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CULTURAL INTERACTION: SOME ASPECTS OF THE MORDVINS' ACCULTURATION

The acculturation of the Mordvins has deep roots and dates back to the beginning of their history. The results of this process varied as the interethnic contacts were provoked by different stimuli (economic activity, industrial development and cooperation of agriculture, urbanization) and took different shapes (Russification and Christianization). The main acculturation strategies are assimilation and integration (identification with both the old culture and the new one). Settlement patterns, intermarriage, and decreased communication in the native language foster new elements in the lifestyle and culture. Currently, acculturation continues as a result of urbanization, typical for the Russian Federation in general and the Republic of Mordovia in particular. At the same time, the increased activity of Mordovian public organizations and the ethnic policy in the region led to a revival of the traditional culture at a new level, which makes it particularly interesting for a historical and ethnographic study.

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