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**Relations between group identities of Russians and Bulgarians: Intercultural comparison**

It has been revealed that people tend to belong to various groups, ascribe different value and emotional importance of those groups and form many group identities (Brewer, 2001; Tajfel, 1972). However, group identity importance may also vary on a cultural level. Therefore, we aimed to compare group identification of two culturally similar groups that chose different paths of development during the last 30 years (Bulgarians and Russians) and examined the relations between five group identities (national, religious, regional, Soviet/communist, and European) among them. A convenient sample of 233 Russians and 279 Bulgarians was gathered by administering an online survey and the collected data was analysed using ANOVA and correlation analysis separately for each subsample. The results showed significant differences in the identification of Russians and Bulgarians with all of the investigated categories. Moreover, the pattern of correlations between group identities suggested some variances in the group identity structure of the two subsamples. Among Russians national, regional, religious, and Soviet identities were strongly positively interrelated. Among the Bulgarian subsample two core identities were observed: religious and regional. Further, they served as a “bridge” between European and national identification. Finally, the changes in the socio-cultural context was suggested to play a role in identity structure in both countries. The striving of Bulgarians to distance from the country’s communist past might account for the disconnection of communist identity from the other identity types, while political disagreements between Europe and Russia might be preventing Russians from cultivating an integral sense of belonging to Europe.