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### **Russians and Americans – two great nations.**

Nowadays, there are two great nations in the world: Russians and Americans. They really have a great influence on the world stage. Many people try to understand and explain the Russian national character and the American. This subject is really hard, because each nation is unique. Both of them have their own secrets. It is the main reason which creates difficulties in understanding between Russians and Americans.

Despite Russia's ambivalence toward the West, and in the face of the political and cultural differences and the often diametrically opposed values of two societies, most Russians like Americans. Sir William Hayter wrote that Russians are very interested in America's life. They share many tastes with it including love of gadgets, technology, massive scale, life style... America is a favorite foreign country of Russians. Moreover, Russian people know that they have never had a war with the United States. There are no territorial disputes. They have no trade rivalries. In fact, America's power and size attract Russians and they have a syndrome which called «Big is Beautiful».

Russians are impressed with the size and numbers, and much that they do is on a grandiose scale: military size, buildings, sculpture, etc. That is not unusual for vast country. Russian think and act, and they do not do things in a halfhearted way. Nor are these traits uniquely Russian. Americans, accustomed to wide open spaces, and with an expansive outlook on life, are also known to think big.

Russians see themselves and Americans as citizens of two great powers. Joint endeavors between Russians and Americans are therefore seen as natural. Indeed, Russians get a psychological lift from working with Americans, regarding such cooperation as recognition of their coequal status. But they also expect Americans to accept them as equals, to return their admiration, and they are disappointed and puzzled when we do not.

One standard Russian complaint against Americans, says Eliza Klose, is that they lack *dusha*, or soul. Russians are sensitive to the feelings of others as well as their own. The Russian soul has been described as: sensitive, imaginative, an inclination to tears, compassionate, patience that permits survival in what would seem to be unbearable circumstances, poetic, mysticism, a penchant for walking the dark, introspective, sudden unmotivated cruelty, fascination - the list goes on. Russians maintain their integrity in a way that conforms to their inner notion of what a human being should be, with a blatant honesty and integrity seldom seen elsewhere in the world. Above all they have an appreciation for wholeness or complete commitment and faith, no matter what that faith might be related to.

Americans may indeed lack soul, nevertheless, Russians are very curious about the United States, and there is no country they wish to visit more.

Many exciting innovations in lives of Russians have come from America – jazz, jeans, Coke and Pepsi, and Big Macs, to name a few. Russians recognize that Americans are far richer than they are, but they resent being talked down to. While Russians themselves are outspokenly critical of their own society, they can be hypersensitive to criticism by a foreigner. To Americans, Russians are also puzzling.

To sum up, despite some similarities, Russians and Americans are indeed different. Fortunately, Russians admire Americans as people. Many of them really like their culture, history, etc. Besides, it is a privilege to study in the US. It is so popular among the younger generation. They are very open minded, well educated, and interested in new ideas. We can say, that young people is a connecting link. Well, Russian and Americans are different, but young people can overcome this difference. However, each nation must remain unique and unrepeatable.

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