

**ABOUT APARTHEID POLICIES IN THE BALTIC STATES.
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Many people in the Baltic States, especially in Estonia and Latvia, do not have citizenship of their home country, despite the fact that they were born there, worked there for their whole lives, paid taxes, and built up the country. Now, they cannot vote, they cannot participate in politics, very often they do not have a job, because they hold an "Alien passport". The name of this passport is already designed to be humiliating. The institution of "Alien passports" is not known well enough in European countries. Especially Russians, but also Ukrainians, Belorussians, Jews and others, do not hold citizenships of their native countries. These individuals are practically victims of a new type of Apartheid-type discrimination, division of people into 2 groups: citizens and non-citizens, humans and aliens, Estonians and Russians, employed and unemployed, Estonian-speakers and Russian-speakers, people who have a vote and people who do not have, state officials and people who do not have right to work for the state. There are various forms of official and unofficial Apartheid policies in these countries. We should use this term: Apartheid. This word is written in the Afrikaans language and it comes from South Africa, which had for a long time a very similar kind of system of discrimination, including falsification of history. The term Apartheid is very familiar for all who remember the situation with South Africa some decades ago. We should keep in mind that Russians and other minorities in these countries react very calmly to their difficult situation. There is no violence, but there are silent protests. The main problem is that people in Europe and in Western countries in general do not actually now nor understand the situation, because it is no easy to understand. It seems that the aim of the newly established nationalistic regimes is to humiliate the Russian population, for example with odd citizenship and language exams. They for example are forced to accept an image of history, which is against their traditions. Let us say, that every person should have freedom of expression and also freedom to create their own idea of history. Every individual and family has their own histories. Nationalistic regimes in the Baltic States are trying to force the Russian population to adopt an anti-Russian image of history. This is extremely humiliating for Russians. The results were unfortunately very well seen in 2007, when the Estonian government tried to destroy a monument for the liberators of the city of Tallinn. In 1944, Estonian soldiers of the Red Army liberated the city of Tallinn from Nazi occupiers. In 2007, the Estonian government wanted to erase this memory from the history of the country. At that moment, many Russians decided to go to the streets for protest. This was to some extent a dangerous situation, but very useful, because it showed many people how important history and collective memory is. We should respect all interpretations of history, except if they incite to ethnic hatred. But Russians in the Baltic States should have equal rights to their own views of history, as do Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians. History should not insult anybody. The official Estonian historiography of the 2nd world war stipulates that the Estonian SS-troops were not fighting for Hitler but for the independence of Estonia. A same kind of official historiography is promoted by Latvian government. This is not only false and ridiculous, but also very insulting not only for Russians, who gave enormous sacrifice for beating German Nazism. This is very humiliating, because Russians should now adopt this pro-Nazi view of history, which also has a tendency to falsify the Holocaust. It is not secret, that anti-Semitic prejudices are very common in the Baltic States. Every late July, Estonian government protects a specific neo-Nazi summer festival at the Easy Estonia at the so-called Blue Hills, where modern European neo-Nazis from various countries meet with SS-veterans. This Blue Hills event is an example of modern neo-Nazism in the heart of Europa. Glorification of the SS-troops is very dangerous. We should get rid of the new tradition of Apartheid policies in the Baltic States. We should keep in mind that Russians, their organizations and also the Russian Federation have been very modest in fighting Baltic Apartheid. They have kept themselves strictly in the framework of laws and international agreements. Still it seems that nobody is noticing them. But this is not the full story: Russians in the Baltic States are also being accused of being the perpetrators, the "occupiers", even mass murderers. The nationalistic Baltic governments are very actively cultivating a theory of so-called "double genocide": they

say that Russians as creators of the Soviet Union allegedly are guilty of more horrible genocide than the Nazis. In fact, the nationalistic Baltic historians and politicians are trying to create a myth about so-called Soviet occupation of the Baltic States as a genocide worse than Holocaust. This is falsification of history and a very serious problem, because it can be depicted first of all as a sort of psychological pressure against the local Russian minorities. This is very important part of the Apartheid-policies of these countries. The Russians are accused, blamed, abused, and deprived of any democratic or citizenship rights.