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American's punctuality and Russian's patience

Social rules and own customs are an important part of the culture for every country. This all includes good and bad manners, traditions and mentality. So, there are significant differences between the countries because they have their own national characteristics.

As you know, time is money to Americans. Moreover, in this country it is a vital commodity. Time is a great importance and a source like coal or water which can be used. Thus, punctuality is a virtue sign of reliability for Americans. The ideal person for them values other people's time and is punctual. They appreciate a well-organized person, who makes a schedule of things for doing them.

What is punctuality to Americans?[1]Punctuality means to arrive on time and make great effort to do it. American businesspeople don't have high tolerance for people who are usually late. To Russians, however, punctuality doesn't matter. Being on time is often alien. They are used to being late and long arrival after the appointed hours is not considered being late. That's why, there is a number of rituals that must be played out before the business part of a meeting can start. For example, a necessary part of all personal encounters is the small talk. The business conversation is last of the day, because at first colleagues usually discuss family and personal problems. Moreover, the business part of the talk is also lengthy.

For Russians, time is not measured in minutes or hours, so the venerated virtue is not punctuality but patience. In contrast, Americans first consider the practical points and the details to be overcome. Americans will want to negotiate an agreement expeditiously, begin on time, complete the work as promptly as possible, and show early or profit. Russians will need more time to get organized, and there will be frequent delays and postponements [2].

So, Americans fulfill their promises and obligations. Violation of the timeframe is unacceptable, because they are used to being never late. They do not prefer to feel that their time is wasted and that they are kept waiting without good reason. Punctuality is a virtue sign and arriving on time is the key of a successful transaction. Most Americans would agree that it is good manners to be punctual for an appointment. Arriving on time for formal events such as an interview or a business meeting is considered important. For this reason, many people try to arrive a few minutes earlier for an appointment. As for Russians, they get used to being late and it isn't considered improper.

Such different views of time can create difficulties in cooperative efforts and joint ventures. What to do? Not much, except to persist patiently, and speak softly but carry a big prod. Once prodded and made to understand that a deadline must be met, Russians can work around the clock to complete the job.

So, the values and beliefs of these two countries are various and they don't coincide absolutely. What is plausible in Russia is not quite valid in the USA. Whereas Russians value one concept, Americans do not pay any special attention.

Литература

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