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REASONS FOR SQUEEZING RUSSIANS OUT OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Abstract: *The article analyzes public opinion in the republics of the North Caucasus on the main issues that concern residents, causing mass discontent and protests. The empirical basis for the analysis is the results of a sociological study conducted by the authors in July-September 2021: mass representative surveys in all republics with a sample of 500 to 1000 people, 18 group discussions - focus groups and 13 in-depth interviews with experts and public opinion leaders. The study is a continuation of the 2018 survey, which allows us to identify the dynamics of public opinion on the main issues. The study showed a slight increase in positive assessments of the situation in the republics; more people note development and progress rather than decline. At the same time, the republics of the North Caucasus are characterized by the presence of authoritarian forms of government; people are afraid to publicly express critical views regarding political institutions and the leadership of the republics, they tend to more often give socially acceptable answers to pressing questions, and evaluate the successes of the republic higher than they do in private conversations. At the same time, when discussing specific life problems, people give more realistic assessments. As the study showed, in recent years the set of the most pressing problems worrying the population in the republics of the North Caucasus has remained virtually unchanged. The four problems that far outstrip the others in terms of their severity in population estimates are unemployment, corruption, poverty and terrorism. Over the past three years, a fifth problem has been added to them - the high cost of housing and communal services. Each republic has its own pain points that cause the greatest dissatisfaction among residents. In Chechnya, the population calls unemployment the most pressing problem; in Dagestan, in addition to unemployment, corruption, VKabardino-Balkaria, along with unemployment, is terrorism, in Karachay-Cherkessia —poverty, low income; in Ingushetia - terrorism and in North Ossetia - poverty. The study showed that the population's dissatisfaction with unsolvable problems and the activities of the authorities did not lead to the growth of separatist moods, the majority of the population of the republics does not see their existence outside of Russia.*

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Key words: public opinion, North Caucasus, socio-economic problems, social tension, discontent, criticism of government, unemployment, terrorism, corruption, poverty, housing and communal services, healthcare, education, crime, youth, separatism.

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Introduction

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One of the determining factors in the economic growth of our country, its social security and stability are migration processes, which can have both positive and negative consequences. On the one hand, for example, immigration labor is often successfully integrated into society and fills gaps in the labor market, migration brings new approaches and ideas, helps improve the quality of life of the population, on the other hand, migration processes can pose a threat of overpopulation, increased unemployment due to dumping services in the labor market, which undoubtedly has a significant impact on the socio-economic situation of both Russia and its regions. This necessitates the assessment and forecasting of migration, as well as research into the migration policy of the region.

The main advantages of the Southern Federal District are, first of all, favorable climatic conditions and unique natural resources, which contribute to the

active development of tourism and agriculture, which is very attractive to migrants. The Southern Federal District consists of eight constituent entities and ranks fourth in Russia in terms of population and seventh in area. The largest population lives in the Krasnodar Territory - more than 5,600 million people. The smallest number was registered in the Republic of Kalmykia.

The dynamics of indicators characterizing migration growth (Table 1) demonstrates a steady trend of migration decline in three regions of the region: the Republic of Kalmykia, Astrakhan and Volgograd regions. It is obvious that these subjects should be under the close attention of the state, and here it is necessary to develop approaches that would reduce the outflow of the population. On the contrary, the Republic of Adygea, the Krasnodar Territory and, since 2015, Sevastopol remain attractive for migrants. There are favorable climatic conditions, good transport infrastructure, calm and developed agro-industrial and resort and recreational complexes.

Table 1. Dynamics of migration growth rates per 10,000 population

Index	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Southern Federal District	34	51	48	27	30	37
Republic of Adygea	67	56	51	21	54	214
Republic of Kalmykia	-94	-103	-60	-97	-116	-65
Republic of Crimea	...	86	58	43	25	44
Krasnodar region	84	105	101	63	85	64
Astrakhan region	24	-49	-17	-20	-34	-78
Volgograd region	-25	-22	-18	-23	-15	-19
Rostov region	12	4	12	5	-6	32
Sevastopol	...	439	308	202	176	167

In general, positive trends in migration processes have been noted in the Southern Federal District, but with significant structural changes.

According to the study, over the past 6 years the

Southern Federal District has been in a positive trend in international migration and a negative trend in interregional and internal migration (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of the number of arrivals by travel directions (as a percentage of the total number of arrivals)

Index	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
percentage of total arrivals						
Intraregional migrations	39.9	37.2	37.9	38.2	36.7	35.9
Interregional migrations	48.2	47.2	48.3	48.4	50.7	46.3
External migration	11.9	15.6	13.8	13.4	12.6	17.8

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percentage of total number of departures						
Intraregional migrations.	44.8	44.7	44.9	42.1	40.8	41.0
Interregional migrations	49.4	49.5	48.6	49.3	49.7	49.0
External migration	5.8	5.8	6.5	8.6	9.5	10.0

It should be noted that the young part of the population prefers to leave the subjects of their region. The main center of attraction for young internal migrants is the regional center - Rostov-on-Don, around which cities and towns are developing, which are donors of labor resources for enterprises in Rostov-on-Don and Krasnodar. These regions implement effective measures to support entrepreneurship and create favorable conditions for employment in the form of targeted financial support.

Among interregional migration, the Krasnodar Territory leads, international migration – the Republic of Crimea.

At the same time, the share of those leaving the region and outside it significantly exceeds those arriving.

Based on existing trends and forecast indicators, we will assess migration processes for some subjects of the district (Table 3).

Table 3. Assessment of migration processes taking into account current trends

Subject of the Southern Federal District	Predicted migration processes	Assessment of the situation
Krasnodar region	It ranks third in Russia in terms of population. Experts predict further growth in the region's population and an increase in investment flows. The growth rate will gradually decrease, but will remain high: from 25 thousand people in 2020 to 14 thousand people in 2025. Reasons: warm climate, availability of jobs and relatively low prices for apartments.	Migration improvements sew the situation
Republic of Crimea	In terms of population, it ranks 25th among all regions of Russia. The main problem is negative natural growth. According to experts, the negative trend will be compensated by the arrival of people from other regions of Russia. Reason: Crimea is attractive due to its high level of income compared to other regions of the Southern Federal District, warm climate and favorable environmental conditions. According to the Ministry of Economic Development, high growth rates of gross regional product (GRP) are predicted in the region, which is associated with the development of the tourism industry.	Migration improvements sew the situation
Republic Kalmykia, Astrakhan, Volgograd And Rostov region	Mechanical loss is predicted. Reason: economic lag behind the leading regions of the Southern Federal District. The main reason for arrival in these areas is reverse migration of the population, that is, the return to their home region of residents who had previously left for study, work and other reasons. According to experts in the Astrakhan region, the rate of population decline will be high, even despite the multiple increase in industrial production volumes against the backdrop of the development of the oil and gas complex.	Migration will worsen situation

Despite favorable climatic, natural and socio-economic conditions, migration growth in the district will still decrease - from 29 thousand people in 2018 to 19 thousand in 2025. This decline is associated with the impending completion of a number of large projects in the region and the resulting outflow of population.

Main part

The massive outflow of the Russian population from Dagestan is becoming more pronounced. Intolerance, religious extremism, terrorism, radicalism among young people, problems in interethnic relations worry the state and citizens. This

is reflected in the media by the growth of publications on interethnic and interethnic issues and is an indicator of public attention to the problem. The number of publications in the press and media interest in ethnic issues has a steady upward trend, especially in the southern regions of the Russian Federation. In the North Caucasus, there are factors of interethnic tension that have regional specificity, in contrast to continental Russia. Particular tension in interethnic relations is caused by territorial disputes, the solution of which, even in the legal field, carries the danger of interethnic split, especially in such multi-ethnic entities as the Republic of Dagestan. The situation is aggravated by the unresolved consequences of the

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political and economic crisis in the North Caucasus, and in Dagestan in particular. The most unprotected in this regard were the representatives of the Russian people: the migration of Russians within the republics of the North Caucasus Federal District and their massive outflow from Dagestan to other regions of Russia can only be compared in scale to general mobilization, so widespread has this process become. Now in Dagestan, in order to find a Russian citizen of the republic, especially outside the capital and one of the “Russian” regions, you need to show considerable diligence. The Russian people, who gave everything to the Caucasus, from education to industry, are today forced to flee, giving away their property for next to nothing, abandoning fertile inhabited lands. At the same time, there is a division of citizens into Russians and non-Russians. There is no special executive body for national policy in the republic, and there is no direct work with the population. The Government Commission of Dagestan on Issues of the Russian Population was unable to organize its work properly, and in many respects even worsened the already difficult situation of the Russians; did not stop the outflow of population from the republic and did not create conditions for the return of Russians who had left. As a result, these processes acquired ethno-confessional urgency and became a socially dangerous phenomenon. The role of local governments in the prevention of interethnic tension and interethnic relations in general is weak, although everyone is aware that the overwhelming majority of interethnic conflicts occur at the local level. Perhaps local governments do not have the necessary powers. Growing migration activity also provokes interethnic tension. Migration from the national republics of the North Caucasian Federal District to other regions leads to the formation of large ethnic communities of mountain peoples in the receiving regions, increasing labor competition. Such migration changes the ethnic composition of the population in the receiving region and is the main reason for the growth of interethnic tension. Essentially, these are enclaves that will develop without assimilation processes. At the same time, there is a growing influence of Muslim religious communities - “jamaats”, which creates fertile ground for the development of extremist ideas in the form of the most radical trends - Wahhabism and Salaffism. Increasingly recently, representatives of the Russian population of the North Caucasus have been observed to adhere to Islamic ideals. Many Russians actually find protection in Islam, observe its rituals and lead an Islamic lifestyle. Involving ethnic Russians in the ranks of their followers is considered by Wahhabis, who recognize terrorism as the most effective way to achieve their goals, a priority direction for disseminating their views. This is how the number of Slavs who converted to Islam and took Muslim names is growing; it is through them that missionary activity is carried out throughout continental Russia,

expanding the number of adherents of the movement for the “purity of Islam.” Here the issue of protecting the Russian population not only in the North Caucasus republics, but throughout the country as a whole comes to the fore. There is a need for a clearly defined state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of developing tolerance in the field of interethnic and interfaith relations. Currently, radical Islam is increasingly entering the spiritual life of Dagestan and one can only observe how extremist actions permeate all spheres of public life. In Dagestan, given the surge in youth’s passion for Wahhabi Islam, we can confidently state an increase in cruelty and child crime, which causes the crime situation to continue to worsen. The tactics of the “jamaats” are also changing, which now carry out raids in broad daylight, almost every day, killing law enforcement officers, although Sharia law has always rejected extremes - extremism and excesses. Calls for peaceful coexistence and the establishment of good relations with all peoples began to be heard less and less often. In Dagestan, extremism and terrorism have become the norm, and losses among security forces and civilians are increasing. At the same time, losses on both sides lead to a constant increase in the number of those dissatisfied with the authorities. In multi-ethnic Dagestan, the factor of the “Russian language” as a means of interethnic communication and international education is gradually being replaced by Arabic. Arabic is becoming a rallying point for young people. Thousands of young people today are forced to seek knowledge outside of Dagestan, because the Dagestan “intelligentsia” and the official clergy are not able to give what the youth are looking for. For Dagestani youth, “Daavat” is a call to faith and is the basis of today’s realities. Young people are being recruited into the ranks of the Wahhabis, and ethnic separatism is developing against the Russian people and the Slavs as a whole. Some experts consider these processes to be a response to the actions of skinheads in large cities of the country. The constant talk about the creation of the Islamic Republic and the separation of Dagestan from Russia also adds fuel to the fire, which also increases migration. As a result, the uncontrolled mass exodus of Russians turns into the rise of the titular ethnic groups of Dagestan. The physical squeezing of Russians out of the republic also aggravates relations with the Cossacks. Officially, the true reasons for the outflow of the Russian population from Dagestan are still unclear. The assertion that the main reason is their difficult socio-economic situation is clearly untenable, if only because their situation is exactly the same as that of the rest of the population of Dagestan. The mass outflow of the Russian population, the most educated group among the residents of the North Caucasus regions, also continues from the other national republics. This actually means leaving. During the study, the following observation environments were considered: Caucasian youth;

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Russians in the North Caucasus Federal District; elite of the North Caucasus. Several themes were identified that these environments identified as major themes. One of the main topics both for Russians in the North Caucasus Federal District and for Caucasian youth

and representatives of the elites of the North Caucasus is the topic of the reduction of the Russian population in the North Caucasus Federal District.



Picture 1.

All media note that information about the oppression of Russians in the North Caucasus does not reach the media, and local authorities use hushing tactics, trying to “not wash dirty linen in public.” At the same time, everyone fears for their safety when discussing this topic and asks that their names not be used. At the same time, all government officials deny the very fact of oppression of Russians. The groups studied consider the movement of representatives of other cultural and civilizational environments to the North Caucasus to be another equally significant problem. Thus, the residents of Kabardino-Balkaria consider the behavior and increasingly increasing influence of the Meskhetian Turks to be their greatest problem: “the confrontation between the Cossacks and the Meskhetian Turks is intensifying.” In Adygea, similar problems are associated with the massive settlement of Kurds: “clashes between Russians and Kurds in Adygea are ongoing.” Another problem identified as the main topic is the uneven compliance with laws in the North Caucasus and other regions of Russia, which ultimately leads to such a phenomenon as legal nihilism, which is widespread within the North Caucasus Federal District. All environments note the weakness of the influence of federal authorities in the region and complete freedom of action on the part of local authorities, represented by ethnic clans. “In Chechnya and Ingushetia, Russian power is symbolic”; “Dagestan is ready to explode”; “The situation in the recently calm Kabardino-Balkaria and the South-Eastern regions is becoming

increasingly complex” - these are the most common statements made by those surveyed. All media also note the powerless situation of Russians who continue to leave the North Caucasus. The sentiments expressed by representatives of the elite of the North Caucasus can be summarized in the following statements:

“Information about the oppression of Russians comes to the agency, but it doesn’t get into the feeds, we don’t give it to them. If information appears, then the leadership of the corresponding republic calls directly our leadership in Moscow, saying, “Why are you inciting ethnic hatred.” And they, accordingly, “hit our leadership in the head.” So such news does not go anywhere, out of harm’s way.”

“Russians and those who raise this topic are really physically oppressed here. Kabardians set my apartment on fire, ripped off the gas valve, and the entire entrance almost suffocated. I fear for my life and for the lives of my loved ones, they don’t joke about it here. The authorities cover up any antics against Russians on the part of Kabardians and Circassians, and this topic is hushed up in the press” (Deputy of the Legislative Assembly, Prokhladny, Kabardino-Balkaria). “We do not have any harassment against Russians. And if such cases do occur, they are immediately publicized in the press, and the head of the republic immediately takes action” (press secretary of the President of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic Arsen Kanokov, ethnic Kabardian). “Despite the authorities’ assurances that

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there are no facts of oppression of Russians, I can say that there is simply a disaster in the villages here. Once upon a time, "Newspaper of the South" wrote about this and paid great attention to the topic of oppression of Russians, but after the attack on the editor-in-chief, the publications stopped. And I ask you not to mention me anywhere, I won't meet, I won't give you any contacts. The chief prohibits raising this topic at all" (Former correspondent for the newspaper "Gazeta Yuga", about 40 years old, Cossack, Prokhladny, Kabardino-Balkaria). After watching the recreated [website skfonews.info](http://www.skfonews.info) We would like to note the timeliness and relevance of the research conducted. Current events in the republics of the North Caucasian Federal District and Adygea are covered very well. I wish the site serious analytics not only on the problems of the North Caucasus, but also the Transcaucasus. Good luck (Nikolai Dimlevich, expert of the Strategic Culture Foundation, former deputy editor-in-chief of the newspaper "North Caucasus", Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria). And here is how representatives of the Russian group in the North Caucasus Federal District speak out in a conversation with representatives of the correspondent network of the North Caucasus News Agency: "No one will openly tell you about the oppression of Russians. And I won't say it, although there are a lot of such facts. To be honest, I'm scared too. Because of this, he moved from Maykop to Pyatigorsk. But I have relatives there, so I can only give general, theoretical information, my scientific research on this topic." "This topic is hushed up by everyone here. Everyone is afraid. I also cannot give specific information, but I will try to find people who would agree to provide it." "The main thing is don't mention my name. Everything is fine with us, the local authorities are on very good terms with us, it's a sin to complain. Please do not refer to me." "We have a more or less favorable situation with the Russians. Please do not mention my name anywhere" (Scientist, researcher of ethnic settlements, Karachay-Cherkessia). "After my article about the situation in the Maysky district, where I touched on the topic of oppression of Russians, I was visited by officers of the FSB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and then summoned to the prosecutor's office, where I was interrogated for four hours. To be honest, I really got cold feet and retracted my words as stated in the article. For now, I will refrain from writing such texts" (Professional civil engineer, over 50 years old, public figure, Maysky, KBR).

Here are some statements that characterize the work of the correspondent network: [North Caucasian news agency NCFD news](#):

"I closely follow the publications on your combat resource. I am glad that at least one media outlet has finally appeared that has begun to cover a topic that everyone is talking about or trying to pretend that nothing is happening. Well done!"

(Alexandra, CBD, feedback form [website skfonews.info](http://www.skfonews.info)).

"We are pleased with the appearance of the website skfonews.info, which fairly covers the problems of the Russian population in the "national republics" of the North Caucasus. In North Ossetia, the situation with the oppression of Russians is no less complex than in other republics, contrary to statements by government officials" (Chairman of the Board of the Slavic Union of Ossetia, Vladimir Pisarenko). Elites of the North Caucasus:

"Please do not mention my name anywhere. Judging by the questions you ask regarding the oppression of Russians in Ingushetia, you correctly understand the problem. Although recently there are fewer and fewer such facts. There are almost no Russians left here, only old people" (ethnic Ingush, scientist, worked on the problem of oppression of Russians, just over 40 years, Ingushetia). "Please don't mention my name anywhere, it's dangerous here. I can't give you any information on the topic of oppression of Russians. Although, yes, young people are leaving. Including because there is no employment" (former deputy of the Kizlyar City Council, takes, according to those who know him, a fairly tough pro-Russian position, has a good grasp of the situation, Kizlyar, Dagestan). "The situation with the Russian population in Chechnya and Ingushetia has crossed the threshold of irreversibility" (Ataman of the Terek Cossack Army).

Caucasian youth: "Russian pigs! It's time to kill you long ago!" (Shouts from those attacking the Cossack cornet Sergei Anatolyevich Koptev). "How long will the authorities remain silent and look for the guilty among the victims during the fight in Yantarny? During the Soviet Union there were such clashes, but now they have become systemic. Nurtured "eagles" nationalists are appearing. If you don't trim their wings now, it will get worse. Remember Chechnya. There, too, the Russians were to blame for everything. It is disgusting and disgusting when a local police officer and his deputy shirk responsibility and turn a blind eye to what is happening. Corruption and clannishness in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic have existed from time immemorial, but the Prosecutor's Office and the FSB turn a blind eye to it! It's a shame that we live in a country where the people who form the state live and feel disadvantaged. A shame!".

"We were all young, and in each locality there were groups that sometimes fought among themselves. Sometimes they united and went to fight with their neighbors in the village, town, or city. And this has always been the case, under any government. They did not have a clearly defined interethnic character; they even occurred between children from purely Kabardian settlements and regions. I remember when there were tourist competitions in Kizilovka, how we, the team from the Prokhladnensky district,

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were threatened by the guys from Belaya Rechka. Adults had to call police protection at night. But none of us said that the Balkars were persecuting us. If we talk about migration, then along with Russians, Kabardians also leave, but this is the titular ethnic group, which no one outside will welcome as Russians in their regions. And how do our guys have to get a job there? There are obstacles everywhere based on ethnicity. However, Kabardians for the most part understand that bad things can be found in every nation. We already have enough problems. Everyone will get what they deserve."

"The Turks provide the republic with vegetables at low prices. They are field workers. In no way do they infringe on the Russians, whose field of activity is industry, and not agriculture. The outflow of Russians is connected precisely with the collapse of industry. In Mayskoye there were 16 industrial enterprises, but now there are none."

"Shame on you to lie so brazenly about the genocide of the Russian population in Chechnya. Almost everyone left there before 1991, sold everything they had, and in Russia received compensation again. And so the benefit turned out twice. Yes, those who remained were killed during the war under bombing, they weren't even allowed to leave the corridor, but genocide exists and continues to this day." Russians in the North Caucasus Federal District:

"It's simply impossible for Russians to get a job here. I've been unemployed for two years now. Everywhere the bosses are Kabardians. I tried to get a job at an institute in Nalchik. The first question at the interview was "Are you a Cossack?" They refused."

"In Kabardino-Balkaria, the confrontation between the Cossacks and Meskhetian Turks in the Maysky region is intensifying, there is a mass exodus of the Russian population and its replacement by Balkars and Meskhetian Turks. In the village of Granichny in 2009, not a single Russian child went to the first grade of the local school; only children of Meskhetian Turks went."

Sometimes adults were beaten. Sometimes children were beaten, but now there is complete chaos. So we are ready for "checkers drawn!" As we saw, he arrived - so whoever knocks out whom, we already agree to this. Life is unbearable."

"My relatives and people close to me continue to live in Kabardino-Balkaria. Having lived there all my life, I have to some extent come to terms with the indifference and disregard for the Russian people. The overwhelming majority of Russians also put up with this only because they need to continue to live somehow. In my life I often had to deal with threats and onslaught from Kabardians. "Cool as a Russian-speaking city will soon die. And no one will change that." "In Russian populated areas, Kabardians from other populated areas are appointed as local police commissioners. This has been the norm for a long

time. At the same time, a Russian will never be appointed as a district police officer in a Kabardian village."

"Chechen officials hate Kadyrov, but the people love him, because he began a real fight against corruption, and he started it with officials. He built them there to order." "Clashes between Russians and Kurds in Adygea are ongoing. They simply don't give Russian youth a pass - neither boys nor girls. At the same time, local authorities, despite the fact that they say something, promise something, do nothing in this regard." "If we face the truth, in Chechnya and Ingushetia the Russian government is symbolic in nature, Dagestan is ready to explode, the situation in the recently calm Kabardino-Balkaria and in the south-eastern regions of Stavropol is becoming more and more complicated." "It's no secret that the Balkars not only dislike the Kabardians, but consider the entire people their blood enemies."

"It is urgently necessary to create a Council of Elders of the Peoples of the North Caucasus. We also need to return to the model of integration of the regions of the North Caucasus with the regions of the North, Siberia and the Far East. We are talking about supplies of agricultural products and assistance with labor resources. There is no need to turn Moscow into a huge labor site. It is necessary to immediately decongest our capital. So that the flow of buses moving to Moscow dries up. Vast spaces of our Motherland need to be developed and protected beyond the Urals. And the inhabitants of the North Caucasus are very resilient and hardworking. They are not afraid of any tests. They are, for the most part, genuine Patriots of Russia."

Russophobic policies lead to genocide of the Russian population of the North Caucasus.

Currently, the Stavropol region has become a kind of saving settlement zone for numerous forced migrants from both the Transcaucasian republics and the North Caucasus republics. As a result of robberies, murders, seizures of houses and apartments, even before the start of the armed confrontation in 1994, 200 thousand Russians fled from the Chechen Republic, a significant part of whom settled in the Stavropol Territory. The Russian population in the Republic of Dagestan has decreased; those who left there also chose the Stavropol region as their place of permanent residence. The exodus of a significant part of the Russian population from the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, which was once part of the Stavropol Territory, as well as from the Mozdok region of North Ossetia-Alania and other territories, continues here. Along with the Russian population, a stream of migrants of Armenians, Georgians, Ossetians, Chechens, Dargins, and Karachais poured into the Stavropol region. Accordingly, serious changes occurred in the ethno-demographic structure of the Stavropol Territory during the post-Soviet period. Artificial population growth due to

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immigrants from the republics of the former USSR led to an increase in the number of diasporas and a quantitative increase in their numerical composition. At the same time, since more than 80% of the total population lived in the region, Russians can fully be considered as a mono-ethnic entity. As for ethnic migration, over the past two years the highest rate of migration growth was observed among Chechens, Ingush, Dagestanis and other Caucasian nationalities. This applies, first of all, to the regions bordering the Chechen Republic and the Republic of Dagestan. The process is most obvious in the Kursk, Neftekumsk, Levokumsk, Stepnovsk, and Turkmen regions, where the share of the Russian population is noticeably decreasing and the share of Chechens, Dargins, and Nogais is increasing. The population of Armenian diasporas was noted primarily in the cities of the Caucasian Mineral Waters, in the Predgorny, Georgievsky and Shpakovsky regions. Today, the cities of Caucasian Mineralnye Vody are being filled with Chechens at a tremendous pace. Under these conditions, it is not surprising that the indigenous Russian population of the region fears that it will once again be forcibly displaced as a result of the large-scale replenishment of the region by Chechens. These sentiments are noted primarily in the Caucasian Mineral Waters region, where the share of these ethnic minorities is especially high. The peculiarity of the geopolitical position of the Stavropol Territory is that, being a Russian region, it borders on six North Caucasian republican states. These are Dagestan, Kalmykia, North Ossetia-Alania, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Chechnya. The atmosphere of fear and suspicion remains the most important factor undermining the entire system of socio-economic and ethno-political relations. Terrorist attacks and ethno-political conflicts are becoming the norm for Stavropol today.

The most difficult situation remains in the Kursk and Kirov regions, where residents are exposed to various types of risks (shelling, theft of livestock and equipment, etc.) from the territory of the Chechen Republic. In search of safer places to live, the Russian population first of all leaves the "border" and eastern regions of the region, which inevitably leads to a change in the ethnic composition of these settlements. Not long ago, the Stavropol Territory, together with all the North Caucasus autonomies, was united into the North Caucasus Federal District with its center in Pyatigorsk. This decision was met with extreme alarm by the Russian residents of the region. Everyone perfectly understood the consequences of this step of the Russophobic government for the Stavropol region, especially for Pyatigorsk and the cities of Caucasian Mineralnye Vody. The sharply increased criminal and migration pressure on the region from the Caucasian peoples has increased noticeably. This is especially noticeable in Pyatigorsk. Caucasians, primarily Chechens, began to behave noticeably more brazenly

and boorishly. At the same time, opposition to them from the police, apparently as a result of instructions from above, sharply decreased. Caucasians can now afford what the police harshly suppressed just a year ago. Walking around the cities of Kavminvoda at night and in the evening has become dangerous for Russians. And during the day, at least, it's uncomfortable. Following the Russian residents of the Kursk and Kirov districts, residents of the cities of the Caucasian Mineralnye Vody began to move, this was facilitated by last year's killings of civilians, fights started by the Chechens and defiant Lezgins demonstrating disdain for the Russian population. About a year ago, not only Russians, but also Jews and representatives of other nationalities began to sell real estate and businesses en masse on the CMS. Everything is very reminiscent of the events of the early 90s in Chechnya.

A key role in carrying out the de-Russification of the region was assigned to the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in the newly created district for the Caucasus - the Jewish oligarch and former governor of the Krasnoyarsk Territory - the "Terek Cossack" Khloponin. The authorities managed to extinguish the alarming sentiments and well-founded fears of Russians in the KMS about the creation of the North Caucasian Federal District and in connection with the large-scale replenishment of the cities of the KMS with inadequate Chechens. They began to hold publicists accountable for publishing unprofitable materials on the Internet, spreading rumors that Chechens were allegedly buying real estate for resale, using the media and other levers. R. Kadyrov also made a huge contribution to deceiving citizens, "calming" his fellow countrymen. To this day, the authorities organize meetings with Chechen delegations in schools with bread and salt, and also conduct joint "friendship" lessons. The disadvantage of the indigenous Russian population gives rise to feelings of insecurity and anxiety, but there is nowhere to go: they stopped buying real estate, and as a result of propaganda, prices fell. The fact that a significant part of migrants is sent not just to well-developed areas, but to those where it is possible, without making special labor efforts, to extract income and excess income in the form of rent from the exploitation of natural resources, is of some concern and anxiety. The manifestation of nationalism towards Russians on the part of other, more organized ethnic groups is growing in the Stavropol region. The situation of the Russian population in the South of Russia is also complicated by the fact that its interests are actually ignored by the Russophobic authorities and Caucasian leaders, who have a significant influence on the policy of the federal center and on the formation of negative conditions for the existence of Russians in the Stavropol region. In many cases, the authorities take clearly Russophobic positions and play a provocative role, helping to incite ethnic conflicts, providing

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protection to Chechen Nazis and separatists, actually acting as an instrument of geopolitical forces seeking to squeeze Russians out of Stavropol.

The problem of illegal and excessive migration has emerged as one of the problems threatening the security of the region. Let us note that it is directly related to another equally significant issue—ethnic crime.

It is necessary to pay special attention to the fact that uncontrolled migration dangerously deforms the geopolitical space of Russia as a whole, including on its southern borders, and contains an immediate threat of territorial losses.

In this regard, we can recall that the tragedy of the Serbian population of Kosovo began in the not-so-distant 50s of the twentieth century, with Tito's irresponsible decision to grant residence rights to 200 thousand Albanian illegal migrants. Let us recall that during the reign of the Croatian Josip Broz Tito in Yugoslavia, refugees from Albania received permission to live in this republic, strengthened demographically and, as a result of well-known events, established themselves in Kosovo, finally squeezing out the indigenous Serbs. They blew up Orthodox churches and razed them to the ground, and Kosovo - the historical shrine of Orthodox Serbs - came under the control of Albanian Muslims.

A careful examination of the political life in the Stavropol region and the nature of its relationships with the named neighbors - national-state entities - shows increased influence on the power structures on their part and on the part of ethnic groups in order to achieve political and legal advantages for the non-Russian population. In fact, the Stavropol Territory became a reserve zone of the republics of the North Caucasus. Being subsidized itself, it is an energy and financial donor for its neighbors. It deserves special attention that in recent years diasporas have been actively involved in political activities, which is explained not so much by their increased numbers as by the desire to express themselves and demand an increase in their status. The consequence of this was increased activity during numerous elections at both the federal, regional and local levels. Researchers note that representatives of ethnic minorities are nominated at almost all levels of government. Armenians and Greeks were especially active in the Mineralnye Vody region (Pyatigorsk, Kislovodsk).

Noteworthy is the fact that not only the majority of small national groups are ready to speak out for benefits for their people, but also the Russian population, whose share in the region is 82%. Interethnic tension is present among military personnel of various branches of the military stationed in the Stavropol region. They cannot but cause alarm: up to 60% of people in uniform are ready today to take the side of their national group if an interethnic clash occurs. The situation with the police is different: more than half of the rank and file of the police consists of

non-Russians, including the leaders. The creation of a new federal North Caucasus district with its capital in Pyatigorsk immediately received a mixed assessment among the expert community of the South of Russia and caused concern among Russians. The Stavropol region turned out to be artificially separated from its traditional neighbors - the Russian regions - and in its new status it turned out to be simply an appendage for the republics of the North Caucasus. The predominantly Russian population of the Stavropol Territory, not having the same status as the republics, and not having constitutional and other legal grounds for their protection, will continue to be subjected to oppression and humiliation. The concept of "Russian" is not recorded at all in any official documents of the Russian Federation. How can you protect something that legally does not exist? What worries the Russians? First of all, the inevitable influx of residents of the North Caucasus republics into the cities of Mineralnye Vody and the Stavropol Territory, their strengthening in the society of the Stavropol Territory with the support of the power structures of neighboring republics, the purchase of real estate, the oppression and subsequent displacement of Russians and Cossacks from the spheres of economic and socio-political life. Thus, there is a real danger of a mass exodus of the Russian population, which will inevitably create a hotbed of instability in the South of the Russian Federation.

Constant references by politicians to the plight of the population of the republics, high unemployment, etc. and so on. do not stand up to criticism. Plenipotentiary representatives speak about this especially often and loudly, effectively becoming the spokesman for the greedy interests of ethnic groups intending to turn Russians into their slaves. The fact is that the high level of the "shadow" economy in the region, not taken into account by statistics (up to 70%!), allows residents of the republics to have a higher standard of living than in many other Russian regions. At the same time, a significant infusion of federal money into ethnic republics, which ultimately goes towards buying up real estate, has a huge impact. This is evidenced by the influx of Chechens in the Stavropol region and, above all, Kavminvody. Moreover, they immediately receive many benefits. Development land has been allocated especially for Chechens - 60 hectares in Pyatigorsk, 50 in Kislovodsk.

To overcome negative trends today, political will is needed to change the existing de facto state of affairs, but the Russophobic government will not lift a finger to change the situation for the Russians for the better. If in resolving political issues things go the way they are, that is, according to the Russophobic scenario, then even without external intervention the disintegration of Russia into zones of influence of other civilizations is highly likely. As for the South of Russia, the emergence of a Muslim enclave is quite

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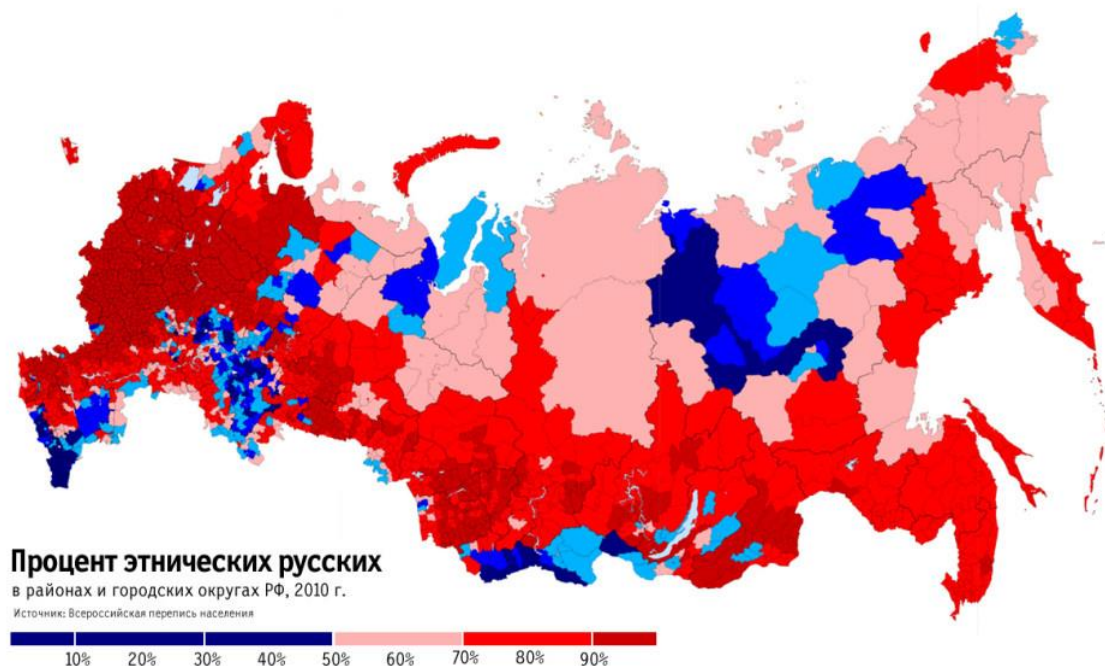
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possible. Recent events create the preconditions for squeezing us Russians out of our native land, which will be ensured by calls for jihad, for reprisals not only against the Russian population, but also against everyone who will be against the establishment of ethno-bandit regimes on Russian lands that have already arisen and established themselves in the North Caucasian republics. This is consistent with the forecasts of the CIA, which views Russia as a zone of crisis and instability. Some American researchers predict the collapse of Russia into 5-8 states within 10-15 years, and their division into spheres of influence of world leaders. This is stated in the report of leading analytical centers, which are posted on the US CIA website. The loss of vital activity of a significant part of the population and, first of all, the state that forms the Russian ethnic group (82%) is an important indicator of the high probability of such a scenario. The border status of a region such as the Stavropol Territory, a multi-ethnic population containing a potential explosive hazard, makes it especially attractive to Western political circles and the relevant intelligence services, which are persistently and purposefully pursuing a policy to weaken the Russian state and its collapse.

The explosion of a powerful bomb on August 17 last year in the center of Pyatigorsk, the capital of the newly created North Caucasus Federal District, which injured several dozen civilians, as well as the increased frequency of special anti-terror operations, confirm the worst assumptions: the zone of instability has spread beyond the North Caucasus republics. Let me remind you that the Yugoslav scenario for the development of geopolitical processes in the Caucasus region is quite possible, and it is absolutely clear how it could turn out for Russian statehood and for

Russians. The same as Kosovo for Serbia and the Serbs. Recent immigrants may, on occasion, return to their original place of residence. Armenians have something to sell, which means they have something to settle in other lands and other countries. And only we, Russians, have nowhere to run from Stavropol. Therefore, we need to start counteracting the imminent ethno-gangster coup today. Otherwise, tomorrow many Russians will not even be able to get out of the cities of Stavropol alive, where mass killings and the establishment of occupation orders similar to the one that was established in Chechnya in the early 90s will begin. Only a few will be able to sell their property for a more or less reasonable price and flee to other regions. The Russians of Stavropol now have only one way to preserve their land, their homes and property, their lives and the lives of their children. This is a collective, coordinated, massive resistance to the invaders and the Stavropol administration covering them. Lately there has been a lot of talk about improving the demographic situation in Russia. The country's population is supposedly constantly growing, and the authorities are often credited for this. But they are silent about who it is growing at the expense of. In 2010, there were 115 million Russians in Russia, but in 2020 there were only 111 million. The largest population growth is in Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Republic of Tyva. Meanwhile, the number of Russian people in the national republics (and not only in them) of the Russian Federation is falling at an impressive pace, and the ethnic composition of individual territories is rapidly changing. In some places this is caused by economic and demographic problems, and in others by direct squeezing out by local ethnic elites.



Picture 2.

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Conclusion

A decrease in the number of state-forming people in the subjects in the event of any future political crisis or instability may lead to an increase in separatism in those regions where there will be few Russians. The central authorities, often verbally declaring that the Russian people are “the foundation of Russian statehood,” for some reason do not actually support this foundation and do not particularly strive to increase and strengthen it. At least this is not visible from the statistics. Let's turn to the impartial official figures from the population censuses of Russia (and the USSR) to see where the situation requires immediate intervention, and also try to understand how we can find ways out of the current difficult situation. The Russian population quickly left the regions of the North Caucasus due to hostilities, fearing that the conflict could spread to other republics. Here the situation is most deplorable. Due to the abolition of the Terek Cossack formations by the communists, inter-ethnic clashes in 1958, and after that - ethnic cleansing and genocide in the 1990s during the wars in Chechnya, there were practically no previously numerous Russians left there. According to the 1989 census, the number of Russian people was 269,130 people in the entire Checheno-Ingushetia (or 24.8% of the total population), and in 2020 there were 24,382 Russians or 1.9% in Chechnya. The situation is similar in Ingushetia (2010 - 1.2%, 2020 - 0.8%) and Dagestan (1959 - 213 thousand, 2020 - 100 thousand). In Ingushetia, crimes against Russians continued after the Chechen wars. In 2006, in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya, the deputy head of the Sunzhensky district administration, who oversaw the program for the return of the Russian-speaking population to Ingushetia, was shot dead, and in 2007, the family of a Russian teacher was killed in the republic. In Dagestan, Russian flight began even in the Kizlyar district and the city of Kizlyar, where Russians historically were the majority (the number of Russians in the city decreased from 83.0% (1959) to 40.49% (2020)). In other subjects of the North Caucasus district the process the number of Russians is also decreasing, but not at such a rapid pace. In Kabardino-Balkaria, the percentage of the Russian population decreased from 240,750 (31.9%) in 1989 to 193,155 (22.5%) in 2010. In areas with traditional Russian majority - Maisky and Prokhladnensky - there is an increase in non-Slavic nationalities. The number of Russians in Karachay-Cherkessia has even increased slightly - 150,025 people in 2020 against 147,878 people in 2010. But in percentage terms it is still decreasing due to the higher birth rate among the Caucasian peoples. In North Ossetia, the percentage of Russians decreased from 40% in 1959 to 23% in 2010. The percentage of non-Slavic peoples in the Mozdok region, the original Russian Cossack land, is increasing. It should be said that the Russian

population of the republics tried to the best of their ability fight for your national rights. Since the late 1980s, the idea of annexing (returning) the Cossack regions of northern Chechnya (which were given to the communists) to the Stavropol Territory has been popular. Attempts were made to create a Russian Cossack autonomy on the left bank of the Terek, as well as other autonomies for Russian-speaking citizens with different names and in different republics. However, projects of such autonomous entities did not receive approval from regional and federal authorities.

Separate mention should be made about the Stavropol Territory. The inclusion of the region in the North Caucasus Federal District began to change the ethnic map of the region even faster, heating up already tense interethnic relations. If we compare the population censuses of 2010 and 2020, we can state that the number of Armenians increased by 12 thousand, Dargins by 10 thousand; The number of Dagestan peoples (especially in areas bordering Dagestan), Turkmen and others increased significantly. It is also worth noting that the Russian population is declining, including due to numerous interethnic marriages of Russian women with representatives of the Caucasian peoples; Children from such unions for the most part do not feel the ethnic identification of their mother and bear non-Russian names and surnames. However, in addition to the assimilation of Russians by Caucasians, there is also the usual flight of the Russian population from Stavropol. In the Southern Federal District, Kalmykia deserves special attention, where the number of Russians has decreased from 120 to 85 thousand people. In the Gorodovikovsky and Yashaltinsky districts - traditional places of residence of Russians - the process of settling Meskhetian Turks is underway, where they already make up up to 15% of the total population. In the Rostov region, the number of Meskhetian Turks increased from 28 thousand in 2010 to 36 thousand in 2020. Due to the migration of Dagestani peoples, higher birth rates among Kazakhs, Tatars, and Nogais, the number of Russians in the Astrakhan region is decreasing (67% as of 2020) and the ethnographic map of the region is changing. And if in the Rostov and Astrakhan regions the matter is mainly in demographic problems, then in Kalmykia, in addition to them, there is a process of soft squeezing out Russian-speaking residents and replacing them in all spheres with Kalmyks. The main Russophobic region of the Russian Federation in Siberia is rightfully considered the Republic of Tyva, from where the Russian population has fled since the early 1990s - almost the same as from the North Caucasus regions. In 1992–1993 alone, more than 20 thousand Russians left there, and the organization Khostug Tyva (Free Tuva) called for independence from Russia. In 2010, Russians numbered 40% there, and

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in 2020 - only 16%, which is explained not only by the squeezing out of Russian speakers, but also by the high birth rate among Tuvans. Since the late 80s of the 20th century, separatist sentiments have been popular in Tyva; there have even been attacks on the Slavic population; there have been serious ethnic unrest, which miraculously did not escalate into armed clashes. Thus, in the village of Elegest, an attempt was made at a large-scale Russian pogrom. 15 Russian houses were attacked, three of them were set on fire. After this, a stream of Russian refugees began to flow from Tyva. Russophobia is still evident at the everyday level in the republic. For example, on social networks in groups of Tuvans you can see anti-Russian slogans. Yakutia was not far behind. High-ranking officials of the republic at one time even made clearly xenophobic statements, according to which, for example, the Yakuts should have "priority in medical care." The Yakut radicals did not particularly hide the fact that they were just waiting for Russia to weaken in order to try to gain real independence. In turn, the Russians did not like the Yakut language lessons in schools, the inability of the Slavs to get good, well-paid jobs, to enter universities on a budget, as well as the predominant broadcasting on Yakut local television. Added to all this was the economic crisis in the 1990s, when many large industrial productions, the main places of work for Russians, uniting cities around them, were closed. As a result, the Russian population in Yakutia decreased from 50% to 37% by 2010. And this is in an area that is of strategic importance for the country due to its huge reserves of resources. True, it is worth saying that in connection with the revival of many enterprises in recent years, a stream of people from all over the country and the CIS has again poured into Yakutia, but not so en masse. Similar processes, but to a lesser extent, occurred in the Altai Republic and Buryatia. The very fact of the existence of regions in Russia, in which Russophobia is felt to this day and from which Russians are forced to leave, speaks of serious problems in national politics. When officials in Russia speak out against the infringement of the rights of Russian speakers somewhere in Europe - for example, in Latvia (which is also very important), I would like to draw their attention to non-Russian regions within the country, where discrimination against the Russian people still exists. After all, there can be no doubt that the uniform distribution and increase of the Russian population throughout the country is the key to the stability of the state, protection from possible separatism, etc. "Kosovo scenario". In addition, many researchers agree that the modern administrative-territorial division of Russia has long outlived its usefulness. The communists at one time not only gave the lands conquered by the Russian Empire to national minorities, but also in the RSFSR itself they crumbled

artificial national formations, which today no longer reflect the real correlation of ethnic groups in them. For example, Jews in the Jewish Autonomous Region, allocated by the Bolsheviks, are less than 1% (!), Karelians in Karelia - 7.4%, Khakass in Khakassia - 12%, and so on. Isn't it time to carry out a thoughtful and thorough reform of the national republics? Due to the international policy of the USSR, there are regions in modern Russia from which the Russian population is leaving. This is most noticeable in the example of the republics of the North Caucasus. And although the official authorities of these republics themselves want the Slavs to return, Russian speakers have no great desire to go back. Mainly because people are afraid of new attacks on ethnic grounds, the growth of Islamism, and destabilization. It can be stated that for demographic reasons, as well as due to the lack of political will of the state leadership, the Russian territories of the eastern republics of the North Caucasus (Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan) were lost to the Slavic population, the ethnic cleansing of the region was almost completely completed. Expansion is now aimed at the Stavropol Territory and other areas of historical residence of Russians, as can be seen from the official census figures, which are difficult to argue with. The situation in Yakutia and Tuva, where xenophobia towards Russians and their mass exodus were also observed, requires deep understanding by the state leadership. The development of industry, the attraction and distribution of the Russian majority among these regions is the key to the strength of the regions. Today, if the population of Russia increases, it is at the expense of other peoples; the number of Russians themselves continues to decline. We need a completely new state policy, which will be aimed at popularizing Russian national identity, as well as assimilation into the Russian cultural and political environment. It is these measures, together with an urgent program to attract the remaining compatriots from the CIS, that can become the very bonds that will prevent non-Russian separatism from growing in any crisis and upheaval.

Thus, the Southern Federal District plays a prominent role in the country's migration field, being both a center of attraction for migrants from outside the country and from other parts of it, and one of the main regions of outflow of migrants. The identified characteristics of migration in various regions of the South of Russia indicate the need to intensify migration policy aimed at obtaining a young, active, agile and qualified and especially highly qualified workforce, for financial support in the form of training and professional growth, which will improve the quality of life of the population and fill the gaps in the job market.

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