

Baltic Russian National Identity and Integration

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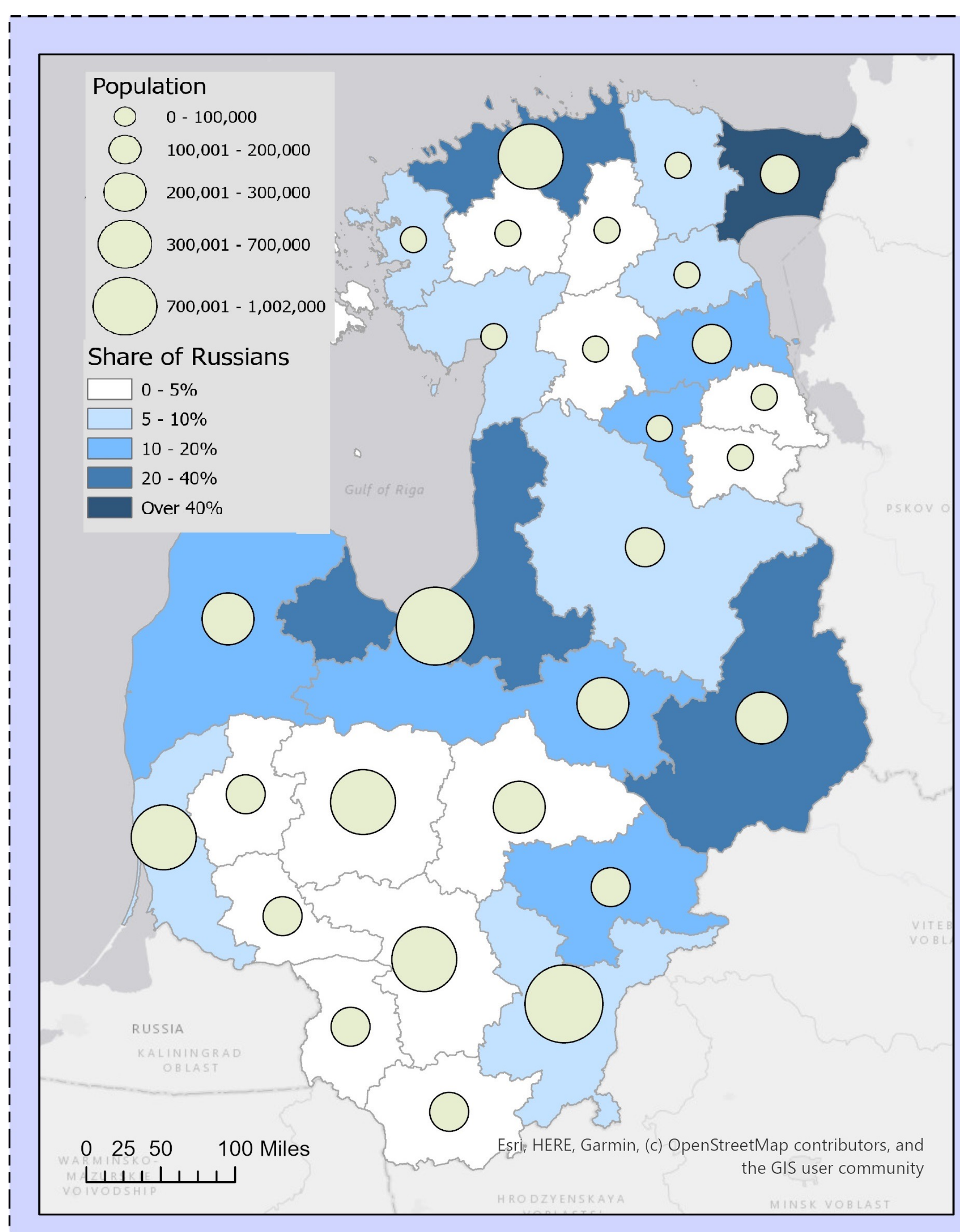
Research Question

To what extent do Baltic Russians identify with their nations of residence in light of Russia's compatriot policy?

Background

- 1 mil ethnic Russians remain in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania from Soviet occupation
- Faced discrimination during Post-Soviet transition, then integration
- Russian compatriot policy exerts influence through media propaganda

Concentration of Baltic Russians



Literature Review

4 schools:

- Integration is failing and Baltic Russians are marginalized
- Integration is succeeding and Baltic Russians are assimilating
- Integration is succeeding to different extents across the 3 Baltic countries
- Integration is succeeding to different extents across societal factors

Thesis

Baltic Russians generally identify with their home societies, and although Russian cultural and linguistic identities persist, they are not strong enough to preserve Russian political influence in the region.

Research Design

- Use survey data from 4 recent Baltic Russian sociological surveys
- Synthesize data from studies to reveal levels of identification and integration in various societal areas
- Identify accurate and inaccurate predictions from literature

Findings

	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania
National Identity	High	High	High
Media	Medium	Medium	Medium
Politics	Low	Low	Medium
Culture/Language Identity	Low	Low	Low
Condemns Russian Actions	Medium	Medium	N/A
Titular Language Knowledge	High	Medium	High
Ethnic Relations/Discrimination	High	Medium	High

Baltic integration has largely resulted in strong national identities among Baltic Russians, but Russia continues to dominate their cultural identities and a consolidated political identity is lacking, which could give Russia an opportunity to threaten integration.

Implications

- Pockets of support for Russian intervention in Baltics could be exploited under right conditions
- Baltics should ensure Baltic Russians are politically represented
- Russia's compatriot policy is likely unsuccessful, but must be monitored