

PREDICTIVE AND MIGRATION TRENDS OF RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND POST-CORONAVIRUS WORLD

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INTRODUCTION

The global COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 is called "the viral revolution". There is a lot of predictions about irreversible changes of the post-pandemic world in the media, but researchers (VINOGRADOVA et al., 2018) are also interested in what the post-coronavirus world is like. They responded with analytical articles and scientific conferences, justifying certain optimistic and pessimistic forecasts. Since migration has been a global phenomenon for a long time, the predictions of possible post-pandemic world transformations have a direct bearing on it (PROKOFIEVA et al., 2018; REZNICHENKO et al., 2018).

The global pandemic crisis has affected everyone, but it looks like international migrants are affected most of all: the countries limit their mobility, close national borders, there is a partial or complete lack of work, and (as usual in a crises) practically all the countries of the Western world (and Russia as well) began to look for the causes of their social and economic deterioration in migration process (KUTUEV et al., 2017; RAZUMOVSKAYA et al., 2018; PUSHKAREV et al., 2019). That is reflected in the growth of xenophobia and racism which is changing optimistic prognoses regarding the migrants to the more pessimistic ones.

Various prognostic ideas about migration processes in the post-coronavirus world become public in migrant rhetoric and discourse. The migrant rhetoric (public media discourse) is a specific Western media phenomenon. This is, in fact, a lot of private and public statements of politicians and public figures, judgments in the press and social networks, a kind of generalized expression of certain sides of public opinion. The range of "migrant rhetoric" is very wide: from "the right to emigrate", enshrined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights to everyday judgments such as "immigrants invade our homeland". Within the framework of this paper, we understand the concept of migrant discourse (scientific and theoretical) as conceptualization of various predictive arguments about the prospects of migration processes in scientific, statistical, analytical and predictive materials.

In the pandemic period, value judgments about migrants, migration processes and migration policy were transformed (not in the best way in relation to the migrants), following the changes in public opinion. Arguments about the post-coronavirus world became mass media practices. In democratic countries mass media practices significantly influence the public policy, and migration policy as well. All that makes understanding of predictive migration trends in the post-coronavirus world an urgent task. This article is a kind of analytical digest, the presented analysis of predictive materials is focused on the future of relevant areas of sociological research.

The purpose of this article is to identify the trends emerging in so-called migrant rhetoric, which is manifested in public discussions about the status and situation of migrants in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the prospects of migration in the post-coronavirus world and their reflection in the migrant discourse.

So, the object of research are various predictive materials that characterize transformation of migration processes in the context of pandemic and post-pandemic period. The subject of research are the trends in transformation of migration processes, which can be described as the main trends of international and Russian migration.

The author's hypothesis is based on migrant rhetoric (public media discourse) analysis and migrant discourse (scientific and theoretical), which are illustrating the global changes affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The hypothesis relates to the assumption that recovery from the global crisis, affecting all the migrant world and attitudes of host states, should be associated with systemic changes and transformations in the understanding, legal regulation and modernization of international migration processes management.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research is based on systematic methods of evaluating messages in the media and social networks, as well as network analysis techniques, mass media practices and migrant rhetoric in public materials by highlighting, comparing, evaluating and conceptualizing the trends in transformation of migration processes under the influence of global changes caused by the pandemic. We also used the methods of discursive analysis of migrant discourse in analytical materials.

RESULTS

The current migrant problems in Russian Federation have developed recently. Thus, experts from the Gaidar Institute and RANEPА identified the largest (in 10 years) influx of migrants to Russia in the first four months of 2019. The experts state, that the information system and the level of registration of migrants in Russia is imperfect: various indirect data suggest that more than 60% of those who came to Russia for work, study or for other reasons, are operating almost illegally. This means that the migrants are likely to become elements of informal economy. So we can conclude that many of them find themselves in the sphere of corruption and crime.

Expert's state, that in the first months of 2019 the migration growth of Russian population has sharply increased: from 57.1 thousand of people in January-April 2018 to 98 thousand in January-April 2019. In general, however, this increase was fully provided by the number of arrivals - 218.6 thousand (for the corresponding period of the last year - 177.3 thousand), while the number of departures has not changed.

Again, experts of the Gaidar Institute and RANEPА point out, that migration growth has increased due to arrival of migrants from the CIS countries - by 57.4%. In particular, the largest increase in migration was due to the migrants from Armenia and Ukraine. But the number of migrants from Belarus and Moldova has decreased. The main migrant's cohort in the Russian Federation consists of people from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Armenia (KOMRAKOV, 2019).

The transformations of migration process characterize the situation in the Russian Federation in pre-coronavirus period. Before focusing on what changes in migration processes are predicted in the post-coronavirus world, let's pay attention to how the post-pandemic world is seen by the leading researchers. Thus, the American publication "Foreign Policy" asked the leading thinkers from different countries to share their forecasts (THE WORLD AFTER CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, 2020).

Stephen Walt, Professor of International Relations at Harvard University, predicted that the pandemic will significantly strengthen the state power and positions of nationalism. Anti-pandemic strictures adopted by most of the states as emergency measures in order to fight the pandemic and overcome the subsequent crisis are likely to remain for a long time. The states are unlikely to relinquish their new legal obligations, rights and powers in the end of the

pandemic and crisis. As a result, according to Professor Walt, the world will be less open, less tolerant, less prosperous and, of course, less free.

Robin Niblett (Director of Chatham House – the Royal Institute of International Affairs and British analytical organization in the field of international relations) believes that the coronavirus pandemic can be the last straw that will break the back of economic globalization camel and shake the economic unity of the European Union.

Laurie Garrett, a former Senior Fellow for Global Health Council on Foreign Relations and a Pulitzer prize-winning author, predicted that the coronavirus pandemic would certainly and irreversibly change the world. These changes will affect all the spheres of public life with various long-term consequences for the world order. This is primarily due to the reformatting of globalism and economic guidelines of the developed countries. The mass psychology of people should change as well: they have felt their vulnerability in the coronavirus pandemic, so people will seek to protect themselves by developing and accumulating their own security and survival resources (financial, food, medical, etc.), not relying solely on the state.

Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The World: a Brief Introduction" believes that pandemic that caused a global economic crisis, reflected in the decline in production, decreasing GDP, rising unemployment and deterioration of material situation of majority of the population, will result in new bankrupt countries, with some more important things to think about than international migration and the problems associated with it.

Although this forecast may have a downside: the bankrupt countries will be forced to import migrants as mass and cheap labor force, which will inevitably lead to an increase in competition for jobs with population and ethnic conflicts, fueled by xenophobia, migrant phobia and racism. This is bound to international anti-racist movements, some of which could be seen recently in the United States, when hundreds of thousands of young people were protesting against police brutality, and in fact, against racism in the national policy. Before proceeding to the analysis of prognostic ideas about the impact of the pandemic on migration processes, we should be aware of the current migrant situation in the context of the pandemic, since its characteristics reveal certain probable trends in the future.

At present, when the pandemic is not yet over, there is an increase in racist attitudes on social networks, as well as an increase in anti-racist campaigns. So, the main idea of the online conference "Manifestations of Racism, Xenophobia and Migration Processes in the Context of the Coronavirus Pandemic", was that the global pandemic has exacerbated the problems of the world order, also global, but latent, hidden behind various ideological myths or political good wishes, disconnected from reality (SOCIAL INFORMATION AGENCY, 2020).

Such a global problem is inter-ethnic relations directly related to migration processes. No matter what declarations of equality and justice were adopted by the states, no matter how proud they were of their tolerance – none of them managed to achieve true equality. In the context of the study of migration processes, in the states that receive migrants, there is no true social partnership with them, although, perhaps, the principles of equality are prescribed in Constitutions.

The pandemic exposed the vulnerability of migrants, both to the virus (migrant medical support of the host countries is imperfect), and to the state, which allowed them to come to work or study. It is hard to say were the migrants affected more by the pandemic, or by the host state, which at the critical moment just abandoned them, leaving without work and possibilities to return home, without the right to travel, in fact, without the right to live. After all, the main mechanism of migrant adaptation was acquisition of social capital, which, according to P. Bourdieu (2005), is a set of actual or potential resources that institutionalize relations of reciprocity and recognition, partnership and trust.

What kind of partnership and trust can be there if the host state considers migrants to be "the people of second-class"? If there is a shortage of social capital among the migrants (lack of resources creates relationships of true partnership and trust), then migrants develop their own survival resources. This is the so-called ethnic capital, which is opposed to social capital in crisis

conditions and can serve as a breeding ground for ethnic protests, ethnic conflicts and even terrorism.

Along with the growth of racist and xenophobic attitudes, there is a growing trend of anti-racist events and campaigns, in ethnic social networks and on migrants ethnic forums, where anti-racist messages are posted, as well as lists of victims of racist actions (UNESCO, 2020).

There is another trend of transformation, which is also reflected in social networks. This trend is related to the previously established transnational mobility of international migrants. Thus, in the materials that have become public, German analysts A. Knoll and A. Bisong (2020) emphasize that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (as a result of national borders closure), has slowed down and almost stopped the transnational mobility of international migrants, it is expected that in the post-coronavirus world national states will change their migration policy, limiting international migration and tightening requirements for migrants (KNOLL & BISONG, 2020).

Social distancing in the context of the pandemic and remote work through the Internet contributes to another trend, that is an even greater movement of social connections and relationships of migrants to the online sphere. The trend of increasing online mobility reflects the Western term "big data" which includes various anonymous data generated by the users of mobile devices, Internet and digital platforms. Big data is no longer just mass, but global in nature: 5.16 billion unique mobile users. The account of migrant users is worth millions (experts state, that their number is from 8% to 10% of the total number of users, more than 100.000.000). This circumstance means that quantitative changes have already passed into qualitative ones, as migrants have almost completely switched their social and interpersonal connections to the online level through mobile devices (MIGRATION DATA PORTAL, 2020).

The increasing "departure" of migrants from the off-line sphere to on-line, as a result of their global transnational mobility restriction and development of innovative information technologies has become a stable trend.

It should be noted that this trend has different facets. On the one hand, it contributes to activities of digital migrant diasporas and migrant ethnic social networks. As noted above, ethnic social networks form the ethnic capital of migrants, which is the basis of their online virtual ethnic identity. The ethnic capital of migrants is a factor that strengthens their ethnic cohesion, trust, and connection with their homeland, contributes to maintenance of ethnic traditions and values, translates their ethnic culture.

In the context of growing xenophobic attitudes of the host countries population it becomes an alternative to social capital (due to its lack) for migrants and does not contribute to their successful adaptation, often leading to ethnic conflicts. Such researchers as S. Robillard, D. Maxwell and J Kim (2002) also note, that there, where they have developed the most productive ethnic social networks, there is the highest level of cohesion, solidarity and mutual support for migrants, which in the pandemic context promotes mutual assistance and partnership (ROBILLARD, MAXWELL & KIM, 2020).

In addition, according to the analyst J. Kushner (2020), the ethnic social networks, acting as new media, contribute to better awareness and, therefore, to protection of the migrants. They also facilitate effective dialogue between migrant communities, government agencies and civil society.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social networks, as noted in materials by T. Falkenburger, O. Arena and J. Shakesprere (2020), T. Fisse and C. Haas (2020), provide their electronic platforms and virtual spaces for collective discussions and negotiations, both with other ethnic communities, and with the political, social and civil institutions of the host state and society. This is especially important in the pandemic context, when people are isolated from each other due to the social distance, self-isolation, quarantine and remote work (FISSE & HAAS, 2020).

The strengthening of transnational attitudes among migrants is the increasing trend in migration processes of the global pandemic period. As noted in materials of American analysts P. Pylas, F. Jordans and J. Leicester (2020), in the context of COVID-19 pandemic the principles of transnationalism have become more and more apparent in migrant ethnic social networks

and the concept of solidarity is being filled not only with ethnic and national, but also with a broad social content. In particular, this is expressed in the human rights and humanitarian orientation of migrant attitudes and actions (PYLAS, JORDANS & LEICESTER, 2020). G. Filiz and A.L. Asad (2020) in their material "Migrant Networks. New Trends in Social and Behavioral Sciences" characterize this direction of migrant rhetoric as a new trend in migration process, which still needs to be studied.

New trends have emerged in the management of migration processes as well. For example, analysts K.S. Sandvik and A. Garnier (2020) note that the very paradigm of international migration management, related to the control of movement and interaction of migrants, is significantly changing. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the mass closure of host countries governmental and humanitarian adaptation programs for migrants. That has a number of indirect consequences caused by numerous examples of various emergency laws. There is also a problem related to the "legal distancing", which further contributes to marginalization and partial exclusion of migrants from the legal field (SANDVIK & GARNIER, 2020).

DISCUSSION

Let's highlight the main problems that have already entered the emigrant discourse. So, on 17 June 2020 the Institute of linguistic-civilizational and Migration Processes at the "Russkiy Mir" Foundation, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia and the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences held an international online conference "The Impact of the Pandemic on Migration Processes (2020): Continuity and Novelty". The main issues:

- The impact of the pandemic and global crisis on international migration and migration processes: short-term or long-term?
- Changes that transform international migration - are they of a transitional, anti-crisis or irreversible nature?
- What should be the main changes in migration legislation of the Russian Federation and other countries in the field of legal regulation of migration and the practice of its application?
- What changes in the attitude of the state and society towards migrants can be expected in the near future and in the long term?
- How does the pandemic affect the emergence of new risks associated with international migration and how are the given risks perceived by the population?
- What is the measure restricting the freedom of mobility of migrants and how does it relate to human and civil rights?
- Are there any new opportunities for cooperation, open up for countries of origin and reception of migrants (POLETAEV, 2020)?
- Special attention should be paid to the pandemic challenges for Russia in adjustment and modernization of migration policy. Thus, D. Poletaev (2020), describing migration challenges for Russia, notes:
- Imperfection of migration legislation of the Russian Federation, as revealed by the global pandemic; there are long-existing formal and informal legal barriers for migrants to registration, legalizing their stay in Russia, opening their own business. All that directly and indirectly encourages the migrants to violate Russian legislation;
- This circumstance contributes to the fact that migrants will solve many of their problems either illegally and indirectly, or directly - through corruption and crime;
- The above circumstances raise the issue of increasing migrant crime;
- There is a need to significantly modernize the migrant legislation in the Russian Federation and bring it in line with international legal norms;

- There are many reasons, including imperfection of Russian migration legislation and some formal law enforcement practices, preventing successful adaptation of migrants. The migrants are inclined to solve their issues outside the legal field; there is a lack of equal social partnership, as well as the growing trend of xenophobia and migrant phobia among a part of the Russian population. All that make the issue of migrant terrorism relevant, especially in the long term;
- Not less important challenge for Russia is to actualize in connection with the bankruptcy of many businesses and reduction of small and medium business after isolation in the pandemic and rising unemployment, competition of the migrants and Russians for jobs, which inevitably lead to escalation of ethnic conflicts (POLETAEV, 2020).

Experts think that in post-coronavirus world there will grow shadow market of migrant workers. Today it is a powerful and extensive infrastructure that in the future may adversely affect the employment of Russians and competition in the labor market which lead to conflicts due to this (VOLOKH & KURDYUMOV, 2020).

The Moody's International Rating Agency believes that in the post-coronavirus world, at least in the next two years, there will increase internal migration in Russia. This will be due to the fact that many able-bodied Russians, including the migrants, will seek to leave for large cities and megapolises - the economic, financial, industrial and cultural centers providing more employment opportunities.

This will lead to the following irreversible consequences: first, the role of these centers will increase, but their separation from the regions will increase as well; second, the income of these centers will increase, which will contrast with the catastrophic fall in the income of regional cities; third, the mega-centers will develop rapidly, absorbing investment and budget funds of state programs and national projects, while the regional province will increasingly fall into the grip of financial deficit, social and economic depression and degradation.

We can see that such a disparity in development and imbalance between the mega-centers and regional province is a breeding ground for social contradictions, which will lead to national conflict in the future (MEDUSA NEWS, 2020).

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly complicated lives of almost all the people of the world, but especially - the lives of migrants. It substantially transformed the migration and induced the host states to use the crisis (emergency) rules for governing the situation and status of migrants, their movement and all the aspects of their life.

The forced restrictive measures of national states in the context of global crisis caused by the pandemic have many economic, legal and humanitarian consequences for international migrants. They are expressed in the following negative trends:

- increase in xenophobic, migrant-phobic and racist attitudes among a part of host countries population;
- restricting the mobility of migrants;
- increase of competition for jobs between migrants and the indigenous population, which is a prerequisite and basis for the possible inter-ethnic conflicts.

Without modernization of national states migration policy these trends may develop into the trends of post-coronavirus world migration. At the same time, some trends in migration can already be described as the leading ones, though being ambiguous. Thus, the movement of social ties and relationships of migrants from the offline sphere to online is a stable trend. The same steady trend is strengthening of transnational attitudes among the migrants. It is expressed in humanitarian and human rights orientation of the actions and attitudes of migrants.

The general conclusion is as follows: the global migration processes and migration in the Russian Federation are in crisis under the influence of the global COVID-19 pandemic. They should develop a systemic understanding of the trends of migration processes transformation in the context of pandemic and predictive relationships in post-coronavirus world, revealing transformation of some trends in the trends of migration processes. There is a need for reasonable modernization system of the national migration policy.

LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD

This study was conducted in modern conditions and is related to the realities of today. This research can be continued under changing conditions.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Yuriy G. Volkov and Vladimir I. Kurbatov initiated the work by proposing the framework of the study. Konstantin V. Vodenko and Rashid D. Khunagov performed the test hypothesis and prepared the results. Vladimir V. Uzunov discussed the results.

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Predictive and migration trends of Russia in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and post-coronavirus world

Tendências preditivas e migratórias da Rússia no contexto do mundo da pandemia Covid-19 e pós-coronavírus

Tendencias predictivas y migratorias de Rusia en el contexto de la pandemia de Covid-19 y el mundo post-coronavirus

Resumo

Este trabalho discute as tendências de desenvolvimento dos processos de migração mundial no contexto da pandemia global COVID-19 refletidas nas práticas de mídia de massa, comunicação em rede e análises científicas. A metodologia desta pesquisa é baseada em métodos sistemáticos de avaliação de mensagens na mídia e redes sociais, bem como técnicas de análise de rede, práticas de mídia de massa e retórica de migrantes em materiais públicos, destacando, comparando, avaliando e conceitualizando as tendências de transformação da migração processos sob a influência das mudanças globais causadas pela pandemia. O estudo comprova que os processos de migração global e migração na Federação Russa estão em crise sob a influência da pandemia global COVID-19.

Palavras-chave: Processos de migração. Retórica migrante. Xenofobia. Transnacionalidade. Política migratória dos estados nacionais.

Abstract

This work discusses the trends of the world migration processes development in the context of global COVID-19 pandemic reflected in mass-media practices, network communication and scientific analyses. The methodology of this research is based on systematic methods of evaluating messages in the media and social networks, as well as network analysis techniques, mass media practices and migrant rhetoric in public materials by highlighting, comparing, evaluating and conceptualizing the trends in transformation of migration processes under the influence of global changes caused by the pandemic. The study proves that the global migration processes and migration in the Russian Federation are in crisis under the influence of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Migration processes. Migrant rhetoric. Xenophobia. Transnationality. Migration policy of national states.

Resumen

Este trabajo analiza las tendencias del desarrollo de los procesos migratorios mundiales en el contexto de la pandemia mundial de COVID-19 reflejada en las prácticas de los medios de comunicación, la comunicación en red y los análisis científicos. La metodología de esta investigación se basa en métodos sistemáticos de evaluación de mensajes en los medios y redes sociales, así como en técnicas de análisis de redes, prácticas de los medios de comunicación y retórica migrante en materiales públicos al resaltar, comparar, evaluar y conceptualizar las tendencias de transformación de la migración. procesos bajo la influencia de cambios globales provocados por la pandemia. El estudio demuestra que los procesos migratorios globales y la migración en la Federación de Rusia están en crisis bajo la influencia de la pandemia global de COVID-19.

Palabras-clave: Procesos de migración. Retórica migrante. Xenofobia. Transnacionalidad. Política migratoria de los Estados nacionales.