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Forms of censorship in contemporary Russian literature

Contemporary Russian literature. Legislative mechanisms of censorship. Self-censorship. Moral censorship.

After centuries of first tsarist and then communist censorship in Russia, censorship was finally prohibited

by the Constitution in 1993. The censorship-free 1990s (with all the pros and cons) were followed by

a search for new mechanisms of censorship and new forms of prohibition by the authorities to determine

a certain control of the state over the mass media and various forms of art, including literature.

New legislation (the 2013 law banning propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships and denial

of traditional family values among minors, the 2014 law banning foul language in the arts,

the 2016 amendments of anti-extremism law) has become one such mechanism. On the one hand, the laws result

in authors’ self-censorship; on the other, they provide not only the authorities but also individuals, activist groups

or various citizen or religious associations with the opportunity to sue the author or the publisher of a literary work

in court.