Abstract

Thesis title: The legal status of minorities in Russia

This work is an overview of the legal status of minorities in Russia and their mutual interaction with the dominant nation in individual historical stages. Its subject is to explore changes in the status of minorities in political, cultural, linguistic, religious and fundamental human rights. This is put in the historical context and the influence of the state's minority policy on state integrity is examined, including the assessment of the adequacy of the state-legal arrangement for the needs of national minorities. The space is also devoted to the administrative division of the country, which plays an important role in Russian terms. The pros and cons of period legislation are evaluated. Its impact on the practical life of minorities is illustrated by examples of specific minorities.

The work is structured chronologically, presenting the history of Russia primarily in terms of milestones relevant to national minorities. The first part devoted to the Russian Empire monitors its gradual expansion and differences in the legal status of the conquered nations. Approximately from the middle of the 19th century, the Russian legislation has been directed towards unification, resp. Rusification of the whole empire, while the causes and effects of this activity are pursued, especially the creation of national movements moving towards the independence of the outskirts of the empire. The beginning of the 20th century is then characterized by efforts to reverse these tendencies in society. The thesis deals with the role of national minorities in revolutionary events and examines the newly established system of minority affairs management under the Soviet regime. The most important terms of this period include the right to self-determination, federalization, and nativisation. After years of preservation of the regime, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the search for a new approach to national minorities in the time of the ongoing democratization of post-Soviet Russia are monitored. The last part of the thesis is devoted to the valid legislation of the Russian Federation governing the status of national, religious and sexual minorities.

Key words

minority rights, national minorities, indigenous peoples, ethnic policy, Russian Empire, Soviet Union, Russia, language law, cultural autonomy, sexual minorities