

State policy toward Islam and Muslim minorities in Russia at the beginning of the 21st Century.

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Subsequent to tragic events that defined the treatment of Muslims and Islam by the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation finally developed a set of strategies in their interactions with the religious institutions in general and Islamic establishment in particular.

There are seven Republics in Russia where Muslims constitute more than half of the total population; five of these Republics are located in the Northern Caucasus and two in the Volga-Ural region. The total number of Muslims in Russia is estimated to be 14-20 million or near 10% of the total population.

In this paper I will investigate how the Russian Federation, declaring itself as a secular and democratic state, is trying to establish control over Islamic institutions by introducing its own religious policy. In the course of research, I will analyze the legislation, court precedents, the activities of the special services in government agencies, designed to carry out the state policy in the sphere of religion. The paper will also analyze the objects of their policy - Muslim centralized organizations - national and local Spiritual Administration of Muslims and the Muslim education system.