RUSSIA'S LEGAL APPROACH TO
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS:
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS & RUSSIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous peoples themselves were primordial actors in the elaboration of universal instruments (United Nation Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights) and mechanisms (the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues). Using the tools of anthropology helps understand the indigenous international movement as a recognition of a global indigenous identity, and reconsider indigenous peoples' relation to law as a part of a political process to achieve recognition.

In the Russian Federation, indigenous laws shaped Russian indigeneity rather than the opposite. Although indigenous peoples influenced the policies addressed to them, there is still a dead-end in implementation. First, Russian indigeneity is factually limited to one organisation, and unable to step out of the definition and habitus dictated by the legal instruments. The tradition of advocacy is mainly of a political nature, with a good relation to power, but the legal tradition is still hesitant. Then, implementation is impaired by low Human Rights standards regarding individual rights. Indigenous peoples do not represent for Russia a threat as a group, and one could expect Russian Federation to be more open to collective rights, since the critique of Human Rights Regime in Russia is often based on individualism. However, the fact that Human Rights provided the nest for the thrive of indigenous rights strengthened their anchorage in human dignity and individual freedom.

Application of international standards would require not only a better record in human rights, but also a better integration of indigenous peoples of Russia in global indigeneity.
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECtHR</td>
<td>European Court of Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCA</td>
<td>National Cultural Autonomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFII</td>
<td>United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAIPON</td>
<td>Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples Of the North</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS</td>
<td>Russian Academy of Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTNU</td>
<td>Territory of Traditional Natural Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDRIP</td>
<td>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGIP</td>
<td>United Nations' Working Group on Indigenous Peoples</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENT

**INTRODUCTION.** ................................................................. 4

1 Three points of view on indigenous rights. ................................................................. 9

1.1 The State, demiurge of international law. ................................................................. 9

1.1.1 The legal source for rights over a territory ......................................................... 10

1.1.2 Physical resistance & state’s political identities .................................................. 11

1.2 Indigenous Peoples’ and law: the birth of ‘indigeneity’. ............................................ 13

1.2.1 Theories of ethnicity ......................................................................................... 13

1.2.2 Indigeneity under different lights ....................................................................... 15

Indigeneity in anthropology ......................................................................................... 15

Indigeneity in geography and history .......................................................................... 16

1.2.3 Indigenous conquest of international law ............................................................. 16

1.3 Human rights point of view ..................................................................................... 18

1.3.1 Overview of the instruments .............................................................................. 20

1.3.1.1 Specific instruments ....................................................................................... 20

1.3.1.2 Minority rights .............................................................................................. 21

1.3.2 Do collective rights exist under human rights law? .............................................. 22

1.3.2.1 The development of self-determination as a human right ................................ 22

1.3.2.2 Deriving collective rights from individual rights ............................................. 25

1.3.3 The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. ............. 27

1.3.3.1 Drafting and sensitive questions .................................................................... 27

1.3.3.2 Towards a wider acceptance of collective rights ............................................. 28

1.3.3.3 Self-determination in UNDRIP ..................................................................... 30

1.3.4 Collective rights in human rights law .................................................................. 31

2 Russian law and indigenous peoples’ rights ................................................................. 35

2.1 A short demographic assessment ............................................................................. 37

2.2 Legal evolution ....................................................................................................... 38

2.2.1 Drawing the line between nations and natives ..................................................... 38

2.2.1.1 The 1822 Statutes and the «collective distinctiveness of ‘aliens’» ..................... 39

2.2.1.2 Russian modern legal definition for indigenous peoples ............................... 41

2.2.2 Domestic law ...................................................................................................... 44

2.2.2.1 Control over land ......................................................................................... 45

2.2.2.2 The environmental perspective and exploitation of natural resources ........... 48

2.3 Legal behaviour of indigenous peoples in Russia ................................................... 49

2.3.1 Specificities of indigenous identity in Russia ....................................................... 50

2.3.1.1 Maintenance of indigenous identities through the Soviet period................... 50

2.3.1.2 Indigeneity and inclusion in RAIPON ............................................................ 51

2.3.2 The legal way: How do Indigenous peoples in Russia find their way to courts ........ 53

2.3.2.1 the relative success of political lobbying ....................................................... 53

2.3.2.2 The unsuccessful battle for implementation ................................................... 54

2.3.2.3 anthropology and legal creativity ................................................................... 56

2.3.3 Different legal cultures in Human Rights advocacy ............................................. 56

2.3.3.1 A comparison with National Minorities ......................................................... 57

2.3.3.2 Indigenous activism and the central power .................................................... 57
3 Russian Federation and indigenous peoples as subjects of international law...61

3.1 The matrioshka of international law:.................................................................61
  3.1.1 Russia and international law........................................................................61
    3.1.1.1 The constitution....................................................................................61
    3.1.1.2 Legal theory........................................................................................62
    3.1.1.3 Soft law ..................................................................................................63
  3.1.2 Human rights: the individual at stake..........................................................64
  3.1.3 Indigenous peoples’ rights in international law..............................................65
    3.1.3.1 Ratified instruments..............................................................................65
  3.2 Russian indigenous peoples’ international legal culture.................................66
    3.2.1 Russian indigenous peoples and indigenous transnational advocacy
        network. ........................................................................................................66
    3.2.2 Doors closed to claims under minority rights.............................................67
    3.2.3 Regional integration in the Arctic. ..............................................................67
  3.3 A theory of International Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Regime in Russia...........69
    3.3.1 A Human Rights light on Russian laws on indigenous peoples.................69
        3.3.1.1 the issue of the definition in light of international law.......................69
        3.3.1.2 Self-determination and autonomy......................................................69
    3.3.2 A Russian light on international indigenous peoples’ rights. ......................70

CONCLUSION.......................................................................................................73

Bibliography............................................................................................................77
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