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The Reasons for the Growth of Extremism in Russia

ABSTRACT

A favourable situation for growth of extremist moods still remains in modern Russia. This report deals with the main social problems which make possible such state of affairs. Lack of social lifts in the society, shortage of ways of legal personal self-fulfillment for young people, lack of due level of public morals are among the main drivers for growth of extremism. There are organizations, propagating extremism in one form or another actively working in this situation. Global advancement of the Internet promotes their activity effectively. The situation with extremism in Russia is also aggravated by critical labour migration streams.

Key words: *growth of extremist moods, social lifts, media scene globalization, labour migration.*

Almost total absence of social lifts in the society, depriving young people of hope to reach a more significant position, to rise over daily routine and despondency are to be mentioned among essential reasons influencing emergence and development of extremist moods in the Russian Federation.

Many young people, especially in the first half of the 90th years, saw participation in any criminal gangs which literally terrorized the inhabitants, often transforming into parallel, and very often only effective power structures in a number of regions of the country, as a possibility to leave a “hopelessness” situation.

As the law enforcement bodies succeed in gaining control over the situation and liquidating the criminal groups, the request for emergence of other forms of satisfaction of need of young people in finding, though in a false manner understood, but a reason for existence, increased.

At that the level of disparity of society has practically not decreased, the possibilities of legal personal self-fulfillment have not increased, and the public morals were not created.

Seemingly the attempts to tap out the need of young people for personal self-fulfillment by foundation of various youth organizations such as the Nashi youth movement can be hardly considered to be successful, their basis was made up either by cynical careerists, or by the persons inclined to the unreservedly extremist ways of pursuit of interests.

The situation as it has developed became a very fertile ground for any activity of the religious and extremism-driven nationalist organizations.

Possibility to explain the reason of the problems by the dangerous pursuit of representatives of other religion, ethnos and culture always attracted certain population groups in such organizations, the state of axiological and statutory vacuum of society has greatly contributed to increase in a share of such citizens.

Spreading of extremist attitudes was strongly influenced by the major breakthrough in the information sphere. The introduction of the Internet has made not only very problematic restriction of access of the intending persons to materials having the extremist contents, but also has created possibilities for building-up and development of extremist groups by use of network resources.

Information space globalization has provided revolutionary possibilities for the extremist religious and nationalist driven organizations operating outside of Russia, for formation of base of their supporters, exercise of influence upon them, for controlling their activity. Such work is conducted in some cases under control of the intelligence services operating against Russia.

Spreading of extremist attitudes of nationalist character is promoted to some extent by the incitement of xenophobia coming around not only at the mundane level, but, in some cases, also by means of public judgments and proposals stated by those power officials who not willing to take for necessary to stay within the limits of political correctness condemned by them.

Experience gained by some European states allows assuming that scope of the extremist attitudes caused by interethnic contradictions in Russia will hardly begin to decline, as these contradictions will keep their acuteness in the coming years.

First of all this refers to the contradictions arising because of labour migration, being practically unavoidable in the coming years, into the Russian megalopolises.

The major efforts of the authorities on labour migration regulation made in recent years definitely promote deterring of growth of these contradictions. Nevertheless, it will be hardly possible to avoid a situation when migrants, in process of taking roots in

the Russian cities, will claim for the more and more increasing range of really achievable benefits. In turn, this will be negatively perceived by the local population, willing to see in migrants only cheap labour for activities of little prestige, and will become a sustenance for xenophobia growth. In reply to this one will get nationalist sentiments with the chances of their transformation into extremist outpouring.

As to extremist attitudes of a nationalist character among representatives of indigenous people of Russia, as one can see it with the proviso using the example of experiment of Chechnya, the situation can change for the better in process of improvement of social and economic situation in regions.

In counteraction to the security hazards noted above, it will be hardly possible to achieve fundamental changes by only economic measures and efforts of law enforcement bodies. A comprehensive approach is indispensable, including formation of values in the society, including those on the issues of the inter-ethnic relations.