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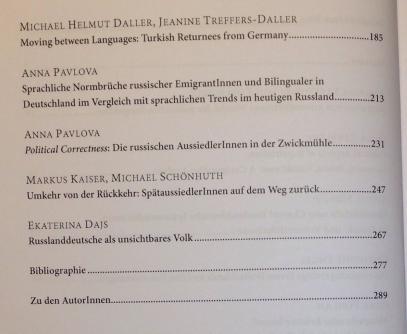
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#### Vorwort

In den vergangenen Jahrzehnten hat im Zuge der Auflösung der Sowjetunion, der ökonomischen Globalisierung und einer wachsenden Zahl von Krisengebieten und kriegerischen Auseinandersetzungen die Migration weltweit enorm zugenommen. Historisch gesehen hat es solche Migrationsströme, auch im globalen Maßstab, schon früher gegeben, insbesondere im 19. Jahrhundert, nach 1870 im Zeitalter des sogenannten Imperialismus bis zum Zusammenbruch der Imperien im Ersten Weltkrieg. Die Wahrnehmung des weltweiten Ausmaßes solcher Migrationsströme wurde allerdings, auch in der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, bis in die jüngste Vergangenheit durch das nationalstaatlich und eurozentrisch begrenzte Denken verstellt, so dass es auch erst seit einigen Jahrzehnten eine Migrationsforschung gibt, die sich diesen Problemen aus transnationaler Perspektive zuwendet.<sup>1</sup>

Ethnische Migration stellt neben der Migration als Flucht aus Kriegsgebieten eine Form der unfreiwilligen Wanderung dar, die Menschenströme in Bewegung setzt. Sie ist untrennbar mit dem Umgang von Nationalstaaten oder Imperien mit kultureller Vielfalt verbunden. Deren Verhalten wiederum bestimmt sich, immer in Abhängigkeit von ökonomischen und sozialen Entwicklungen, vor allem aus dem Verhältnis zwischen politischen Grenzen und nationaler bzw. staatsbürgerlicher Zugehörigkeit. Historisch bedingt differiert dieses Verhältnis erheblich - sowohl in den einzelnen Nationalstaaten als auch im postimperialen Raum z.B. des ehemaligen sowjetischen Territoriums. Und so gestaltete sich auch das Verhältnis zu ethnischen und kulturellen Minderheiten auch unterschiedlich. In Deutschland wurde z.B. in den 1980-90er Jahren explizit die Linie des "Multikulturalismus" verfolgt, die als Toleranz gegenüber Minderheiten und Würdigung kultureller Vielfalt galt. In Wirklichkeit war dies jedoch eine Strategie, um türkische und andere sogenannte Gastarbeiter davon abzuhalten, sich langfristig zu integrieren, was noch dadurch verschärft wurde, dass ihnen die Möglichkeit, die deutsche Staatsbürgerschaft zu erlangen, verwehrt wurde. Politische Rhetorik und administrativ-politische Praxis stimmten hier nicht überein. Gleichzeitig beanspruchte Deutschland eine kulturelle Souveränität,

<sup>1</sup> Vgl. hierzu mit weiterführender Literatur Malachov, Vladimir; Kul'turnye različija i političeskie granicy v epochu global'nych migracij, Moskva 2014.

#### OLGA ZEVELEVA

Political Aspects of Repatriation: Germany, Russia, Kazakhstan: A Comparative Analysis<sup>1</sup>

This paper is based on a study which compares repatriation policies of Germany, Russia, and Kazakhstan. The choice of cases is based on a "most similar case design." The Russian case results in unsuccessful and unsustainable repatriation, the German case exhibits a change from sustainable repatriation to a slow termination of the program, while the case of Kazakhstan is one of sustainable and relatively successful repatriation. The main argument of the paper is that in order for a repatriation program to be sustainable, the program must contain both a practical component and an ideological component. If a repatriation program lacks ideological backing which permeates other aspects of political life in a state, then the repatriation program grinds to a halt. If a repatriation program has ideological backing, but is rendered impractical and does not meet the economic, demographic and labor market needs of a state, then the further development of the program stops. Yet this paper also shows that governments will constantly find themselves struggling with repatriation programs because there is a need to adjust them to an ever-changing political, social and economic reality both within and outside of the state, while the programs themselves are often cumbersome and resistant to reform.<sup>2</sup> The findings of this study merit further reflection on issues of changing national identities, on transnational migration pathways, and on the "post-Soviet condition" which has set the stage for all of the aforementioned processes and transformations.

<sup>1</sup> The study was implemented in the framework of the Basic Research Program at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in 2013.

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I would like to thank Cynthia Werner for her input on an earlier version of this work, which inspired the extension of my central argument in this paper.

#### Repatriation and studies of repatriation.

Repatriation is defined most broadly as the process of return to one's "place of origin." Sometimes called "migrations of ethnic affinity," repatriation flows are controlled by receiving states which have special provisions for this in their immigration and citizenship policies. In international law, repatriation policy is referred to as the manifestation of a "right of return," or the right granted to every person to relocate to the country they deem to be their home country, codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>4</sup> In many cases, post-conflict countries implement repatriation programs for refugees or prisoners of war. Additionally, however, many countries that are not currently experiencing periods of unrest have included repatriation programs in their broader migration policy agendas, There are approximately 40 countries that can be considered to have implemented repatriation legislation or programs. Such countries include Germany, Greece, France, Armenia, Ireland, Poland, Russia, Kazakhstan, Israel, Turkey, and India, among others.

Most of the time, these policies apply to the titular ethnic group<sup>5</sup> and encourage the return of emigrants "back" to their "countries of origin." Repatriation challenges traditional notions of ethnicity, belonging, citizenship, integration, national divides, and cultural difference. Although repatriates are often given citizenship of the country they "return to" based on blood ties and ethnic relations, studies show that they often encounter difficulties with integration into the societies of their country of origin and are perceived by the local population as foreign or as a migrant group.6

3 Brubaker, Rogers: Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany. Cambridge, MA 1992,

4 This was passed in 1948 to help IDP's and POW's return home: Article 13, Universal Declaration

http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a13 15.01.2013;

http://www.hrw.org/legacy/campaigns/israel/return/iccpr-rtr.httm # fi1, 15.01.2013

"Fitular nation" was a concept used in the Soviet Union to give rise to separate Socialist Republics. It referred to a dominant ethnic group in a republic. An ethnic group could be granted its own republic based on criteria such as population and density of settlement. The titular nationality of Belarus is Belorussians; in Uzbekistan the titular nationality is Uzbeks, for example. In the Law on Compatriots of the Russian Federation, a titular nationally is Ozbeks, for example. It is the nationally of the population of a state, the nationally of the population of a state, the nationally of the population of the p tion of a state, the nationality of which is defined by the official name of the state." Article 2, Law non Compatriots Abroad. http://www.fms.gov.ru/programs/fmsuds/legal/details/39587/, access

Seit? In: Journal of Comparative Research in Anthropology & Sociology 2 (1) (2011), p. 103–133.

Repatriation as a form of migration was largely ignored by social scientists until the late 1970s, when the one-way permanent migration paradigm began to make way for more nuanced attention toward complex migrant pathways." Work on repatriation over the past several decades has not resulted in the emergence of more integrated or systematic approaches to the topic. Not all states use the same terminology to refer to this phenomenon, and the terminology in academic literature varies across disciplines. Repatriation can be called "coethnic migration", "return migration", and "ethnic return migration", Scholars also disagree on whether a concrete set of policies in a given state constitute a repatriation program or simply allow for "privileged migration" - a debate that has arisen, for example, with regard to the Russian case.11 Scholars studying repatriation tend to agree that repatriation is "not a unidirectional, homogenous movement," but rather a process of "disjointed cultural and physical reconstruction" of models of belonging in which multiple actors participate.12

Ethnic return migration has been studied at length in isolated cases pertaining to particular nation-states. The most prominent works on German return migration include studies by Dietz and Hilkes,<sup>13</sup> Bade and Oltmer,<sup>14</sup> Irina

Skrentny, John D.; Chan, Stephanie; Fox, Jon; Kim, Denis. 2007. "Defining Nations in Asia and Europe: A Comparative Analysis of Ethnic Return Migration Policy." In: International Migration Review 41 (4) 2007, p. 793-825, p. 104 and 810.

Gmelch, George: "Return Migration." In: Annual Review of Anthropology 9: 135-159 (1980),

Muenz, Rainer; Ohlinger, Rainer: "Diasporas and Ethnic Migrants in Twentieth-Century Europe: A Comparative Perspective." In: Dies. (Hg.): Diasporas and Ethnic Migrants: Germany, Israel, and Post-Soviet Successor States in Comparative Perspective, Portland 2003, p. 2-15.

<sup>9</sup> Cassarino, Jean-Pierre: "Theorising Return Migration: The Conceptual Approach to Return Migrants Revisited." In: International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IMS) 6 (2) 2004, p. 253–279,

<sup>10</sup> De Tinguy, Anne: "Ethnic Migrations of the 1990s from and to the Successor States of the Former Soviet Union: 'Repatriation' or Privileged Migration." In: Muenz, Ohlinger: Diasporas and Ethnic Migrants, p. 112-127. here p. 113.

<sup>11</sup> De Tinguy: Ethnic Migrations of the 1990s, p. 112.

<sup>12</sup> Flynn, Moya: "Returning Home? Approaches to Repatriation and Migrant Resettlement in Post-Soviet Russia." In: Muenz, Ohlinger: Diasporas and Ethnic Migrants, p. 173-187, here p. 185. 13 Dietz, Barbara, Hilkes, Peter: Russlanddeutsche. Unbekannte im Osten: Geschichte, Situationen,

<sup>14</sup> Bade, Klaus; Oltmer, Jochen (Hg.): Deutsche Einwanderer aus Osteuropa. Osnabrück 2003. Zukunftsperspektiven. Munich 21993.

Mukhina, 15 Luchterhandt and Eisfeld, 16 and, most recently, by Rosenthal and Radenbach.17 The case of Kazakhstani return migration has been addressed in the works of Natsuko Oka,18 Kalshabaeva and Seisenbayeva,19 Barcus and Werner,20 and Bonnenfant,<sup>21</sup> among others. The Russian case of return migration is usually addressed within the literature on migration policies of Russia at large or in studies pertaining to policies toward compatriots residing abroad.<sup>22</sup>

In recent years, there have been several attempts to situate repatriation policies in comparative perspective. Existing works include an ambitious study by Skrentny et al.23 which compares repatriation policies through the prism of "Western" repatriation (as practiced by states in Europe) and "Eastern" repatriation (as practiced by states in Asia), concluding that European states use rhetoric of "symbolic ties" with repatriates, while Asian states implement repatriation policies to reach economic goals. In another comparative work, Christin Hess24 analyzed the German and Greek repatriation policies and argued that changes in repatriation policy reflect changes in national idioms of receiving states. A recent volume entitled Diasporic Homecomings: Ethnic Return Migration in Comparative Perspective, edited by Takeyuki Tsuda,25 presents several

chapters on repatriation specifically in comparative perspective, including a comparison of Germany and Israel by Christian Joppke and Zeev Rosenhek and a study across Europe and East Asia conducted by Skrentny et al. which expanded upon the conclusions of their 2007 work. The book's unifying focus lies on marginalization of repatriates in their "homelands" upon their return, as the works included in the volume stress the multiple dislocations characteristic of today's migration pathways. This paper will contribute to efforts to situate repatriation in comparative historical perspective across nation-states, and will, for the first time in repatriation scholarship, use the temporal and conceptual framework of post-Soviet migration. This paper also attempts to formulate the conditions under which a repatriation policy can be successful.

Several scholars have addressed repatriation flows in the context of post-Soviet nation-building processes. In his paper on migration in the post-Soviet space, Timothy Heleniak characterizes the Soviet Union as "a complex system of ethnic homelands," which set the stage for post-Soviet migration patterns dominated by flows of migrants "returning home" to states both within and external to the former Soviet Union.26 This resulted in rising "titular shares" in the populations of the former Soviet states.27 Moya Flynn, in her study on return migration to Russia, makes the argument that post-Soviet migration flows, especially in their repatriation dimension, "cut across, rather than fit within, established theoretical boundaries".28 These flows were set into motion not only by economic factors and familial ties, but also by migration policies formulated by the newly independent states. Hilary Pilkington, in her book Migration, Displacement and Identity in Post-Soviet Russia, notes that the study of these policy formulations in the wake of the collapse of the USSR provides fertile ground for the study of primordial conceptions of nation and homeland.29

This paper will argue that the collapse of the Soviet Union had implications for migration flows and nation-building processes not only within the borders of the former Soviet Union, but also beyond them. This paper looks specifically at the cases of Russia, Germany, and Kazakhstan.

<sup>15</sup> Mukhina, Irina: The Germans of the Soviet Union. New York 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Luchterhandt, Otto, Eisfeld, Alfred (Hg.): Die Russlanddeutschen in den Migrationsprozessen zwischen den GUS-Staaten und Deutschland, Göttingen 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Radenbach, Niklas; Rosenthal, Gabriele: "Das Vergangene ist auch Gegenwart, das Gesellschaftliche ist auch individuell." In: Sozialer Sinn 13 (1) (2012), p. 3-37. Rosenthal, Gabriele; Radenbach, Niklas; Stephan, Viola: Brüchige Zugehörigkeiten: Wie sich Familians der Brüchige Zugehörigkeiten: Wie lien von "Russlanddeutschen" ihre Geschichte erzählen, Frankfurt a. M. 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Oka, Natsuko. "A Note on Ethnic Return Migration Policy in Kazakhstan: Changing Priorities and a Growing Dilemma." In: IDE discussion papers 394, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

<sup>19</sup> Kalshabaeva, Bibiziya Kenzhebekovna: Senbayevna Seisenbayeva, Akbota: "Some Problems of Repatriation and Adaptation of Representatives of the Kazakh Diaspora of Central Asia in the Historic Homeland." In: Middle East Journal of Scientific Research 15 (1) (2013), p. 20-26.

<sup>20</sup> Barcus, Holly: Werner, Cynthia: "The Kazakhs of Western Mongolia: Transnational Migration from 1990-2008," In: Asian Ethnicity 11 (2) (2012), p. 209-228.

<sup>21</sup> Bonnienfant, Isik Kuscu: "Constructing The Homeland: Kazakhstan's Discourse And Policies Surrounding its Ethnic Return-Migration Policy," In: Central Asian Survey 31 (1) (2012), p. 31-

<sup>22</sup> Flynn, Returning Home?, Heleniak, Timothy: "An Overview of Migration in the Post-Soviet Space "In: Buckley, Cynthia, Ruske, Blair (eds.); Migration, Homeland and Belonging in Eurasia. Washington, DC, 2008, p. 29-67; Shevel, Oxana. "Russian Nation-Building From Yel'tsin to Medvedev. Fábric, Chric or Purposefully Ambiguous" In: Europe Asia Studies 63 (2) (2011), p. 179-23 Skrentny: Defining Stations in Asia and Europe.

<sup>24</sup> Hess: What Can Co-Ethnic Immigrants Tell Us.

<sup>25</sup> Touda, Takeyuki (ed.): Diasporic Homecomings: Ethnic Return Migration in Comparative Perspec-

<sup>26</sup> Heleniak: An Overview of Migration in the Post-Soviet Space, p. 31.

<sup>27</sup> From the 1989 census onwards, the titular share of all Soviet successor states rise with the exception of Russia, where the share of Russians fell. Timothy Heleniak explains this trend with the fact of rapid migration of Russians from Russia in the 1990s and the lower birthrates of Russians relative to other ethnic groups within the country. See Heleniak: An Overview of Migration in the Post-Soviet Space, p. 54.

<sup>28</sup> Flynn, Returning Home?, p. 173.

<sup>29</sup> Pilkington, Hilary: Migration, Displacement and Identity in Post-Soviet Russia. London 1998,

### 2 Repatriation in comparative perspective: most similar cases

This study compares the repatriation and citizenship policies of Germany, Russia, and Kazakhstan. My choice is based on a "most similar case design" and thus aims to select cases which are comparable, but have led to varying outcomes.

The similarity of these three cases lies in the presence of national repatriation programs in the greater context of their migration policies and in the programs' structural features. All programs offer a simplified immigration path for repatriates over other immigrants (repatriates are free from entry visas), all programs include the promise of either citizenship or a simplified track to citizenship, and all programs provide some form of social and monetary aid for repatriates upon arrival, including housing allowances, requalification courses, help in finding a job, and a start-up stipend.

The three cases are "most similar" despite the fact that they are situated in differing historical contexts. Germany implemented its repatriation policy in 1954, while Russia and Kazakhstan formalized their repatriation policies after the breakup of the Soviet Union (in 2006 and 1998, respectively). There are several factors that make the cases comparable despite the temporal gaps: first, the political system in place at the moment of repatriation policy implementation, in all the three cases, was claimed to be democratic by state leaders. Second, all the three states, at the time of repatriation policy implementation, had experienced a change of borders which resulted in a large diaspora living abroad. Finally, all the three cases are situated in a context of post-Soviet migration flows, since the greatest inflow of repatriates to Germany occurred in the 1990s. In this vein, all the three states' policies were influenced by the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The varying "outcomes" in this context have proven to be varying sustainability and success of repatriation policies. The Russian case results in unsuccessful and unsustainable repatriation, the German case exhibits a change from

sustainable repatriation to a slow termination of the program, while the case of Kazakhstan is one of sustainable and relatively successful repatriation. Variations between the cases can reveal variables that lead to the sustainability and success of repatriation programs.

The main argument of this paper is that in order for a repatriation program to be sustainable, the program must contain both a practical component and an ideological component. If a repatriation program lacks ideological backing, then the repatriation program grinds to a halt. If a repatriation program has ideological backing, but is rendered impractical and does not meet the economic, demographic, and labor market needs of a state, then the further development of the program stops. Additionally, this paper sets out to show that as political, economic and social environments change, governments will struggle with their repatriation programs because the programs themselves are often cumbersome and resistant to reform.

Within the framework of the above argument, "ideological backing" refers to ancillary policies, declarations, and legislation in a state with which repatriation is coherent. In this discussion, "sustainability" of a repatriation program implies its persistence over time, and its relative "effectiveness." Effectiveness in this context is measured by the numbers of people who partake in the program (as well as whether these numbers meet expected magnitudes) on the one hand, and the extent of political integration of the repatriates into the receiving nation-state (in the form of naturalization) on the other. Political integration in the nation-state is considered a factor of effectiveness of repatriation policies for two reasons: first, political rhetoric surrounding repatriation programs of the countries examined in the paper all assert that potential repatriates are potentially members of the receiving nation-state. Second, repatriation policies in place in the cases examined guarantee eventual citizenship to repatriates.

The stopping of a repatriation program's development is defined as either the negligible inflow of repatriates to the country or as a termination of the laws and regulations that enable such migration. The "ideological component" of a repatriation program is an abstract set of political premises and ideas which permeate many levels of the political life of a state. The "practical component" of a repatriation program is the strategic relevance of an inflow of repatriates to a country's demographic, economic, and labor market needs.

<sup>30</sup> This paper is based on a larger body of research which traces migration and repatriation policies in historical perspective. Sources for this research are grouped into two categories. The first category of sources informs the policy-oriented and conceptual side of the study. This category is texts of official government programs, and presidential decrees. The second category of sources sources is comprised of official statistics provided by the three governments and supplemented by Kazakhstan, and Russia with regard to the experiences and integration is repatriates. This category of results of authoritative and methodologically sound sociological studies conducted in Germany, each country.

As repatriation flows are formed by states, this paper begins with state. centric frame of analysis. Following Rogers Brubaker<sup>31</sup>, this study treats repatriation policy as a category of practice of nationhood. Importantly, the three states analyzed in this paper underwent border and population changes in the early 1990s, and thus the three respective political leaders faced the task of "filling [the new borders] out with national content, bringing population, territory, culture and polity into the close congruence that defines a fully realized nation. state."32 While the presence of repatriation policies in a state's migration framework can reveal tendencies towards ethnic conceptions of nationhood, repatriation is nonetheless not treated as a direct indicator of ethnic nationalism. The Russian policy does not strictly assert that a repatriate must be ethnically Russian, nor did the policy have explicit provisions for naturalization of repatriates until 2013. This means that Russia seemingly has a non-ethnic understanding of nation, yet practices repatriation. In Germany, repatriation policies were explicitly ethnic and based on every German's right to live in a German nation. In this case, the legislative complex of regulations relating to repatriation policy made it clear that German ethnicity was synonymous with membership in the German nation-state, until most recent changes in legislation in the late 1990s and 2000s. In the case of Kazakhstan, repatriation policy reflected at least a partially ethnic understanding of nation-state due to the automatic granting of Kazakhstani citizenship to Kazakh repatriates, and this ethnically oriented trend was visible in other spheres of state policy (in the constitution, in cadre politics, and in language policy). However, President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his administration have also taken pains to advance civic conceptions of nationhood in parallel with the ethnic Kazakhification trends, making the Kazakh case a case of "nationalizing" state-building rather than explicitly "ethnic" state-buil-

#### Political dimensions of repatriation: evolution of repatriation and citizenship laws

Immigration and citizenship policies have evolved and continue to evolve in Germany, Russia, and Kazakhstan along varying trajectories and in varying political contexts.

#### Repatriation to Germany 3.1

German repatriation policies are aimed first and foremost at citizens of former communist countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet states who are of German descent. The initial set of laws framing repatriation policies and citizenship policies of Germany, developed in West Germany in the 1950s by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's administration, included both East German citizens and "Russian-Germans" residing in the Soviet and Eastern bloc states. The term "Russian-Germans" (российские немцы) refers to a group of people of ethnic German descent whose ancestors had migrated to the Russian Empire from Germanic lands in the eighteenth century. There are approximately 2.4 million Russian-German repatriates in Germany today (or 4 million people, if one counts non-ethnic-German family members).34

Article 116(1) of the German Basic Law (Grundgesetz) defines Germans not only as the nominal holders of German citizenship, but, in combination with the Federal Expellees Act (Bundesvertriebenengesetz), also the descendants of German settlers in Eastern Europe and Russia who are German "by ethnicity." According to the Federal Expellees Act, passed in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, any person born after 1922 was recognized by the German government as eligible for German citizenship if he or she was a descendant of one German parent and was recognized as having "German nationality" in any official way according to the laws of their country of residence. The Federal Expellees Act enabled ethnic Germans who entered West Germany and lacked a Federal Republic of Germany passport (from East Germany or from Eastern European communist countries) to claim citizenship and receive a series of social benefits.35

<sup>31</sup> Brubaker, Rogere "Nation as Institutionalized Form, Practical Category, Contingent Event," In:

Brubaker, Rogers. "Nationalizing States Revisited: Projects And Processes of Nationalization in Post Soviet States." In: Ethnic & Racial Studies 34 (11) (2011), p. 1785–1814, here p. 1786. 33 Importantly, the "ideology" factor which this article claims as one of the factors leading to the success of a repatriation policy is not synonymous with an "ethnic understanding of the state;" a migration policy can reflect ethnically oriented ideologies of nation-building, but this ethnic orientation may not be reflected in other policies of the state to make it coherent with larger political trends "Ideology" can be a complex of foreign and domestic policy measures.

<sup>34</sup> http://www.bmi.bund.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/876734/publicationFile/55172/ Migrationsbericht\_2008\_de.pdf, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>35</sup> http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bvfg/index.html, aacess 15.01.2013.

This law was a part of a political movement grounded in human rights considerations and ideologically framed by the East-West division; in the spirit of "iron curtain rhetoric," the law enabled groups that suffered discrimination during and after World War II to acquire German citizenship and special privileges in Germany, thus claiming rights and basic freedoms that were denied to them by the communist states in which they resided. This reasoning was based on two assumptions: that Germans were discriminated against on ethnic grounds in the Eastern bloc (on account of being German) during World War II and after, and that all communist regimes were unfree and denied Germans and non-Germans alike basic rights.37 As Helmut Kohl stated, fostering the repatriation of ethnic Germans to Germany was "a national task for all," and it would be a "morally deprived" act from the side of the German people to ignore the issue. 38 The Federal Expellees Act reiterated the rights of all Germans as formulated in the West German constitution (the Grundgesetz) in 1949. Thus, Russian-Germans were never officially considered immigrants, but rather they were categorized as "resettlers" (Aussiedler), who acted on their constitutional right to come to Germany as Germans.39

Before the late 1980s, few Russian-Germans could make use of the resettlement program due to restrictive emigration policies of the Soviet Union. Liberalization of Soviet emigration policy in the late 1980s enabled Russian-Germans to take advantage of the German Federal Expellees Act.<sup>40</sup> As a result, between 1988 and 1992, over 636,000 Russian-Germans immigrated to Germany from Soviet republics.<sup>41</sup> These migrants were driven mostly by economic motives, hoping to find work and improve their quality of life. They spoke Russian as their first language and had difficulty finding work in Germany. Given

the unprecedented numbers of migrants flowing to the borders of Germany during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the program took a large toll on government and municipal budgets.

In the early 1990s, the German government passed a series of laws which would restrict and monitor the acceptance of Russian-German immigrants into Germany. 42 This reduced the number of Russian-Germans that Germany would accept as immigrants and citizens. In 1990, the German government amended the Federal Expellees Act to include a German language test, and to enable a shift of responsibilities for determining eligibility for immigration to the specific Soviet republics from which Russian-Germans would be applying for German citizenship.<sup>43</sup> In 1992, under the chancellery of Helmut Kohl of the Christian Democratic Union, the German legislature replaced the Federal Expellees Act with the Law on Resolving the Consequences of World War II (Kriegsfolgenbereinigungsgesetz).44 The new set of laws was drafted by the Christian Democratic Union with the aim of minimizing the inflow of allegedly unfounded asylum-seekers into Germany, a stance harshly criticized by the Social Democrats. 45 The new regulations specified that people born after 1992 would no longer be eligible for German citizenship on ethnic grounds after 2010 (though they may enter as family members) and limited the breadth of family members that could receive resettler status (spouses of children were no longer eligible, for example). Finally, the revision of the legal framework included the introduction of an upper limit of 225,000 immigrants per year that could be considered "resettlers" as of 1 January 1993.46 This series of changes in law ultimately divorced the notion of German ethnic background from a status of being eligible for German citizenship.

The increased restrictiveness of German immigration policy in the early 1990s came hand in hand with other global historical changes: the unification

<sup>36</sup> Joppke, Christian: Selecting by Origin: Ethnic Migration in the Liberal State, Harvard 2005, p. 206; von Koppenfels, Amanda Klekowski: "The Decline of Privilege: The Legal Background to the Migration of Ethnic Germans." In: Rock, D., Wolff, S. (eds.): Coming Home to Germany? The Integration of Ethnic Germans from Central and Eastern Europe in the Federal Republic. New York

<sup>37</sup> Under the rule of Stalin, this group was subject to repression and deportations because their German roots were perceived by the Soviet leadership as "threatening" during World War II.

<sup>38</sup> Joppke: Selecting by Origin, p. 206.

Skrentny: Defining Nations in Asia and Europe, p. 810.

<sup>39</sup> Aleinikoff, Thomas A (ed.): Citizenship Today: Global Perspectives and Practices. Washington, DC

<sup>40</sup> Skrentny: Defining Nations in Asia and Europe, p. 809.

<sup>41</sup> http://www.bundesverwaltungsamt.de/, access 15.01.2013; http://www.bmi.bund.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/876734/publicationFile/55172/Migrationsbe-

<sup>42</sup> Skrentny: Defining Nations in Asia and Europe, p. 810.

<sup>43</sup> http://dejure.org/dienste/vernetzung/rechtsprechung?Gericht=BVerwG&Datum=11.07.1994& Aktenzeichen=9%20B%20288.94, acccess 15.01.2013.

<sup>44</sup> Sometimes translated as "Law Dealing with the Clearing of War Consequences" (http://www.in $tegration-eu.org/fileadmin/integration/images/Photos/Description\_GermanRussian\_BUPNET.$ pdf), "Law on Resolving Long-Term Effects of World War II" (http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/R4-LEG-DE.pdf), "Act Dealing with the Consequences of the War" (http://www.germ anlawjournal.com/pdfs/Vol05/pdf\_vol\_05\_no\_07.pdf), "War Aftermath Compensation Law" (http://aei.pitt.edu/2288/1/002339\_1.PDF), "War Consequences Conciliation Law" (Wolff, Stefan (2003): "The German Question Since 1919: An Analysis with Key Documents"), access

<sup>45</sup> Howard, Marc Morjé. "The Causes and Consequences of Germany's New Citizenship Law." In: German Politics 17 (1): 41-62 (2008), p. 45.

<sup>46</sup> This figure was then revised to 100,000 in the year 2000.

of East and West Germany on 3 October 1990, and the liberalization and subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union and East European communist regimes. With German unification having taken place and all East Germans automatically having become citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany, the goal of the Federal Republic to achieve unification defined by common descent and nationhood was met<sup>©</sup>. With the fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, a repatriation policy based on allowing Germans to escape prosecution also lost its validity and relevance. The German state needed to seek new ways of defining its identity, as well as its immigration and citizenship policies.

The reconsideration of German repatriation legislation was followed in the year 2000 by a revision of the German citizenship law under the Gerhard Schröder Social Democrat-Green coalition government (with the support from the side of the Free Democrats); after repatriation legislation became more restrictive (with the efforts from the Christian Democrats), citizenship legislation became more inclusive (with the efforts from the Social Democrats).48 Until the year 2000, the German citizenship law was based on a 1913 principle of a "community of descent" with little regard for birthplace and residence. 49 In 2000, this law underwent significant changes with pressures from left-leaning political elites in Germany: the new law states that children born on German soil could automatically become German citizens in the event that at least one of the parents had a legal residence permit for eight years or an unlimited residence permit for three years. In practice, this law denies the acquisition of German citizenship to as many as 60% of the children born in Germany since the law has come into effect.<sup>50</sup> On a conceptual level, however, the amendment represents a symbolic step toward the liberalization of German citizenship policy. For nearly a century, German citizenship had been one of the most clearly jus sanguinisoriented systems in the world (citizenship by blood), and only with the latest change were jus soli elements introduced to the legislation (citizenship by territory of birth). This revision, in combination with the stricter legislation on acceptance of Russian-Germans, symbolizes a gradual movement away from an ethnically defined conception of German citizenship.

In 2014, following efforts from the side of the Christian Democratic Union, changes were made once again to the German law on repatriation. The most recent amendment to the Federal Expellees Act simplifies the reunification of families by making it easier for family members of those who already reside in Germany to enter Germany as resettlers. Additionally, from now on, in some cases the language requirement is simplified or can be waived.

This development shows that a conservative (CDU-CSU) push for support of Russian-Germans still exists51, but emphasis on ethnicity has dwindled even for these parties. Whereas before there was a preference from the side of the state for people whose German language was kept up in the family as opposed to learned for the test (they preferred people who spoke an old dialect of German), now the language requirement is simplified to include learned German, and has been waived altogether for minors and those who have disabilities or other impediments at the time of application for repatriation. This, in combination with the emphasis of the amendment on family members rather than on new families, shifts focus away from an ethnic understanding of Germanness by helping those families already in Germany to reunite with their relatives, and by foregoing the idea that language should be passed on from generation to generation. These amendments show a political will from the side of conservative parties in Germany to support the existing Russian-German population of Germany, yet in the context of the recent change in Germany's law on citizenship the 2014 Federal Expellees Act amendment looks more like a socially motivated change to help Russian-Germans in Germany rather than a change motivated by the principle of ethnic inclusion of all Germans in the nation-state. In this way, we can see that Russian-Germans continue to be a group which attracts the attention of the German government, but in a way that supports those who have already moved to Germany and their family members.

#### Repatriation to Kazakhstan

Repatriation has been one of the main pillars of Kazakhstan's migration policy since the breakup of the Soviet Union. President Nursultan Nazarbayev stood at

<sup>47</sup> Wolff, Stefan: The German Question since 1919: An Analysis with Key Documents. Westpoert 2003,

<sup>48</sup> Howard: The Causes and Consequences of Germany's New Citizenship Law, p. 45. 49 In its 1935 version of the citizenship law (Reichsbürgergesetz), the Nazi government exploited the In its 1959 version of the entremental plan (were source general), the train government expronent the law and amended it to an extreme version of a just sanguinis definition of citizenship, creating a law and amended the law a legal basis for mass ethnically-based repressions (See Brubaker, 1992: 115)

<sup>50</sup> Green, Simon, "Citizenship Policy in Germany," In: Hansen, Randall; Weil, Patrick (eds.): Towa-Green, Sinion. Chizenship Foncy in Germany. In: Francen, Kandan, Weil, Fatrick (eds.): Towards a European Nationality: Citizenship, Immigration and Nationality Law in the EU. New York

<sup>51</sup> http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/2013/06/bundesvertriebenengesetz.html, access 12.08.2014.

the forefront of developing relations with Kazakh diaspora and subsequently formulating repatriation policies. 52 The Kazakh repatriation program is for ethnic Kazakhs who live outside of Kazakhstan's borders, mainly those Kazakhs and their descendants who left the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s, escaping collectivization and political persecution. Repatriation policies in Kazakhstan were aimed at compensating for large emigration numbers and at helping to make up for the demographic drop due to falling birthrates.<sup>53</sup> The policies also reflected the government's aspirations to increase the percentage of ethnic Kazakhs in Kazakhstan as a part of the nation-building agenda of the newly independent state.

At the time of the Soviet Union's collapse, Kazakhstan had a diverse ethnic composition, with around 40% of the population made up by ethnic Kazakhs and 38% made up by ethnic Russians.54 Throughout the 1990s, many Russians left Kazakhstan. Rhetoric of subjugation of Kazakh identity in the Soviet Union began to surface in statements by political and cultural elites, and Nazarbayev's administration voiced political will to "reinstate" Kazakh culture and traditions as defining features of the new state.<sup>55</sup> The Nazarbayev administration took legislative steps toward so-called "Kazakhification" of Kazakhstan: the new citizenship law was based largely on ethnicity, the Kazakh language was proclaimed as the official language while Russian was downgraded to a language of interethnic communication, and tests of Kazakh were introduced for all bureaucrats and political office holders, thus promoting Kazakh cadres. These measures were justified as "stability-enhancing mechanisms." 56

While some authors argue these policies reflected an ethnic-oriented tendency in Kazakhstani nation-building processes,<sup>57</sup> others point out that President Nazarbayev has followed "strategic ambiguity" between ethnic and civic

52 Bonnenfant: Constructing The Homeland, p. 24–51, here p. 33.

nationalism in the post-Soviet period, carefully balancing between ethnic rhetoric and civic policies by showing declarative and legislative support for Kazakhification, but not taking practical measures to see Kazakhification through.88 In fact, Nazarbayev's reluctance to quickly implement the Kazakhification policies he speaks of can be interpreted as a strategy of catering to minorities and containing both Kazakh and Russian nationalism.59 In this way, Kazakhstan, like most other states, exhibits a "profound dualism" in its civic-ethnic nationalism balance.60 Rogers Brubaker's concept of "nationalizing state" is useful for an understanding of the path which post-Soviet Kazakhstan has followed: Brubaker argues that as a "nationalizing state," Kazakhstani elites may not argue for an explicitly ethnic understanding of nationhood, but its elites discursively and legislatively support the idea that there is an ethnocultural "core nationality" to which the state belongs, and that this "core nationality" is in a weak position and should be strengthened to redress previous discrimination.<sup>61</sup> The Citizenship Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, passed in December 1991, states that Kazakhstani citizens are those who reside permanently in Kazakhstan at the moment of the passing of this law, or those who were born in Kazakhstan, or were naturalized according to further articles of this law; additionally, the Republic of Kazakhstan makes it possible for the return of persons or descendants of persons who were forced to leave the country during periods of repression or collectivization, as well as enabling the return of Kazakhs who reside outside of Kazakhstan's borders. In the context of citizenship legislation, this implies that ethnic Kazakhs outside of Kazakhstan are by default considered eligible for citizenship in the event that they wish to move to Kazakhstan. In 1992, President Nazarbayev held a speech in which he made the inclusion of Kazakhs living ab-

<sup>53</sup> After Kazakhstan gained independence from the Soviet Union, the country experienced a period of massive outmigration and falling birth rates. Between 1989 and 1999, the country experienced a population drop from 16.5 million people to less than 15 million people.

<sup>54</sup> Khazanov, Anatoly M.: "The Ethnic Problems of Contemporary Kazakhstan." In: Central Asian

<sup>55</sup> Bonnenfant: Constructing The Homeland, p. 33.

<sup>56</sup> Schatz, Edward: "The Politics of Multiple Identities: Lineage and Ethnicity in Kazakhstan." In:

<sup>57</sup> Brubaker: Nationalizing States Revisited, p. 1785–1814; Davenel, Yves-Marie: "Cultural Mobilization in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan: Views from the State and from Non-Titular Nationalities Compared." In: Central Asian Survey 31 (1) (2012), p. 17–29; Hale, Henry E. Cause Without A Rebel: pared in Kazakhstan's Unionist Nationalism", in: The USSR And CIS Nationalities Papers 37 (1) (2009). p. 1-32, Jin Oh, Chong: "Diaspora Nationalism: The Case of Ethnic Korean Minority in Kazakhstan and its Lessons from the Crimean Tatars in Turkey." In: Nationalities Papers 34 (2) (2006).

p. 111-129; Sarsembayev, Azamat: "Imagined Communities: Kazak Nationalism and Kazakification in the 1990s." In: Central Asian Survey 18 (3) (1999), p. 319-346; Schatz: The Politics of Multiple Identities.

<sup>58</sup> Ó Beacháin, Donnacha; Kevlihan, Rob: "Threading a Needle: Kazakhstan Between Civic And Ethno-Nationalist State-Building." In: Nations & Nationalism 19 (2) (2013), p. 337-356; Surucu, Cengiz. 2002. "Modernity, Nationalism, Resistance: Identity Politics in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan." In: Central Asian Survey 21 (4) (2001), p. 385-402.

<sup>59</sup> Danzer, Alexander M.: "Battlefields of Ethnic Symbols. Public Space and Post-Soviet Identity Formation from a Minority Perspective." In: Europe-Asia Studies 61 (9) (2009), p. 1557-1577, here

<sup>60</sup> Ó Beacháin, Kevlihan: Threading a Needle, p. 337-356.

<sup>61</sup> Brubaker: Nationalizing States Revisited, p. 1786.

road in the Kazakhstani state explicit: "For those who had to leave their home land once and now wish to come back, the arms of independent Kazakhstan are

The year 1998 marked the beginning of a systematized approach to repair. ation of "oralmans," or ethnic Kazakhs living outside the country, to Kazakhs tan. The decree of the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 16 Sep. tember 1998 outlines the framework of Kazakhstan's repatriation policy in a single document dedicated to this policy sphere. The document reiterates the right of return of all ethnic Kazakhs to their historic homeland. The document prescribes for the establishment of a special organization which would help with the adaptation of ethnic Kazakhs in their historic homeland. 63

The document also stipulates that ethnic Kazakhs who have repatriated to their historic homeland will be accepted into the citizenship of Kazakhstan regardless of how long they have lived on the territory of Kazakhstan. Kazakh repatriates can theoretically apply to repatriate to any province of Kazakhstan, but their settlement is regulated by regional quotas which are determined on an annual basis by a presidential decree and reflect population, economic, and budgetary considerations specific to each region of the country.<sup>64</sup> Repatriates who apply for immigration can indicate their first choice for the province they wish to resettle to, yet local regional committees then accept or reject the applicants based on their own annual immigration quotas. Applicants who were rejected by regional committees can either reapply the following year or choose to move as regular immigrants, thus foregoing some of the benefits repatriates who arrive within the quota can receive. 65 The quota system results in a situation where there are two groups of repatriates in Kazakhstan: those who resettle within the yearly quota, and those who resettle outside of the yearly quota. The latter group receives lower financial support.66 Both groups

are eligible for applying for citizenship, though only repatriates within the quota can undergo fast-track citizenship "restoration" through a simplified procedure. Repatriates who enter the country outside of the quota can apply for quota status de-facto from within Kazakhstan and obtain all the privileges of quota repatriates at a later date.

The Kazakhstani program does not always run smoothly. It has been criticized for being rife with corruption at various stages of application and registration, not enough transparency, bad housing conditions in areas to which resettlers are assigned, and negative attitudes of the receiving population towards the newcomers. In 2012 the Kazakhstan program was suspended for reorganization for a period of one and a half years, then started up once more in 2014 with slight alterations. The changes include a faster track to citizenship for resettlers; now resettlers should obtain Kazakhstani citizenship within one year of their arrival, and resettler appplicants no longer have to prove their financial independence to obtain citizenship.<sup>67</sup> In September of 2014 the government will decide how to reorganize the administration of the immigration and distribution of resettlers. We can conclude from the information which is available now that the newly launched program is meant to minimize bureaucratic hurdles for resettlers trying to obtain registration and citizenship, and to resolve problems of unemployment and poor housing conditions for incoming resettlers in the poor rural regions of the country to which many of them are assigned. There are ongoing debates in the government as to how stringent assignments to specific regions of Kazakhstan should be, showing that there are varied approaches to how the program should satisfy the needs of resettlers while still answering to the needs of Kazakhstan's economy. This period of reorganization and renewal of the program seems to demonstrate a political will from the side of the state to improve and continue the program, balancing the needs of the state and the resettlers while staying true to the agenda of Kazakhstani nation-building through ethnic politics.

Ethnic nationalism is not an all-encompassing ideology nor the only ideology put forth by Nazarbayev and his administration in their nation-building agenda.68 Nor does the Kazakhstani repatriation program run without major reorganization from the side of the state. Nonetheless, the repatriation program still fits into Kazakhstan's "nationalizing" agenda, as seen in the legislation of

<sup>62</sup> N. Nazarbayev na III Vsemirnom Kurultae Kazakhov v Astane Pereizbran Glavoi Vsemirnoi Assosialsii Kazakhov, 2005. *Kazakhotanekolas* Domok. 300

<sup>63</sup> http://www.unesco.kz/cgi-bin/library?e=d-000-00—0HRCru-akalru%2cHRCru-01-1-0-00mmpt-10=4 64 http://www.undp.kz/library\_of\_publications/files/6838-29587.pdf, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>65</sup> http://www.undp.kz/library\_of\_publications/files/6838-29587.pdf, access 15.01.2013. 65 http://www.undp.kz/inrary\_ol\_publications/files/6838-29587.pdf, access 15.01.2013.
66 "Oralmans" repatriating outside the quota can receive help in finding a job, professional retraining courses, and Russian or Kazakh language courses. Repatriates within the quota are eligible for tariff-free transfer of belonging across borders, moving expenses compensation, a one-time http://www.zakon.kz/64134-vozvrashhenie-oralmanov-y-kazakhstan.html\_access 15.01.2013. startup allowance determined by the state, and a simplified track to receiving citizenship. http://www.zakon.kz/64134-vozvrashhenie-oralmanov-v-kazakhstan.html, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>67</sup> http://www.zakon.kz/4645951-skolko-v-kazakhstane-oralmanov.html, access 12.08.2014.

<sup>68</sup> Hale: Cause Without A Rebel, p. 24.

multiple spheres of political life (cadre policy, the constitution, the linguistic policy agenda), and as can be gathered from most recent attempts to revise the program and continue its implementation with new economic and social realities in mind.

#### Repatriation to Russia

Russian repatriation policies, formalized by President Vladimir Putin in 2006. are aimed at a broadly defined group of people, which includes Russian citizens who reside outside of Russia, former citizens of the USSR, or those who emigrated from Russia or the USSR (and their descendants), with the exception of descendants of those who belong to "titular nationalities" of other countries. This is a non-ethnic approach to repatriation. The Russian repatriation program is part of a larger policy of upholding ties with former Soviet citizens and Russian citizens who live outside of Russia's borders, who are referred to officially as "compatriots" (соотечественники) in the legal framework and by political elites in Russia. Already in the early 1990s, Yeltsin used the category "compatriots",66 but the term was legally defined only in 1999 in the Federal Law on State Policy of the Russian Federation Toward Compatriots Abroad under the late Yeltsin administration.70 According to this law, the term "compatriot" refers to a person living outside of Russia's borders, who identifies him - or herself with Russia, and due to historical, linguistic, or cultural links has a desire to maintain a connection with Russia. He/she can be a current citizen of Russia, a former citizen of Russia, and includes all former Soviet citizens, or citizens of former Soviet Socialist Republics.<sup>71</sup> This means that the term can be applied to a citizen or non-citizen of Russia and may include nearly everyone on the post-Soviet space, encompassing over 30 million people around the world, 1.7 of whom live on the post-Soviet space.72 Importantly, the category applies only to those who voluntarily choose to identify themselves as such.73 The broad and ambiguous

nature of this category was a result of the complexity of Russia's post-Soviet legacy, which subsequently laid the foundations for a vague and ineffective repatriation program in Russia.

In 2006, under the first Putin administration, the first step was taken to institutionalize a program for encouraging the resettlement of compatriots to Russia. The "state program for assistance for voluntary resettlement of compatriots residing abroad to the Russian Federation" was launched with a presidential decree on 22 June 2006.74 The target group of the program included all "compatriots" defined in the 1999 law on state policy toward compatriots abroad. This decree was the first document to mention an agenda for spreading information to compatriots abroad about opportunities for resettlement to Russia. The text of the program described in the decree placed the repatriation measures in a larger context of socio-economic development, as a building block of a set of measures to improve the demographic situation in Russia (stimulating birth rates, lowering death rates, and stabilizing the population of Russia), and one of the main aims of the program was specified as "combining the potential of compatriots residing abroad with the development needs of Russian regions."75 The document stressed the need to balance the interests of the resettlers, the Russian Federation at large, the regions, and the local municipal formations. The document also stipulated that compatriots are the most desirable migrants to meet such needs because they were "brought up in the traditions of Russian culture, have command of the language and do not wish to lose their connection with Russia," which, according to the logic of the document, implies that they are the most "able to adapt and quickly integrate into a system of positive social connections with the receiving community."76

Since the Russian government launched the program, most resettlers have come from former Soviet countries. Nearly one-third have come from Kazakhstan. Other source countries of repatriates to Russia continue to be poorer countries of the former Soviet Union. These resettlers usually move to Russia in search of jobs and a higher standard of living.

The document prescribing the repatriation program in Russia stipulated that the regions of the Russian Federation must develop their own programs for ta-

<sup>69</sup> http://www.mytimes.com/1993/12/25/world/ex-soviet-lands-rebuff-yeltsin-on-protecting-russians-shooad hemil/pagewanted=all/6sec=pm, access 15.10.2013.

<sup>20</sup> http://www.fms.gov.ru/programs/fmsads/legal/details/39587/, access 15.01.2013. Zewelex, Igor, "Russia's Policy Toward Computriots in the Former Soviet Union." In: Russia in Global Affairs 1 (2008), http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\_10351, access 11.08.2014.

<sup>71</sup> http://www.fms.gov.ru/programs/fmpads/legal/details/39587/, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>72</sup> http://www.russkiymit.ru/russkiymit/ru/news/common/news6130.html, access 15.01.2013. 73 http://www.fms.gov.ru/programs/fmsuds/legal/details/39587/, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>74</sup> http://www.rg.ru/2006/06/28/ukaz-pereselenie.html, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>75</sup> http://www.rg.ru/2006/06/28/ukaz-pereselenie.html, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>76</sup> http://www.rg.ru/2006/06/28/ukaz-pereselenie.html, access 15.01.2013

king in resettlers, and the programs would subsequently be approved at the fe deral level. Each region is responsible for providing general support in the "adaptation and integration of resettlers" and for setting up institutions to assist repatriates with finding housing and work, for providing occupational retrain ning for repatriates, and for providing legal assistance in doing paperwork for job contracts and medical and social insurance.73

Despite proclamations from the side of Vladimir Putin about the importance of the program, lawmakers in Russia were reluctant for many years to grant repatriates substantive benefits over other immigrants to Russia.78 Although officials have declared that resettlers to Russia obtain citizenship through a simplified procedure, in practice, since the 2002 citizenship amendment and until 2013, resettlers did not obtain Russian citizenship in a more simple way than any other foreign immigrant. A repatriate must be a compatriot, but can be a citizen or a non-citizen. In 2011, for example, out of a total of 12,389 repatriates to Russia, 127 had Russian citizenship (presumably all of them had obtained citizenship through the 1991 Citizenship Law), while 11,948 did not (the remaining 314 were stateless persons).79

The conceptual link between Russian citizenship and repatriation to Russia was explicitly written into the law only in January 2013, seven years after the repatriation program was launched. In 2013, the State Duma accepted a set of amendments aimed at simplifying the procedure of acquiring citizenship for resettlers. 80 The new version of the law allows resettlers to obtain citizenship without the previously required five-year period of uninterrupted residency on Russian soil, without the previously required permanent residence permit, without proof of income, and without proof of Russian language skills. The 2013 amendments have thus created a legal framework which explicitly integrates resettlers politically into the Russian state.

The year 2014 saw an important change in official rhetoric surrounding compatriots, and this change might be the foundation of a new Russian ideology with regard to what it means to be Russian. With the unraveling of the 2014 political crisis in Ukraine, Russian officials began to speak of violations of the rights and safety of Russian-speakers abroad, thus activating the concept of compatriots residing abroad as a security issue. Igor Zevelev has identified this trend as a securitzation of the concept of "Russian world," Russian world" (русский мир) is an ideological construct which encompasses the whole community of Russian-speakers and those who identify themselves with Russia worldwide; it is a community which transgresses the borders of the Russian state. The term entered the political discourse in Russia as the Russian government and state media began to blame first the interim government, and subsequently the new government in Kiev after elections, for repressing the rights of Russian-speakers in Ukraine. The rhetoric of protecting compatriots in Ukraine provided the backdrop for the annexation of Russianspeaking Crimea by Russia after the Crimean referendum of March 2014. Ideas of a "divided Russian people" and "Russian native land" dominated discourses surrounding the annexation. This discourse was already less prominent after March 2014 with regard to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the interests of Russian-speakers there, yet a securitized "Russian world" of compatriots has made its debut in international politics with full force nonethel-

We are yet to see how the political absorption of Crimea and the inflow of eastern Ukrainian refugees to Russia are handled by the government in relation to the terms of Russia's repatriation program. The events of 2014 and Russia's official rhetoric may, on the one hand, provide the ideological backdrop which the repatriation program has lacked until now. On the other hand, in the context of growing budget problems, it is unclear whether Russia will be able to continue financing its repatriation program at a level where it can be attractive for new applicants. It may be that the burden of financing the political and economic absorption of Crimea into Russia will draw funding away from other government programs, and the effect of Western sanctions will hurt the Russian economy in ways that will force the state to restructure its budget. In this way, if taking in resettlers becomes more expensive for Russian regions and turns into a drain of funds rather than a boost of the work force, the economic dimension of repatriation will fall away. In such a situation, the newly built ideological groundwork of a reunifying "Russian world" will not be enough to uphold Russia's repatriation program. We are yet to see

http://www.eg.cu/2016/06/28/ukaz-pereselenie.html, access 15.01.2013. 78 Shevel: Russian Nation-Building, p. 196.

<sup>79</sup> http://milits.ru/materials/zakonodatelsru/index.php?ID=4657, access 15.01.2013/

so http://www.cg.ru/2013/01/22/grajdanstvo-site.html, access 22 02 2013.

<sup>81</sup> Zevelev, Igor: "Russia's National Identity Transformation and New Foreign Policy Doctrine." In: Russia in Global Affairs 07.06.2014. http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/The-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-World-Russian-Ru Boundaries-16707, access 12.08.2014.

if, even in a context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology, the Russian program context of a newly defined ideology.

## Political integration of repatriates

From the point of view of all three states at hand, full legal integration of a repatriate into their country of repatriation culminates in securing their citizenship. This can be gathered from the political rhetoric surrounding repatriation programs of the countries and from the fact that in each case there are policies in place which either guarantee or simplify naturalization for repatriates. As is evident from the table below, repatriation policies of Germany line up with German citizenship policies most closely, resulting in a situation when all repatriates receive German citizenship. In Kazakhstan, the conception of repatriation lining up with eligibility for citizenship holds true (as in Germany), yet bureaucratic hurdles such as registration at permanent place of residence and inclusion in the Kazakh repatriates quota slow this process, creating a lag between the time that an "oralman" repatriates and the time they can acquire full citizenship. At the moment, the statistics presented in the table below were gathered by the UNDP, where 76% of repatriates to Kazakhstan had acquired citizenship while 21% were awaiting confirmation or had applied for citi-

	tistical Results of Repatriation Programs and Naturalization  Germany Kazakhstan Russia		
	Germany	Kazakhstan	Russia
Population of the re- ceiving country (average for the years of the program)	78.1 million (1954–2008 average)	15.03 million (1998–2004 average)	140.9 million (2008–2010 average)
Approximate number of people living outside of the country who are eligible for repatriation at the start of the program (including family members)	~ 4 million	~ 4.3 million	~ 35 million**
Number of people who repatriated (in- cluding family mem- bers)*	1954-2008: 2 350 179	1998–2004: 67 500	2008–2010: 28 086
Repatriates as % of total population	~ 3.01%	~ 0.45%	~ 0.02%
Average number of repatriates per year	42 730	9 642	9 362
Percentage of those who are eligible for citizenship who suc- cessfully obtained ci- tizenship	100%	76%	58.3%

<sup>\*</sup> The time frames are chosen based on the years of implementation the program and adjusted for the availability of the most reliable statistical sources

As illustrated in the bottom row of Table 1 ("Percentage of those who are eligible for citizenship who successfully obtained citizenship"), the conceptual and legal link between repatriation and citizenship is weakest in the case of Russian repatriation policy. Both legal hurdles and bureaucratic lags exist, resulting in a

<sup>\*\*</sup>This estimate encompasses all compatriots residing abroad. This includes a broad range of people who can trace their roots to the former Soviet Union and who wish to label themselves as "compatriots." The estimate given in the table was voiced by Alaxander Chepurin, the director of the department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for working with compatriots residing abroad.

<sup>82</sup> http://www.cundp.kz/library\_of\_publications/files/6838-29587.pdf, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>©</sup> Frank & Timme Verlag für wissenschaftliche Literatur

situation where 41.7% of repatriates who did not already have Russian citzenship upon resettlement do not have Russian citizenship though they reside in Russia. The new 2013 law simplifying the citizenship procedure for resettlers to Russia is meant to close this gap. That said, unlike the cases of Germany and Kazakhstan, 5.5% of repatriates to Russia already have Russian citizenship upon arrival, obtained most often through the provisions of the "compatriots residing abroad" program. This difference is a result of Russian tolerance for dual citizenship and of Russian policies toward "compatriots" throughout the 1990s, which resulted in many people acquiring Russian citizenship while residing outside of Russia's borders. This situation stands out in stark contrast to German and Kazakh policies of disallowing dual citizenship (with few exceptions).

The table also shows that repatriation policy has made the greatest demographic difference in the case of Germany. The highest proportion of those who could immigrate to Germany as repatriates acted upon this right. In Kazakhstan, the repatriation trend is still continuing, and families are continuing to immigrate at a rapid pace. Russia has experienced the least demographic impact of repatriation policy.

On one hand, this is a result of the short amount of time that has passed since repatriation became an institutionalized policy sphere. On the other hand, virtually anyone from all over the world who has roots in the former Soviet Union, with the exception of people who belong to "titular nations" of the former Soviet republics, can be eligible for this program. This creates a much broader base of potential repatriates which is not tied to ethnic conceptions of belonging. This should result in a much wider appeal of the Russian program to varied groups. Yet statistics show that the appeal is very limited, especially given the sheer relative size of Russia's population and the numbers of migrants needed against this backdrop to make any significant demographic difference.

In this paper and particularly in this section, I have looked at integration on the level of the nation-state (i.e. integration in the form of naturalization) as a measure of effectiveness of a program. Yet integration at the societal level also of migrants in processes of naturalization, repatriates in Russia, Germany, and ment, including difficulties in the spheres of societal integration upon resettle-tion, language, education, bureaucratic hurdles, housing, and naturalization.

The more cultural aspects of integration, such as language and socialization, as well as integration of children into school systems, have been proven very difficult in the German and Kazakh cases. Yet in questions of bureaucratic hurdles, housing, and even labor market integration, deep problems plague all three states. In this context, the very concept of political integration of repatriates into the receiving nation-state as a part of repatriation can be problematized. Broadening the definition of effectiveness to include societal integration would reveal a more textured picture of migrants and their place in receiving nation-states, yet such an expansion of the terms of discussion would run the risk of conflating "nation-state" with "society" of "the polity" with "the people." This paper seeks to stay on the level of the polity and state-formulated political agendas in the sphere of migration; for this reason, the question of societal integration of repatriates should be the focus of other studies which view repatriation in a context of transnational migrant flows.

### 5 Conclusions and implications

Repatriation policies are not what they seem. This section offers several sets of conclusions in four parts. The first part of the section operationalizes the conditions under which repatriation programs can be sustained. The second part briefly traces the evolution of national identity definitions in each of the three states in question based on the evolution of their citizenship and repatriation policies. The third brings to the fore the transnational essence of the migration patterns analyzed in this paper. Finally, all of these processes are contextualized in the last section as elements of a greater "post-Soviet condition."

# 5.1 Sustained repatriation: a combination of ideological backing and practicality

The difficulty in upholding and administering repatriation programs lies in the need to reconcile those programs with a constantly changing political, social and economic reality both within and outside of the state. Adjusting policies is

<sup>83</sup> http://mifis.ru/monitoring.pdf, access 15.01.2013.

<sup>84</sup> Chernilo, Daniel: "Methodological Nationalism and the Domestic Analogy: Classical Resources for Their Critique." In: Cambridge Review of International Affairs 23 (1) (2012), p. 87–106, here p. 93.

difficult and often painful because changes affect regional economies, state budgets, voter preferences, and, of course, the resettlers themselves. In the context of a constant struggle on the part of a government which has implemented repatriation policies, it is difficult to make sense of existing trends and where they will lead. This section nonetheless offers a basic formula governing relative successes of repatriation based on the three cases examined here.

Repatriation programs have two crucial components: ideological backing and practicality. In order for a repatriation program to be sustainable, both components must be present. If a repatriation program lacks ideological backing which permeates other aspects of political life in a state, the repatriation program grinds to a halt. If a repatriation program has ideological backing, but is rendered impractical and does not meet the economic, demographic and labor market needs of a state, then the further development of the program is arrested.

The German repatriation program was in place for over four decades until its gradual slowing down due to the fact of German unification and the fall of the communist bloc, which signaled the fall of the ideological pillars holding up Germany's repatriation concept. The latest reforms to Germany's repatriation laws are already aimed at supporting the existing Russian-German population in Germany rather than at an all-inclusive ethnic German vision of the nation-state. Russian repatriation policy is relatively new, but has already shown very low rates of success due to the absence of an ideological component in the exclusively pragmatic program, although recent political changes in Russian such as the annexation of Crimea and Russia's position with regard to Ukraine may become the ideological backdrop to the program. In this case we are yet to see Kazakhstan's repatriation program continues to function after a brief suspensation, and reflects a will from the side of the state to balance ideological considerations and pragmatism.

In the case of Germany, the ideological component of the repatriation concept was manifested in the West German insistence that the only legitimate state automatically become members of this state upon arrival at its borders. This informed both the citizenship and repatriation policies of Germany from the between an "unfree communist 'East" and a "free, democratic 'West." This di-Germany as "living proof" of the undemocratic nature of states east of the iron

curtain. In this way, the West German state cultivated an ideology of delegitimizing communist regimes by denying their ability to guarantee their citizens (first and foremost, ethnic Germans) basic rights. This ideological foundation was supplemented by the practical need for labor migrants to fill up the German labor market. Integration programs for repatriates were aimed at effective and painless insertion of repatriate migrants into the economy and into the society of Germany, and laws prescribing the settlement of repatriates in specific regions of Germany also reflected a strategic approach to utilizing these migrant flows.

In the German case, repatriation policy functioned until German unification took place and until the communist bloc disintegrated. This signaled the end of the ideological backing to German repatriation policy, and thus over the course of the 1990s, German repatriation legislation became ever more restrictive. The dissolution of the very premise upon which repatriation to Germany was based (the premise of ethnic Germanness) culminated in the amendment of the German citizenship law in the year 2000, which signaled a permanent departure from an ethnically defined conception of German citizenship. Policy changes with regard to Russian-Germans since then have been aimed at supporting the Russian-German population which resides in Germany today.

In the case of Kazakhstan, the ideological component of citizenship and repatriation laws was manifested in the nation-building agenda of Kazakhstan as a newly independent state. An ethno-cultural Kazakh identity was cultivated by political elites through education reform, language policy focusing on Kazakh language promotion, preferences for ethnic Kazakh cadres, and, most importantly, in the citizenship and repatriation policies of Kazakhstan, forming a "nationalizing" agenda at the level of state rhetoric and legislation. The breadth and scope of Kazakhstan's repatriation policy for ethnic Kazakhs, as well as the political discourses that linked the unity of all Kazakhs to Kazakhstan's national identity and stability (e.g., in the text of the migration program itself), point to a pronounced emphasis on "nationalizing" conceptualizations of the nation. The processes taking place on the political arena of a newly independent Kazakhstan, including processes of migration, thus reveal the link between Kazakhstani national identity and ethnic Kazakh identity.

The practical foundations of Kazakhstan's repatriation policy are most clearly manifested in Kazakhstan's quota system for repatriates. Each province of Kazakhstan sets a quota for the numbers of repatriates it is ready to receive, and this quota is revised every year based on the economic and demographic needs of each region. The quota system does not result in discrimination against

ethnic Kazakhs who wish to immigrate to Kazakhstan but who do not make into the quota, for they can still resettle to the country and receive a fixed set repatriate benefits, reapplying for inclusion in the quota at a later date. Repair ates within the quota simply receive additional benefits. This quota policy strikes a fine balance between inclusion and exclusion of ethnic Kazakhs for mally, all ethnic Kazakhs can repatriate and become citizens, but there is fine. cial motivation for repatriates to immigrate within the set quota, thus catering to the practical needs of the regions they move to. The quota system thus balan ces the cultivation of a nationalizing (and thus partially ethnic) definition of the nation on the one hand (an ideological component of national identity) with the demographic and labor market needs of each separate province (a practical component of migration and economic policy). The most recent suspension of Kazakhstan's repatriation program and its subsequent renewal and launch demonstrate political will to uphold the program and to find new ways to reconcile it with the changing social and economic realities in Kazakhstan's regions.

In the case of Russia, the legislation that defines individuals who are eligible for the status of "compatriot" (and subsequently eligible for repatriation to Russia) grew out of an ad hoc set of laws passed in the immediate wake of Soviet disintegration. These measures, chaotically devised and implemented in the 1990s, were a means of regulating the massive migration flows across the post-Soviet space that took place as a result of the emergence of new national borders on the territory of the former USSR. The documents which describe the conceptualization of Russian repatriation policy are striking in their complete lack of ideological considerations regarding common identity, descent, and in their lack of references to Russian or Soviet cultural or political legacies at large. The goal of the program is explicitly stated in official documents as improvement of the demographic and labor force situations across less populated regions of the Russian Federation. The needs and the motivations of the candidates for repatriation are addressed exclusively in the context of the "need to balance the needs of Russia and the needs of repatriates." All the documents which relate to the repatriation program are entirely pragmatic in nature and in tone. The absence of an abstract or ideological foundation for the program from the very start resulted in the gap between repatriation policy in the sense of physical resettlement and repatriation policy in the sense of inclusion in the nation-state (as ment and repairment pour, manifested in granting citizenship); this deep conceptual gap was only taken manifested in granting chiceron, and control to the legislation seven years after the program began, which only underscored the ad hoc nature in which repatriation and citizenship laws were

conceptualized in Russia. This set of characteristics of the Russian program resulted in negligible numbers of compatriots willing to repatriate, and in political stagnation with regard to program development. We are yet to see how Russia's evolving state ideology and domestic economy, as triggered by the crisis in Ukraine and Russia's change in borders, will affect the repatriation program.

# Changes in legislation and evolution of the national self

Tracing the evolution of repatriation and citizenship laws allows for us to see certain trends in the evolution of national self-definitions. The analysis of German laws has clearly revealed a move from ethnic conceptualizations of the German state to non-ethnic conceptualizations. The evolution of legislation in Kazakhstan reveals a drive for nation-building and identity-building as a "nationalizing" state in juxtaposition with the non-ethnic conceptualizations of belonging that were practiced under Soviet rule. In the case of Russia, non-ethnic conceptualizations under Soviet rule were not replaced after the disintegration of the Soviet Union with any sort of new idea about models of belonging (at least as revealed by citizenship and repatriation evolution).

## Transnational formation of migrant pathways

Migrant pathways, or the settlement and resettlement patterns of transnational migrants, are formed not solely by the legislation of the receiving country, but are also informed by processes taking place in other countries. Most notably, the immigration and repatriation policies of Germany produced such far-reaching repatriation results only in combination with emigration policies of the Soviet Union, and later the dissipation of German repatriation legislation resulted from the collapse of the communist bloc. Likewise, flows of repatriates to Russia result not only from the pull-factor of Russian repatriation policies, but are also formed by the socio-economic situations of the countries from which compatriots are emigrating. For this reason, the greatest number of people repatriating to Russia come from the poorest republics of Central Asia.

The case of Russian-German migration pathways is particularly enlightening in the context of transnational processes due to its pertinence to all three countries examined in this paper. Having originally moved to the Russian Empire from Germany as far back as the eighteenth century, this group, ethnically defined and institutionally isolated in the Soviet Union, was forced to migrate to the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union under Stalin. After the libe.

ralization of Soviet emigration policy and following the disintegration of the USSR, most of the members of this group moved to Germany, taking advantage of German repatriation laws. In this way, this group's migration paths veer in to ten generations, a Russian-German family could have lived in Germany, Russian, Kazakhstan, and again Germany.

To further complicate the links between the three countries at hand, Russian Germans who immigrated to Germany from Kazakhstan or Russia (or from any other former Soviet state) can automatically fall under the category of "compatriots" as defined in Russian legislation. Ironically, their resettlement to Germany makes them eligible for the resettlement program of Russia. From 2000 to 2006, 218,000 Russian-Germans repatriated to Germany, and 13,661 Russian-German repatriates left Germany and emigrated to Russia.85 The proportion of "returnees" is not particularly large among Russian-Germans (especially as compared with other groups of immigrants to Russia), yet these statistics deserve some reflection. And though it is too early to tell how much of an effect the Russian program for the resettlement of compatriots has had on migration flows of Russian-Germans from Germany to Russia, the case is interesting on a conceptual level. First, Russian-Germans who could make use of Russia's "compatriot" resettlement program did not always come to Germany from Russia, but instead could have migrated from Kazakhstan or other Central Asian republics, thus practicing the "Soviet" aspect of compatriot identity. Secondly, this return process makes this group repatriate "twice:" once upon their move to Germany, once upon their move to Russia. Moreover, if a Russian-German remained in Kazakhstan, they could (on a hypothetical conceptual level, if the time frames of the programs coincided) be eligible for repatriation to Russia or to Germany. This matrix of identity games and possibilities for repatriation pathways reveals the multifariousness and at times even irony of migration flows across the map

Much of the historical focus of this paper has been on processes taking place in the period after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. This period has often the period after the "post-communist," "post-socialist," or "post-Soviet" period. Yet the processes examined in this study are not merely situated in a post-Soviet world in terms of timing, but they are largely formed by the post-Soviet condition.

As we have seen, the flows of repatriates to Germany in unprecedented numbers coincided with liberalization of Soviet emigration policy and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The formulation of a new "nationalizing" identity based partially on ethnic notions of the Kazakhstani self was a result of nation-building processes in the period following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Finally, the need for a policy that would institutionalize the relationship of former Soviet citizens and Russians residing outside of Russia emerged when large numbers of those who felt a connection with Russia ended up living in new independent states once the USSR collapsed. Most recently, political crisis in Ukraine has brought about the securitization of the concept of "compatriots residing abroad" and the activation of rhetoric about "a divided Russian people." All of these processes can be viewed as consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and thus are symptomatic of the "post-Soviet condition."

The Soviet Union's complexity and internal variation set the stage for the multifaceted and variegated processes that plunged into motion in the wake of its collapse. Though it was largely an empire founded upon and driven by socialist ideology and rhetoric, it was never a space of homogenous implementation of ideologies and rhetorics. The intricate ethnic and religious configurations of the Soviet Union coexisted with an overarching Soviet identity, in turn fragmented and split to include varying groups. The communist ideology and the relative cohesiveness of the Soviet Union as a political entity receded in the early 1990s to make way for new conceptualizations of the nation, new migrant pathways, and new challenges to societies and states alike. In this context, social scientists must take great care to examine the realities of transnationalization and to make sense of new formulations of the state's position and states' identities both in world politics and on the level of society.

The post-Soviet condition

<sup>85</sup> Schmid, Albert: "Zur Integration von Aussiedlern." In: Bergner, Christoph; Weber, Matthias (Hg.): Ausstedler- und Minderheitenpolitik in Deutschland: Bilanz und Perspektiven, München 2009, p. 67–78, here p. 77.

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Welche spezifischen Chancen und Potenziale haben junge russlanddeutsche SpätaussiedlerInnen heute? Wie kann aus einer bisweilen unfreiwilligen (Re-)Migration und häufig damit verbundenen Identitätskrisen dennoch symbolisches, berufliches und gesellschaftliches Kapital erwachsen? Im vorliegenden Band stellen Autorinnen und Autoren aus verschiedenen wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen (und oft mit einschlägiger persönlicher Erfahrung) die Rahmenbedingungen, die mediale Vermittlung und das Sprachverhalten von Russlanddeutschen sowie Beweggründe für die Rückkehr von der Rückkehr vor. Diese Aspekte werden in eine vergleichende Perspektive internationaler Migrationsforschung eingebettet, die sowohl türkische Erfahrungen als auch solche von ethnischen Remigrant(inn)en aus den Nachfolgestaaten der Sowjetunion berücksichtigt.

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