PRESERVING NATIONAL IDENTITY IN UNRECOGNIZED STATES

INTRODUCTION
The goal of the present study is comprehensive research of preserving national identity in unrecognized states. To reach the established goal, it is necessary to solve several conceptual tasks among which the following deserve special attention:

- study of the concept of “unrecognized states” and identification of its characteristic features.
- determining the factors in the formation of national identity in unrecognized states.
- systematization of the key problems faced by unrecognized states in the process of national identity preservation.

The problem of national identity preservation is gaining particular relevance at present. Researchers are examining the issues of preserving Russian identity and the identities of small nationalities. However, no fundamental works study unrecognized states in this aspect. This circumstance significantly increases the risks of losing national identity for the population of such territories. For this reason, engaging in identifying problems and attempting to solve them is of high importance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
International law currently does not provide a clear definition of an unrecognized state. Scientific literature also does not present a universally accepted approach to this term. From an academic standpoint, it is possible to identify several conceptual approaches to understanding territories that have proclaimed their independence (BITKEEVA, 2016). Within the first approach, self-proclaimed states are viewed as rebellious territories and have no right to exist as they violate the integrity of the state with their existence. This opinion is typically shared by pro-Western specialists. Russian researchers adhere to a different position. According to it, such territories do have the right to exist although every specific case has to be examined exclusively within its specific context. T.V. Drobysheva (2019) notes that a state entity is considered unrecognized if it is devoid of the status of an international legal subject but does demonstrate all other characteristics of statehood. The line between an unrecognized state and, for example, a bandit enclave or a pirate republic is very thin. Thus, issues directly related to the characteristic features inherent in an unrecognized state are critical. D.G. Nikolaev (2011) identifies several distinguishing features of unrecognized states including the following factors:

- the presence of a conflict between a part of the population and the central government which further develops into their persistent and conscious desire to carry out their policies independently;
- the formation of a state on a territory that another state considers its part;
- the lack of international legal recognition of such a subject including a metropolitan state, etc.

The examples of currently existing unrecognized states are Nagorno-Karabakh, Syrian Kurdistan, the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, etc. Partially recognized states include Abkhazia, South Ossetia, North Cyprus, and some
The partially recognized states continue facing largely the same problems as the unrecognized public legal entities. Such entities claiming the status of sovereign states are currently often being discussed negatively (KULUMBEGOVA, 2018). On their territories, conflicts periodically arise resulting in military confrontations and hostilities.

The main destructive factor having a destabilizing impact on the relationship between the unrecognized state and the metropolitan state is the fact that the prerequisites leading to armed confrontation are not so much interethnic or interfaith incompatibility as fundamental territorial, identity, and status contradictions.

Characteristic of the unrecognized states and the people inhabiting them is the desire to preserve their national and cultural identity - their language, traditions, and established foundations and rules of behavior in society. However, due to their legal status, financial and economic insolvency, and the inability to interact with other states at the supranational level, such entities are forced to make compromises which in some cases are not in favor of the public entity itself and its population. The factors of utmost importance for unrecognized states in preserving the national identity include:

- family;
- education;
- mass media.

We will now examine each of the listed factors in greater detail. The prevailing role in the formation and preservation of national identity is played by the family. It is in the family that children are raised and taught their native language, the primary foundations of the national culture, traditions, customs, etc. It is this social institution that is entrusted with the function of preserving the national language which serves as the basis for the formation of national self-awareness, understanding of one's affiliation with a particular ethnic group, and one's uniqueness.

A significant role in the issues of national identity formation is played by the education system. Preschool institutions, general education organizations, higher education institutions, and other institutional units are focused on creating a unified strategy for human development as an integral part of a particular society. Humans are social creatures. They cannot exist outside of society, abstracted from it. This aspect is especially relevant at present when the processes of informatization, integration, and globalization have reached almost all countries. In these conditions, the mass media play a special role in the formation and preservation of national identity. With their help, it is possible to watch films, programs, concerts, etc.

The leading role in the formation of national identity belongs to the state represented by its authorized bodies. It is the responsibility of the state to regulate the most important issues that make up the subject of this area: the development of a regulatory legal framework determining the basics of human behavior, the direction of the functioning of all systems, the accountability measures for legal violations, etc. Unrecognized states face a range of problems hindering the formation of national identity. Even though such state entities are taking various steps in this direction, other factors are underutilized. Moreover, this is equally dependent on both internal and external factors.

The study of the issues of national identity in unrecognized (and partially recognized) states of the post-Soviet space deserves special attention. Their significance is shaped by the fact that the Russian Federation borders on some of them and has to conduct foreign policy accounting for this fact. Moreover, Russia was directly or indirectly involved in conflicts between Abkhazia and Georgia, Georgia and South Ossetia, and Ukraine and DPR and LPR. Considering this, it is advisable to study the experience of the functioning and development of these countries in greater detail and highlight the main problems that hinder the formation of national identity.

One of the key elements of people's national and cultural identity is language. Language is the crucial component and carrier of spiritual culture, the main form of manifestation of national and personal self-awareness. According to T.L. Muzychuk and O. N. Baklashkina (2017), the loss of the unique national language is equal to the loss of national identity. As for the unrecognized state entities that formed after the collapse of the USSR and gained their
freedom in the course of hostilities, for example, the Republic of Abkhazia, the state language of this territory, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Abkhazia, is the Abkhaz language. Along with the Abkhaz language, the Russian language is recognized as the language of the state and other institutions. This entails that regulatory and legal act have to be published in the Abkhaz language. Although this norm is observed formally, in reality, the authorities speak Russian. This is largely determined by the fact that the present younger generation born in the 1990s that can be called “the children of the war” and has grown up, graduated school, and entered the workforce does not know the native language at the level necessary to be fluent in business communication.

It is interesting to discover the reason behind this phenomenon. As previously noted, the basis for the formation of personality and the understanding and awareness of one’s affiliation with a specific national group is family. If the parents in the family do not speak their native language, the child who has not heard their native language since birth will not know it. There are many reasons for this. One of them is inter-ethnic marriages especially typical for the population of Abkhazia (between Russians and Abkhazians, Abkhazians and Armenians, Abkhazians and Mingrelians, etc.). If the mother or the father is not a native speaker, they will not be able to teach their child to speak it with all their might. The child can learn the everyday language and gain the ability to communicate with peers or at least understand conversations. However, learning the literary language in these circumstances is very problematic. It requires a lot of effort, time, and money to master the culture of speech and grammar at a conscious age.

The territory of Abkhazia is populated not only by the indigenous population of the Abkhaz people. There are many Russians, Armenians, Greeks, Mingrelians, and Georgians. In recent years, Abkhaz-mahajirs have been returning to their historic homeland. As a result of such national diversity, the only possible language in which people can communicate with each other is Russian. Special attention should be paid to the fact that the overwhelming majority of Abkhaz citizens also have Russian citizenship. Due to various circumstances (visiting relatives, studying, receiving treatment, personal matters, etc.) they travel outside their republic to Russia. The number of people with whom they can speak their native language significantly reduces there. This is one of the reasons for their native language being not as popular.

There is also a subjective factor that does not favor native speech. In search of a better life, young people strive to leave the unrecognized state first to study and then to receive permanent residence abroad. Thus, some of them do not see the point of studying their native language as deeply as possible. Another problem that simultaneously affects several factors that have a huge impact on the preservation of national identity is the current state of the modern education system. On the territory of Abkhazia, there are Abkhaz schools, Russian schools, and schools with both an Abkhaz and Russian sector. In Abkhaz schools, children are only taught in the native language in primary school, that is, in grades 1 to 4. Further on, children entering the 5th grade undergo further education in Russian regardless of which type of school they study in (Abkhazian or Russian). At present, it appears to be impossible to conduct lessons in chemistry, physics, computer science, geography, etc. in the native language. The country lacks the methodological base necessary to carry out this step. Translating technical terms into the Abkhaz language will require colossal time, labor, intellectual, and, most importantly, financial costs which cannot be provided in the context of a deficit of the republican budget and the socioeconomic development of the state. It is impossible to find teachers who have a sufficient level of knowledge and experience to teach special disciplines in the Abkhaz language.

In addition to the lack of the instruments and personnel necessary for organizing secondary school education in the Abkhaz language, this measure does not appear to be expedient. This thesis is supported by the fact that further education at the universities within the country is only carried out in Russian for the same objective reasons. Aside from that, many school graduates strive to receive higher education in Russia or Europe. Therefore, in preparation for entering a university, they pay more attention to studying the rules of the Russian language rather than learning the Abkhaz language.

As for the influence of the media on the preservation of the national identity in unrecognized states, since the analyzed entities experience certain difficulties in social, financial, and
economic development, at present, young people trying to reach a new level of their socioeconomic position study the culture of other countries (mostly developed). The same applies to cinema, music, performances, etc. Steps taken towards the preservation and formation of national and cultural identity are insufficient. The relevant structures indeed make attempts to ensure that children hear their native language not only in the family but also on TV from childhood. However, this is fraught with rather big difficulties including financial. Making a cartoon in the native language and broadcasting it on a central channel requires serious financial investments. This calls for competent specialists who are also very difficult to find in the country.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the listed problems hindering the formation of cultural identity are characteristic of virtually all unrecognized states to varying degrees. The one thing that unites them is poor socioeconomic development which does not contribute to strengthening the position of the native language, traditions, and customs in society. The formation of national identity is significantly affected by external factors which are, in turn, also determined by political, social, and economic aspects that unrecognized states cannot overcome on their own. However, the leadership of such entities must pursue a competent policy to increase the prestige of their native language. Otherwise, such state formations and, consequently, nations risk losing their national identity in the upcoming decades.

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Preserving national identity in unrecognized states
Preservação da identidade nacional em estados não reconhecidos
Preservación de la identidad nacional en estados no reconocidos

Resumo
O artigo aborda um tema relevante de preservação da identidade nacional em estados não reconhecidos. Os autores examinam duas abordagens polares para definir a essência de estados não reconhecidos e formular sua posição. Os principais fatores na formação e preservação da identidade nacional são identificados e incluem a família, o sistema educacional e os meios de comunicação de massa. A influência de cada fator é determinada pela política implementada pelo Estado representada por seus órgãos autorizados. Contabilizando o efeito desses fatores, uma série de problemas que dificultam o desenvolvimento da identidade nacional em jovens residentes em estados não reconhecidos é determinado. Os resultados do estudo realizado permitem concluir que o principal problema que une todos os estados não reconhecidos, independentemente de sua localização, está no fraco desenvolvimento social e econômico. Isso, por sua vez, não contribui para fortalecer a posição da língua nativa, das tradições e dos costumes como elementos-chave da identidade nacional e cultural.

Keywords: Família. Sistema educacional. Meios de comunicação. Língua materna. Cultura.

Abstract
The article touches upon a relevant topic of national identity preservation in unrecognized states. The authors examine two polar approaches to defining the essence of unrecognized states and formulate their position. The main factors in the formation and preservation of national identity are identified and include family, the education system, and mass media. The influence of each factor is determined by the policy implemented by the state represented by its authorized bodies. Accounting for the effect of said factors, a range of problems hindering the development of national identity in youth living in unrecognized states is determined. The results of the conducted study allow concluding that the main problem uniting all unrecognized states regardless of their location lies in poor social and economic development. This, in turn, does not contribute to strengthening the position of the native language, traditions, and customs as the key elements of national and cultural identity.

Keywords: Family. Education system. Mass media. Native language. Culture.

Resumen
El artículo toca un tema relevante de la preservación de la identidad nacional en estados no reconocidos. Los autores examinan dos enfoques polares para definir la esencia de los estados no reconocidos y formular su posición. Se identifican los principales factores en la formación y preservación de la identidad nacional, que incluyen a la familia, el sistema educativo y los medios de comunicación. La influencia de cada factor está determinada por la política implementada por el estado representado por sus organismos autorizados. Teniendo en cuenta el efecto de dichos factores, se determina una serie de problemas que obstaculizan el desarrollo de la identidad nacional en los jóvenes que viven en estados no reconocidos. Los resultados del estudio realizado permiten concluir que el principal problema que une a todos los estados no reconocidos, independientemente de su ubicación, radica en un desarrollo social y económico deficiente. Esto, a su vez, no contribuye a fortalecer la posición de la lengua materna, las tradiciones y las costumbres como elementos clave de la identidad nacional y cultural.

Palabras-clave: Familia. Sistema educativo. Medios de comunicación de masas. Lengua materna. Cultura.