

Why 'Russians' in Israel don't want peace

Пише: Alexander Maistrovoy
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Bill Clinton is right: Israelis from the FSU are not really interested in a peace agreement. Certainly not the kind of deal he helped impose on Serbs in Kosovo.

Former US president Bill Clinton's claims last month that Russian-speaking Israelis are an obstacle to peace can be understood in different ways. But excluding their emotional component, it is necessary to recognize that the immigrants from the former Soviet Union are mostly opposed to the peace process (or what is implied by this term). Let's look at the root of this phenomenon.

The rose-colored glasses of "multiculturalism" hide the fact that there are three civilizations in this world: postmodern liberal democracies, states of classical political culture and traditional patriarchal communities.

As Western civilization passionately abandons its national religious idea, so fervently the other two cultivate their values and originality.

In Europe, the ideological divide between these two cultures passes along the border of the former Eastern Bloc. Eastern European countries, irrespective of their economic successes or level of democratic development, are strikingly different from their neighbors in the West. Because of Nazism and communism, repressions and totalitarian ideology, they are hardened to senseless slogans, illusions and idealistic dogmatism.

Eastern Europe, Russia and the Far East countries derive vital strength from their history, mythology and tradition. They are developed communities but also inseparably tied to their past, and it is not so important whether this connection gets a religious or cultural frame.

THE MAIN issue is not politics. It is the cult of national dignity, mistrust of universalist theories and resistance to any trespassing on their living space, both geographical and spiritual.

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It is impossible to imagine a Ukrainian leader bowing to a Middle Eastern sheikh, or a Polish prime minister kissing the hand of an African despot.

Hindus will not build a mosque near the site of one of the bloodiest terrorist attacks; Serbs don't feel guilty toward the Albanians of Kosovo who deprived them of their heritage; Russian intellectuals, actors and academics don't wish to "understand" the Chechen insurgents, who carried out terrible acts of terrorism in their country.

Have you ever heard about Czechs regretting the transfer of the Sudeten Germans? Are Bulgarians sorry for the exile of 250,000 Turks in the 1950s? AND, FINALLY, there is the third group of people in the world still living in the dynamics of patriarchal-feudal relations.

Take away all the trappings of Western civilization (cellphones, Internet, laptops, grandiose glass and concrete buildings, Mercedes cars) from much Arabian and African life, and you will largely see a gloomy and cruel world. This is a world where clan norms and blood feud laws rule, where, largely, women are considered inferior to men. It is here that adultery is punished by stoning, and rivals eliminated with explosives, "road accidents" and poisons.

Everything considered different, from sexual orientation to critical discourse on Facebook and Twitter is met with censure.

Remove all the paraphernalia of modern life, and you will see the world of a patriarchal economy concentrated in the hands of few, the horrible gap between rich and poor, and some terrifying traditions and beliefs like female genital mutilation.

SOME IN the West voluntarily make themselves hostages to the patriarchal world, but classical culture resists to this selfdestructive tendency.

Israel is a state with a mosaic society. It consists of different groups of populations, from postmodernists to natives of patriarchal countries of Asia and Africa, to "Russians." For postmodernists, Israel is no more than a hindrance on their way to utopia, and the word "peace" has sacral sense. For "Russians" in Israel, peace with feudal-patriarchal societies has no value

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because they don't trust them. They put their own survival above illusions and doubtful experiments.

They know the price of the "peace" which Clinton has established in Kosovo.

According to such "peace" the Serbs of Kosovo had a choice between exile and death.

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