

Institutional Trends in the Social and Political Process of the North Caucasus Federal District

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Abstract – Social and political processes and relations are the most important sphere of human society, forming the main path of its development. The fate of any country depends on social and political processes and trends. The authors identify the most important trends in the social and political life of Russia on the example of the North-Caucasian Federal District. The current trends in the social and political processes of the North Caucasus Federal District reflect the stabilization of social moods. One can observe a decrease in the degree of radicalism and terrorism. Law enforcement agencies, authorities and civil society institutions play a major role in this process. The trends reflect the desire of regional elites to neutralize manifestations of extremism and radicalism, strengthen social and political-managerial relations. In interethnic and ethno-confessional relations, conflictogenic determinants are narrowing. Interethnic interaction has become more qualified which is optimistic for establishing peace and harmony in the region. The authors consider the development of the ethnocultural model of civil society to be one more trend that is very important for achieving stability in the region. The activities of various unions and communities prevent interethnic tension and conflicts. However, positive trends do not exclude problematic issues analyzed in the article.

Keywords – *partogenesis, federalism, North-Caucasian Federal District, political and managerial regime, regional elite, ethnic groups, interethnic processes, diasporas*

I. INTRODUCTION

The current trends of the Russian socio-political process have been prepared by the previous historical development, post-Soviet realities, and modern international architecture, which has a powerful effect on domestic political relations in terms of their “geopolitization”.

Taking into account the state of the Russian democratic post-transit, such niches of political knowledge as political modernization, qualitative and quantitative Russian partogenesis; innovative methods of rotation and circulation of party-political and managerial elites at all levels are relevant. The need for analytical assessment of the state of civic self-organization, the “third sector”, activities of popular groups, implementation of

social services based on social responsibility and expansion of civil society in its Russian model is obvious [1].

The problem-thematic field is relevant due to contradictions between the ideological and political doctrines of the development of Russian society (conservative-protective and liberal-democratic), between the expansion of public policy and the limitations of “administrative-bureaucratic democracy”, between the transfer of power to public structures and nationalization of business, the middle class, the humanitarian class, etc. [2]

Russia as a federal state preserving the structural elements of contractual constitutional federalism, as a country of regional-provincial division composed of administrative-territorial and national-state entities, is a large-scale geographical and political and administrative, organizational and self-government space. In this regard, the urgent problem of political research is the nature and forms of regional political and managerial regimes, strategies and tactics of self-organization of communities of the North Caucasus Federal District.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The basis of the research methodology was political theories by D. North dedicated to social and political processes and institutions [3]. The concepts of civic self-organization introduced by E. Arato [4] were used. The ideas about relations between the state and citizens by E. Gellner, E. Giddens were applied as well [5]. In understanding the essence of the socio-political process and political institutions, the ideas developed by L.V. Smorgunov, A.Yu. Sungurov et al. [6] were applied.

Methodologically, the research provides for socio-political determinism, systematicity, and the unity of theoretical and empirical principles. The analysis and synthesis were used; the included observation and the data of system indicator monitoring conducted in the North-Western Federal District by the authors in 2013–2018 were used [7] as well.

III. RESULTS

Differentiated analytics of the nature and forms of implementation of the socio-political process in the North Caucasus Federal District allows us to argue that it does not have an impressive "dimensional scale", but is original. The constituent entities of the Russian Federation located on the territory of the North Caucasus Federal District demonstrate vivid scenarios of socio-political transformations, which are caused by all-Russian trends, and have regional determinants.

Current trends in the socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District have a positive nature. They reflect the stabilization of public sentiment in accordance with the general regional stabilization, which is especially noticeable in comparison with the nineties of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first century. The degree of radicalism and terrorism was significantly reduced as a result of targeted activities of law enforcement agencies, government and administrative bodies, and civil institutions. Among the institutional trends in the socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District, those ones that reflect the essential-systemic and functional socio-political realities and can be described as symptomatic are of special significance.

IV. POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT TRENDS

Today, the trends in politics and management reflect the desire of the political and managerial elite to neutralize certain manifestations of extremism and radicalism, overcome consequences of ethno-political conflicts, and strengthen social, political and managerial relations. The leaders of the regions (the governor of Stavropol region and the heads of the republics of Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia-Alania, and Chechnya) seek to determine the political situation and clarity of the political course, as well as to identify it with the political course of the federal center. In the North Caucasus Federal District, a high level of loyalty to the President, his political promises, both internal and external, is observed. This loyalty is confirmed by the rhetoric of the regional heads for whom the level of "proximity" to the President and his trust (especially expressed publicly) is the most important indicator of sustainability. The level of loyalty to the federal leadership is reflected in a high share of votes for V.V. Putin. Among the regions of the Russian Federation, the highest level of support for V.V. Putin was recorded in 2018 in the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic and in 2012 in the Chechen Republic.

The doctrine of politics and governance is as close as possible to all-Russian value foundations ("spiritual bonds"), namely conservative-protective ideas that make up the semantic core of the "V. Putin doctrine" [8]. The ideas of fidelity to traditions, preservation of historical and cultural norms, the strength of family-kinship relations, traditional gender roles are extremely popular in the North Caucasus communities are widely used in the politics and management technologies. The essential systemic and technical-technological conservatism of public administration is justified by the historical and cultural specifics of regional communities. Moreover, conservatism and traditionalism is a source for stabilizing socio-political process and counteracting

left-extremist and liberal-democratic ideas. Regional leaders use their own ethnic and religious identity in politics and management (including by emphasizing it with external attributes), as well as the ethnic and religious affiliation of the objects of government. This use is similar to the ethnoclanic and ethnocratic system which has developed in the North Caucasus Federal District [9].

However, along with general loyalty of the population of the North Caucasus Federal District to the federal and regional political and managerial regimes, citizens demonstrate other moods [10]. They demand high-quality public services and are dissatisfied with the level of management (corruption, cronyism, nepotism, abuse, abuse of power, violation of the rule of law), the weakness of social services, and the isolation of the political and managerial elite from the needs of citizens. The authorities fail to implement political decisions that are considered by regional communities as unjustified and even harmful. In particular, as a result of inconsistency of the positions of the authorities and citizens, the administrative border established between Ingushetia and Chechnya was perceived as contrary to the interests of the population of the republic and the Ingush people. As a result, in 2018, a systemic crisis of politics and governance turned into a sharp dialogue between the head of the republic and public activists and religious figures. Its consequences were evident in the spring of 2019 [11].

Local and systemic incidents in the North Caucasus Federal District show a private low level of management and problematic democratization of the socio-political process, significant limitations of public policies, as well as dubious modernization of the political and managerial elite.

V. TENDENCIES OF ETHNOPOLITICAL AND ETHNOCULTURAL POSITIONING

Qualitative changes are observed in interethnic and ethno-confessional relations, which are its invariable component. There is a narrowing of the conflict-generating determinants and neutralization of the acute problems of interethnic competition (territorial, political, social, historical and mythological, linguistic, etc.). In the North Caucasus community (managerial, informational, communication, expert), there is an aphorism that "There are no interethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus".

Ethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus in the 1990–2000s cannot arise at the present stage. Relations of ethnic communities are characterized by low severity. Interethnic interaction has become more qualified in terms of dissemination of historical and cultural knowledge, political and legal competencies. The humanization of interethnic communication, the expansion of ethnological competencies and ethnocultural horizons, and an increase in general social literacy of the population are observed.

An important trend in the socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District was the development of an ethnocultural model of civil society. If in the 1990s, the national-cultural structuring had a separatist mode, later it was leveled and disavowed by radical moods. In the North-Caucasian Federal District, a system of organizations that sets

traditional goals for national-cultural self-determination has developed: preservation of ethnic traditions, language, culture, involvement of young people in the national-cultural process, prevention of ethnic tensions and conflicts [12]. Today, in the regions of the Russian Federation, the North-Caucasian Federal District has 10–100 different (regional, district, city) national-cultural organizations, autonomies, unions, centers, and communities. The largest number of NPOs, NCAs, ethnic councils, councils of peace and friendship, houses and centers of national cultures exist in Stavropol region, Dagestan, Ingushetia and the Chechen Republic.

The national-cultural self-determination as an idea of ethnocultural identity and ethnic equality is supported by the regional authorities and representatives of the President of the Russian Federation in the North Caucasus Federal District. To address regional issues, the Public Council, the Council of Elders with the participation of authoritative leaders of ethnic communities and Cossacks, and regional leaders were created. Public figures, clergy, scientists, experts, authoritative activists participate in these bodies. The public council of the North-Caucasian Federal District acts as a subject of public boundary policy which is caused by the dual nature of this council and other public advisory councils [13].

“Classical” ethnic groups and indigenous North Caucasian peoples, other ethnic groups of both Russian and non-Russian ethnogenesis resort to ethnocultural identity. In the North-Caucasian Federal District, houses of national cultures, friendship centers (Stavropol, Pyatigorsk, Kislovodsk, Mozdok, etc.) act as municipal institutions or public organizations.

A specific trend of the socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District is the prevailing “ethnopolitical hierarchy” of peoples with the predominance of titular ethnic communities. The emphasis on ethnicity in politics and culture is differentiated by regions, but is universally aimed at satisfying broad interests of ethnic communities. When creating ethnopolitical and ethnocultural identities, the elite and groups of activists pursuing different interests form.

However, ethno-political and ethno-cultural identities do not eliminate national issues: the “Nogai question”, “the Circassian issue”, “the Alanian heritage issue”, “the Russian issue”, “the Aukhov region issue”, “the issue of legitimizing borders”, “the issue of Cossack and diaspora self-organization”, the issue of ethno-geographical proportions”, etc. The hypothetical and real volatility of interethnic relations is associated with Kabardino-Balkarian, Karachay-Circassian, Ossetian-Ingush relations in their territorial, political-power, historical-mythological, ritual-cultural projections, as well as with relations of the Orthodox and Islamic communities.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The general trend of the socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District is consolidation of community democracy in its North Caucasian projection,

which is characterized by the intervention of the ethnic identity factor into the socio-political and managerial process. In general, one can evaluate the current socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District as inertia-stable and manageable, but marked with risks, hidden conflictogenic factors and elements of stagnation (economic, social) which are typical of Russian society. The socio-political process of the North Caucasus Federal District is aimed at strengthening the reputation of the government, political-doctrinal and managerial-technological creativity, expanding the public policy and the socially responsible space, and modernizing society and public policy.

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