

Topic: Perception of social justice in Russian society

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Abstract.

The issue of social justice has always been and re-mains now an important issue of the Russian political and social agenda. The debate has run into a problem of the definition of social justice. The Rawls theory and its implications are place at the center of the discussion. J.Rawls advanced a liberal view of social justice as an institutional arrangement in which the players play by the same rules. His view of social justice is “fairness” – creation of conditions in which all the main players have their life chances equalized. Social fair play is impossible without all the transactions made in the open, subject to public scrutiny. The alternative to Rawls is proposed by the Marxists who regards any kind of inequality as an indicator of class division and class exploitation.

It has been often stated that the Russian view of social justice is close to that of the Marxists. However, analysis of data shows that it is closer to Rawls. The Russian population is ready to accept inequality, but it is unwilling to compromise over inequality that is due to the violation of the rules of fair play.