Contemporary history, in English-language historiography, is a subset of modern history that describes the historical period from approximately 1945 to the present. Contemporary history is either a subset of the late modern period, or it is one of the three major subsets of modern history, alongside the early modern period and the late modern period. The term contemporary history has been in use at least since the early 19th century. School history textbooks, as instruments in the Russian process of ideological transformation, and nation-building, are currently closely monitored by the State. In other countries, these processes are still present but in less formal and more ad hoc ways. In the Russian Federation, it represents an ideologically driven and state-controlled nation-building process, overseen by the Putin government. The history taught at schools is, of course, not the only source of knowledge about the past and not the only factor influencing the formation of a society’s historic memory. Nonetheless, the interpretation of history that students see in their textbooks affects their understanding of the world, in particular the relationship between people and ethnicities. The representation of Russia and Russians in the Textbooks. History can contribute to the harmonization of interethnic relations, by preventing national disputes and integrating minorities. On the other hand, it can dissociate nations, disseminate chauvinist and racist ideas, therefore increasing conflict in society.