

THE POTENTIAL OF RUSSIAN POLITICAL EMIGRATION IN THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF RUSSIA ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE BALTIC STATES

Abstract

The main purpose of this paper is to indicate the circumstances and the character of emigration from Russia, particularly to pay attention to Russians who have left Russia for ideological and political reasons over the past decade, and have chosen Lithuania, Latvia or Estonia as a place of their residence. Currently, in the Baltic States, due to their geographical proximity and critical attitude towards Russia, many Russian immigrants have been continuing their opposition activities. The aim of the paper is to analyse if Russian emigration activities may potentially become a catalyst for systemic changes in Russia in the future. Critical analysis of the topic proves, however, that despite the dynamic cooperation development and initiatives undertaken by the emigrants, their effectiveness is low, therefore there is no reason to suppose they would lead to the imminent socio-political changes in Russia.

Keywords: Emigration, the Baltic states, democratization, Russia.

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