

ФГБПОУ «Московское академическое художественное училище»

Командный конкурс эссе

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia & the English-Speaking World.
Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Особенности миграционных процессов в России и в мире:
Сравнительный генезис миграционного законодательства,
вариативность моделей систем миграции населения,
перспектива развития защиты прав мигрантов»**

**«History of migration in Russia and in the world: How the legal systems
developed to deal with migration.
How migration patterns have changed over time. How will migrants’ legal
rights change going forward?»**

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Theses

- International migration in the modern world has acquired a global character.
- Back in the XVII century, the Russian rulers fully realized the importance and role of immigration processes.
- Simultaneously with the construction of the empire, the government had to take care of creating migration flows.
- As history shows, two steps ahead in achieving the goals of migration policy (made during the times of imperial Russia and the USSR) were followed by a step back in the 2000s.
- In order to keep up with the dynamics of migration processes, Russia needs adequate response mechanisms.
- The protection of migrants' rights is one of the priorities of international policy, as well as concern for local residents.
- Two trends are characteristic of modernity: on the one hand, governments, for example, in Norway, adopt strict laws restricting immigration; on the other hand, funds are allocated and measures are being taken to integrate migrant workers and newcomers into the economic life of the country.
- Meanwhile, migration processes are becoming more and more complicated, defining migration patterns.
- Each State is responsible for the observance of the rights and freedoms of people under its jurisdiction, regardless of their place of birth or nationality.
- “We need to invest in social cohesion, so that all people feel that their identities are respected and that they have a stake in the community as a whole.”

“Supposing we crossed any land from one end to the other — nowhere in the world will we find a foreign country to us; from everywhere you can equally raise your eyes to the sky.”

Seneca (I century A.D.)

International migration in the modern world has acquired a global character, erasing borders between countries, ethnic groups and languages, contributing to the fusion of cultures. Like a snowball increasing in volume, it freely rolls from one continent to another, absorbs and brings together the best minds, talents, traditions and lifestyles of many nations. The current number of migrants in the world is 258 million people, which is 3.4% of the total population, and will only increase.

Back in the XVII century, the Russian rulers fully realized the importance and role of immigration processes. At the invitation of Peter the Great, hundreds of foreigners came to Russia, ready to share their knowledge and skills. In 1701, Henry Farquharson opened a school of mathematical and navigational sciences in Moscow on the model of the London Royal Mathematical School of the Hospital of Christ. Over time, a galaxy of native-born specialists in various fields of science and culture appeared in Russia. The same thing happened under Catherine the Great with the Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg. Later, the Soviet government followed the beaten path. For instance, due to the acute shortage of pencils, in 1926, the owner of a new factory, Armand Hammer, invited German specialists to Moscow, thus providing the Soviet Union with technologies.

Simultaneously with the construction of the empire, the government had to take care of creating migration flows within the country in order to develop vast lands and natural resources. The implementation of the pre-revolutionary resettlement policy gave a lot of practical experience. Concepts were developed related, firstly, to the choice of areas of departure of migrants, secondly, to the selection of migrants and, thirdly, to the stimulation of resettlement, which made it possible to build an efficient system of economic and administrative measures and tools for their application.

The resettlement policy of the Soviet period was focused only on intra-state migration processes because of the actually closed borders of the USSR. The Soviet social system used unique ethical and moral levers of influence on voluntary migration. These were youth and social movements based on the enthusiasm and romance of generations. Konstantin Yudin's film 'A Girl with Character' (1939) is the clearest example of a powerful spur that inspired young people to go to the Far East (Fig. 1). At the same time, the Government carried out forced migration to remote areas. During the Great Patriotic War, evacuation from the west to the eastern and southern regions of the country prevailed. This trend was noted by the poet David Samoilov in his poem 'Forties',

“It's cold. The sky is spreading out
Above the rumbling railroad, tired
Of moving east with endless crowds
Who lost their homes to bombs and fire...” (1961)

In 1950, twenty categories of special settlers were officially registered. In the same years, repressive measures taken by the state to withdraw the country's agriculture from the protracted post-war crisis caused a large migration outflow from rural areas to cities.

New times called for new policies, though. The methods of regulating migration of the population used in the conditions of a planned socialist economy turned out to be of little use with the beginning of market reforms. Despite the institutions and laws created in the post-Soviet period, which were aimed at gaining control over the processes of forced and labor migration, as well as immigration, the tightening of entry and work procedures led to an increase in illegal immigration and the need to develop new tools for the legalization of immigrants.

As history shows, two steps ahead in achieving the goals of migration policy (made during the times of imperial Russia and the USSR) were followed by a step

back in the 2000s. A sharp southwesterly tilt was noted in the placement of people (Fig. 2). There was a decrease in the population in the regions of the North and East of the country, with simultaneous congestion of large cities.

Economic levers of influence on external labor migration (attracting highly qualified specialists), illegal immigration; protection of the national labor market, as well as problems of adaptation and integration of new Russian citizens, both economic and psychological, still require attention. (It is worth mentioning, though, that even in the time of Peter the Great privileges granted to foreigners caused strong negative feelings among local residents towards Europeans.)

In order to keep up with the dynamics of migration processes, Russia needs adequate response mechanisms, and it is necessary to start with strengthening the spirit of national unity. It is no coincidence that on September 14, 2022, Metropolitan Georgy of Nizhny Novgorod and Arzamas met with delegations of teachers from the Northern Lands. At the moment, having no will to participate in the military conflict, many men emigrate to the former republics of the USSR (Georgia, Belarus, etc.) and the countries of Europe and Asia, as a result, Russia is losing human resources, capital and gene pool. The composition of the population is changing not only because of participation in hostilities, but also as a consequence of emigration and immigration processes. Together with the loss of qualified specialists, the share of the Russians in the total population is steadily declining. On average, there are two children in Russian families versus four in Asian immigrants' ones. It seems that the time has come to apply measures to preserve indigenous nationalities as small peoples. The same issue is on the agenda in all the host countries: Germany, France, etc.

The protection of migrants' rights is one of the priorities of international policy, as well as concern for local residents. Currently, a new "battle" is unfolding in the country to ensure that the youth do not leave it. The state creates pull factors,

such as housing benefits for young families, maternity capital, allowances for children, etc. However, against the background of economic sanctions, information warfare and the military operation (push factors), for young, educated and energetic people, moving to another state does not seem as scary as the uncertainty of their own future at home and the fate of their Fatherland. We lack both documentaries and talk shows with real stories of immigrants, as well as feature films, preferably franchises, that would create a bright positive image of Russia and its citizens, so that the statement “I am from Russia” becomes as popular as “I am Bond”. Along with the problem of protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, modern times have included in the list of topical issues the problem of the emergence of new categories of migrants, for example, “climate refugees”, who can only get a residence permit for humanitarian reasons. Like a squirrel in a wheel, humanity is tirelessly improving the international legal system only to face new crises, to overcome which the existing norms are no longer sufficient.

Two trends are characteristic of modernity: on the one hand, governments, for example, in Norway, adopt strict laws restricting immigration; on the other hand, the same authorities allocate funds and take measures to integrate migrant workers and newcomers into the economic life of the country.

Meanwhile, migration processes are becoming more and more complicated, defining migration patterns. The peak of immigration to EU countries (2012-2016) happened because of a combination of a number of pull and push factors. The maximum level of immigration to Russia (2011-2014) was also largely due to both the strengthening of the national economy and severe tensions in the poor CIS countries. The fundamental differences between the above migration models are in the goals of immigrants. They go to Russia in search of a well-paid job or use it as a transit territory, while they choose EU countries for refugee status, or in the hope of a better life.

Often the illusory hopes of immigrants and refugees are dashed by the harsh reality in which the indigenous population of the country is not ready to share social benefits with foreigners. Meanwhile, all people have inalienable rights that should be protected. Various international organizations (of which the Russian Federation is also a member) have been actively developing regulations for ensuring the rights of immigrants for decades. The Geneva Convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Conventions and other international treaties (Fig. 3) are the most effective mechanisms for supporting specific groups of migrants.

Each State is responsible for the observance of the rights and freedoms of people under its jurisdiction, regardless of their place of birth or nationality. Now, more than ever, the world needs decisive actions that promote the ideas of absolute intolerance to racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants. Everyone should learn to respect the culture, religion and mentality of people who are one-step away from them or on the other side of the world.

Only by cultivating tolerance, love for one's neighbor, active citizenship and passing these values from generation to generation, will we be able to create a world in which no one will feel superfluous.

“In today's world, all societies are becoming multicultural, multiethnic and multi-confessional. This diversity must be seen as richness, not as a threat. But to make diversity a success, we need to invest in social cohesion, so that all people feel that their identities are respected and that they have a stake in the community as a whole.” Antonio Guterres (2017)

Illustrations

Figure 1:

A screen cap of the 'A Girl with Character' movie, 1939

<http://allstars.pp.ru/articles/putesh/2.html>



Figure 2

Internal migration in Russia in the 2000s

Created by Obuhova Polina

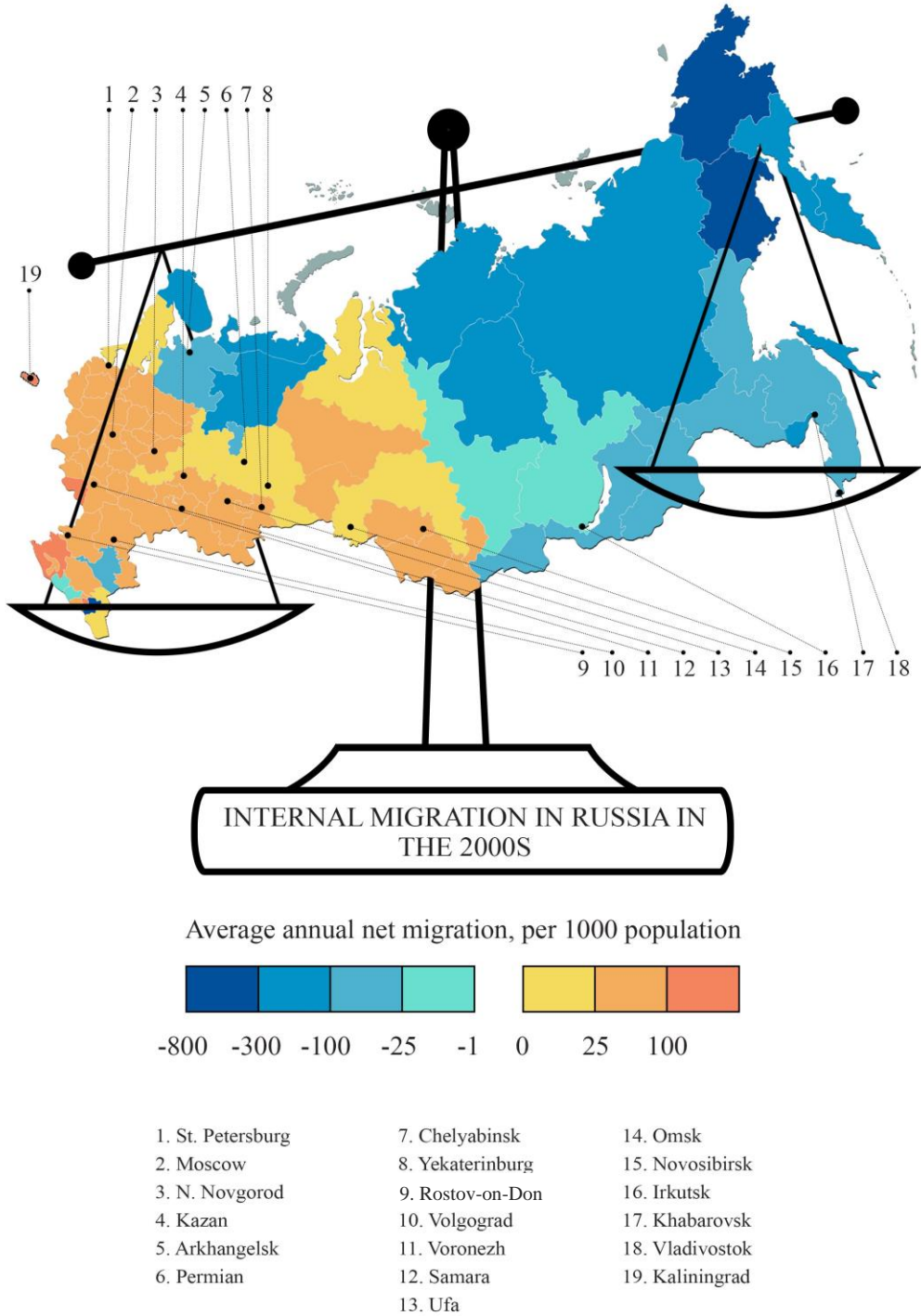
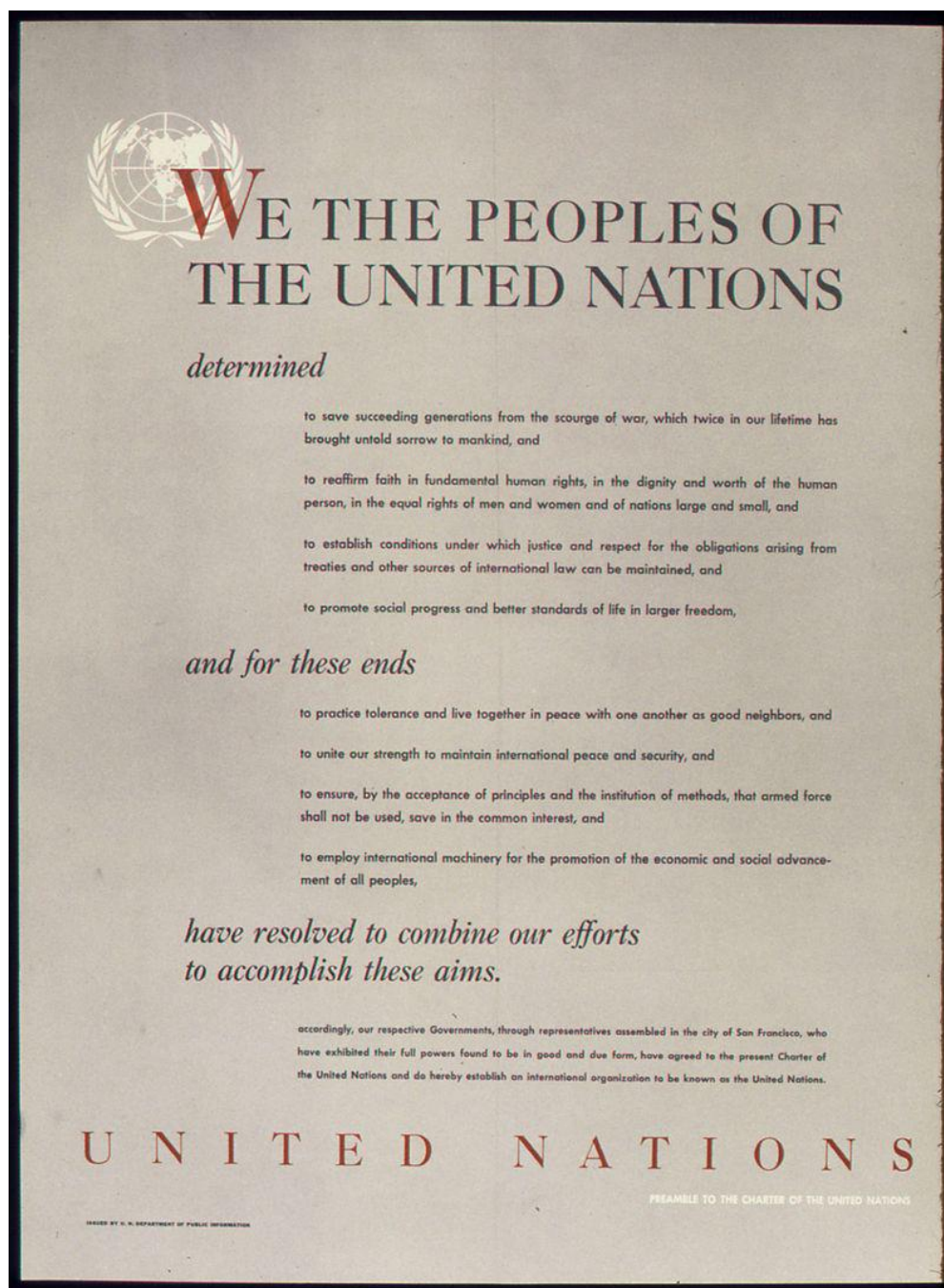


Figure 3:

Preamble to the Charter of the UN (poster)

<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/united-nations-preamble-to-the-charter-of-the-united-nations?tmpl=component&print=1>



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