

## **The Content of a Site of the President of Russia as the Information Indicator of Realization of Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Russia.**

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**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the analysis of information messages and the materials presented on a site of the President of Russia (2008 - May 25, 2013) which are devoted to ideology of political radicalism in its extreme form - terrorism. On the basis of content analytical research of the contents of information of this problem is defined the frequency of the address to this subject. Available information is classified. Features of representation of information are marked out. Dynamics of the publication of information materials on positions on a search signs "Russian subjects of fight against terrorism", "Interaction with the international organizations", "Cross-country relations" comes to light. The special attention is paid to the issues connected with so-called "an Islamic factor". It is shown that information on meetings with leaders of Muslims as a potential factor of impact on Muslim believers in faith tends to recession. Some specifics of thematic representation of materials of various information capacities are defined.

**Key words:** Terrorism • Counter-terrorism strategy • Fight against terrorism • Russia • Site • Content analysis • National Anti-Terrorism Committee • Muftis of Russia • International Organizations

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Post-Soviet Russia faced a new challenge - the systematic execution of terrorist acts of its territory. They have a political basis and religious context associated, together with other factors, with the attempts to spread the ideas of separatism on the basis of the Islamic factor. Despite the notorious historical and political attempts to seize power in the 19th century by the use of acts of terror (they date back to the activity of terrorist groups "Land and Freedom", "Narodnaya Volya" anarchist movement, etc.), the new trends of the government and the population intimidation by acts of terror have become quite a surprise for the Russian authorities.

This could be related to the fact that after the final suppression of militant groups within the territory of the Soviet Union after the war, the problem of the terrorist threat receded into the background. These problems were in the field of professional interests of special services (mainly the State Security Committee). The terrorist threat was believed to have no real ground due to socio-economic reasons. The country was considered to

be developing steadily, with all its citizens enjoying mutual understanding, the religious living base not manifested at the level of political ambition. Separate terrorist acts (for example, an explosion in the Moscow metro in 1977) were understated and hardly received due coverage in mass media.

In nowadays Russia there have emerged active groups of Russian citizens, for whom terror is both a goal and a tool for transforming the world. It manifests itself in particular within the context of the separatism ideology in the North Caucasus. At the state regulation level, special the legal and organizational measures were taken to promote the rule of law and prevent the terrorist threat. A National Anti-Terrorism Committee was created and anti-terrorist Laws: the Federal Law # 35 "Concerning counteraction of terrorism" (2006, now in version of 2011) [1] and the Federal Law # 114 "Concerning counteraction of extremist activity" with changes in 2008 [2] were made.

Terror during the years of revolution of 1917 and civil war (1917-1922) was studied in 1924 by the historian emigrant S. P. Melgunoff [3] whose work was translated into Russian and published in Russia in 1990.

Problems of history of terrorism in Russia, preconditions and consequences of commission of acts of terrorism and prevention of acts of terrorism are analyzed in 2008 by A.A. Korolev [4]. As Korolev points out, terrorism is a war of nerves, the success of which is achieved through taking by surprise, unpredictability of the place, time and circumstances. Loosing in force, terrorism wins in mobility, in time and space. Even if terrorism is suppressed by force, it does not mean that we should celebrate. There is a nutrient medium, namely: different citizen's ambitions, the incompatibility of philosophies, difference in life stance and the pursuit for social justice for the downtrodden and underprivileged strata of society.

D.V. Olshansky gives 2002 classification of the terrorists' motives [5]. M.V. Vinogradov provides a psychological and psychiatric classification of suicide performers [6]. Problems of influence of mass media on the Russian society are covered in foreign researches devoted to terrorism issues [7, 8]. Considerable research experience of studying of problems of terrorism in historical, theoretical and methodological plans is abroad saved up [9-12].

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study hypothesis is stating that thematic analysis of the representation of these problems on the website of the President of the Russian Federation can help understand the strategy and tactics of fighting terrorism. It can enable one to trace the dynamics of change.

**Source Base Research:** The following resources were used in the research.

The research basis are the materials presented in the Russian version of the site "Kremlin.ru" (Kremlin.ru; <http://eng.kremlin.ru/>), which is the official web site of the President of Russia in the Internet. Website of the President of Russia was opened in January 2000 and has gone through a series of upgrades. It is currently working in the fourth version, which was launched on August 31, 2009. The server links to mobile and wap-version) - [pda.kremlin.ru](http://pda.kremlin.ru).

Kremlin.ru site contains materials of interest to us that have been published from 2008 to the present, with daily updates. The study involves the materials provided on this site on the date of 25.05.2013 (covering the period since its launch in 2008). The site has a search engine and

category structure (news, transcripts, documents, assignments, trips, visits, telegrams, photos, video, audio).

**Instruments:** For the solution of research tasks in relation to determination of publishing activity and thematic vector of site publications in their historical dynamics the following methods were used: content analysis (including statistical analysis of the units), comparative analysis, interpretation, analogy.

The main research method is a content-analysis. In the study, we assumed the necessity to maximize the lexical potential of the site. We use semantic structures, marked as the key words in the sources of information on this site.

The units of content analysis is the concept of "counter-terrorism". This being the case, we use only the Russian version of the site with the most comprehensive representation of the topics on the issue. A unit of account is the title of information links, numbered after the selection of a search engine.

**Procedure:** The research procedure was limited to the following sequence of steps.

**The First Step:** Selecting and systemizing of the sources of information presented on the site President.ru. on the key concept "fight against terrorism". The process involved using the built-in search engine.

**The Second Step:** Thematic categorizing based on the interpretation of the content of the submissions. Due to some features of technical automatic information selection, the materials not directly related to the topic are excluded. We took into account the fact that the number of items issued by the search engine greatly exceeds the available data on the nature of the problem analyzed:

- When using the Russian word "struggle" the search engine displayed all information, including both the meaning of "countering" struggle / fight and fight sports (wrestling). Wrestling was excluded as not meeting topic requirements. Also, when using the Russian preposition "c" ("with") the search results included any information all issues with this preposition. Therefore, we focused on the key words or the highlighted words lexically associated with the above topics.

- We filtered the cases of duplication in reporting, that seemed to be technically related to the fact, that the information was published in various sections of the site.

**The Third Step:** Grouping of information messages according to the positions "Russia", "Cross-country relations", "International Organizations". The separate group contained the positions which were hard to classify, including information about the irregular cross-border communities and events.

**Data Analysis:** Given the purpose of the study, data analysis entailed only one step: compiling a publication profile of the journals. To this end, the data (which was 100% quantitative) was subjected to simple statistical techniques such as frequency counts and percentages. Simple graphs were drawn in Microsoft Excel.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After carrying out the first series of research on a search sign "fight against terrorism" and its representation in a graphic view the following picture was received.

Totally the quantity of the materials found with the search system on May 25, 2013, was 1734 sources (the English version of site includes only 193 sources). They were distributed as follows by years.

As shown on this graph, the greatest peak of printing activity falls on 2010, after it recession follows. The first information on the subject "counter-terrorism" appears late enough - in 2008. Till 2010 the amount of information, placed on a site, steadily increased. Further the descending trend characterizing weakening of attention to this perspective takes place.

Quantitative indices always need semantic (high-quality) recheck. On the basis of the qualitative analysis it was established that the search system of this site in some cases carried out formal selection of positions. In particular, a number of information sources were excluded by us because of the fact that the search system included in a search field all mentions of wrestling, of fight against alcoholism and fight against corruption. After recheck of each of presented above sources the part was excluded from them. The result is presented in Figure 2.

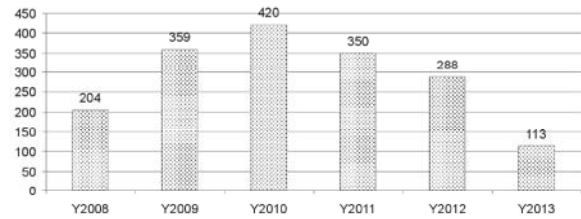


Fig. 1: Range of the distribution of the total number of the information links which have been selected by a search system of a site Kremlin.ru.

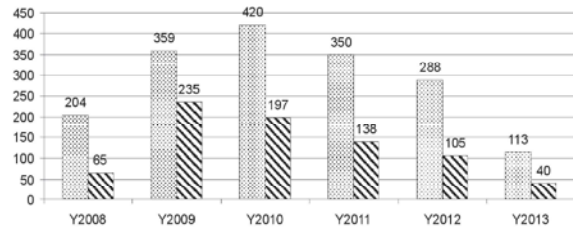


Fig. 2: Comparison of the information messages received as a result of selection by a search engine of a site (□) and semantic selection (▨).

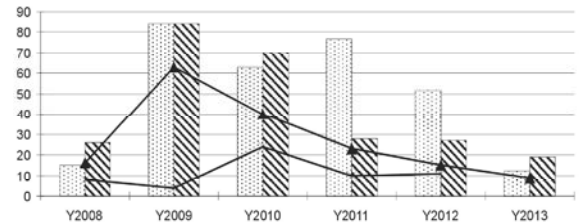


Fig. 3: Results of content analysis of information clusters: Russian subjects (□), Cross-country relations (▨), International Organizations (▲), difficult classified cases (X).

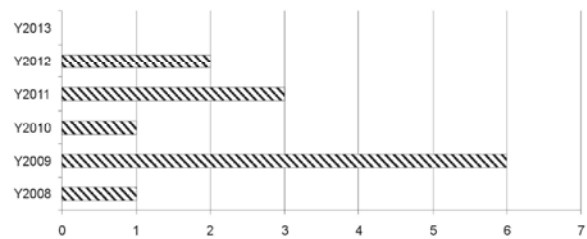


Fig. 4: Range of the distribution of publications in a cluster "Islamic subject".

Carrying out selection of information on criteria "lack of duplication" and "an exception of non-core data" allowed to establish the peak of printing activity of a site on problems of fight against terrorism falls on 2009.

For further research we use only the data which are really reflecting data on fight against terrorism on a site "Kremlin.ru".

Information presented on a site, underwent thematic group. As a result the following picture (Fig.3) was received.

As it is shown on the graph, the international aspects of fight against terrorism take an important place in the information massif of a site. Till 2010 they dominated among all messages and materials. Sharp recession of interest to this perspective is noted in 2011, the tendency to increase of printing activity in this direction takes place in current 2013.

In comparison with the materials characterizing a role of the international organizations in fight against terrorism, the bilateral international aspect is presented more expressly.

Intra Russian problems of fight against terrorism are characterized by various materials; these are articles of the President on this subject, information on legislative activity in the sphere of fight against terrorism, performance at operational meetings of power structures of Russia, the Concept of foreign policy of Russia, the Message of the President, interview, etc. The particular interest is represented by the materials characterizing questions of interaction with the religious organizations in counteraction to terrorism.

Special materials on this perspective belong only to so-called "an Islamic factor". Rate of illumination of this matter on a site is reflected on Figure 4.

To the number of the materials shining a role of the Muslim organizations in a context of fight against terrorism belong meetings with spiritual leaders of Muslims, activity of interreligious council of the Union of the independent countries and also condolences in connection with murders of muftis - the Russian citizens - for religious motives. The greatest number of information messages of a site about meetings with muftis, with their activity the hope of influence of Muslim doctrine as alternatives to radicalism and extremism was closely connected, it falls on 2009. Condolences of the President in connection with murders of muftis belong to 2010 (1) and 2012 (2) years.

## CONCLUSION

The most informative are materials which are read by many people: Address of President to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, materials of State

Council meetings, signing of Federal Laws. Emotionally perceived facts of acts of terrorism of in the North Caucasus Federal District are reflected in the materials about comprehensive measures to ensure security in this region. The site contains a lot of information on activity of the Federal Security Service (FSB), of the National Anti-Terrorism Committee, of the Interdepartmental Commission on Countering Extremism, which was formed 2011 with the goal of ensuring the implementation of state policy on countering radicalism and extremism.

The international part is reflected by information on activity of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The big place is allocated for trips and summits.

Among them the special role is played by meetings with federal and regional authorities, with muftis of Russia, with armies and youth. It is published only the beginning of working meeting with Head of Federal Security Service.

In recent years meetings with muftis are limited. Many of muftis became terrorism victims. It is given more and more attention to problems not only a personal security of the population, but also to all aspects of technical and transport terrorism, to the mechanism for countering the legalization of the financing of terrorism and criminal incomes. The number of publications on the international perspective testifies to a terrorism assessment as global problem which all countries together have to solve.

Texts of a site are the important information message to citizens of Russia. The communicator sends information which is the indicator of all aspects of work focused on measures to counter terrorism. Citizens of Russia receive data at the level of political strategy, concrete measures, work of the special state anti-terrorist organizations and institutes, within activity of the international organizations.

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