FREEDOM PERCEPTION OF RUSSIAN POPULATION

Russian citizens on individual freedom, the state and society...

Presentation of the opinion poll results conducted between 28th of July and 2nd of August 2016 among the population of the Russian Federation.

The presentation also refers to the results of the sociological survey conducted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Office in Istanbul and Metropoll Strategic and Social Research in June 2016 on the topic «In search of liberal ideas and values in Turkey».
FREEDOM PERCEPTION OF RUSSIAN POPULATION

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

- 61.7% Have primary or secondary basic/professional education
- 73.0% Get a salary of up to 30,000 rubles (415 Euro) per month
- 56.1% Work, are informally occupied, do a part-time job
- 73.9% in a city or similar settlement
- 32.1% Retired
- 70.7% Live with a family of 2-4 people
- 25.7% Have an international passport
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LAWS, CONTROL
Do you think the majority of people in Russia live rather by the law or rather by informal rules, personal agreements?

- Rather by informal rules, personal agreements: 44.1%
- Don’t know / no answer: 14.8%
- Rather by the law: 41.4%

Do you personally live rather by the law or rather by informal rules, personal agreements?

- Rather by informal rules, personal agreements: 12.2%
- Don’t know / no answer: 5.6%
- Rather by the law: 82.2%

15% believe that if the law is bad it is not necessary to follow it

80% think that every law should be followed
Do you think that the Russian state interferes or doesn’t interfere in the private life of its citizens?

- Doesn’t interfere, rather doesn’t interfere: 49.6%
- Interferes, rather interferes: 37.2%
- Don’t know / no answer: 13.2%

Do you think that the state should or shouldn’t collect personal data of its citizens for the sake of security?

- Shouldn’t, rather shouldn’t: 25.8%
- Should, rather should: 65.9%
- Don’t know / no answer: 8.4%
Some people think that authorities should stay within the legal framework while fighting terror. Others believe that in emergency situations it is possible to break the law. Which of the two opinions would you support?

- The first one, authorities must always stay within the legal framework (42.2%)
- The second one, it is possible to break the law in case of emergency (53.6%)
- Don’t know/no answer (4.2%)
What is your opinion, should the state first of all guarantee rights and freedoms of citizens or should it first of all prevent law infringements and provide security?

56.9% First of all prevent law infringements and provide security
32.2% First of all guarantee rights and freedoms of citizens
10.9% Don’t know/no answer

Which of the following are the priority duties of the state?

45.2% Protect public order and security
47.5% Secure citizens’ rights and liberties
7.3% Don’t know/Refused
ECONOMY
Which economic system seems to you better: one based on state planning and distribution, or one based on a free market?

- 59.6% One based on state planning and distribution
- 26.9% One based on a free market
- 13.5% Don’t know/no answer

Which of the following economic models is most effective for economic development according to your assessment?

- 37.9% A free market economy in which everyone is free to do business
- 25.2% A state-run economy
- 31.0% Economic model in which some investments are made by the state but allowing free enterprise
- 6.0% Don’t know/Refused
What is your opinion, should or should not the state control prices of basic food products (e.g., bread, milk, meat, etc.)?

95,9% Should, rather should

3,6% Shouldn’t, rather shouldn’t

0,5% Don’t know/no answer
Do you believe it is possible in today’s Russia to honestly become rich and earn millions of rubles?

- Yes: 70.8%
- No: 24.7%
- Don’t know/Refused: 4.4%

How Do People Become Rich?

- By working honestly: 51.1%
- With the help of the state: 21.8%
- Through corruption and irregularities: 20.9%
- Don’t know/Refused: 6.2%
GENDER
What is your opinion about the case that the wife earns more than the husband — positive, negative or indifferent?

- **Positive**: 74.8%
- **Negative**: 8.7%
- **Indifferent**: 27.8%

57.8% answered that women should ask their husbands for permission to work.

Someone would think that homosexuality is abnormal and hence it must be prohibited. Others believe that homosexuality is peoples’ privacy which no one should interfere in. Which statement, the first or the second one, would you agree with?

- **The first, homosexuality is abnormal and must be prohibited**: 47.7%
- **The second, homosexuality is peoples’ privacy which no one should interfere in**: 70.3%
- **Don’t know/no answer**: 4.5%
RELIGION
Do you believe that lessons on religion should be compulsory in schools for all, optional or should not exist at all?

- Compulsory: 19.9%
- Optional: 60.5%
- There shouldn’t be lessons on religion: 17.1%
- Don’t know/no answer: 3.9%

Do you think that the policy of our government should or shouldn’t be coordinated with the Russian Orthodox Church as the largest religious confession in Russia?

- Should be coordinated: 58.3%
- Shouldn’t be coordinated: 31.3%
- Don’t know/no answer: 10.4%
FREEDOM OF SPEECH
Do you think that the mass media should always be controlled by the government, should be controlled only in special cases, e.g. for security reasons, or should be absolutely free?

- Should be controlled by the government: 27.2%
- Should be controlled in special cases (e.g., for security reasons): 45.1%
- Should be absolutely free: 24.5%
- Don’t know/no answer: 3.2%

How do you see bans imposed on media in some situations, for example, for public security purposes?

- I see them as necessary: 31.3%
- I see them an intervention in the freedom of press: 54.8%
- Don’t know/Refused: 13.9%
If your opinion is not concurrent with the opinion of the majority, you are normally afraid or not afraid to express it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Afraid, Rather Afraid</th>
<th>Not Afraid, Rather Not Afraid</th>
<th>Don't Know/No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towards friends, relatives</td>
<td>10,0%</td>
<td>86,5%</td>
<td>3,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards neighbors, colleagues</td>
<td>14,1%</td>
<td>82,0%</td>
<td>3,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards strangers</td>
<td>41,1%</td>
<td>50,4%</td>
<td>8,5%</td>
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</table>
DEMOCRACY
Do you believe that it is important or not for the majority of Russians that there should be democracy in Russia, or they don’t care?

- **43,4%** Important, rather important
- **33,8%** Don’t care
- **6,4%** Not important, rather not important
- **1,4%** Don’t know/ no answer

Is it important or not for you personally that there should be democracy in Russia, or you don’t care?

- **56,9%** Important, rather important
- **26,5%** Don’t care
- **8,7%** Don’t know/ no answer
- **7,9%** Not important, rather not important

How important is it to live in a country with a democratic government?

- **93,6%** Important
- **3,9%** Not important
- **2,5%** Don’t know/ Refused
Has there ever been democracy in Russia? If yes, then when?

When there was democracy in Russia?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>Nowadays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>Don’t know/no answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>2000–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>In the USSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>In the 90s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>2000–2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>In tsarist Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>Always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>Under Yeltsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>Stolypin’s period</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FUTURE: FEARS, EXPECTATIONS
What are in your opinion the priority tasks for Russia for the coming few years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic development and welfare</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and order</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights and freedoms</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening of relations with other countries</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / no answer</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you think the following events are likely to happen in Russia in the next 5 years?

- **69,0%** Many people will lose their jobs
- **58,5%** Interethnic conflicts will intensify
- **57,0%** Growth of terror (explosions, arsons, kidnapping, etc.)
- **52,2%** Life will become stable
- **50,5%** There will be more order and justice
- **44,9%** There will be less aggression
Does your life mostly depend on you personally, on the state or on other people?

- On me personally: 64.9%
- On the state: 25.1%
- On other people: 6.9%
- Don’t know/no answer: 3.0%
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