

# LEGAL NIHILISM AS A PHENOMENON OF MODERN RUSSIAN SOCIETY

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«The level of legal nihilism among Russians is the highest in Europe. Such nihilism devalues genuine spiritual and moral values and gives grounds to social phenomena like alcoholism, drug addiction, pornography, prostitution, domestic violence, arbitrariness and others, according to the document».



Dmitry Medvedev, 2008 (RIA)

## Purpose of my work:

I have been engaged in an effort to analyze the level of legal nihilism among Russians and to investigate what sorts of characteristics are most likely to be found among nihilists. My goal is not to present the definitive causal model, but to begin a discussion

## Legal nihilism as a Russian phenomenon

**Legal nihilism** is one form of social nihilism, which is in essence pessimistic and negative and is manifested by a disrespectful attitude toward the right.

#### Forms of legal nihilism include:

apparent disregard for laws and other regulatory legal acts (e.g., crimes, deliberate offences)

manifestations of corruption

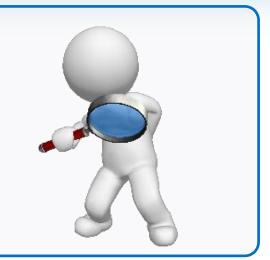
failure to fulfill legal requirements (e.g., mass violations of traffic rules, etc.)

selective application of laws



## Ways of overcoming legal nihilism

The prevalence and deep historical roots of nihilism, the lack of development of a legal culture and the widespread propaganda of the anti-right in the form of brochures, books and publications which educate the reader regarding methods to bypass the law and to find loopholes in it, do not provide grounds for optimism or hope that serious progress will be made to overcome the phenomenon.



1

It requires a range of well-designed and targeted organizational, ideological and educational measures and an extended period to implement them.

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Another equally important part of this task is the implementation of a sound regulatory system for state institutions and for society as well as the adherence to and application of laws and other regulatory legal acts.



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!