

## Russianlanguage indigenous people, inhabiting the territory of present Latvia



One of the values from many meanings of the word "people", is a certain group of people, which is characterized by common several signs, and first of all - language also culture, territory and historical past. In accordance with this definition on the territory of present Latvia lives two (main) people - Latvianlanguage people (Letts) and Russianlanguage people. At the same time, Russianlanguage people consist of representatives of several national minorities, united by single Russian language. And historically, it became so, that this Russianlanguage people consist of those people who came on this territory after appearance of the Republic of Latvia (i.e. after 1918), and Russianlanguage indigenous people, which inhabiting the territory of present Latvia (RLIPLV) more than 300 years - their ancestors have lived here on the official, legitimate, internationally-established grounds, long time before appeared the state with name the Republic of Latvia (i. e. before 1918). Based on this fact, these people are the indigenous people. In accordance with standards (norms) of international law, term "indigenous people" mean not only representatives of small nations like Aboriginal or tribal peoples, but also those people, which inhabited any territory before appearance there State (on this territory). In accordance the Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (United Nations) Section 1, Article 1, Item 1b - there is definition, that .... **peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, the establishment of present state boundaries ...**

<http://www.akorn.lv/index.php/en/konvetsiya-mot-oon-169-o-korenykh-narodah-enh>

In this case, representatives of RLIPLV are those Russianlanguage people who got Latvian citizenship without naturalization, "on the reason blood" ("inherited"), this citizenship is **fact, of**

**recognition of the state (Latvia) existence of RL IPLV.** Approximate number of RL IPLV is not less than 140 000 people – 8% of the total population of Latvia and 50% of Russianlanguage residents of Latvia having the right to vote.

<http://www.akorn.lv/index.php/en/termin-kornlv-en>

## History of the Russianlanguage indigenous people of Latvia

18 of November, 1918, the state with the name of the Republic of Latvia (Latvia) was established on the territory of four former provinces of the Russian Empire (part of the Lifland province - the northern part of present Latvia - Vidzeme, parts of the Vitebsk and Pskov provinces - the eastern part of present Latvia - Latgale, Kurland province - the western parts of present Latvia - Kurzeme and Zemgale). Before 18 of November, 1918 this territory, never was called as "Latvia". Proceeding from this historical fact, in accordance with the norms of the current international law, on the territory of present Latvia (at least then start 1710) for more than 300 years, lives, having equal rights with the Latvian people (with the Letts), the Russianlanguage indigenous people, inhabiting the territory of present Latvia.

### Eternal symbols of the Russianlanguage indigenous people of Latvia



Old Orthodox, Grebenshchikova church in Riga



Table on the Old Orthodox, Grebenshchikova Church in Riga, built in XIX, monument of architecture is protected by the state



Orthodox Cathedral in Riga



Table on the Orthodox Cathedral in Riga, built in 1884, monument of architecture is protected by the state.





Great Choral Synagogue was in Riga, built in 1871, in 1941 fathoms. (Old Photography).



Russian Theatre in Riga, built in 1883.



The central entrance to the Russian Theatre in Riga.



The inscription above the main entrance to the Russian Theatre in Riga

---

The first historical cases, evidence of the Russian language people, which lived on the territory of present Latvia, take place before the 11th century. In pre-state times (in the 6th-10th century), the territory of present Latvia was inhabited by tribes of Livovs, Latgalovs, Zemgalovs and Krivichi (tribal association (union) of north-eastern Slavs). In this connection, in particular, the Russian word "Russians" in Latvian language is translated as "krievi", from the word "kriviči" (krivichi), in all other languages the Russian word "Russians" is translated as - Russians, Russisch, Russe, etc. First of all, we will want to note that in this case in our statements we are not based on many evidence of the existence on the territory of Old Riga of the Russian village with Orthodox church of Saint Nicholas, and also the participation of a large number of Old Believers (who arrived after the split of the Russian Orthodox Church) at the base of Duke Jacob of Courland and cities Yakobshtadt Kreizburg (Ekabpils and Krustpils), were once part of Courland and Vitebsk provinces and events even more ancient history - base of Aluksne (year of settlement in its place, known as Olysta or Volyst, Set in Pskov chronicles as 1284-d).

- Official legitimate, internationally established (confirmed by historical documents - contracts)

history of the Russian-language indigenous people began in 1721, when it was finished the Great Northern War between Sweden and Russia (1700 - 1721).

(See the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/severnaja-voina>

At the end of the Great Northern War (in 1721) was concluded Nistadt peace treaty between Russia and Sweden. According this treaty (including) Liflandia (part of present Latvia - Vidzeme) with Riga **on always** were transferred by Sweden (which owned up to that time this territory) into the possession of Russia as the winning country. Russia has paid compensation to Sweden 2,000,000 thalers (1.3 million gold rubles), which at that time was quite a considerable amount (sum)!

(See the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/nishtadtskij-mirnyj-dogovor>

In addition, during the Great Northern War (as a result of the siege of 1709 - 1710 Russian army under the command of general fieldmarshal Count Boris Sheremetev) was conquered the city Riga. And 13 (24) July 1710 in Riga solemnly on a white horse rode general-fieldmarshal Count Boris Sheremet and him as the winner, magistrate of Riga gave two golden keys from the city Riga, which are now stored in the Armory Museum in Moscow ( Museums of Moscow Kremlin).

(See the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/keys-ot-rigi>

Later, in 1772 (according to the St. Petersburg Convention) to Russia (after the partition of Rzeczpospolita) was attached the Polish part of Livonia (part of present Latvia - Latgale)

(See the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/peterburgskaja-konvencija>

And in 1795 according request chivalry and zemstvo of Kurland about acceptance Kurland under Russian protection and Manifesto of the Empress Catherine II about attaching to Russia the Duchy of Courland and Semigalskogo and Piltenskogo Counties, Kurland (part of present Latvia - Kurzeme and Zemgale) was incorporated into the Russian Empire.

(See the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/proshenie-kurljandskogo-ricarstva>

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/manifest-ekaterini>

Former importance of Lifland, Courland and Vitebsk provinces of the Russian Empire is difficult to overestimate. The city Riga according it significant was third after St. - Petersburg and Moscow, proof of it are visits to Riga Russian rulers (tsars).

(See examples through the links)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/petrovskie-torzestva-1910>

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/skulpturi/82-sample-data-articles/park-site/skulpturi/184-carskie-kamni>

Another proof can serve present station Riga in Moscow, which the original name was Vindavsky Station (1901god, Moscow-Vindavsky railway) by name of city Vindava (present port city Ventspils).

And begun from, at least since 1721 (since the early 18th century) to the present day (including the period beginning of the Latvian Republic ), more than 300 years on the territory of present Latvia on the above mentioned official, legitimate, internationally-established grounds as owners (indigenous people) live the Russian-language people ( Russian-language indigenous people

consisting of representatives of several national minorities united by Russian language), who came from various regions of the Russian Empire.

In addition, confirmation of the above are numerous monuments of architecture "built" (created) by Russian-language inhabitants.

(See examples through the links)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/pamjatniki-arhitekturi>

, sculptural monuments

(See through the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/skulpturi>

, original (first) names of the streets of Riga (before 1918)

(See through the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/street-riga>

, documents from the clerical work of the City Council of Riga

(See examples through the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917/rizkaja-duma>

Exists many historical evidence confirming, the facts, that when the territory of present Latvia was during 200 years the part of the Russian Empire, this territory was economically highly developed.

(See through the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-economiki>

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/riga-1900-x>

These historical facts show that not later than beginning of 18th century, long before appearing of the state with name the Latvian Republic , the Russian language - language of the Russian-language indigenous people (language of the Russian Empire) was present on the territory of present Latvia (former part of Lifland province, Courland province, part of Vitebsk province)

(See through the link)

<http://lvmz.lv/index.php/istorija-latvii-1721-1917>

Distinctive symbols of continuity of generations of Russian-language indigenous people inhabiting the territory of present Latvia, are: acting on the territory of Latvia, Old Believer community, annual Days of Russian Culture in Latvia (this tradition began in 1925), working Orthodox and Old Believers churches which were built in the 18th-19th centuries, working Russian theater, which was opened in Riga in 1883.

**Russian Theatre in Riga in 2013 celebrated its 130th anniversary!**

---