

## The Russian migratory waves from a historical and political point of view

Russian emigration was characterized by five migratory movements which varied in numbers and reasons. Russia covers about 17 million square km, an area that makes it the country with the largest territory in the world; It has very large population that lives on some fundamental resources, such as agriculture and fishing favored by a land rich in rivers, woods, and fields. But above all fundamental for the Russian economy and business are mineral resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

Many Russians decided, in different periods of time, to leave their motherland and Russian diaspora touches today between 20-30 million people that are scattered around the world.

The biggest Russians communities are found in United States, in Germany and in Israel.

In order to understand the emigration's history of this population we must take a leap into the past. In the Russian Empire there was not emigration legislation and there were almost no statistics on the emigration movements and a significant part of the emigrants left the country illegally, this happened also during the Soviet period, where migration flows remained unregistered because emigrants "don't count". To be registered as migrant, people must renounce their citizenship but not everyone was willing to do it. Therefore, reliable sources are difficult to find the only are documents of religious migrants and Russians Jews and the estimates found in host country's registers. People used different ways to leave the country, not only illegally but also with a travel visa, permanent residence, work visa and study visa.

First emigration started in 1917, following the Bolshevik revolution, they were people of upper middle class decided to escape from the oppressive regime to United States, Europe, China, and other countries; were patriots that always had a desire to return to their home once the regime would collapse and, for this, never adapted to foreign environment but have produced a mini-Russia outside. It has been a numerous emigration, according to estimates included from 950 thousand to 3 million of people.

Second emigration started in 1945, following the Second World War, characterized by two categories of migrants: the first, were common people, impoverished by the war and terrified by the regime that wanted to escape and never come back to Russia, they were looking for a new beginning away and they did not maintain a contact to each other. The second, were all categories of people born as a result of war, such as refugees, Soviet POWs, Eastern Workers or surviving veterans.

Emigrating at the time was very risky because a law was in force from 1935 to 1958 according to which escape across the border or refusal to return abroad was punishable by death and the deserter's family members were threatened with ten years in the camps. Nevertheless, it was much more than the first because included from 979 thousand to 4 million.

Third emigration started in 1996, following the permission given by Russian Prime Minister to reunification of family divided after WWII. From 1970 to 1990 thousands of people benefited of this, including Russian Jews, about more than 1 million went to Israel, United States and Canada. Also, included in this emigration whose people that left the country with a temporary visa to go abroad and never returned because they felt that the Soviet system that did not give them enough freedom and opportunity, they were known as "*nevozvraschentsy*" (Non-repatriates) were considered treasons and for this sanctioned by the penal code.

In 1986, Michael Gorbachev introduced in politics a new attitude named "Glasnost" in order to discuss all issues freely and critically. Furthermore, between 1985 and 1991 began a set of reforms known as "Perestroika" (reconstruction) to defeat corruption and privileges of the political apparatus, and also to reorganize the economy of country. But the suddenness of these reforms, coupled with growing instability both inside and out of the Soviet Union, would contribute to the collapse of the U.R.S.S. in 1991. Moreover, inside the country there were also other forms of tensions, such as: the first Chechen war characterized by continuous clashes in North Caucasus between criminal gangs and the Russian army; the constitutional crisis of 1993 caused by President Boris El'cin and Russian Parliament; and the very serious financial crisis of 1998 consisted in a significant decline in productivity, a high fixed exchange rate between the ruble and foreign currencies and a chronic fiscal deficit.

The consequences on population were devastating, 30% of people impoverished, lost work, the mortality rate increased and so on.

All these tensions triggered a fourth wave started in 1992, where emigration was more liberal but, in any case, every citizen had to justify the need for a trip to the authority to obtain a permit. The reasons are different than the first waves, because people did not burn bridges behind them, they have a possibility to leave and if they wanted, they could come back one day. In addition, they left for economic reasons and no longer political. Another difference is that people started to leave the country with the whole family looking for better jobs and new experiences. The destination's countries were Germany, Israel, USA, Canada. In this change of scenery, emigrated around 938 thousand of people.

In the 2000s, price of oil rose in the world and the Russian economy started to recover, money started to turn quickly between various industries, banks, and in general in workplace. In this context, immigrants' flows were born. Meanwhile, immediately after the dissolution of the U.R.R.S a problem arises because 22 million of Russian citizens found themselves in foreign territory, and in 2006 Russian government created a State program to assist voluntary resettlement of this people and come back 150,000 Russians by this route. Another important category of immigrant were all patriots and political refugees that living in Europe and United States, which decided to return after regime's collapse. In addition, came a very wide third category in 2014, it was about foreign migrants totaled 11,4 million from Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan that are very important in Russian labor force even today.

Since the 2000s, Russian emigration has decreased, an estimated 10-15 thousand a year, but people continued to leave their motherland and we can say that was a fifth emigration, subdivided into three periods, in which we have more accurate numbers because is more recent phenomenal.

From 2000 to 2005, 221,000 people moved to Germany, 29,000 to Israel and 8,700 to United States. From 2006 to 2011, 80 thousand people moved to Spain, Canada, United Kingdom. From 2012 to 2014, 105 thousand to China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Turkey (last statistics including workers from these countries who, once the contract ends, they come to home). The reasons are not too different from the fourth emigration, always to search jobs abroad, much leave for well-paid jobs in large companies, others leave simply to see what the situation is like outside, still others to study.

An important phenomenon is assumed by women, usually belong to upper middle class, with high level education, that looking marriages outside. The reasons are different, some do not like Russian man and want a different type of husband, others because their hope for a better future.

As for how Russians live abroad, it is difficult to define it in universal way, we could say something taking the case of Germany for example, where there is a big community of Russians. Here, Russian's migrants have a low level of naturalization and it is almost impossible to have a dual citizenship, but 85% are in posses to German Passport. They have a high education level, 94% of persons aged 25-64 have a secondary-educated, but this highest percentage is not translating into a good employment. In fact, unemployment rate is also high, perhaps is a consequence of protective welfare policies that disregarded labor matching. But is interesting women's role into work, because they are more active in labor market, unlike men. As far as, the level of integration into civil society, are important all organizations founded by German State in order to support this community.

As statistics demonstrate, many Russians return to their homeland and this is caused by different reasons. Not everyone feeling the same, but we can find some common reasons such as languages barrier, integration difficulties, anti-Russian sentiment, unrecognized qualification or only homesickness. At the end, we can say that all Russian migration flows are different, the first characterized whit a migrant's sentiment of hatred towards the Soviet Regime, inflamed by severe restrictions on the part of the latter, and the last that were more liberal and lead a different migrants' sentiment because they began to be proud of their country and only move just to see how life is abroad, and maybe return later.