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“The relationship between Linguistic, Ethnic and State Identity – Russians in Ukraine”

Russia and Ukraine are both Slavic countries, and their inhabitants share many common characteristics and values. However, a key difference between Ukrainian and Russian identities lies in Russia’s self-perception as a superpower. An especially complex identity issue concerns the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine. Broadly speaking, they face three main options for resolving their identity dilemma.

The first is the “diaspora mindset,” in which individuals feel that Russia is their true and ideal home. The second option is a “dual-identity mindset,” where people maintain pride in their *Russkost* (Russian identity) and seek to preserve their language and culture while also identifying as patriotic Ukrainians. The third is the “full assimilation mindset,” characterized by a desire to integrate fully into Ukrainian society and adopt the Ukrainian language.

According to various analyses and surveys, the majority of Russian-speaking inhabitants of Ukraine have shifted toward a dual-identity mindset. However, the high number of people leaving the country makes the situation somewhat unclear.