

Abstract

This thesis examines Russian foreign policy towards Russian minorities abroad through the prism of the intellectual and political concept of the Russian World. The thesis focuses on the following research questions: (1) What role do minorities abroad play in contemporary Russian foreign policy? What is their position in it? (2) What tools does the Russian Government use in order to keep these minorities in its sphere of influence? And (3) What is the role of the Russian World concept in contemporary Russian foreign policy? The findings indicate an evolution of the concept. At the same time, certain problems in the state policy towards Russians abroad are also indicated. Conclusively, it is also identified that the Russian World concept, as well as the commitment to protect minorities, is used by Russian government in certain cases. However, existing political realities, inevitably made adjustments to the perception and assessment of the prospects of the Russian World, polarizing for a long time the already ambiguous ideas about the commonality of their civilizational foundations, traditions and values.

Keywords

Russian World, Russian minorities, compatriots abroad, post-Soviet area, Russian diaspora, Russia's foreign policy

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