Migration and Public Security: Problem Field of Research

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The article analyzes contradictory effects and political aspects of migration and identifies correlations between the unsolved social problems of migrants and aggravation of interethnic, socio-cultural and other problems affecting the competitive capacity, social and political stability and image of the state based on the social survey and statistics data. Issues such as ensuring of public security through respect for rights and freedoms of migrants and local population in choosing individual path of professional development and pattern of life, importance of monitoring "socially-based" migration risks rating by public authorities and taking such indicators into account in political decision-making are addressed. The authors make a well-founded conclusion that social and political effects of migration manifest themselves after a long period of time, are essentially negative and affect the security of individuals, society and the state and, therefore, require the development of a scientifically well-founded, efficient national migration policy adequate to new challenges and risks.

Key words: Russia, Migration, Migration flows, Migration policy, Threats, Public security.

The 21st century opened for the world community new opportunities and prospects for development, improvement of standards of living and quality of life. However, problems the humanity had faced over its history, many of them becoming global ones, have remained and aggravated. Such challenges include migration and public security. For many states, including those with stable economic and political systems, solution to migration problems becomes a crucial issue, critical for their demographic and socio-cultural survival and preservation of their civilizational identity. National development trends in the era of globalization, such as increased risks specific to national, regional and local development paths, close connection between internal and foreign policies, new forms of communication between the state and civil society, enhanced role of the social component in actions of the ruling elite and assessment of their legitimacy and other trends, all affect the ensuring of public security[1].

Effects of migration on socio-political development and security stimulated investigation of this complicated and contradictory phenomenon in Russia and other countries. Migration problems are analyzed in Christian L. van Tonder, Werner Soontiens[2], Antonio Mihi-Ramirez, Vilmante Kumpikaite[3], Emilia Titan, Simona Ghita, Mihaela Covrig[4] and others. Public security issues are addressed by Kevin Aquilina[5], Pedro Cavalcanti Ferreira, Marcelo Rodrigues dos Santos[6], Tomoaki Yamada[7] and others. Most researchers focus on specific problems of migration and public security. It is a fruitful approach, as using it migration can be studied in the context of particular migration regulation measures. However, another approach

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is equally important, under which migration and security correspond not only with political practice, but also with their investigation as comprehensive phenomena that require solutions on the national and international levels. Works in which mutual influence of migration and public security becomes a subject of special scientific research should be specially noted. Using China as an example, the problem was studied by Ingrid Nielsen and Russell Smyth from Australia[8]. In India, Avijit Debnath and Niranjan Roy analyzed the relationship between internal migration and crime rate as a factor affecting public security[9]. Researchers from Poland, Piotr Razniak and Anna

Winiarczyk-Razniak, found out a connection between net migration, public security and migration growth rate in the period from 2003 to 2010[10]. The practical and political relevance of such angle of research is as follows: If the current world development trends continue, migration and public security will tend to be the basic elements that would determine the vector, quality and rate of further development of many present-day states and their political and civil institutions.

Migration is understood as the movement of people between countries caused by various domestic and foreign policy factors and resulting in the change of migrant's status and role and

Table 1. Analysis of summarized replies of respondents
Rate negative for you changes in the social and economic sphere due to migration
(where 5 – high level, 4 – rather high, 3 – appreciable, 2 – rather low, 1 – low level)

	Locals	Migrants
Job loss / abrupt dismissal	5	2
Social amenities	4	3
Changed cultural and religious norms and practices	4	5
Large gap between salary expectations and real wage	4	2

Table 2. Analysis of official statistical data on breakdown of migrants by some Russian regions for 2012-2013

	2012			2013		
	Arrived	Left	Net migration gain	Arrived	Left	Net migration gain
Moscow	205,510	99,743	105,767	224,993	116,152	108,841
St. Petersburg	194,511	120,419	74,092	257,636	157,619	100,017
Republic of Daghestan	39,415	63,373	-23,958	41,797	63,297	-21,500
Republic of Tyva	10,507	14,189	-3,682	10,426	13,837	-3,411
Kursk region	35,280	32,356	2,924	41,772	37,098	4,674

gradual shift of personal socio-cultural model towards dominant social, legal and cultural attitudes in the host country[11]. Public security is interpreted by the authors as the security and protection of rights and freedoms of an individual, citizen and society from internal and external threats in political and legal, moral and spiritual and social spheres[12]. Socio-political and legal and political analyses make it possible to identify political aspects of migration, to find correlations between unsolved social problems of migrants and aggravation of interethnic, socio-cultural and other problems affecting the competitive capacity, socio-political stability and image of the state. While not denying positive economic effects of migration for

donor and recipient countries, many analysts and experts with whom the authors associate themselves also note negative social and political effects of migration that manifest themselves after a long period of time. International migration often is manifested in increased crime rate and terrorist threats, growth of racism, nationalism and xenophobia, strengthening of political positions and activization of anti-democratic and ultra-right forces, domination of illegitimate technologies of presentation of interests by political actors, predominance of conflict forms of involvement of non-residents in the political life of host countries, etc. These and other negative developments caused by migration lead to the aggravation of

public order-related problems, sharp increase in the risk level in ensuring public security and deterioration of relations between countries of origin and host countries.

To determine the minimum level of the existing threat each government uses its own valid rating of security risks, including public security risks. Russia has recently developed a theoretical foundation for such rating with respect to terrorist threat[13]. However, social survey results give evidence of the existence of "socially based" scale of migration risks and threats that should be divided into two groups: threats as seen by local communities and migrants. Below is given the authors' table of the analysis of summarized replies of Russian respondents reflecting the socio-political context of migration, based on the results of social surveys conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center and Public Opinion Foundation published in the period from July 2013 to July 2014 [14, 15, 16].

Therefore, as a rule, migrants largely rate their general and socio-economic security level much lower than locals. Significantly, migrants' perception of threat to their security sharply increases when it comes to socio-cultural and religious norms and practices. Respondents from settled population rate any changes as a threat to their security at a higher level. Negative experience of local population as a result of the implementation of an ill-considered, inefficient, inadequate to new threats and risks national migration policy institutionalizes it as a permanent and independent risk. In all countries facing huge, uncontrolled, poorly regulated migrant flows migration is seen by local settled population as a potential threat to their general and socio-economic security.

Migration policy should be implemented taking into account public opinion which is directly influenced by state and social institutions and, in turn, affects their functioning. Importantly, information and comments on events and situations caused by migration should be presented with moderation. Impact of horror management, a political technology of management of political decision-making by the public, on public opinion, including in respect of migration, should also be noted. Foreign literature gives a model of using this management method[13]. Political practice in many countries proves that whipping up of

"catastrophic information" in the public mind raises the level of potential threat; consequently, the level of ensuring of public security falls. Under such conditions, people tend to take much more conservative and tough decisions, up to voluntary abandonment of some of their rights and freedoms to lower the level of threat to public security generally[12].

Ensuring of the rights and freedoms of local population and migrants in choosing individual path of professional development and pattern of life is one of the major problems that exist today. To solve it, specialized institutions and agencies have been created (such as the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants); however, there is an escalating conflict between a subjective decision on migration and objective need to ensure a secure stable and progressive advance of society generally[11]. In this regard, the development and reproduction of legal culture of self-restriction to reduce public security risks is a pressing practical task for governments and civil society. This concerns both migrants and local population. By interfering in the regulation of such processes, the state unintentionally becomes an additional source of socio-economic threats for migrants (special employment conditions, quotas, etc.). Yet, lack of state regulation of migration is fraught with serious social losses.

High density of settled population, significant migration growth rates, tight socio-cultural norms, socio-economic crisis manifestations, high level of population sensitivity to horror technologies – these are the conditions under which migration flows, in many respects objectively caused, can be viewed as the principal risk factors contributing to migration evolving from a potential threat into a real threat to public security. This conclusion is supported by statistical data on migration growth rates in five constituent territories of the Russian Federation[16].

Analysis of the above statistical data allows the following conclusions, data were compared with the position proposed by the authors[17]. Regions with higher migration attractiveness due to high level of socio-economic development and job prospects (Moscow, Moscow region, St. Petersburg, Krasnodar Territory, etc.) show an annually increased

migration gain, which significantly increases public security risks. By contrast, a stable outflow of population from economically depressed regions (Daghestan, Tyva, Murmansk region and others) is evidenced. This goes to prove that for migrationally attractive regions migration risks are essentially higher, which may become a serious problem in the near future. The situation is aggravated by a considerable number of unregistered illegal migrants.

A sharp increase in conflicts caused by uncontrolled migration requires from the ruling elite and civil society responsible political decisions and joint actions to articulate and aggregate the interests of local population and migrating social groups, to develop and implement preventive measures aimed at counteracting the above threats. A national migration policy adequate to the new civilizational threats and challenges includes a comprehensive set of measures aimed at improving the regulatory and legal framework, adaptation of migrants to and integration into a different socio-cultural environment, optimal distribution of population and manpower resources for the purposes of ensuring a dynamic and balanced development of all sectors and regions and strengthening of civil peace, accord and stability.

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