

Ethnic Structure of Population in Russia: Current Trends and the Future

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Abstract

Paper describes the features of ethnic composition of Russia at the turn of 21 century. The main topic is to analyze the most significant changes in formation of ethnic structure taken place in the recent decade resulting from significant decline of fertility and its ethnic differentiation, scale-down of selected ethnic emigration, and growing immigration of other peoples. Besides, they are influenced by the features of mixed marriage formation and development of migration legislation. The main sources were USSR and Russia population censuses, 1994 microcensus, annual and monthly statistics of Rosstat (Federal agency of state statistics).

Russia is a multiethnic country the majority of which are the Russians. They are currently about 80 per cent, but gradually depopulating. The total number of ethnicities accounted in 2002 census exceeds 190. At least the following five parts may be distinguished:

- The peoples who live during centuries on the territory of Russia: Bashkirs, Mordvins, Tatars, Chechens, Chuvashs, and many others. Many of them live rather compactly and form their national republics: Tuva, Sakha (Yakutiya), etc. Some of them are often referred to as the Peoples of the North.

- The peoples of ex-USSR republics: Ukrainians, Azerbaijanians, Letts, Tadjiks, etc.

- Gradually growing group of peoples intensively migrating to Russia: Vietnamese, Chinese, Turks, etc.

- The Germans and Jews living in Russia for a long time.

- Rather small part of ethnicities with the European origin: Serbs, Czechs, Bulgarians, etc.

Peoples and ethnic groups of Russia belong to various confessions, have quite different historical and territorial origins, and significantly vary by the demographic behavior. The majority is very close to the European pattern of fertility and has higher mortality. The next relatively large part manifests demographic behavior typical for Muslims. The main

question to discuss is: What is the possible future of ethnic composition for various scenarios?

1. Data and methods

Statistical data as a result of census tabulation were used as the main source on the ethnic structure of the population of the Russian Federation. For more detailed analysis of some other processes defining the changes in the composition of the population were utilized the database of the 1994 microcensus as well as current vital and migration statistics. Some other sources providing the analysis of trends in Russia's population were used.

The first quite natural question is: Where can one find the census data on ethnic composition? The basic collection may be found in [Population of Russia within 100 years, 1998]. The last 2002 census was completely published in 14-volume books and on the official Internet site <http://www.perepis2002.ru>. However if the details are needed, it is rather difficult to find the books required. Nevertheless currently all the main sources are available in the electronic format on the web at the pages of demographic newspaper Demoscope Weekly (<http://demoscope.ru>). A special section named Annex contains different statistical indicators for Russia, its regions, industrially developed countries of the world, as well as CIS countries in various formats (HTML, XLS, maps, graphs, etc.). Significant part of this section includes USSR and Russia censuses. The ethnic structure there is given for the period covering more than 100 years. During the last several years the data on ethnic composition remains one of the most popular pages interesting for dozens of visitors a day.

What the main factors influencing the changes in ethnic composition? From the general point of view, some of them are rather clear and evident, including ethnic differentiation of fertility and mortality, territorial heterogeneity of distribution of various ethnicities. Another reason – different participation of peoples of Russia in migration processes. However some components remain blind spots in the research of trends in ethnic structure. One of them is assimilation. According to [Anderson, 1989: 611] “no official data or estimates of assimilation have been published in the USSR, nor have Soviet researchers published such estimates. Soviet censuses gather information on the self-identified nationality of the population on the census date but do not ask whether individuals previously identified themselves with a different nationality or whether their parents belong to another nationality.” This remains valid for the last Russian 2002 census too. However some new results may be obtained on assimilation basing on the 1994 microcensus. In this paper we illustrate the opportunity to study this process using 1994 individual database.

Is the list of four components of demographic change affecting the population composition: migration, assimilation, mortality, and fertility sufficient to describe the changes in ethnic composition? Unfortunately, no, it is insufficient since one more aspect is significantly required. It refers to ethnic grouping and the list of peoples and ethnicities taken into account during the censuses. Additional details are suggested in section 7.

2. Current ethnic composition of Russia's population

The main sources for analysis of ethnic structure are the censuses conducted in the USSR in the 20 century and in Russia in 2002. These data are presented in Table 1. The list of peoples included in it is restricted here to those accounted both in 1970 and 2002, sized at least one thousand of persons in the last one.

Table 1. Ethnic composition of population in Russia according to the censuses, thousands.

Ethnicity	Year						
	1926	1939	1959	1970	1979	1989	2002
All population	100623	108262	117534	130079	137410	147022	145167
Abasins	14	15	19	25	29	33	38
Abkhasians	0.1	0.6	1.4	2.4	4.1	7.2	11
Adigeys	65	86	79	98	107	123	129
Afghans	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.9	10
Aguls	7.7	...	6.5	8.8	12	18	28
Altaians	44	46	45	55	59	68	67
Americans	...	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.2	1.3
Arabs	1	0.1	0.6	2.6	2.3	2.7	11
Armenians	195	205	256	299	365	532	1130
Assyrians	2.8	7.4	7.6	8.1	8.7	9.6	14
Avarlar	178	236	250	362	438	544	814
Azerbaijanians	28	43	71	96	152	336	622
Balkars	33	42	35	53	62	78	108
Bashkirs	712	825	954	1181	1291	1345	1673
Belorussians	638	452	844	964	1052	1206	808
Bulgarians	19	8.3	25	27	25	33	32
Buryats	237	221	252	313	350	417	445
Chechens	318	400	261	572	712	899	1360
Cherkes	...	...	29	38	45	51	61
Chinese	9.1	22	19	8	5.7	5.2	35
Chukchis	12	14	12	14	14	15	16
Chuvashs	1115	1346	1436	1637	1690	1774	1637
Crimean Tatars	...	...	0.4	2.9	5.2	21	4
Czechs	9.9	7.5	7.2	6.1	4.5	4.4	3
Darghins	126	152	153	224	280	353	510
Dolgans	0.7	...	3.9	4.7	4.9	6.6	7
Eskimos	1.3	...	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	2
Estonians	150	130	79	63	56	46	28
Evenks	39	30	24	25	27	30	36
Evens	2	9.7	9	12	12	17	19
Finns	134	139	72	62	56	47	34

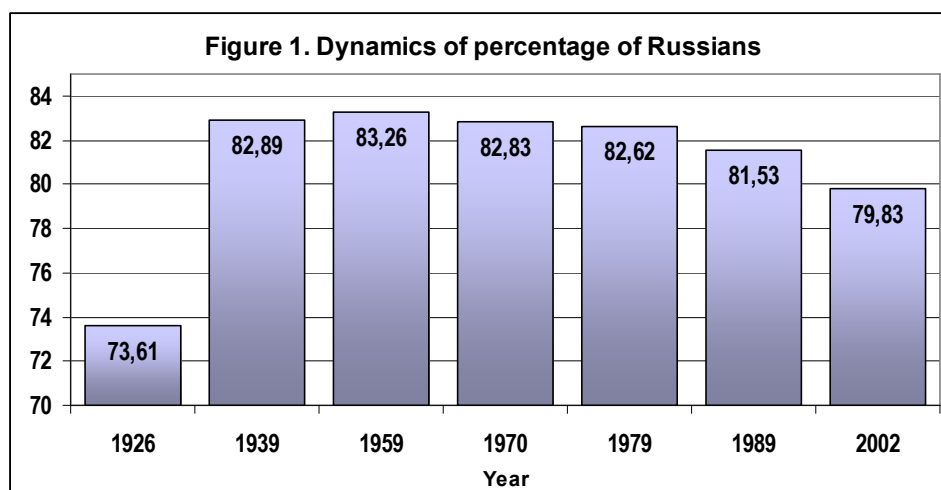
Gagauz	0.8	...	3	3.7	4.2	10	12
Georgians	21	44	58	69	89	131	198
Germans	806	811	820	762	791	842	597
Greeks	51	66	47	58	70	92	98
Hungarians	4.2	...	4.2	6.7	4.3	5.7	4
Ingushs	72	91	56	137	166	215	413
Itelmens	4.2	...	1.1	1.3	1.3	2.4	3
Jews	567	891	855	792	692	537	230
Mountaineer Jews	16	...	19	15	6.5	11	3
Kabardinians	140	161	201	277	319	386	520
Kalmyks	132	130	101	131	140	166	174
Karachays	55	74	71	107	126	150	192
Kara-Kalpaks	118	0.3	1	2.3	1.7	6.2	2
Karelians	248	250	164	141	133	125	93
Kazakhs	3852	356	382	478	518	636	654
Kets	1.4	...	1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1
Khakasians	46	52	56	65	69	79	76
Khanty	22	18	19	21	21	22	29
Komi-Permyaks	149	...	143	150	146	147	125
Komis	226	415	283	315	320	336	293
Koreans	87	11	91	101	98	107	149
Koryaks	7.4	7.3	6.2	7.4	7.6	8.9	9
Koumyks	95	110	133	187	226	277	422
Kurds	0.2	0.4	0.9	1	1.6	4.7	20
Kyrgyz	672	6.3	4.7	9.1	15	42	32
Laks	40	54	58	79	91	106	157
Latgalians	117	105	75	60	67	47	29
Lezghins	93	100	114	170	203	257	412
Lithuanians	27	21	109	77	67	70	46
Mansis	5.8	6.3	6.3	7.6	7.4	8.3	11
Maris	428	476	498	581	600	644	604
Moldavians	21	22	62	88	102	173	172
Mongolians	0.5	...	1.5	3.8	1.8	2.1	3
Mordvins	1335	1375	1211	1177	1111	1073	843
Nanais	5.9	8.4	7.9	9.9	10	12	12
Nenets	18	25	23	28	29	34	41
Nivhis	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.6	5
Nogais	36	36	38	51	59	74	91
Ossetians	157	196	248	313	352	402	515
peoples of the North	156	145	145	168	170	199	229
Persians	10	6	2.5	2.5	1.7	2.6	4
Poles	198	142	118	107	100	95	73
Roma	41	59	72	98	121	153	183
Romanians	2.9	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.8	6	5
Russians	74072	89740	97864	107748	113522	119866	115889
Rutuls	10	...	6.7	12	15	20	30
Sakhas	241	242	233	295	327	380	444
Samis	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2
Selkups	1.6	2.6	3.7	4.2	3.5	3.6	4
Serbs	1.4	2.4	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.6	4
Shors	13	16	15	16	15	16	14
Spaniards	...	2.3	1.6	2.6	2	2.1	2
Tabasarans	32	33	34	54	73	94	132
Tadjiks	10	3.3	7	14	18	38	120

Tatars	3241	3683	4074	4755	5006	5522	5558
Tats	0.2	...	5.1	8.8	13	19	2.3
Tsakhurs	3.5	...	4.4	4.7	4.8	6.5	10
Turkmens	18	13	12	20	23	40	33
Turks	2.1	2.7	1.4	1.6	3.6	9.9	92
Tuvinians	0.2	0.8	100	139	165	206	243
Udegeys	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.9	2
Udinians	0.002	...	0.04	0.1	0.2	1.1	4
Udmourts	514	600	616	678	686	715	637
Uigurians	72	0.6	0.7	1.5	1.7	2.6	3
Ukrainians	7873	3204	3359	3346	3658	4363	2943
Ulchis	0.7	...	2	2.4	2.5	3.2	3
Uzbeks	325	16	30	62	72	127	123
Vepsians	33	31	16	8.1	7.6	12	8
Vietnamese	...	...	0.8	6.3	0.7	2.1	26
Yukaghirs	0.4	...	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	2

Sources: Население России за 100 лет (1897-1997): Статистический сборник. Госкомстат России. Москва, Госкомстат РФ, 1998; Итоги Всероссийской переписи населения 2002 года в 14 томах. Том 4 - "Национальный состав и владение языками, гражданство" Москва, ИИЦ "Статистика России", 2004.

3. Proportion of Russians

Russia is a multiethnic country the majority of which are the Russians. They are currently about 80 per cent, but gradually depopulating. As Figure 1 shows the percentage of the Russians is now by 3.4 less than 40 years ago.



4. Five groups of ethnicities

The total number of ethnicities accounted in 2002 census exceeds 190. Currently seven peoples have population size more than one million: Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, Bashkirs, Chuvashs, Chechens, and Armenians.

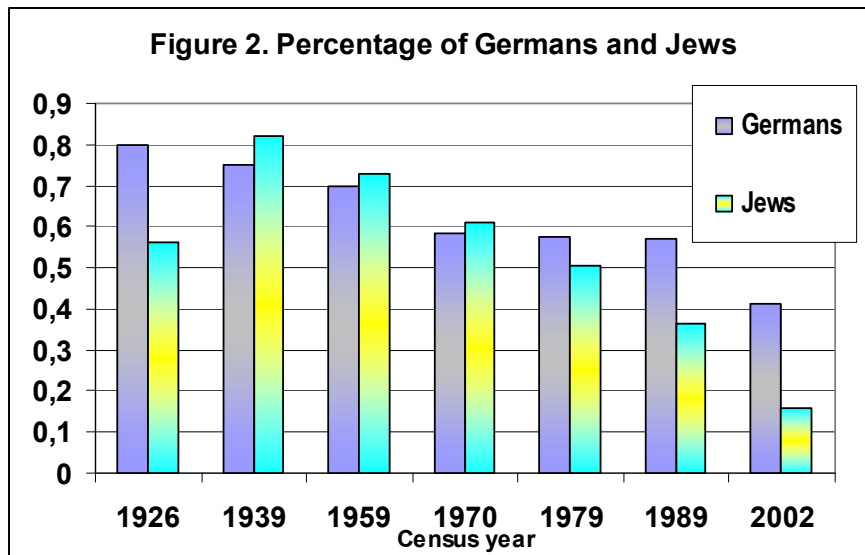
Various ethnic groups may significantly differ by their history, factors and trends of formation. Since it is rather wasteful to examine each of the peoples in the present Russia, it is reasonable to distinguish the following five blocks:

The first part is the peoples who live during centuries on the territory of Russia: Bashkirs, Mordvins, Tatars, Chechens, Chuvashs, Lezghins, Darghins, Avarlar, Koumyks, Kabardinians, Tuvinians. This list is not full and it encloses also many other ethnicities. Many of these live rather compactly, form their national republics or other territorial units at the level of subject of the Russian Federation. This is so called titular ethnos and it gives the name of its territory: Republic of Tuva, Sakha (Yakutiya), Maryi El, Chuvashia, Karelia, etc. Some of them are often referred to as the Peoples of the North. Now 18 of them appear in Table 1 totaling 229 thousand. The most populated (more than 10 thousand) are: Nenets, Evenks, Khanty, Evens, Chukchis, Shors, Nanais, and Mansis.

The second part is the peoples of the former USSR republics: Ukrainians, Armenians, Belorussians, Kazakhs, Azerbaijanians, Georgians, Moldavians, Uzbeks, Tadjiks, Lithuanians, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Letts, Abkhasians, Karakalpaks, Gagauz. These peoples total 7 million.

Group #3 is a gradually growing group of peoples intensively migrating to Russia who live outside the former USSR: Vietnamese, Chinese, Turks, Kurds, Afghans, Arabs. The size of these ethnicities is relatively small totaling about 200 thousand. However the rate of growth of them is very high. Thus the percentage of Turks in 2002 is by 50 times more compared with 1970, Chinese – by four times.

The fourth group is the Germans and Jews living in Russia for a long time. The size of each of these ethnicities was more than 800 thousand in 1939 and 1959. However due to the significant emigration to their ethnic origin at the end of the 20 century, their number became much less. The most significant decrease took place for the Jews. Compared with 1970 they are now about a quarter. The dynamics of their percentage in the total Russia's population according to the censuses is displayed on Figure 2. These two nations show significant scale-down in the last several years of migration to their ethnic origin.

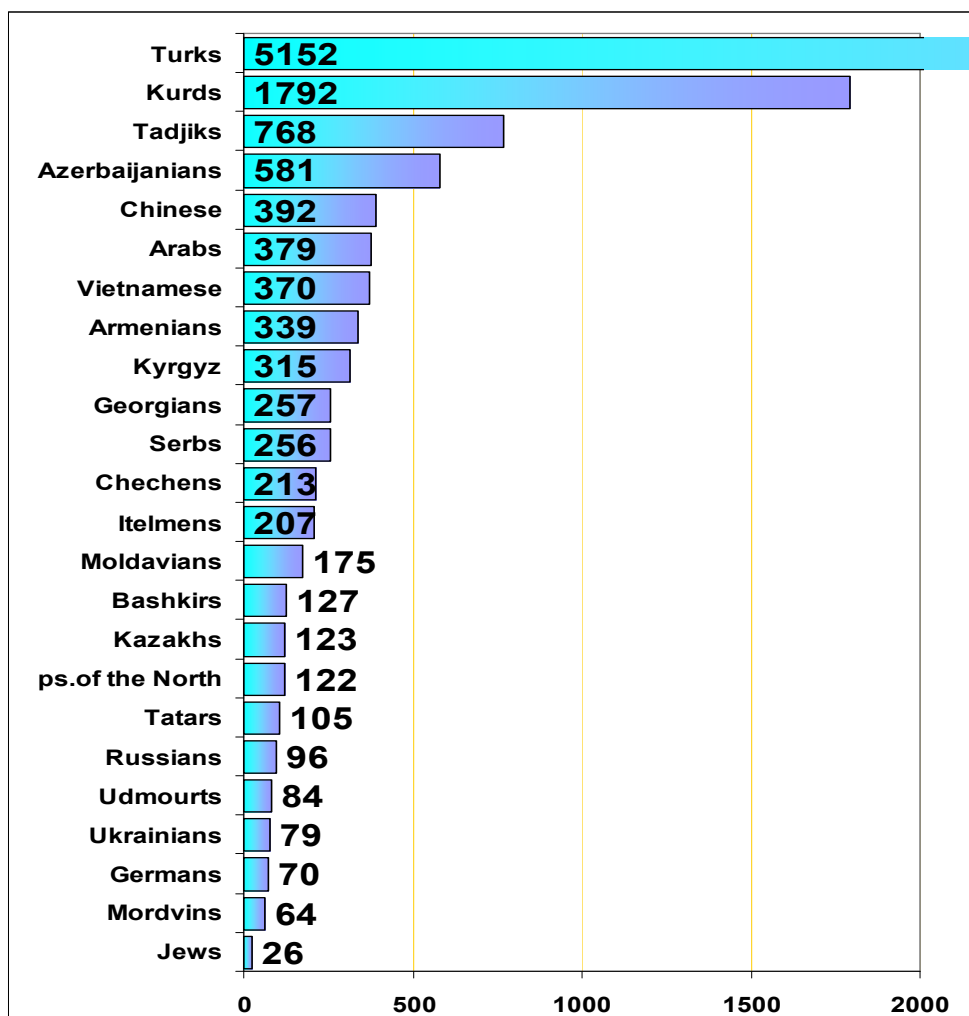


Group #5. It is a rather small part of ethnicities with the European origin: Serbs, Croatians, Romanians, Bulgarians, Spaniards, Poles, Hungarians, Finns, Czechs, Austrians. They are currently about 160 thousand and gradually depopulating.

5. The most significant changes

What are the most significant changes in the ethnic composition in the recent decades? To illustrate the answer to that question, we suggest to compare a percentage change in the proportion of ethnic groups within the 32-year period from 1970 to 2002. It is shown on Figure 3. As one should mention, eleven first places include only the nations that live outside Russia (Turks, Kurds, Tadjiks, Azerbadjanians, Chinese, Arabs, Vietnamese, Armenians, Kyrgyz, Georgians, Serbs). Of this list only five belong to the peoples of the former USSR.

Figure 3. Change in the proportion of ethnic groups between 1970 and 2002, percent.



6. Assimilation

As it was mentioned above, no regular data and estimates are available on the process of assimilation. Some first attempts to study this process were initiated by Andrei Volkov with the study of ethnically mixed families. The following table may be used as an illustration of opportunities appearing at utilizing the individual data from the 1994 microcensus. It covers a group of four ethnic groups in three regions located almost in the Russia's center: republic of Bashkortostan, Orenburg and Chelyabinsk regions.

Table 2. Ethnically mixed marital pairs with children by ethnicity of children. 1994 microcensus. Bashkortostan, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk regions, 4 ethnicities.

Combination of husband's and wife's ethnicity *	All marital pairs		Including marital pairs in which							
			all children have equal ethnicity						Children have various or another ethnicity	
	pairs	their children	Total		Father's		Mother's		pairs	their children
			pairs	their children	pairs	their children	pairs	their children		
All marital pairs	16760	28885	15740	26555	10007	17116	5733	9439	1020	2330
Of them combining:										
A and B	633	1092	583	975	526	893	57	82	50	117
B and A	544	953	493	828	262	441	231	387	51	125
Total (Russians and Bashkirs)	1177	2045	1076	1803	788	1334	288	469	101	242
A and C	440	812	431	791	424	779	7	12	9	21
C and A	532	911	515	870	37	64	478	806	17	41
Total (Russians and Mordovians)	972	1723	946	1661	461	843	485	818	26	62
A and D	1663	2828	1577	2616	1460	2447	117	169	86	212
D and A	1629	2707	1527	2467	645	1041	882	1426	102	240
Total (Russians and Tatars)	3292	5535	3104	5083	2105	3488	999	1595	188	452
B and C	10	15	6	8	6	8	0	0	4	7
C and B	11	21	5	7	2	3	3	4	6	14
Total (Bashkirs and Mordovians)	21	36	11	15	8	11	3	4	10	21
B and D	1991	3566	1873	3298	1333	2378	540	920	118	268
D and B	1988	3568	1863	3280	1433	2543	430	737	125	288
Total (Bashkirs and Tatars)	3979	7134	3736	6578	2766	4921	970	1657	243	556
C and D	30	58	22	44	16	30	6	14	8	14
D and C	28	51	21	36	16	28	5	8	7	15
Total (Mordovians and Tatars)	58	109	43	80	32	58	11	22	15	29

*) A - Russians, B - Bashkirs, C - Mordovians, Mokshas, Erzyas, D - Tatars

One can easily see that for example, in Russian-Bashkir (husband-wife) mixed families the number of Russian children with Russian father is 11-fold more compared with Bashkir children. However in Bashkir-Russian families these numbers as well as the numbers of such marital pairs are rather close to each other. Contrary, in case of Tatar-Bashkir mixed families the choice of ethnicity of children may be called more close not to ethno-oriented but to father-oriented. Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of these families have children having father's ethnic membership.

It is also well seen from the Table 2 the different proportions of men and women of various ethnicities in formation of mixed families. In order to measure the propensity to enter a mixed marriage for males and females the next Table 3 is displayed.

**Table 3. Marital pairs of various ethnicities by ethnic homogeneity.
Russia, 1994 microcensus.**

Ethnicity	Marital pairs, total	Including the number of marital pairs in which are of a given ethnicity, per cent			
		Both spouses	Only one of the spouses	Including:	
				Only husband	Only wife
Uzbeks	1355	7.9	92.1	65.5	26.6
Georgians	2630	18.3	81.7	64.2	17.5
Azerbaijanians	4648	36.6	63.4	54.2	9.2
Jews	8460	29.5	70.5	49.1	21.5
Ukrainians	94952	13.9	86.1	48.3	37.8
Germans	18624	20.8	79.2	43.9	35.3
Mordovians	14884	25.7	74.3	37.8	36.5
Armenians	11647	49.2	50.8	37.4	13.4
Bashkirs	21816	50.5	49.5	24.5	25.0
Chuvashs	27779	55.1	44.9	21.8	23.2
Tatars	85988	57.9	42.1	21.1	21.0
Kazakhs	7435	66.9	33.1	19.8	13.4
Ossetians	5693	72.3	27.7	18.2	9.5
Yakuts	4556	79.9	20.1	9.4	10.7
Ps of Dagestan	20054	88.3	11.7	8.6	3.1
Russians	1539359	86.5	13.5	5.9	7.6
Tuvinians	1896	92.8	7.2	2.8	4.4

Total 1749906

Ethnicities are placed in descending order of percentage of mixed marital pairs in which only husband has a given ethnicity

Those ethnicities located at the first and the last places have the opposite ratios of mono- and multiethnic marital pairs (1:13 for Uzbeks vs. 13:1 for Tuvinians). Besides, a remarkable difference between males and females should be mentioned. For example, Tatars have no sex difference, the same is valid for Mordovians, but very few Azerbaijanian and Armenian women enter ethnically mixed marriages compared with men. Thus different ethnic propensity for assimilation becomes visible already at the stage of mixed marriage formation.

7. Grouping of ethnicities

Population censuses in the USSR at preparing their results took into account not only the actual set of ethnicities the persons used for self-identification, but some rather shortened lists. Many ethnic groups were assigned to the other ones. The short ethnic lists at tabulation of ethnic composition of the 1926 census included 194, in 1939 – only 97, in 1959 – on 126, in 1970 -on 122, 1979 - 123, 1989 - 128, in 2002 - on 192 names of ethnicities and sub-ethnic groups. Of course, in some cases these actions were justified by the reasons to refer a very small ethnic subgroup to the enveloping one. What remains completely unclear why in the successive censuses the ethnicities covered differ and what were the basic reasons underlining this grouping. In many cases they were not explicitly explained and

obviously they were artificial ones having various political and administrative causes. Up to the recent time this ethnic redistribution was not often discussed and one of the first publication with the data on it is [Population of Russia within 100 years, 1998]. Let us mention some examples. Entsi were included in the group of nentsi before 1989. Chuvantsi were distinguished as a separate people only at the 1926 and 1989 censuses, and assigned to Chukchis in 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979. Negidals were assigned to Evenks in 1939 and 1959. What is more surprising that during the Soviet period it was forbidden to identify themselves as Kazaks, and only in 2002 it became allowed. As a result about 140 thousand Kazaks were counted. It was also the census during which the main 14 sub-ethnic groups in the Avar people were distinguished. The full list of new ethnicities tabulated separately as well as in the wider ethnos at conducting the 2002 Russia's census is given in (Stepanov and Tishkov, 2007).

Currently the data on ethnic composition of peoples of Russia and aggregation during the censuses are available on pages of Demoscope Weekly Annex: Национальный состав населения России по данным переписей населения (Ethnic composition of Russia population according to the censuses) at http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/ssp/rus_nation.php and Перечень имен народов, выделявшихся при разработке материалов Всесоюзных/Всероссийских переписей 1926 - 2002 гг., и их численность (The list of names of peoples distinguished at tabulation of All-Union / All-Russia censuses 1926 - 2002) at http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/ssp/rus_nac_cen.php.

Another observed changes in the ethnic composition may be attributed to peculiarities of self-identification connected with some local features of this accounting. They include for example, less binding of de-facto identification and de-jure ethnicity recorded in a person's passport. That was significant in the Soviet times when it was placed as a separate item in it (so-called 5-th point). This is not currently valid for the current national passport of the Russian citizen. To some extent this may be the cause of population ethnic re-identification. The next example is peoples' ethno-political and ethno-lingual problems being solved at the regional level. More details can be found in the new very useful and interesting book (Stepanov and Tishkov, 2007).

8. Some myths on Russia's ethnic composition

One of the myths is about dying-off the peoples of the North. However the last 2002 displayed just the opposite trend. One can refer to more detailed analysis by (Bogoyavlenskiy, 2004).

The second one is that the number of newcomers is huge and rapidly grows (thousands, millions, etc.). However, and that may be considered as a paradox, the percentage of peoples living mainly at the territory of Russia did not significantly change during the last 32 years and comprise about 93 in 2002 (94 per cent in 1970). This set includes Russians, Tatars, Bashkirs, and 55 other ethnicities.

One more myth is that Russia becomes more and more ethnically heterogeneous. This is certainly valid for the country as a whole. However, some regions and national republics become more ethnically homogeneous. The list of mono-ethnic regions includes: Chechnya, Ingushetiya, Tuva, Sakha (Yakutiya), Dagestan, etc.

The myth of catastrophic decline in the number of Russians is the next one, controverted by the last census. See in details the other myths on the ethnic structure described in (Stepanov and Tishkov, 2007).

9. Future of ethnic composition

Peoples and ethnic groups of Russia belong to various confessions, have quite different historical and territorial origins, and significantly vary by the demographic behavior. The majority is very close to the European pattern of fertility and has higher mortality. The next relatively large part manifests demographic behavior typical for Muslims. The main question to discuss is: What is the possible future of ethnic composition?

Strictly speaking, in order to conduct population projection including ethnic composition, we need to solve a task of a rather complex projection with multiple states, territories, and scenarios. What are the difficulties in the population projections in Russia by ethnicities? At the present, the data available in the population statistics are quite insufficient. Firstly, let us consider fertility. In the USSR some data on ethnic fertility were published, e.g. (Darsky, 1992). However there is no current data for Russia at the beginning of the 21 century. We also require the new migration scenarios similar to those prepared by (Mukomel, 2001), which must help to estimate possible volumes of repatriation of Russians from the former USSR republics.

What are the demands to the population projection by ethnic groups? It must take into account all the demographic challenges of Russia (see Vishnevski, 2003). It also needs to be consistent with the population projections for Russia as a whole.

It is reasonable to compare at least several scenarios of demographic developments in the 21 century. The first one is a so-called extrapolation scenario. It assumes that indicators of behavior remain at the current level. With a set of ethnic groups under consideration the same is applied for all the groups. In this case we inevitably come to the conclusion that the majority of basic ethnicities in Russia their proportion in the total population will continue to decline. The main reason of this is less fertility compared with the mean for Russia and for many other ethnic groups. This conclusion relates to Russians, Ukrainians, Mordovians, Armenians, Germans, Karelians, Maris, Jews.

The second one is a stabilizing scenario that assumes that net migration will compensate the negative natural increase. This type was used in the population projection used in the Tenth annual demographic report (Population of Russia 2002). If no difference is taken into account between the resident country's population and immigrants, in the middle of 21 century the proportion of migrants and their descendants may approach to 35 per cent. In case of multi-ethnic projection, this share is likely to be higher due to their relatively high fertility.

The third scenario being worth-while to be considered is estimating the results of active demographic and social policies aimed to stop and inverse fertility decline. In detailed analysis of this policy it is possible to compare its direct results (more population of a given ethnicity in a country) and indirect ones (less demand to immigration to the country). In this case such a comparison gives an opportunity to compare different resulted ethnic composition of the population.

Since the actual projection was not performed yet, what is given below represents the qualitative estimate of more probable future of ethnic composition. The following selected ethnicities may be shortly given.

Russians. Their number will continue to decrease due to low fertility and population aging, however the rate of this decline will not be so high compared with the 1990s due to less emigration.

Germans and Jews. Their number will continue to decline too, primarily due to very low fertility level and aging population age structure. However the rate of decline will be significantly less compared with the 1990s due to scaling down ethnic migration to Germany

and Israel. This migration flows became more restricted by government regulations. Besides Russia may be currently characterized by weakening push factors of migration.

Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, Tadjiks, Azerbaidjani, many other peoples of the ex-USSR. For many of them growth of their immigration to Russia may be considered as rather probable due to the pull factors of this migration. However decline of migration potential of ethnicities having Caucasus origin should be taken into account.

Extending of Chinese and Vietnamese migration to Russia may be estimated as rather probable due to rapid growth of population in the countries of origin. Besides, push-pull factors of this migration play on the side of Russia. Significantly these flows may depend upon the federal laws and other local regulations of migration, registration and granting the Russian citizenship.

10. Conclusions

Great interest to the problems related with ethnic composition, history, trends and future of the population in Russia is steadily demonstrated by visitors of web demographic newspaper Demoscope Weekly <http://demoscope.ru>. We have pretty much data of population censuses and interesting results of the analysis of this rather complex phenomenon being at the stage of significant changes. However we do not have significant results of Russia's population projections with taking into account peculiarities of ethnic composition formation. The main aim of the paper is to attract attention and to launch the activities in this direction. To use additional information and details, use <http://www.demoscope.ru/center/so/epc2008.html>.

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The author will really appreciate any remarks and messages dealing with the topics mentioned in the paper. Use please email address esoroko@hse.ru.

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