

## MIGRATION FACTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL SAFETY: RUSSIAN AND FOREIGN EXPERIENCE IN THE XXI CENTURY

Valeryi A. Letyaev<sup>1</sup>, Natalia A. Shibanova<sup>2</sup>, Roman V. Penkovtsev<sup>1</sup>, Denis R. Sharafutdinov<sup>1</sup> and Erik I. Zinnatullin<sup>1</sup>

---

The relevance of the problem is caused by the fact that in the XXI century globalization is one of the key processes in international politics, which directly promotes strengthening of migration flows. The aim of article is to study a relevant problem of national security, namely its migratory aspect operating under conditions of post-bipolar system of the international relations. The leading approach to the research of this problem is systematization of factors that allow using various scientific methods and techniques, mutually supplementing and combining themselves when investigating the international problems (including migratory processes). The main result of the research is the comprehensive study of the migratory factor in the context of national stability. On the one hand, it promotes the growth of human resources potential and stimulates economic growth in different branches of economy. On the other hand, there are difficulties in cross-cultural interaction; the risks of conflicts on ethnic and religious basis are increasing. The most dangerous phenomenon, from the point of view of the national security, is illegal migration, which strengthens possible risks. Now the Russian Federation and other developed countries, such as the USA, France and Germany connect solution of migratory problems with implementation of the policy of national security. The article can be useful for the scholars studying Russian and foreign experience both positive and negative aspects in the field of migration policy.

**Keywords:** history, modern international relations, international security, national security, post-bipolar system, legal migration, illegal migration, multiculturalism, identity.

### INTRODUCTION

International migration is a phenomenon which is inseparable from globalization processes. It is well known that migrants have led the USA to the prosperity, they have contributed to the revival of the Western Europe after the World War II. The intensity of current migratory processes, their consequences allow to consider them as a peculiar revolution. The famous British sociologist Anthony Giddens considers the risks of migratory processes as risks of high degree (Giddens, 1990). These risks and calls have common and variable features in various countries, at the same time they have influence on practically all spheres of life of modern society. Modern Russia is actively being involved in the international migratory process (Fayzullina, 2007). The migratory situation in Russia has both common features with the migratory situation in Western countries and its unique characteristics

---

<sup>1</sup> Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia. *E-mail: valeri.letyaev@gmail.com*

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Social and Philosophical Sciences and Mass Communications, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia.

(Fayzullina, 2015a; Fayzullina, 2015b). Among the common features it is possible to name a big share of uncontrollable illegal migration posing threat to national security of Russia. At the same time the increase of threats connected with uncontrollable and illegal migration that is recorded as paragraph 10 of the Strategy of national security of the Russian Federation is predicted in the future (Security Council of the Russian Federation, 2009). In other words, ensuring migratory safety as a structural element of the system of national security of Russia is still a relevant problem.

The system of national security of Russia faces the recent task aimed at ensuring positive dynamics of social and political development. The calls and threats caused by uncontrollable migratory processes get in the way of performance of this task. In order to overcome them it is necessary not to make use of a vast experience of migration policy of the Western countries only, but also attract rich traditions of the Russian society of multi-ethnic existence of various people and cultures (Khayrutdinov & Karimov, 2015). The recent events prove that the ideas of multiculturalism, tolerance, political correctness and self-government have not been implemented. The personified versions of culture and religion positively imaged by the West, cultivated distinctions between the society and migrants and allowed creating a network of underground cells of radical Islamists. This makes Europe choose between their ideology and their safety. The famous historian from the Brussels free university David Engels declares it: "Illegal migration sheds light on all hypocrisy of our present system which faces two catastrophic and destabilizing alternatives. Either to come to the end of universalism and transform the European Union in a huge refugee camp, where not only illegal immigrants, but native Europeans will appear soon or to reject the idea of "universal" values and the ultra-liberal and multicultural system formed after the fall of the Berlin Wall... "(Guylain, Engels, Rodier, 2015). The Russian tradition of cohabitation provides possibilities for preservation of their own ethnic and cultural identity, emphasizing the common features among different peoples and cultures.

## **METHODS**

Migration, including illegal one, affects all spheres of society: economic, political, social. This article is devoted to the main threats to Russian national security, including the potential ones brought by international, primarily illegal and uncontrolled migration; the comparison of the level of threat to Western analogues and determination of the basic solutions of migration problems.

Accentuation of certain types of threats is conventional, they are all interrelated, and one leads to another due to systematization of migration. Migration as a system phenomenon is characterized by interconnectivity of its individual elements and processes..

## RESULTS

The control over modern processes of migration generated by globalization is impossible without international cooperation. In general, international contractual framework in the field of migration policy is extended and has unambiguously positive effects. However, further work aimed at transformation of declarative solutions and providence of all necessary conditions for their implementation is necessary. The discrepancy between the practice and the legal framework can be clearly observed in comparison of the rational approach to the quotas of foreign labor, prescribed by the Federal Law “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation”, and the real situation with the overflow of million illegal migrants to Russia.

The threats to the territorial integrity of the state. The potential consequences of uncontrolled migration are creation of ethnic enclaves, economic expansion and annexation of the recipient state. In international practice we can find similar examples: in the XIX century American migrant workers invited by the Mexican government, joined Texas to the United States less than in 20 years. US-Mexican War of 1846-1848 led to the result that the territory of modern California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah had become the part of the USA.

Today in Russia the problem of Chinese expansion in the Far East under conditions of overcrowded northern Chinese territories and empty areas of Eastern Siberia and the Far East is often the subject of discussion. Supported by the concept of “the lost land” (on school maps of China a substantial part of the Russian Far East is included into the Peoples Republic of China), many people in “the heavenly empire” rush for work to Russia. Although the current situation marks: the crisis experienced by Russia reduced the flow of migrants from China (the Federal State Statistics Service, 2015). In general, the problem is the subject of a separate study, but we note the high degree of its politicization and abundance by stereotypes.

At the same time in the West the problem of enclaves, “ghetto” is much more significant. Thus, the author of “The Death of the West”, a well known politician and journalist Patrick Buchanan doubts the success of the process of assimilation of migrants from Latin America who live in the US in traditional communities and do not seek to learn English, do not “melt and re-create” at all. “The spirit of separatism, nationalism and fragmentation is growing in large urban areas inhabited by immigrants from Latin America.” As a result, American society ceases to be inseparable; it consists of loosely connected fragments (Buchanan, 2007).

The threats of interethnic conflicts and civil wars. The ethnic problem is difficult and potentially conflict-generating. Many migrants both in the West and in Russia, tend to unwillingly integrate into the recipient society, they desire to reproduce a traditional society, they do not experience any willingness or desire to learn the language of the recipient country. All these factors cause discontent and fears of the host society and contributes to social tensions and migrantophobia.

The problem of language is common to many countries. And at some point the situation in Russia is not very difficult. For example, El Seniso town in southern Texas declared the city to be Spanish-speaking; the mayor ordered to prepare documentation and carry business only in Spanish. Any cooperation with US immigration authorities was forbidden under the threat of dismissal and deportation. El Seniso is almost separated from the United States (Gorov, 1993).

In general, migrantophobia, xenophobia and isolationism contribute to division of any society into separate groups with autonomous social and cultural values that have a destructive impact on national security. It is necessary to note that the interethnic tension can potentially lead to conflicts, civil war, threaten integrity of the state, so, we can see interrelation of various threats proceeding from illegal migration.

Threats of influence on state institutions. Illegal migration needs various resources which can't be received in a legal way. The migrant lobby is formed under these conditions. The anti-migrant rhetoric helps to win elections. For example, the anti-immigrant party with the neo-Nazi roots "Swedish Democrats" got 9.7% of votes and two seats at the elections to European Parliament in 2014. The anti-immigrant "National front" in France increased their presence at European Parliament from 3 to 22 deputies, and took the first place with result of 25.4%. The British Independence Party of the United Kingdom (UKIP) combating against migration won the European elections of 2014, was supported by 27.49% of voters and took 24 seats in European parliament, and at parliamentary elections of 2015 received 12.6% of votes and this list doesn't come to an end. Russia as a multinational state should avoid similar practice. It isn't difficult to assume that rigid methods and solutions of migrant perspectives proposed by nationalists do not only promote increase of political tensions in society, but also can lead to foreign intervention in internal affairs of Russia under the banner of protection of oppressed ethnic group.

Threats to the stability of the international relations system. As it has been already considered, uncontrollable migration can have significant influence on domestic policy. Changes as the element of system of international relations, with high probability will also lead to changes of the system itself. Today the most relevant threat is posed by the activity of the Islamic state. The leader of IS Abu Bakr of al-Baghdadi declares the possibility of penetration of terrorists into Europe as migrants. Now the uncontrollable migration deprives Europe of its openness, building new borders. So, in June, 2015 the prime minister of Great Britain David Cameron declared strengthening of borders with France because of the uncontrollable situation with migrants. Now Paris-Frankfurt trains are systematically stopped on the border and sent back to France by German customs officers (Boggio, 2015). Obviously Russia can't avoid the same threat.

Threats to the economic system. According to the Strategy of the Russian Federation illegal migration has been one of the main strategic risks and threats to national security in the economic field for a long time. Illegal migration increases scales of shady economy, withdraws money from financial circulation, aggravates the situation at the labor market, forcing the Russian players out of it, promoting increase of social tensions.

According to forecasts of specialists of the World Bank the total volume of money sent by migrants in 2015 will make up to 586 billion dollars. The volume of remittances from Russia in the first quarter of 2015, according to the Central Bank of Russia, amounted a little more than 3 billion dollars which is 36% less than in the same period last year. 1.8 billion dollars have been sent to the CIS countries which is 47% less than in the first quarter of 2014 (The Central bank of the Russian Federation, 2015).

Along with the displacement of Russian workers from the labor market and from certain types of business, made by illegal migrants, a common purchase of land and real estate is becoming a threat. Illegal migration takes away funds from the real estate economy with the help of corrupted state bureaucracy, receiving income from criminal and shady business.

Criminal threats. Criminal enclaves of migrants related to drug trafficking, prostitution, economic slavery cause concerns of the host society. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in 2014 migrants in Russia committed 44.4 thousand crimes, or 2% of the total number of registered crimes (the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, 2015). Western experts also give different assessment of the level of criminality of migrants in different countries. Thus, in France, 18.7% of prisoners are foreigners, in 51% of cases the father of the prisoner was born outside France (usually in Africa), half of the homeless are foreigners (Guylain, Engels, Rodier, 2015). According to the research, in the US and Canada the crime rate among migrants is comparable or even lower than that of the local population (Martinez, Stowell, 2012).

The situation with the criminality of migrants in Russia is closer to the situation in the US rather than Europe. But the most important factor should be noted – the existence of a direct relationship between the legal status of the migrant and his obedience to the law. An illegal migrant is in “natural” way closer to the criminal society, he has more different reasons to break the law of the host country. In addition, it is worth remembering about the number of illegal migrants, who by their presence violate migration legislation of the Russian Federation.

Organized ethnic criminality, which is threatening the national security, is generated by uncontrolled migration. In Russia, conflicts related to the “ethnic business” are more likely to occur in small towns than in capitals, but ethnic criminal communities do exist, they existed in the Soviet Union, and they exist in Russia, and the fight against them has been carried out for a long time, no selectivity

should be here,” said Vladimir Putin (A direct consequence of the “direct line with the president”).

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The control over modern migration generated by the process of globalization is impossible without international cooperation. There is a number of international conventions and agreements aimed at controlling migration. In general, international legal framework in the sphere of migration policy is steadily expanding, and it has clearly positive consequences. However, further work is required to practice declarative solutions and provide all necessary conditions for their implementation. The discrepancy between the practice and the legal framework can be clearly observed in comparison of a rational approach to the quotas for foreign labor, prescribed by the Federal Law “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation” and the real situation with the inflow of a million of illegal migrants on the territory of the Russian Federation.

There are two main fields of activity aimed at reducing the level of threats to national security arising from migration. The first involves the control over migration flows. The consequences of the lack of proper control are being endured by the Western Europe. In Russian reality such control involves improvement and strict execution of migration laws, elimination of the corruption component (both in the field of civil officials, law enforcement authorities and judiciary, interacting with migrants, and among foreign employers), improving cooperation between institutions dealing with migration issues, protection of borders from penetration of illegal migrants. The second one is related to implementation of an effective system of adaptation of migrants to living conditions in the Russian society. Taking into account the negative Western experience, it can be stated that the most relevant aspect of this issue is the control over ethnic enclaves. It is extremely difficult to avoid the possibility of compact residence completely, but it is possible and necessary to ensure their control by administrative and law enforcement authorities.

Russia, being involved in globalization processes, faces the threats posed by illegal and uncontrolled migration like the majority of Western countries. Responding to them the systematic nature of migration should be kept in mind (hence, the answers to the threats should be of a systematic character), as well as the rich experience of Western countries in implementation of their own traditions in harmonious multi-ethnic coexistence.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

### *References*

- Boggio, Ph. (2015). 'Europe: face aux migrants, la tentation des frontier'. Monde: Juin, 23.
- Buchanan P.G. (2007). 'Death of the West'. Moscow: AST.
- Central Bank of Russia, 2015. 'Cross-border transfers implemented through money transfer systems by main countries-counterparts for the 1 quarter 2015'. Jul; [cited 2015 Jul 01]. Available from: [http://www.cbr.ru/statistics/print.aspx?file=CrossBorder/Rem\\_countries\\_15-1.htm&pid=svs&sid=TGO\\_sp\\_post](http://www.cbr.ru/statistics/print.aspx?file=CrossBorder/Rem_countries_15-1.htm&pid=svs&sid=TGO_sp_post)
- Fayzullina, A.R (2015a). 'The Formation of Legal Framework of Migration Policy in Russian Federation (1992-2010)'. Journal of Sustainable Development, 8(5): 12-18.
- Fayzullina, A.R (2015b). 'Migration Policy: Characteristics of the Regional Dimension of Migration in Modern Russia (Volga Federal District)'. Journal of Sustainable Development, 8(4): 239-245.
- Fayzullina, A.R. (2007). Immigration policy in modern Russia (federal and regional aspects). Thesis for the degree of Candidate of Political Science. Ufa: Bashkir State University.
- Federal State Statistics Service. (2015). 'Components of change in the population of the Russian Federation'. Jun; [cited 2015 Jun 11]. Available from: [http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\\_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/demography/#](http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/demography/#)
- Giddens, A. (1991). 'The Consequences of Modernity'. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Gorov, L. (1993) 'A War of Words in Texas Town: Government's Spanish-Only Policy Ignites Controversy'. Boston Globe: August, 28.
- Guylain, Ch., Engels, D., Rodier, A. (2015). 'Naufrages de migrants en série : le drame humanitaire qui pourrait ébranler les fondements politiques et culturels de l'Europe'. Atlantico: Avril, 21.
- Khayrutdinov, R.R. & Karimov, I.R. (2015). 'Development of Science in the Republic of Tatarstan'. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 8(7): 99-106.
- Martinez, R., Stowell, J. (2012). 'Extending Immigration and Crime Studies: National Implications and Local Settings'. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 1: 174-191.
- Russian Security Council. (2009). 'Strategy of National Security of the Russian Federation until 2020. Approved by the Presidential Decree of May 12, 2009, ' 537'. May; [cited 2015 May 05]. Available from: <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/99.html>
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. (2015). 'Brief description of the state of criminality in the Russian Federation including the Crimean Federal District in January-December 2014'. Jun; [cited 2015 Jun 27]. Available from: <https://mvd.ru/reports/item/2994866>
- Vesty (News). (2006). 'A direct consequence of the 'straight line'. Vladimir Putin: It should not be selectivity in the fight against ethnic crimes'. Jun; [cited 2015 Jun 29]. Available from: <http://www.vesti7.ru/news?id=9305>.