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**DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS AND MIGRATION PROCESSES:  
INTERRELATION AND IMPLICATIONS  
FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Демографический кризис и миграционные процессы:  
взаимосвязь и последствия для социально-экономического развития**

Today, a demographic crisis is understood as a disruption in the process of population reproduction, threatening its further existence. This crisis can manifest not only as a population decline but also as overpopulation. For many countries, including the Russian Federation, the first situation is characteristic.

Scholars offer various definitions of this phenomenon. For instance, D. I. Valentei and L. L. Rybakovsky define a demographic crisis as a profound disruption of population reproduction, jeopardizing its existence [1]. N. M. Rimashevskaya associates it with a decline in population, changes in the age structure (a «mushroom-shaped» pyramid), aging, an increased burden on the working-age population, and a decreasing proportion of children [3]. A more contemporary view is offered by S. V. Zakharov (2013), who defines a demographic crisis as depopulation, a shrinking working-age population, an aging society, high mortality, and low-quality

According to the position of demographer A. G. Vishnevsky, the modern demographic crisis is characterized by a number of interrelated key manifestations, including extremely low birth rates, persistently high mortality, and, as a consequence, a negative natural increase, leading to a prolonged decline in population [2]. An important feature of the crisis is demographic aging, which is exacerbated by factors such as a decline in the number of legitimate marriages and a general deterioration in the nation's reproductive health. One of the significant internal challenges remains the outflow of population from regions, intensifying territorial disparities [1]. Migration acts here as a key indicator: the outflow of qualified personnel reflects internal socio-economic problems, while the influx of migrants often signals higher living standards in host countries. Intensification of migration flows is also influenced by demographic growth in developing regions and political instability in the Middle East [4].

Regarding the main directions of the crisis's development, structural shifts are observed: changes in the size and age composition of reproductive contingents, expressed in a decreasing proportion of women of fertile age and a trend towards «older» motherhood. Simultaneously, there is a reduction in the absolute number of the working-age population against the backdrop of an increasing proportion of people older than

working age, which fundamentally changes the burden on the socio-economic system. Another consequence is a significant reduction in conscription contingents, i.e., the proportion of men aged 18–27, which has implications for defense potential.

It is obvious that the demographic crisis entails serious socially negative consequences. In this regard, authorities at all levels need to develop in detail mechanisms for working with various age and social groups of the population, taking into account both general trends and individual characteristics.

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## **SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN EUROPE**

### **Социально-политическое развитие Западной Европы**

Purpose: to analyze and track the path of socio-political development of Western Europe.

By 2025, Europe can be virtually divided into 2 similar yet different regions – Eastern and Western Europe. Of course, this division is not unfounded. The preconditions were laid quite some time before. Eventually, the distinction peaked in the 20th century, when Europe was divided between democratic and socialistic blocks, which included West and East parts of the continent respectively. From political views, to the basics of worldview, almost every aspect of life was viewed differently by each side. Now, we are reaping the benefits of global competition of the past, and I suggest to overview the path of socio-political development of our «vis-à-vis». I would like to start the overview with the main principle of western state structure – democracy, and its influence over those