13% personal income tax. Insurance premiums for their employees will continue to be paid by the employer.

It is planned to give sick leave certificates to migrants. Employers will be obliged to pay contributions to the social security fund in the amount of 1.8% of the salary of each foreign employee. Herewith, to obtain the right for allowance, it is necessary that the insurance premiums have been paid within six months preceding the month, in which the insured event occurred, that is, the foreigner must have worked in the company for at least six months.

On June 1, 2015, the Russian Federation imposed a ban for drivers to work in Russia with foreign licenses. It should be noted that the prohibition applies only to drivers of commercial vehicles (taxi drivers, buses, etc.). Private cars can still be driven under a foreign driving license.

All of these new provisions in the legislation demanded changes in the content of control and measurement materials of the module "Basic Concepts of the Russian Federation Legislation," which under current conditions is not of so much control and estimate importance, as of practical importance for foreigners wishing to obtain a residence permit. The value of the allowance for future living activities of a foreign citizen who wants to obtain a residence permit is defined according to the role of law in the Russian society, in the production and other spheres of human activity. These circumstances allow us to speak about the special role and special significance of the study of the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation."

The main principles taken by the developers as the basis for this category of foreign nationals were:

- defining the awareness of foreign nationals of their rights and responsibilities in the Russian Federation;
- informing foreign nationals on the opportunities to exercise their rights, thereby securing the national interests of the Russian Federation in the field of migration.

What is important is the practice-oriented approach to teaching and subsequent passing of the test for the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation," which we understand to be the acquisition by a foreign national of new knowledge and the formation of his practical experience in its use in addressing critical challenges.

Consequently, the person applying for a residence permit as a result of the proposed course of study is to acquire the following knowledge and skills:

- a) to know the system of the Russian legislation and the basic concepts of state, administrative, civil, labor, family, and criminal law of the Russian Federation;
- b) to know the legal phenomena, their interrelationships, to be able to carry out their analysis and make legally significant conclusions;
- c) to know not only the legal framework but also moral and ethical norms, rights, and freedoms of a person and a citizen, and mechanisms for their exercising.
- d) to be able to give a legal assessment of specific legal facts and circumstances and properly qualify them;
- e) to be able not only to find a legal provision to address a specific situation and interpret it correctly, but to solve it practically; at the same time, to take responsibility and be aware of the legal nature of the responsibility;
- f) to be skilled in the use of legal documents.

The problem is that the changing social relations in the world and Russia leads to the situation when the Russian legislation is constantly reformed: in the economic sphere, political life, and social activities of the state and society. Based on this, the test for the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation" for foreign citizens wishing to obtain a residence permit has also undergone changes. Like in the module "History of Russia," the test of the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation consists of two subtests. The first subtest includes 20 multiple-choice tasks. The specification of the examination tasks appears as follows:

Task 1—state symbols of the Russian Federation;

Tasks 2-3—the constitutional order of the Russian Federation;

Tasks 4-5—entry to Russia and departure from Russia, stay and residence of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation;

Tasks 6-7—civil and political rights of people in the Russian Federation;

Task 8—economic, social, and cultural rights in the Russian Federation;

Tasks 9-10—employment of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation;

Tasks 11-12—some aspects of civil law of the Russian Federation;

Tasks 13-14—the basic concepts of the family law of the Russian Federation;

Tasks 15-16—responsibilities and liability of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation;

Task 17—issues of relationship of foreign nationals with the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of the Russian Federation;

Tasks 18-19—issues of relationship of foreign nationals with other state and municipal authorities of the Russian Federation;

Task 20—check of the knowledge of the interaction of foreign nationals and consular authorities of their state of nationality and the emergency services.

Herewith, it is important that it is permitted to use a dictionary of legal terms during the test.

We agree with Kiseleva that though the module test is called "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation," the interaction with consular offices, as a rule, is beyond the legislation of Russia. However, as practice shows (and both representatives of state bodies of the Russian Federation, and the scientific community, and the civil society organizations representing the interests of different groups of migrants agree with this), it is important for migrants to know not only what can or should do Russia for them through the system of authorities, but also what in some cases their own country can do. It is therefore important to inform migrants about what actions legally relevant for them in Russia could be committed only by the consular institutions of their countries and why these actions cannot be appealed within the Russian judicial system; in what cases, the opportunity to communicate with consular officials must be provided by the Russian authorities, etc. (Kiseleva, 2014).

The second subtest of the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation includes 5 tasks with freely constructed responses, which are related to the following topics:

Task 1—the state symbols of the Russian Federation, the constitutional system of the Russian Federation, the entry into and departure from Russia, the stay and residence of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation.

Tasks 2-4 include the topic of employment of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation, the basic concepts of the civil and family law of the Russian Federation, the duties and responsibilities of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation.

Task 5 covers the issues of the relationship of foreign nationals with the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation and other state authorities of Russia.

4. Summary

A content analysis of test tasks in the history of Russia and the basic concepts of the legislation of the Russian Federation shows that the testing is meant to not only evaluate the knowledge obtained by foreign nationals, but also encourage them to study the courses, help them use the Russian language to learn the historical and legal material. In the formulation of the test tasks for the module "Basic Concepts of the Legislation of the Russian Federation," we should keep to the basic lines: realization of subjective rights that would not violate the rights of other participants of legal relations; clear understanding of one's legal obligations to the state, society, and other individuals; knowledge of the types and limits of legal liability.

The very structure of tests and comprehension of their content plays an important role in training, educating, and assisting foreign nationals who apply for a residence permit to become full members of the Russian society.

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