

## Regionalization in Russia: between Scylla and Charybdis?

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The paper tries to clarify which is a real situation of regionalization process in Russia, whether it leads to a clash between federal interests, especially national unity and integrity, and regional interests, as well as to the restriction of local self-government.

Whereas the regionalization is quite actively treated in Russian political science, this problem rests understudied in Russian legal literature and abroad (which presents the interest of this scrutiny). However, it does not mean an absolute novelty of this phenomena in Russian politic and legal history. In fact, since the *guberniya's* reform launched by Peter the Great at the beginning of the XVIII century, the Russian Empire (i.e. almost unitary state including territories of modern Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Poland, Finland, etc.) has not stopped the regionalization process but with one main goal - to facilitate a management of extending territory of Russian Empire. During the USSR (which is considered as so-called open federation from legal point of view and as strongly centralizes state from politic point of view) two waves of regionalization took place - first one at the end of 1920's (within the famous New Economic Policy on the basis of enormous by their size economic-administrative regions) and second one in the 1950's (*Sovnarkhoz*/Regional Economic Councils and territorial complexes of Khrushchev); both had exclusively economic character as the main goal of Soviet regionalization was the establishment of territorial principal of economics' management.

In order to clarify the actual goals of regionalization in Russia and especially to know whether it is possible to reconcile this process with the national unity, integrity and sovereignty on the one hand, and the development/reinforcement of local self-government on the other hand, we will carry out an empirical research by using mainly a legal science's approach with such methods as historic-legal, comparative-legal and analytic legal, as well as a politic science's approach with certain methods also applied by lawyers such as case study and statistical analysis.

In the first part of paper we suppose to speak about the theory of regionalization and regionalism as politic result of regionalization, as well as about the divergences and convergences between Western European countries' models and the Russian one. In the second part we would like to deal with the limits of regionalization process in Russia - national interests and those of local self-government.