Subjects of the State within the Russian Federation:
Constitutional and Legal Framework

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of this study is to analyze the modern problems of federalism in the Russian Federation. In particular, the article examines the main provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which regulate the legal status of subjects in the Russian Federation, their rights and responsibilities, limits of autonomy and differentiation principles of conducting and mutual delegation of powers between the Federal bodies and regional bodies of state power and administration. The study is based on methods, such as systematic, formal-logical, concrete-historical method of comparative legal analysis. The complexity of the provisions' implementation of the Constitution of Russia is dictated by several factors, one of which is the feature of formation and development of government forms. In our state, there are a lot of subjects with their national and cultural characteristics and distinctive history, significantly distinguishing the current situation - economic, political, and legal - of some subjects from others. This work deals with the topic of the legal status of republics (States) in Russia from the point of view of their characteristics as a state, relying primarily on provisions of the Russian Constitution and the constitutions of several subjects in Russia.

KEYWORDS
Delegation of authority, democratic state, the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Russian Constitution, a legal state.

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Introduction
The presence of a democratic Constitution and, more importantly, the implementation of the democratic provisions of the Constitution of Russia guarantees the stability of any state.

The complexity of the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of Russia is dictated by several factors, one of which is the feature of formation and development of the form of government (Andrichenko & Yurtueva, 2013; Biondi, 2014; Burgess & Cagnon, 1993). In our state a large number of subjects with their national and cultural characteristics and distinctive history, significantly distinguishes the current situation - economic, political, legal – some subjects from others, this situation is similar to many Federal States, such as India, USA, Canada (Majeed, 2005; Falco & Bagala, 2014; Rubin, 2001). In
this article in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Russian Constitution, raised
the issue of the legal status of republics (States) in Russia from the point of view
of their characteristics as a state, relying primarily on provisions of the Russian
Constitution and the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan. The diversity of
forms and characteristics of subjects of Russia, and their harmonious existence
within a single state is due to the rule of constitutional law (Gerasimova, 2015;

According to rule 1 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, Russian
Federation - Russia is a democratic Federal legal state with a Republican form

Thus in rule 4 of the Russian Constitution States that the sovereignty of the
Russian Federation extends to its entire territory (The Constitution of the

The Constitution of the Russian Federation and Federal laws shall have
supremacy throughout the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation provides integrity and inviolability of its territory.

Through the study of the legal status of the constituent entities in Federal
States, we can offer the world of science to improve the principles and
foundations of Federal relations, improve the mechanism for the realization of
the equality of the rights of subjects of Federal States. Many aspects of the
organization and activities of modern Federal States can be improved using
historical experience of formation and development of the form of government
(Rubin, 2001; Gorbacheva, 2013; Matveev et al., 2016). We hope that the study
of foreign and domestic experience of the organization of Federal principles,
identifying strengths and weaknesses, will be our contribution to world science,
world law.

The scientific novelty of this work lies in the fact that the first attempt of a
comprehensive analysis of the legal status of subjects of the Russian Federation
from the point of view of their classification as independent states. Not only the
Republic as part of Russia, but also other actors have almost the totality of the
symptoms of the state, but do not, of course, to lose sight of two very important
characteristic is citizenship and international sovereignty. These questions are
referred to the exclusive competence of the Russian Federation, as only Russia
has the right to participate in the international legal and political relations.
Moreover, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 6 of the Constitution of the
Russian Federation, the Russian Federation citizenship shall be acquired and
terminated according to Federal law, shall be indivisible and equal regardless of
the grounds of acquisition, i.e. in Russia, a single citizenship is established and
that is a matter for the exclusive competence of Russia.

Foreign experience and its implementation in Russia. The principle of
federalism is one of the most important principles in many developed countries,
especially in the United States of America. It has a significant impact on all
constitutritional and legal institutions in the United States. It is the basis to build
all the bodies of state power in relations with civil society (Burgess & Cagnon,
1993; Falco & Bagala, 2014; Rubin, 2001). In this regard, a very important
experience in the implementation of the principle of federalism and the building of Federative relations in foreign countries for the improvement of this institution in Russia. In foreign countries the principle of federalism means that the state simultaneously exist, the Federal government and the governments of the constituent entities, each of which exercises power within their sphere of influence.

In the United States these powers as follows: powers of the Federal authorities in the framework of the Constitution of 1787 is restricted to a relatively small range of issues of special importance. Other issues according to the X amendment to the U.S. Constitution, enacted in 1791, are the responsibility of States (Falco & Bagala, 2014).

Domestic experience. In the Russian Federation established the principle of mutual responsibility of the Federal center and the subjects, which allows a guaranteed policy, ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens (Gerasimova, 2015; Kakitelashvili, 2015). In Russia significantly when building Federal relations takes into account the historical peculiarities of development of different Nations and nationalities whether or not they distinctiveness, for example, when building relations between Moscow and Kazan, between Russia and Republic of Tatarstan.

**Aim of the Study**

To consider modern problems of federalism

**Research questions**

What are the features of Federal structure of Russia?

**Methods**

In every scientific work, methodology is important because it is designed to provide a true system of assumptions and approaches, theoretical principles and methods in the cognition of its subject.

When studying forms of government, principles of Federal relations and the legal status of subjects of Russia, was widely used by the general scientific, philosophical, and specifically the general social-scientific methods.

Among philosophical methods, applies a universal method of cognition of reality – materialistic dialectics (general interrelation and development), because historical analysis is a cash reality, existing outside the consciousness of the researcher.

The next method we used was the chronological method, the essence of which is that all the research is built in a strictly defined chronological sequence. The use of this method in research allows identifying the sequence and continuity of the factors that determine the development of state-legal phenomena.

Widely this study uses comparative legal method, which, as known, is in the comparative analysis. This method is an important tool in identifying and using
the positive experience that builds up to a certain stage, helps to identify the most effective models of public-legal regulation.

The system-structural method, which is due to the fact that the object of study is the emergence, formation and development of the jury system, which is a rather complex system within which a set of elements is interconnected in a strict hierarchical system and structural relationships.

This study uses the statistical method, as a quantitative factor – an important indicator of the reality of the impact of legal institutions. At the same time, no less important are the inverse processes – the impact of quantitative indicators in social, economic and political sphere on the formation of the main trends in the development of state and legal institutions.

Concrete-sociological method – helps in the study and data processing in social and political spheres, in which there is implementation of the law. This method allows identifying conditions that influence the development of social consciousness, the formation of public opinion defining the behavioral attitudes of citizens regarding the content and practical implementation of those or other legal norms.

**Data, Analysis, and Results**


The Republic (state) has its own Constitution and legislation. Krai, oblast, Federal city, Autonomous oblast, and Autonomous Okrug has its own charter and legislation.


In relations with Federal bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, equality and self-determination”.

Given the above constitutional provisions, come to the unequivocal conclusion that Russia is a Federal state, composed of the subjects referred to in rule 5 of the Basic Law of 1993, the provisions of the 1993 Constitution perpetuate the unity of the state, its indivisibility and integrity of the territory.

Part 1 of rule 5 of the Russian Constitution proclaims the equality of its subjects, but in the second part of the same rule states that Republics within Russia are states, and other entities are not; however, it appears that the state, i.e. Russia, is the number of individual states (The Constitution of the Russian Federation, 2008).
Nevertheless, let us turn to the theory of state and law. The state is characterized by the following signs distinguishing it from other politico-legal organizations: 1) public authorities; 2) system of taxes and fees; 3) territorial division of the population; 4) law; 5) monopoly for law-making; 6) monopoly on legitimate use of force, physical restraint; 7) the citizenship or nationality; 8) possession of certain material resources for carrying out its policies; 9) sovereignty; 10) the presence of national symbols - emblem, flag and anthem.

According to rule 66 of the Constitution of Russia the status of a Republic defined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Constitution of the Republic.

Thus, rule 68 of the Russian Constitution gives republics the right to establish their own state languages. In the bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government bodies, state institutions of the republics they shall be used alongside the state language of the Russian Federation.

Rule 73 of the Russian Constitution provides independent authority to all subjects, in particular: "out of limits of conducting the Russian Federation and the powers of the Russian Federation in subjects of joint conducting the Russian Federation and the constituent entities of the Russian Federation subjects of the Russian Federation possess all completeness of state power."

With regard to monopoly on the right, this sign is proclaimed by rule 76 of the Basic Law: "outside the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, joint jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and subjects of the Russian Federation, all republics, krais, oblasts, cities of Federal significance, Autonomous oblast and Autonomous regions carry out own legal regulation including adoption of laws and other normative legal acts".

The presence of the management apparatus, i.e., a sign of public authority as enshrined in rule 77 of the Russian Constitution: "the system of bodies of state authority of republics, territories, regions, Federal cities, Autonomous region, Autonomous regions is established by subjects of the Russian Federation independently in accordance with the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and the general principles of organization of representative and executive bodies of state power established by Federal law."

Let us refer to several provisions of the Constitution, 1992 (The Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan, 1992), in which Tatarstan is indicated as a state. In particular, the provisions of rule 1 of the Constitution tell us that "the Republic of Tatarstan is democratic legal state united with the Russian Federation by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan "On delimitation of jurisdictional subjects and mutual delegation of powers between public authorities of the Russian Federation and bodies of state power of the Republic of Tatarstan" and is the subject of the Russian Federation. The sovereignty of the Republic of Tatarstan is expressed in the possession of full state authority (legislative, executive and judicial) out of limits of conducting the Russian Federation and the powers of the Russian Federation in subjects of joint conducting the Russian Federation and the
Republic Tatarstan and is an inalienable qualitative state of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The names "Republic of Tatarstan and Tatarstan equivalent. The status of the Republic Tatarstan may not be changed without the mutual consent of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation. The boundaries of the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan may not be changed without its consent.

Within its powers the Republic Tatarstan participated in international and external economic relations".

Now, therefore, in the Russian Republic proclaimed as States, republics have almost all the characteristics that are inherent in any state, but missing some important, such as international sovereignty, citizenship and state borders. Finally the answer about the legal status of the republics gives us the constitutional Court of Russia.

On June 27, 2000 the Constitutional court of the Russian Federation issued ruling No 92-O "At the request of a group of deputies of the State Duma about the verification of compliance of the Constitution of the Russian Federation of separate provisions of the Constitutions of the Republic of Adygea, Republic of Bashkortostan, the Republic of Ingushetia, the Komi Republic, the Republic of North Ossetia - Alania and the Republic of Tatarstan" (The tariffs of Russia, 2000). The subject of the appeal of group of deputies of the State Duma was the provision of Republic sovereignty (state sovereignty) for a subject of the Russian Federation; on Republic appurtenance of the highest (i.e., supreme) authority over its territory; the people of the Republic is the bearer of sovereignty and source (the only source) of power; deriving from the principle of the sovereignty of the provisions of the rule, Supreme legal force of the Constitution and its laws, the right of the Republic to suspend the legal acts of the Russian Federation on its territory; on the contractual nature of the status of Republic as a subject of the Russian Federation; on the contractual nature of entering of the Republic into the Russian Federation (and thus, stay, stay in the Russian Federation); on the status of the Republic as a subject of international law; the provisions governing the relations of ownership of natural resources located on the territory of the Republic, the procedure for possession, use and disposition.

Issues settled by the contested provisions, had previously been considered by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation in business about check of constitutionality of the Declaration of state sovereignty of the Tatar SSR of 30 August 1990 and other regulatory legal acts of Tatarstan (Declaration of TSSR, 1990).

The decision of the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation from March 13, 1992 declared that position on state sovereignty of Tatarstan was unconstitutional; the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation pointed out that international law does not permit the use of references to the principle of self-determination to undermine the territorial integrity and unity of the sovereign state and national unity.

In its Decision of 7 June 2000 on case about inspection of constitutionality of separate provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Altai and the
Federal law "On general principles of organization of legislative (representative) and executive state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation" the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation stated the following legal position (The decision of the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, 2000).

The sovereignty of the Russian Federation as a democratic Federative legal state covering its entire territory, enshrined in the Constitution of the Russian Federation as one of the foundations of the constitutional order (rule 4, part 1). The bearer of sovereignty and the only source of power in the Russian Federation according to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, is its multinational people (rule 3, part 1), which, preserving the historically established state unity, proceeding from universally acknowledged principles of equality and self-determination of peoples and reviving the sovereign statehood of Russia, adopted the Constitution of the Russian Federation (preamble).

Sovereignty, suggesting the supremacy, the independence and autonomy of state power, the fullness of legislative, executive and judicial authority of the state over its territory and independence in international relations (within the meaning of rules 3, 4, 5, 67 and 79 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation), is a necessary qualitative sign of the Russian Federation as a state characterizing its constitutional and legal status.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation does not permit any other bearer of sovereignty and source of power, in addition to the multinational people of Russia, and therefore does not involve any other state sovereignty, besides the sovereignty of the Russian Federation. The sovereignty of the Russian Federation, of the Constitution of the Russian Federation excludes the existence of two levels of sovereign authorities, are United in the system of government that would have rule and independence, i.e. does not allow any sovereignty of the republics or other subjects of the Russian Federation.

Contained in the Constitution of the Russian Federation the decision of the question of sovereignty determines the nature of the Federal structure, historically due to the fact that the subjects of the Russian Federation do not have sovereignty, which originally belongs to the Russian Federation as a whole. According to the preamble, rules 3, 4, 5, 15 (part 1), 65 (part 1), 66 and 71 (b) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation in their interconnection, the Republic as the subject of the Russian Federation do not have the status of a sovereign state and cannot decide this question differently in its constitution. Therefore, it is not entitled to take the properties of a sovereign state - even under the condition that its sovereignty would be recognized as limited.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation, defining the status of given republics in rule 5 (parts 1 and 4) as the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in rule 65 (part 1), proceeds to the foundations of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and thus to the foundations of the constitutional system of the republics of the equality principle of all subjects of the Russian Federation, including their relations with Federal bodies of state power. The recognition of the sovereignty of the republics, while all other
subjects of the Russian Federation do not possess them, would violate the constitutional equality of the subjects of the Russian Federation, would have made impossible implementation, because the subjects of the Russian Federation do not have sovereignty and their status cannot be equal with a sovereign state.

Therefore, the use of the term "Republic (state)" in rule 5 (2) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation relating to the established Federal structure does not mean recognition of the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation in contrast to the Federal Treaty of 31 March 1992, but only reflects certain characteristics of their constitutional and legal status related to factors of a historical, national and other nature.

By the order of June 7, 2000, the provisions of the Constitution of the Altai Republic on the sovereignty of the Republic are interrelated with the provisions of the people as the bearer of this sovereignty and the only source of state power in the Republic, is recognized as not corresponding to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, its rules 3 (part 1), 4 (parts 1 and 2), 5, 66 (parts 1 and 5), 71 (point "b").

Recognition of the unconstitutionality of the provisions on sovereignty of the republics, therefore, entails a conclusion about the unconstitutionality of the provisions on the contractual nature of the status of the republics as the constituent entities in the Russian Federation (The constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, 2001).

Thus, directly derived from the principle of the sovereignty provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Adygea, the Constitution of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Constitution of the Republic of Ingushetia, the Constitution of the Republic of Komi, the Constitution of the Republic of North Ossetia - Alania and the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan of the rule, Supreme legal force of the Constitution and its laws, the right of the Republic to suspend the legal acts of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Republic, on the contractual nature of the status of a Republic within the Russian Federation, on the contractual nature of the occurrence (and consequently of stay, location) of Republic of the Russian Federation, the status of the Republic as a subject of international law - are the same, which has previously been recognized by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation not corresponding to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and therefore, these provisions are also inconsistent with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, its rules 3 (part 1), 4 (parts 1 and 2), 5, 66 (parts 1 and 5), 71 (point "b").

In this case, within the meaning of rules 3, 4, 5, 11, 71, 72, 73 and 76 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the granting to the Republic of full state authority outside the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and powers of the Russian Federation in subjects of joint conducting the Russian Federation and its subjects, and the recognition of higher legal force of the Constitution of the Republic in matters of reference as the subject of the Russian Federation, does not mean that the Republic thus recognized the sovereign state, since both stems not from the sovereign will of the republics, expressed in their
constitutions or Treaty, but from the Constitution of the Russian Federation as the highest legal act of the sovereign power of the multinational people of Russia.

However, the Republic, as follows from rules 72 (point "n" parts 1) and 76 (part 2) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, can carry out international and foreign economic relations, provided that they do not affect provided for in its rules 71 (points "K", "l", "m", "n") the powers and prerogatives of the Russian Federation as a sovereign state and that coordination of such linkages is determined by Federal law and adopted it on the basis of laws and other normative acts of constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The provisions set forth in the Definition of the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation of 6 December 2001 N 250-O "At the request of the State Assembly – Kurultay of Bashkortostan Republic on the interpretation of certain provisions of the rules 5, 11, 71, 72, 73, 76, 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation" are important.

The state Assembly - Kurultay of Republic of Bashkortostan in its request to the constitutional Court of the Russian Federation requested to give an interpretation of provisions of rules 5, 11, 71, 72, 73, 76, 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation on the Republic (state) within the Russian Federation, on the nature of its status and powers, and in this connection raises questions about whether the Republic (and if it has, then to what extent) such properties (characteristics) of the state as territory, nation, citizenship, state power; inherent state power of the Republic rule, independence and autonomy within the objects of its exclusive jurisdiction; what is regulated by the rule 73 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation all the fullness of state power of the Republic possess outside the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and powers of the Russian Federation in subjects of joint conducting the Russian Federation and its subjects; is the population (people) of the Republic, including on the basis of rule 3 (parts 1 and 3) and rule 11 (2) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the carrier and source of state power exercised in accordance with rule 73 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation; the Federal bodies of state power, in particular the courts, in accordance with rule 76 (part 4 and 6) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation to be guided in their activities the normative legal acts of constituent entities of the Russian Federation in subjects of exclusive conducting subjects of the Russian Federation.

The position of the State Assembly - Kurultai of Bashkortostan Republic is that a Republic within the Russian Federation in comparison with other constituent entities of the Russian Federation has a special status as a state has sovereignty and exercises sovereign rights in the sphere of authority on the issues identified rule 73 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation. The provisions specified in the request the rules of the Constitution of the Russian Federation the applicant is aware of exactly as the proof of the existence of the Republic, that sovereignty and sovereign character based on its powers and competence of its bodies of state power. Believing that a Republic of the Russian Federation has all the attributes of statehood - territory, population, citizenship,
state power, extending to the entire population and the entire territory of the Republic, the applicant concludes that the meaning of rule. Rules 5, 11, 71, 72, 73, 76, 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation the Republic (state) as the subject of the Russian Federation bears all the hallmarks of statehood: sovereignty, independence and autonomy of state power within the subjects of his superior conduct, and the fullness of legislative, executive and judicial authority throughout its territory outside the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and powers of the Russian Federation in subjects of joint conducting the Russian Federation and its subjects, i.e. such properties, which together constitute the quality of a sovereign state.

The constitutional Court in its ruling confirmed the position expressed in its Resolution of 7 June 2000 and decision of 27 June 2000, No. 92 of April 19, 2001, No. 65-O

Thus, Russia is a sovereign Federal state, consisting of a number of subjects, among which are the Republics referred to in the text of the Main law of Russia and the constitutions of the national republics as states, but only from the point of view of historical necessity, limited powers within its terms of reference, which does not possess sovereignty, but it has almost all the inherent state characteristics.

Discussion and Conclusion

The concept of “federalism” comes from the French word federalisme and feodus from the Latin, meaning “agreement, Union”. In the literature, federalism is viewed from different positions (Tarr, 2011).

According to D. Elazar (1987), “federalism is a form of government in which separate States or Nations have Central and regional authorities, which are territorial units, taking into account local features are in a state of subordination according to a specific range of issues regarding Federal and independent on all the others. Federalism allows ensuring the safety and existence of the whole system of government” (Elazar, 1987).

State Federal type of government restricted by the multinational and territorial the criterion of the content of powers to regional and national communities.

V. Busher notes that multinational Federation - a political system that provides wide the beginning of self-government of specific Nations (Quebec (Canada), Switzerland, India) (Boucher, 2008). In territorial federations, the powers delineated, but there is no clear demarcation line between national and sub-national groups on the implementation of the latest government (US and Germany).

It seems the best option, providing a clear and definite model of differentiation of the competence between various large consolidated independent social communities.

Origin of the Federation are of two main types. The first concerns the state, was originally a set of united political units subsequently entered into the composition of a Federal state or self-formed Federation (USA). The second
group includes the state, a form that was transformed into the Federation from the unitary state as a result of evolution or of the Association. For example, Switzerland was formed into a Federation as an already existing community, but the Jura joined the Swiss government in the process of evolution.

Thus, despite the differences in approaches to the interpretation of the concept of federalism, the vast majority of authors converge in the following main criteria determining its content, with which we absolutely agree: the presence in the state of incorporated units; an independent system of authorities at the Federal and regional levels; a model of differentiation of powers between the center and the regions in accordance with the established procedure, as well as their interaction and collaboration; mutual accountability; heterogeneous socio-cultural space of the state, manifested in ethnic, national, religious, linguistic, historical and other diversity.

**Implications and Recommendations**

The results of our studies helped us to get to the following conclusions.

The complexity of the realization of the provisions of the Constitution of Russia is caused by several factors, one of which, in my opinion, is a feature of formation and development of the state structure. In our country, a large number of subjects with their ethno-cultural peculiarities and distinctive history, significantly distinguish the current situation of the economic, political, legal - some of the subjects from the other.

Not only the Republic within Russia, but also other entities have almost the totality of attributes of a state, but do not, of course, lose sight of two very important characteristic is the citizenship and international sovereignty. These issues referred to the exclusive competence of the Russian Federation, because only Russia has the right to participate in the international legal and political relations, as for citizenship, according to point 1 of rule 6 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be acquired and terminated in accordance with Federal law, shall be indivisible and equal regardless of the grounds of acquisition.

In Russia's Republic proclaimed as states, the republics have almost all attributes inherent in any state, but some important ones are missing, such as the international sovereignty, citizenship and national borders. Finally, answer on the legal status of the republics gives us the constitutional Court of Russia.

Thus, Russia is a sovereign Federal state, consisting of a number of subjects, among which are the Republic, mentioned in the texts of the Basic law of Russia and the national constitutions of the republics as States, but only from the point of view of historical necessity, limited powers within the framework of their subjects, which do not possess sovereignty, but that have almost all the peculiarities of the state signs.

We propose to enshrine in international instruments specific principles of Federal relations and investment of subjects of Federation specific independent authority. Of course, each state individually, however, the construction of the Federal relations in the international rules should be enshrined in the principles
of respect for the rights of national minorities, given the historical development of various peoples.

**Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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