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Crime of Youth in the Postmodern Society: why, and what to do?

We all live in the new world of the postmodern. The main features of the postmodern society (globalization, mass migration, consumerization, virtualization, fragmentation, "acceleration of time", etc.) affect the dynamics and structure of crime in general, youth in particular.

Postmodern society is a “consumer society”.

The slogan “all for sale” is realized in numerous crimes: street crimes (thefts, robberies, fraud), white-collar crime, including corruption, and different deviance, including prostitution.



**Consumerization determines the desire for enrichment.
Catastrophic economic and social inequality, the division of
all people into "included" and "excluded" hinders the
opportunities for enrichment for the majority of "excluded".
The slowdown or absence of "social lifts" limits the
opportunities for "career growth" of youth.**

***Included* person is someone who is actively included in economic, political, social, educational, cultural, and another areas of human activity.**

***Excluded* person is someone who is not included in economic, political, social, educational, cultural and another areas of human activity (homeless and unemployed, poor men and beggars, ethnic minority, drug-addicts and alcoholics, prisoners etc.)**

Catastrophic increase of the *economic and social inequality* is the main factor of crime and others deviance.

Inequality of opportunity generates social conflict, dissatisfaction, envy and at last various forms of deviation. The process of inclusion / exclusion is acquiring more and more criminogenic significance both for the contemporary world and for the future. It is clear that «excluded people» are becoming a mass reserve, a social basis of social deviation, including criminality, and... victims.

Most young people are "excluded".

Our new reality

2014 - 1% of the world's population owns 48% of all wealth

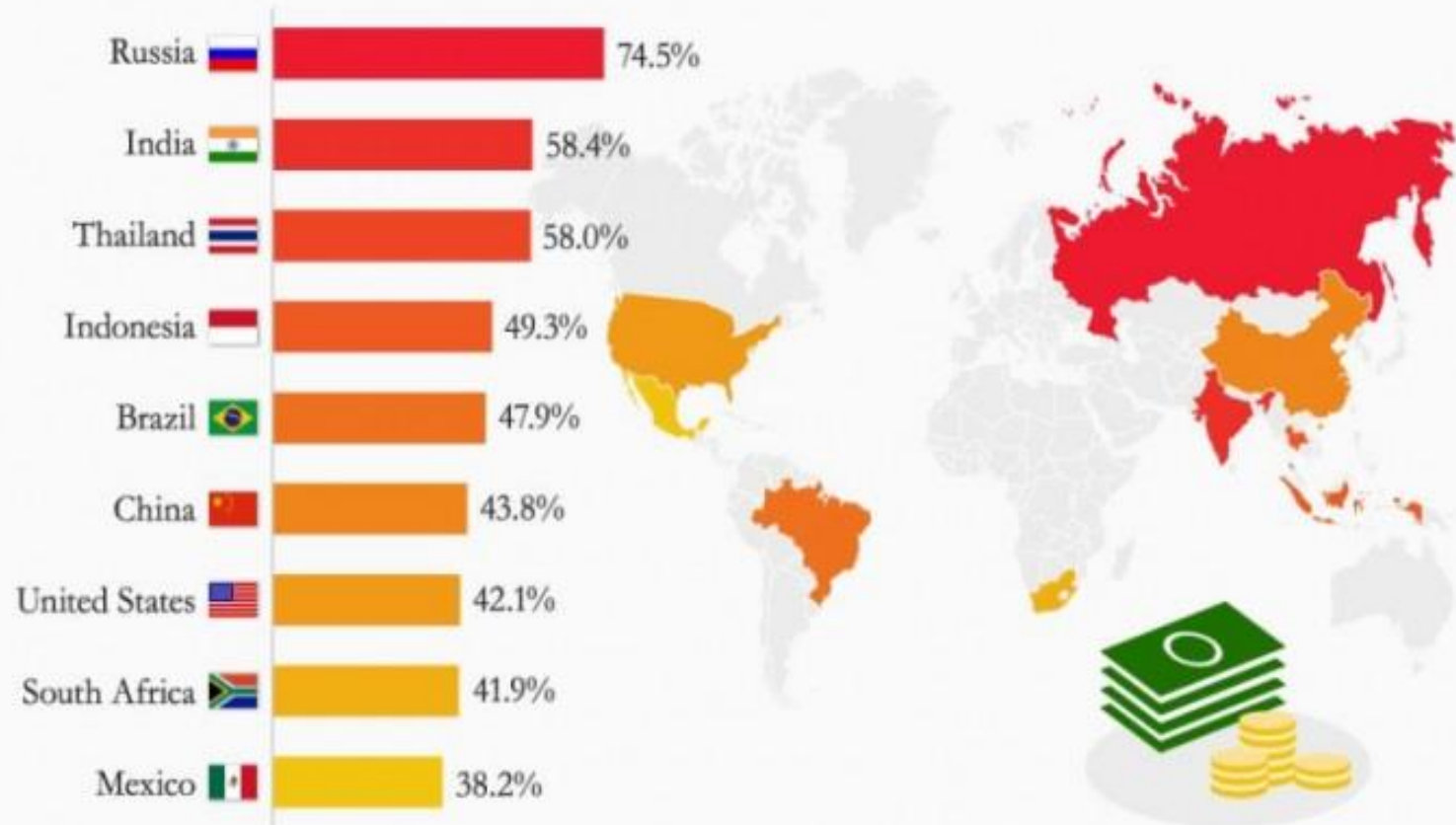
2015 - 1% of the world's population owns 50% of all wealth

**2016 - 1% of the world's population owns 52% of all wealth
(Credit Suisse Bank)**

**1% of Russia's population owns 74.5% of the country's wealth
(In India – 58.4%, in Thailand - 58%)**

The world's most unequal countries

Share of total wealth of richest 1% in selected countries in 2016



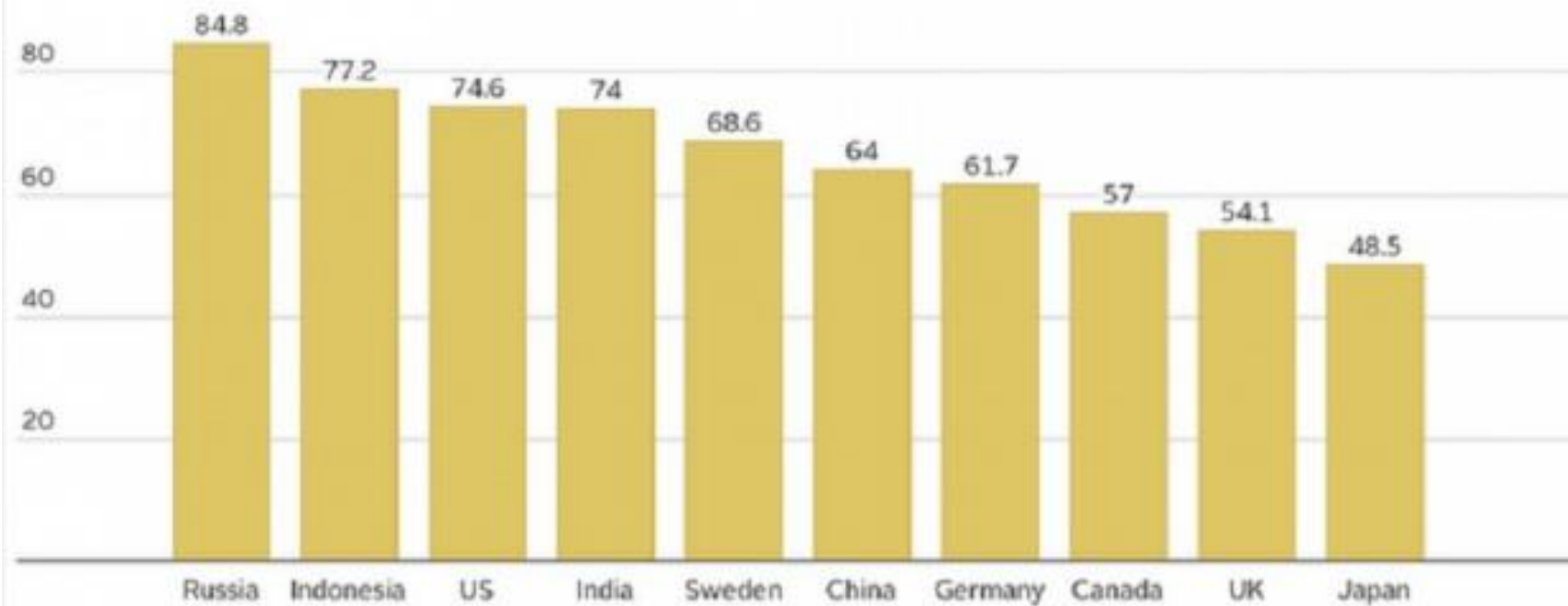
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Source: Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databooks

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Top 10 percent's share of wealth, by country



Source: Credit Suisse

Year	Total number of Criminals (in Russia)	Excluded (without of income) (%)	Year	Total number of Criminals (in Russia)	Excluded (without of income) (%)
1987	969 388	11,8	2002	1 257 700	54,2
1988	834 673	13,8	2003	1 236 733	53,7
1989	847 577	16,5	2004	1 236 733	53,7
1990	897 299	17,8	2005	1 222 594	58,9
1991	956 258	20,2	2006	1 360 900	59,6
1992	1 148 962	27,0	2007	1 317 600	64,4
1993	1 262 737	35,0	2008	1 256 199	60,8
1994	1 441 568	42,1	2009	1 219 800	64,4
1995	1 595 501	47,2	2010	1 111 100	65,7
1996	1 618 394	50,0	2011	1 041 300	66,3
1997	1 372 161	54,2	2012	1 010 900	66,7
1998	1 481 503	55,6	2013	664 969	65,7
1999	1 716 679	55,6	2014	1 000 100	65,8
2000	1 741 439	54,8	2015	1 063 050	66,5
2001	1 644 242	55,1	2016	664 627	65,4

So, 60-70% of all *criminals* (especially murderers and rapists) in Russia is “excluded”.

And 70-80% of all *prisoners* in Russia is “excluded” too.

There are many young people have not secondary and professional education, work, profession, and at the same time they see foreign cars, rich shops, restaurants, beautiful girls with rich men. And the “excluded” teenagers are becoming spiteful, they hate everybody, especially rich and "strangers", migrants.

"They /teenagers/ go in sneakers down the street, looks at passing cars, hating their owners: old, rich, disgustingly successful. These young men are eager for success, money, glory. Not in the future, ... and here and now. At any cost".

Pavel Lungin (producer)

The catastrophic social and economic inequality serves in Russia as the main factor of crime and other deviant manifestation.

But economic inequality is the world problem.

About it speak not only "the Arab spring" and "color revolutions", but also (and particular!) the movement "Occupy Wall Street" and Ukrainian "Maidan".



Tendency of crime

Since the end of the 1990th – the beginning of the 2000th years was observed *the tendency of reduction of a crime rate* and the majority of its types around the world.

Rate of crime decreased in Africa, Northern and South America, Oceania, Asia, Europe.

Rate of homicide in some countries (1999-2013)

Country	1999	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2013
Australia	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.1
Austria	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9
Argentina	7.3	7.2	9.2	5.9	5.4	5.8	5.5	5.5
Colombia	62.3	66.7	70.2	47.7	40.0	35.9	33.4	30.8
Denmark	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8
Finland	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.6
France	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.0
Germany	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
Hungary	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.3
Israel	2.3	2.4	3.6	2.7	2.7	1.9	2.0	1.8
Japan	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Netherland	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Poland	4.7	5.7	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
South Africa	51.2	48.6	46.8	39.8	39.7	36.8	31.8	31.0
Spain	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Sweden	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7
Switzerland	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6

Rate of homicide in Russia (1999-2016)

Years	Rate of homicide
1999	21.3
2000	21.9
2001	23.1
2002	22.5
2003	22.1
2004	22.1
2005	21.7
2006	19.2
2007	15.6
2008	14.5
2009	12.6
2010	10.8
2011	10.2
2012	9.3
2013	8.6
2014	8.2
2015	7.8
2016	7.1

What is a matter? Why crime drop?

There are a few hypotheses.

***Most general hypothesis:* the crime as a complicated social phenomenon develops under conformity to natural laws, irrespective of activity of police and criminal justice.**

From 1950th years until the end of the 1990th - the beginning of the 2000th years the crime *grew* around the world. After that, the crime has started *decreasing* around the world. Such wavy changes, fluctuations are typical for many social, economic, natural processes.

***More concrete hypothesis:* the biggest contribution to statistics of crime made by so-called "street crimes" (homicide, rape, robbery, theft, and so on).**

Their main subjects are teenagers and youth, and they lately went to the virtual world of the Internet. The youth meets, loves, shoots, "kills", creates on the Internet.

The youth satisfies the need for self-affirmation, self-realization now is more often on the Internet, than in the real world...

Adult negative assessments computer "shooters" but the universities of Wilanow and Rutgers published the results of their research the connection between crime and video games in the United States.

The researchers concluded that during the peak sales of video games significantly reduced the number of crimes.

The main subjects of cybercrime are young people. Cybercrime is very latent. Cybercrime is more profitable and safer than street crime. Virtualization of crime is reflected in statistics: street crime is declining, cybercrime is poorly recorded.



The social and economic inequality is first of all a social and political problem.

Repressive social control is the best means of exclusion. It is especially through the problem of *selection* by the police and criminal justice.

We know about “crisis of punishment”.

One of the main topics of postmodern criminology is how to optimize means and methods of *social control* over criminality. How to make social control, including punishment, more effective?

The main directions of criminal policy:

- Decriminalization of minor acts.
- Realization of the principle of "minimum repression" (abolition of the death penalty, reduction of the term of imprisonment, etc.).
- Realization of the principle of the inevitability of punishment with equality of all before the law.
- Adolescents, young people should not be imprisoned.

Thank you for attention!