

ня очень поразила постоянная готовность по любому поводу устраивать маленькие импровизированные вечеринки. Сложности, которые в связи с этим возникают у немцев, выражаются в следующих мыслях: "Как, сейчас вечеринка? Но еще ничего не приготовлено, и это не стоит в моем расписании".

Здесь учишься спонтанности, насколько это возможно для немца. Осложняет ситуацию положение со старым и новым календарем. Например, есть католическое и православное Рождество. Однако, этого недостаточно. Для большинства русских Новый год - это самый большой праздник в году, и так как это очень приятно, через 14 дней празднуется Старый Новый год, несмотря на то, что он не приходится на красный день календаря. Интересен обычай переноса праздничных дней, если они выпадают на воскресенье.

По этим, как и по многим другим вещам, я очень скучаю, вернувшись в Германию.

Своеобразен постоянный контроль посылок, которые мне присылают из Германии. Здесь даже радуются, если посылки приходят, и в них отсутствует не более, чем плитка шоколада. Неприкосновенность почты кажется в России чем-то чуждым. Достаточно печально для страны, которая встала на демократический путь.

Еще можно описать множество вещей, важных и не очень, смешных и банальных, скучных и захватывающих; многое, что я еще здесь не понимаю, что иностранец никогда не поймет в этой стране. Вероятно, я высказал несколько гипотез, которые могут вызвать недоумение у людей в Томске, в России.

Этой статьей я не хотел давать какие-либо оценки. Это только

впечатления, которые я получил здесь и которые прошли сквозь призму сравнения с нормами, правилами и жизнью в Германии. Я не могу сказать, где лучше сейчас жить: в России или в Германии. В этих странах живут по-разному, имеют разные взгляды и опыт. В России не все так плохо, как об этом думают, и в Германии не все так богато и просто, как можно себе представить на первый взгляд.

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**T**omsk? Why Tomsk? It is situated in Siberia. In Siberia? Why just there?

What is there besides bears and ever frost? Why Tomsk? Why Russia? Both in Germany and here I'm often asked about it.

Unfortunately I can only say that it is a happy-go-lucky. But it was not my best dream to visit this town because earlier I knew nothing about Tomsk. In Germany they know a little about Russia and nothing about Siberia. This part of the Earth is known only as a place of the exiles. A cold, unfriendliness, prison without walls, where it is not known, that is the worst punishment - to live here or to be frozen.

However, here there lived people, all of them live here. It means, that it is possible to set up here. And this Siberia and life here present a little different aspect. Why Tomsk was chosen? At this university

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**I can not say, where it is better to live now: in Russia or in Germany. In these countries they live differently, they have different opinions and experiences. In Russia it is not so bad, as they think, and in Germany it is not such a rich and simple life, as it is possible to imagine on the first sight.**

there are good diplomats (mister Valov, mister Dul'zon) who were lucky to attract our attention to this university and this city even after the first meeting. And they did it so perfectly that the people at once have gone here. At least, just so it happened with me. It is impossible to compare our two countries. Germany is a small country with the different history, different traditions. The whole Germany can be slightly larger than Tomsk region. And the immense Russia - the country, where you stand at a rail-way station and can't understand, what is the "Moscow time". In this country a dweller of Central and Western Europe, where the maximal difference in time may be maximum an hour, can hardly imagine 10 time zones.

It is very difficult to visit somebody in the other town less than in some hours. These scales are inaccessible for the imagination. A distance from one city to another there can be 250 km. And even more. Between them there are the forests, some houses, couple of villages and nothing more. If in Germany after every 5 - 10 km you are in the nearest city, in Russia you can only hope for the reliable transport. The transport streams here are not as intensive as in Germany and traffic jams are almost unfamiliar.

Very unusual was the large number of women in TPU. If in Germany only a few women work in the field of technical disciplines, here it is absolutely normal to meet girl-students in audiences very often. And they do not try to hide, on the contrary they look really perfectly and do not hesitate to show it. For those who has not got used to such a technical higher school, at first it is difficult to go sightseeing in the city and to pay attention to the traffic.

Local drivers are rather dangerous. However, here there are also the dark blue road-signs of pedestrian crossing, but they doesn't disturb drivers at all. To cross a large street, it is necessary at first to get used to a local manner of traffic. It is possible to say that in Russia it is necessary to learn again how to cross a street. Traffic lights for pedestrians here differ a little from ours. The traffic lights are switched from green on red, for the drivers already a green light is on, that they without a slightest hesitation show to pedestrians. A pause, usually presented between switching of a traffic light for cars and traffic light for pedestrians, here is simply economized. The conditions of living in a student's hostel differ very much. In Germany each student usually lives in his own room. The major part of the students lives in a private sector. In any case, there is no place in a student's hostel for each person. If there is no room in a hostel, it is necessary to search, where it is possible to take a room. And there are no separate hostels for each faculty. The students of all high schools of a city occupy only one hostel. Not only residing, but also training at university is organized in another way. If in Germany lectures are often conducted with the audience up to 800 persons, here lectures, seminars and the practical lessons are attended by the small groups. Either in Germany or here there are no constant curricula for the whole period of studying. In Germany the university training appears in another way. More attention is given to independent learning of the students. The students receive more possibilities for a choice, they have higher responsibility for study and vocational training. They make a decision themselves, when and what examinations they



would like to pass. Meanwhile, there is an instruction what examinations are to be passed during initial 4 - 6 semesters (it is not underlined exactly in which semester), they are given out the recommendations. Besides, only some students finish training for 5 years.

At first I was surprised by the presence of such subjects as history, philosophy or Russian for training in the technical disciplines.

Subjects, non-connected directly with a principal subject, are only facultative in Germany, they are studied only by some students, which are interested in the theme. Probably it is based on various duration of training at school. For example, the young people often spend 13 years on a "school bench". The German students begin study at the age of 19 or 20 (after a military service), or even later.

I liked very much a manner of local people to associate with the foreigners. The hospitality is absolutely other. And I was really struck with the constant readiness in any occasion to arrange small unprepared parties. The German's complexities are expressed in the following ideas: "Party, now? But nothing is prepared, and it is not written in my time-table".

Here you learn spontaneity, as far as it is possible for the German. The situation is rather complicated with old and new calendars. For example, there are either Catholic or Orthodox Christmas. However, it is not enough for them. For the majority of the Russians the largest holiday in the year is a New Year, and since it is very pleasant, in the further 14 days the Old New Year is celebrated, in spite of the fact that it is not a formal holiday. It is very interesting custom to transfer the holidays if they fall to Sunday. Therefore, after my return to

Germany I miss very much things of the similar kind.

The constant control of parcels, sent to me from Germany is very original. It is a great luck if the parcel comes, and there is absent only a bar of chocolate in it. The inviolability of the mail seems something alien in Russia. It is rather sad for the country, which has chosen a democratic way. It is possible to describe many other important and not very important things, ridiculous and banal, boring and fascinating; much of that I still do not understand here, a foreigner never will understand in this country. Probably, I have stated some hypotheses, which can cause bewilderment of the people in Tomsk, in Russia. By this article I did not want to give any estimations. It is only an impression, which I have received here, and which have passed through a prism of comparison with norms, rules and life in Germany. I can not say, where it is better to live now: in Russia or in Germany. In these countries they live differently, they have different opinions and experiences. In Russia it is not so bad, as they think, and in Germany it is not such a rich and simple life, as it is possible to imagine on the first sight.

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