

Formation of the Cultural Sovereignty of Russia in the Format of Orthodox Culture

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doi:10.56397/JRSSH.2024.01.04

Abstract

The Creator of the universe sent Jesus Christ to announce the New Testament to humanity. Jesus Christ directed the priesthood to teach all nations the spiritual life. Christ convinced the persecutor of the church, Saul, to preach the New Testament and teach spiritual life, showing the priesthood that it was possible to convince opponents of the church and Christianity. Voltaire said that scientific technological progress would weaken the influence of Christianity on humanity. His warning became prophetic. Priests do not sufficiently broadly and deeply and highly convince various segments of the population about the need to form an Orthodox worldview and lead a spiritual life, judging by the spiritual state of society and the culture of the world. The basis of spiritual life is Orthodox culture. Orthodox culture is a peaceful unifying force for all peoples. Orthodox culture should become a moral format for the worldview, behavior and attitude of citizens, as well as a form of unification of peoples and various segments of the population. This should be the goal of the priesthood and power in the formation of the cultural sovereignty of Russia and the culture of the world.

Keywords: moral worldview, spiritual life, Orthodox culture, cultural sovereignty

1. Introduction

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, in January 2023 issued a decree on the formation of cultural sovereignty of Russia. Cultural sovereignty is considered as a set of socio-cultural factors that allow one to "avoid dependence on external influence, be protected from destructive ideological and information influence" and adhere to traditional spiritual and moral values. The historical path of Russia has determined its cultural identity, the peculiarities of the national

mentality, and the value foundations of the life of the multinational and multi-confessional Russian society. The basis of civic identity is the system of Russian spiritual and moral values that unite the culture of the peoples of Russia. A citizen of the Russian Federation is a moral, responsible person who shares traditional spiritual and moral values. The task of forming cultural sovereignty is to preserve the people of Russia, preserve the fundamental values and principles on which the unity of Russian society is based. And also the creation of conditions for raising children on the basis of traditional values,

the protection of traditional family values and the institution of marriage as a union of a man and a woman, priority state support for cultural activities aimed at preserving traditional values, historical memory and protecting historical truth. Russian cultural heritage should be used for the spiritual and moral education of citizens. Attention is paid to state orders for works of culture and art, aimed at preserving and popularizing traditional values of services and countering social and cultural threats and extremism. Methods must be developed to protect Russian society from external ideological and value expansion and destructive information and psychological influence. This will require the formation of a unified Russian electronic knowledge space based on digitized library, archival, and museum collections collected in the National Electronic Library, a national interactive encyclopedic portal, other scientifically verified sources of knowledge and national electronic archives in various industries and areas of activity. A safe information environment must be created by popularizing information resources, with the use of which reliable information is disseminated and which contribute to cultural and historical education and upbringing based on traditional Russian spiritual and moral values. It is necessary to improve Russian information retrieval systems as a means of intellectual and cultural development of the individual. Particular attention will be directed to protecting and supporting the Russian language as the state language of the Russian Federation, ensuring compliance with the norms of the modern Russian literary language and countering the excessive use of foreign vocabulary.

The formation of a state order is being introduced for the creation of information materials distributed in the media, cinema, print, television and on the Internet, which would correspond to the goals and objectives of cultural policy, as well as ensuring quality control of the implementation of such state orders. So that information materials neutralize the destructive information and psychological impact aimed at eroding traditional Russian spiritual and moral values. To provide organizational, analytical and information support for the development and implementation of state cultural policy, a coordinating body will be created to develop strategic approaches and form cultural

sovereignty. An assessment of the progress and results of the implementation of state policy in the field of culture will be given in the annual report on the state of cultural sovereignty, which the government submits to the State Duma and the Federation Council, and in the report of the Secretary of the Security Council to the President on the state of national security of cultural sovereignty.

For multinational ethnic Russia, the formation of cultural sovereignty is carried out from a spiritual, moral and moral traditional position. It is important to rely on initiatives to form a national cultural environment in the historical national spiritual format of Orthodox culture (Evgeny Bryndin, 2023a; 2023b; 2023c).

2. Spiritual Format of Orthodox Culture

In our country, every person has encountered the concept of spiritual Christian life. The historical formation of spiritual Orthodox life took place over two thousand years. According to the New Testament, the Heavenly Father baptized Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit on the Jordan River, and John the Baptist with water. John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the Apostles and priests call everyone to repentance. A sincerely repentant person cleanses his soul and becomes a meek, humble, righteous and peaceful Christian. Jesus established the sacrament of His body and blood for Christians. Christ took all the sins of the world and nailed them to the cross. After the death of Christ, the Creator of the universe returned His sinless soul to its original body, resurrected Him, and He became the second Adam. The sacraments of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the communion of the body and blood of Christ are carried out in the church. At the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a Christian who believes in Jesus with a pure soul through Christ receives spiritual seed from the Heavenly Father. Believers in Jesus come to the Father only through Christ. During communion, the baptized believer in Jesus is united with the original body and blood of Christ. Jesus Christ is man's spiritual protection from the influence of Satan and his dark spirits.

The first coming of Jesus Christ for every person is the study of the Word of God of the New Testament, when he becomes a Christian who believes in Jesus and prayerfully communicates with the Lord. A baptized believer in Jesus, leading a spiritual life with God according to the commandments of the New Testament, is

perfected into the likeness of the Creator and united with the Lord. Christians who unite with the Lord, through their spiritual life, shape the cultural sovereignty of Russia and Orthodox civilization from generation to generation.

The main spiritual value of the format of Orthodox culture is love as a set of perfections: peace, patience, kindness, mercy, faith, meekness, humility, abstinence and others. The format of the spiritual values of Orthodox culture will help the formation and preservation of the cultural sovereignty of multinational Russia. The format of the spiritual values of Orthodox culture will contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the good traditions of multinational Russia. The format for the spiritual and moral development of the culture of multinational Russia should be carried out in the following areas:

- spiritual, moral and ethical worldview;
- unity of freedom according to the law of love;
- formation of spiritual life;
- creative attitude to learning, work and life;
- ecological attitude to the environment, to nature in general;
- formation of ideas about aesthetic ideals and values;
- rights, freedoms and responsibilities of citizens;
- peaceful righteous relationships;
- favors and good deeds;
- showing love to other people;
- training and education of the younger generation in Orthodox culture;
- love to motherland;
- citizenship and patriotism.

The format of the spiritual and moral development of the culture of multinational Russia is carried out in all spheres of life and by all segments of the population according to the criteria of goodness, love and benefit. Orthodox culture helps citizens form a good conscience through love and develop the skill of distinguishing between good and evil. When there is a manifestation of love, then it is for good and benefit. Detection of evil intentions makes it possible to quickly neutralize them within the country and combat threatening atrocities outside its borders. We must constantly remember that the global spiritual

struggle is being waged by the influence on people between the Creator of all good and Satan, the head of the dark forces and the organizer of evil. Satan directs unbelievers to commit evil deeds. The Creator helps believers with good deeds. Orthodox culture teaches and helps everyone to do good in unity with the Creator, society and citizens, and to resist the atrocities of the servants of Satan. The task of the authorities, cultural workers and church priests is to constantly use the spiritual format of Orthodox culture as the current unifying bond of the secular multicultural society of the Russian Federation.

The comprehensive multilateral universal constant development of culture in the Orthodox format of spiritual values will contribute to the formation and preservation of the cultural sovereignty of multinational Russia (Antonovich E. N., 2017).

3. The Spiritual Formation of the Cultural Sovereignty of Multinational Russia

The spiritual and moral sovereignty of the state should be understood as the independent choice of the country for the spiritual and moral development of its people and human souls. At the same time, the state and society take into account human sovereignty, ensure and protect the rights and freedoms of a person's spiritual essence (soul and spirit), as well as spiritual and moral values.

In the Russian Federation, the dominant spiritual and moral basis sovereignty are the moral rights of man. These include the right to life, respect for the spiritual and moral dignity of a person, the prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment, the right to spiritual and moral creativity, the right to choose and free will, freedom of conscience and religion. As well as the right to spiritual education and upbringing, the right to spiritual and moral improvement, the right to religious and moral truth, the right to a favorable environment and other rights that arise from the spiritual and moral autonomy of man, aimed at protecting the spiritual essence of man (Saraf M. Ya., 2010; Malakhov, V. S., 2011; Eventiev S. I., 2012; Teplyakova Yu. O., 2016; Zelenkov M. Yu., 2018).

Thus, the spiritual and moral sovereignty of Russia is associated with the independent choice by the people of our country, human souls of their spiritual and moral development. The spiritual values of Orthodox culture contribute

to spiritual and moral development and create the basis for international friendship between all peoples in Russia.

Orthodoxy is the national ideal of Russia, the essence of its spiritual and cultural sovereignty. Orthodoxy is the basis of Russian identity. Russia would not have existed as a thousand-year-old civilization without the Baptism of the Russian people by Saint Prince Vladimir 1025 years ago.

The culture of Russia took shape and developed under the influence of Orthodoxy. Thanks to Orthodoxy, favorable conditions were created for the development of Russian culture. The interpenetration of Orthodoxy and culture, their synthesis, made it possible for Russian culture to develop along an original path. Artists, architects, and icon painters created their works to last for centuries. This means that creators, thanks to their masterpieces, could enter into contact with new generations for centuries, bequeathing their most hidden thoughts to the future. The artists themselves believed in their minds that they were creating at the behest of God and for the sake of glorifying him, but the culture they created also served their own earthly human goals. After all, passing off his human creation as divine, the artist affirmed it as an immortal and greatest value. Russian culture differs from other cultures due to the interpenetration and mutual influence of not only other cultures, in particular Byzantine, but also pagan beliefs in ancient Rus', manifested in the customs of the Russian people and the influence of Orthodoxy. Rus' not only borrowed the highly developed art of Byzantium, but picked it up, qualitatively updated it, enriching it with its own tradition. As a result, a highly original cultural system with unique complexes of world significance, such as Moscow, Novgorod, Suzdal, Vladimir, and Rostov the Great, has developed in Rus'. Russian art is a great creation of time. It is unique and is part of the spiritual culture of Russian people in inextricable connection with modern culture.

The Church gave our country many state symbols and rituals. The double-headed eagle, which became the main symbol of Russia, was previously depicted on icons. The coronation ceremonies of the Russian tsars, held with the blessing of the Patriarch, were deeply religious and symbolized the connection between spiritual and secular power. The Orthodox heritage is reflected in the buildings and works

of art created on Russian soil. Majestic cathedrals, temples and monasteries with their unique architecture and iconography have become symbols of Russian culture. Icons created by the hands of our masters are not only religious objects, but also works of art and world cultural heritage. Many Russian writers and philosophers, such as Dostoevsky and Solovyov, addressed issues of faith, spirituality and morality in their works, drawing on Orthodox traditions and values. Their works became a bridge between the spiritual and cultural life of Russia, and reflections on faith, the meaning of life and morality still inspire readers around the world. Orthodox church singing also has deep roots in Russian culture. The sound of bells and choirs in churches and monasteries create a unique atmosphere of spirituality. Russian composers, such as Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, created works inspired by church music and the theme of faith. The Orthodox holidays of Easter, Christmas and Trinity not only played an important role in the formation of Russian national traditions, they are a tradition. The rituals associated with them, the same painted Easter eggs and swimming in an ice hole at Epiphany, have become an integral part of life, symbols of our country. Orthodoxy has taken root in the Russian soul. It influenced all aspects of cultural life from architecture to cooking. And the significance of this is difficult to overestimate.

In modern Russia, the state and the Church are looking for ways to interact while maintaining their independence. The Russian Orthodox Church has become an active participant in public life and is involved in educational, charitable, and social projects. Orthodox culture and its values are being introduced into school curricula. The basics of Orthodox culture are taught in schools and universities. All this matters for the preservation of our thousand-year-old tradition.

Orthodox culture influences the political culture of Russia, both in matters of theory and practice (Dushenko, M. D., 2021). One of the most important aspects of political culture, which shaped the principle of conciliarity, is law-abidingness, as one of the most important components of Orthodox culture.

Orthodox culture historically unites the peoples of Russia with the power of love, inner freedom, conscience and family spirit, with the power of spiritual creativity in all its forms; this makes us

a spiritually great country. The constitutional consolidation of spiritual and cultural sovereignty will allow our country to preserve its national identity, state independence and protect it from new shocks. Without this step, economic success will not guarantee peace and prosperity for our Motherland. This step gives rights to other traditional Russian religious communities. L.A. Tikhomirov very accurately defined Russia as a family of nations gathered around the Orthodox Russian people. After all, for all the peoples of Russia who have a different religious affiliation, it is obvious that they historically were part of this large family of peoples and were its full part on the basis of Orthodox norms and values. In those regions of Russia where other religions are traditional, along with Orthodoxy, the special role of the corresponding religions can be enshrined at the level of legislation of the subject of the federation. The practice of assigning rights to a particular religion is widespread in the constitutions of modern European states.

Protecting the traditional values of the Russian mentality is a task of the national security of the Russian Federation and its cultural sovereignty. The spiritual potential of Orthodoxy and other religions is key in realizing the historical destiny of Russian sovereign civilization, a condition for the modernization of society along the paths of the spirit of serving the highest values. Only in this case can Russia be a competitive power in the face of the challenges of modernity, globalism and a godless world.

4. Conclusion

Russia is a unique multinational country where various ethnic groups and cultures are represented. Russian culture has an impact not only on Russian citizens of Russian nationality, but also on all residents of the country. It strengthens and preserves the national identity of each person and is manifested in the diversity of customs, linguistic features and traditions adopted in different regions. Cultural sovereignty plays an important role in the formation of a multinational society and is one of the main elements of national identity.

Authorities and politicians pay attention to the protection of spiritual and moral values and spirituality. They consider it necessary to resolve the issue of strengthening cultural sovereignty within the framework of ensuring spiritual security. The main threats to spiritual security in

the field of culture are the erosion of traditional spiritual and moral values and the weakening of the unity of a multinational people through external and internal cultural and information expansion, propaganda of permissiveness and violence, racial, national, and religious intolerance. As well as a decrease in the role of the Russian language in the world, attempts to falsify Russian and world history, illegal attacks on cultural objects. By protecting spiritual values, we ensure the security of Russian identity, that which makes us conscious citizens of our country, responsible for its development and future.

Today, Orthodoxy and the traditional religions of Russia bear a huge responsibility when the system of moral values is revised and degraded in the most powerful states that impose their will on various countries. Orthodoxy plays a key role in preserving our way of life, our customs, our very identity and the formation of the cultural sovereignty of Russia. A state that has cultural sovereignty has the opportunity to see the world with its own eyes.

Cultural sovereignty in a geopolitical context allows us to better understand the characteristics and influence of our culture on international relations. Russian culture plays an important role in shaping the geopolitical image of the country. It is an important tool for influencing the international community and helps strengthen Russia's position on the world stage.

Humanity today is faced with the threat of losing traditional spiritual and moral guidelines and Christian moral principles. Basic moral and cultural norms are being increasingly undermined, and the cult of violence, consumption and pleasure is being implanted.

Orthodox cultural expansion will free the world from cultural degradation and return it to classical values and patterns of behavior. Action in regions of the world of joint cultural institutions on the international BRICS+ platform, which are centers of intellectual and cultural influence on various continents, developing cultural and missionary activities, will revive and establish in different regions their classical culture. Then the cultural sovereignty of various countries will be protected both from external forces and from internal groups whose activities harm the unity of society and the security of the social and political structure.

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