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The differences of religions in the United States and Russia

Religion is one of the most important and integral things of our life. Faith is a certain system of people's thoughts, feelings and actions which we usually do. All people believe in one thing or another. Their beliefs depend on their character, background and life experience. Religion includes the world which has supernatural things. Professing some religion is developing, teaching and educating. Faith makes the world stronger. Religion is people's life. Voltaire wrote that «if God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him».

People in different country have their religion, thoughts of life and moral code. Religious values in Russia and the USA have some differences and similarities. God is one, but different nations call him in different ways. The problem is rooted at the very beginning of human existence, since the creation of the tower of Babel, because according to the legend, earlier on the Earth, there was a single language and a single nation, then, God is one. Each nation added something from itself to the holidays, rituals, and former united faith began to "branch out" into a separate religion.

Religion in the USA traditionally plays a major role. Nowadays, the Americans cannot say «how many believers there are in the USA», about 85% of the population are believers. There is no dominant religion, but this country has Christians of different faiths. Protestants make up a large number (about 56%), Catholics - 28%, Jewish 2%, other religious communities make up 4%. The theme of religion in the United States is important, because religious organizations are actively involved in solving social problems, and affect the political life of the country. As for religion in Russia, there is not any official statistics of religious organizations because by the law it is prohibited to ask the Russians about their religious affiliation. We have orthodoxy (75 %), Islam (5 %), Catholicism (1 %) and others. Although the religion of USA is quite democratic and dynamic, its distinctive feature is differentiation. Nowadays, the United States has many new religious movements so it is difficult to answer the question about the religion in the United States. However, a few indigenous people have tried to save the memory of the past. «The diversity of religions in the USA is closely linked to the religious life of native Americans, the colonial past, and the flow of migrants»[1]. The main religions are based on «...rebutts but the prevailing belief was that people in the afterlife would continue the same life they led before death...» [2]

Both the United States and Russia are characterized by their belief in special religious customs and traditions. The USA thinks of itself as a New Light because it is going to open new religions for the old World. Russia is characterized by the idea of identifying itself with the Third Rome. Both Russia and the United States are the last two apocalyptic states, and they are committed to the end of world history. The most important American values written in the Declaration of human rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is necessary to know the main feature of Americans, which is connected with Protestantism as their main religion is hard work.

Thus, the values of Russian civilization are different with the values of American civilization. People think that justice is equality or social justice. It is not equality of opportunities but social, civil and propriety equality. Americans focus on individual success, while in Russia the traditions of community and proletarian collectivism are strong.

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