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RELEVANT PROBLEMS OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS

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Keywords: Baltic States, linguistic minorities, discrimination, USSR, national minorities.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia's relations with the Baltic republics developed very difficult. The Baltic countries were among the first to withdraw from its membership, as there were a lot of complaints, misunderstandings and resentments. Several tens of millions of people who belonged to the "non-titular" nationalities of the former Soviet republics that became independent states found themselves in the position of diasporas. This hindered the development of normal relations in various spheres (cultural, political, social). The purpose of the study is to analyze the problems of linguistic minorities in the Baltic republics.

Material and methods. The formal legal method and specific legal analysis were used in the analysis of normative material. The main materials of the work were the Constitutions of the Baltic Republics, international legal documents, legislative acts of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, etc.

Findings and their discussion. In 1991, the authorities of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia actually divided the population of their countries into people of the first and second grades. The latter are called "non-citizens". They differ from stateless persons by belonging to a certain country, but they do not enjoy full political, economic and social rights.

Holders of the legal status of a non-citizen cannot run or vote in municipal and national elections, be in the civil service, work as notaries, lawyers, carry out land transactions, etc. In total, human rights defenders in Latvia record about 80 bans on professions and differences in rights between citizens and "non-citizens", in Estonia there are 23 such bans.

The rules for calculating pensions also differ: non-citizens do not take into account the experience accumulated in Soviet times outside the Latvian SSR

(in 2011 The Constitutional Court of Latvia recognized this norm as corresponding to the basic law of the state) [1].

After several years of international struggle for the rights of non-citizens in the 1990s, the latter received the opportunity to undergo the naturalization procedure. But not everyone can do it. One lacks knowledge of the Latvian language, the exam on which is a prerequisite for obtaining Latvian citizenship. Others do not want to take an exam on the history of Latvia, where they have to recognize themselves as "occupiers". Still others refuse naturalization because of resentment against the state and the conviction that the passports of the Baltic Republic should rightfully belong to them. In addition, even the passage of all bureaucratic procedures is not yet a guarantee that a person will be successfully naturalized [2].

After 1991, the Russian language was deprived of its state status in the Baltic Republics and did not receive any official recognition as a result. Contrary to all European and international standards for ensuring the rights of national minorities, the language spoken by at least 5% of the population of Lithuania, more than a third of the population of Latvia and more than a quarter of the population of Estonia is outlawed. Even in cities with a high proportion of the Russian-speaking population, the Russian language does not have an official status. It is not a regional language, the language of local governments, the traditional language of national minorities — no European form of legitimation of the language of a non-titular nation works in the Baltic States. Document management and office work in Russian-speaking municipalities in Russian is prohibited. In accordance with this approach, printing and broadcasting are strictly regulated. Quotas for "alien" broadcasting (not in the state language and not in the official languages of the European Union) are consistently cut [3].

All toponymy not in the state language was dismantled from streets and highways in the early 1990s.

In the Baltic Republics, there is a systematic infringement of the rights of Slavic national minorities. Their languages are withdrawn from circulation. Children from Slavic families are forbidden to study in their native languages. Their schools are being closed. Russian-speaking teachers have to teach Russian-speaking children in a non-native language for both. It is twice as easy for children for whom the state language is their native language to study, and they also take entrance exams in the state language and on an equal basis with children from families of national minorities. Native speakers of the Russian language in the Baltic States receive obviously the worst education. Unconditional discrimination on the basis of nationality. In some areas of activity (for example, in the civil service), they are practically denied access, because when applying for employment, they need to prove knowledge of the state language at a level at which representatives of the titular nation do not know it, they are spared from the language exam by virtue of their origin [4].

Latvia and Estonia also have problems with the use of proper names in the minority language. In Estonia, citizens of Slavic origin cannot use patronymics

as part of their official name, which is a violation of article 11 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In Latvia, all names must be written and inclined according to the rules of the Latvian language, which served as the basis for additional discontent and protests from representatives of the Russian population. Despite all the obstacles, the tendencies to overcome the difficulties in the "Russian question" in the Baltic States are still visible. The majority of Russian-speaking residents of the Baltic countries associate their future with them. The positive dynamics of the "Russian question" is also important for the normalization of Russian-Latvian and Russian-Estonian relations [5].

Conclusion. The problem of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic Republics is of interest to researchers. Russian and Baltic scientists have yet to conduct a thorough analysis on the problem of non-citizens of the Baltic States. But the works already written consider in detail all aspects of civil, ethnic, linguistic, educational, labor and property discrimination against national minorities, primarily the Russian-speaking population throughout the entire period of the independent existence of the Baltic States. The researchers note the changes that need to be made to the policy of the Baltic States in relation to national minorities: granting former Soviet servicemen and security personnel the right to apply for permanent residence; granting all non-citizens the right to be candidates in local elections; naturalization of non-citizens should be simpler; recognize all representatives of national minorities and promote their educational and linguistic rights in accordance with the most advanced international standards.

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ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF THE THEORY OF NATURAL LAW

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The issue of human and civil rights concerns his legal status. The possession of a right presupposes and requires the creation of a mechanism to ensure its observance and, if necessary, protection. Natural human rights occupy a spe-