The Fulbright Essay Contest on 200 Years of U.S.-Russian Relations

"These are the times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a specific station, that great characters are formed. . . Great necessities call out great virtues. When a mind is raised and animated by scenes that engage the heart, then those qualities, which would otherwise lie dormant, wake into life and form the character of the hero and the statesman."

-- Abigail Adams to her son John Quincy Adams

About the Contest

In recognition of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of U.S. - Russia relations in 1807, the U.S. Mission to Russia, the Fulbright Office in Russia and the Massachusetts Historical Society are pleased to announce an essay contest for Russian and American high school students.

The involvement of young people in international relations was epitomized by the life of John Quincy Adams, who as a young teenager worked as a translator for the first U.S. delegation to Russia in 1781. John Quincy Adams lived in Russia for 14 months. From this diplomatic apprenticeship, Adams went on to become America's first diplomatic minister to Russia and also served as diplomatic minister to the Netherlands, Prussia, Portugal, and Great Britain. As Secretary of State, he shaped the practice of U.S. diplomacy and became the sixth president of the United States. Following his presidency, John Quincy Adams returned to Congress, serving nearly seventeen years in the House of Representatives, where he earned the nickname "Old Man Eloquent." A man of strong convictions, Adams argued against human bondage in the celebrated Amistad trial in 1841 which strengthened the anti-slavery movement in America.

We invite high school students to write a compelling essay on an aspect of bilateral relations and to learn about and be inspired by John Quincy Adams as well as Russian, American and international figures who have tried to make a difference in their community or country by using the universal skills of diplomacy. Students are invited to write an essay of no more than 750 words. We encourage teachers and students to use special resources developed for commemorating the 200 years of U.S.-Russian relations made available on Hello On-Line (www.hello-online.ru), on the U.S. Embassy web site (www.usembassy.ru), the Massachusetts Historical Society Website (www.masshist.org) and the U.S. State Department web site (www.state.gov) as well as resources of the American Centers and Corners located in 30 cities throughout Russia.

Eligibility
The essay contest is open to students in forms nine through eleven from all secondary and vocational schools in Russia and from participating schools in Massachusetts. There will be eight regional hubs to coordinate the essay contest:

- Moscow
- St. Petersburg
- North-West
- Central Russia
- The Volga Region and the South of Russia
- The Urals Area and the Volga-Vyatka Region
- Siberia
- Far East

Relatives of employees of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, of the Contest Coordinator and the Regional Hub Coordinators are not eligible to participate.

**Essay Requirements**

- The original, creative essay should demonstrate an understanding of an aspect of US-Russia relations and answer the following question: "In 1807, the U.S. and Russia agreed to establish official diplomatic relations. In your opinion, what is the most significant example of US-Russia cooperation in the past 200 years?"

- In their essays, students may want to discuss developments in science, education, culture, foreign policy, trade, people-to-people relations or the arts. They can choose one area to discuss and support their opinion with examples. The essays can also focus on the impact of an American or Russian leader, such as John Quincy Adams, who furthered relations between the two countries.

- The essay should be well structured: it should open with a strong thesis statement and have a clear concluding paragraph; ideas must be supported with at least two examples.

- Students are encouraged to use a variety of sources such as newspaper articles, books, Internet research and/or personal interviews. Students should remember to cite any sources that they used.

- Essays should be no longer than 750 words and no shorter than 500 words. Footnotes and bibliography are not included in the word count.

- Essays must be the original work of the student. They should be written in English, and not translated from Russian.

**Deadline for Entries, Submission Procedures and Notification of Finalists**
Each school submits one best essay via e-mail to the regional hub coordinator by Thursday, March 1, 2007 (TBC). The regional jury, consisting of distinguished professors of American Studies and English as a Foreign Language will select five best essays for the region, which will be forwarded to the National Coordinator. At the national level a VIP jury will determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners. Finalists will be notified by telephone in late April.

The national Essay Contest Coordinator is Alla Leonidovna Nazarenko, Professor of the Foreign Languages Department, Moscow State University, e-mail: contest200central@gmail.com.

The eight regional hubs and regional coordinators are:

- **Moscow and Moscow Oblast**
  Regional coordinator: Alena Vladimirovna Gromushkina, Editor-in-Chief, "English" Newspaper, e-mail: contest200mos@gmail.com

- **St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast**
  Regional coordinator: Lyudmila Borisovna Kuznetsova, Associate Professor, St.Petersburg State University, e-mail: contest200sp@gmail.com

- **North-West**
  Arkhangelsk Oblast, Kaliningrad Oblast, Karelian Republic, Komi Republic, Murmansk Oblast, Nenets AO, Novgorod Oblast, Pskov Oblast, and Vologda Oblast
  Regional coordinator: Anna Anatolyevna Rodicheva, Associate Professor, Deputy Head of Chair, Cherepovets State University, e-mail: contest200nw@gmail.com

- **Central Russia**
  Bryansk Oblast, Ivanovo Oblast, Kaluga Oblast, Kostroma Oblast, Orel Oblast, Ryazan oblast, Smolensk oblast, Tula Oblast, Tver oblast, Vladimir Oblast, Yaroslavl oblast, Belgorod Oblast, Kursk oblast, Lipetsk Oblast, Tambov Oblast, and Voronezh Oblast
  Regional coordinator: Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Buzhinskiy, Associate Professor, Kursk State University, e-mail: contest200cr@gmail.com

- **The Volga Region and the South of Russia**
  Regional coordinator: Yuliya Aleksandrovna Markhushina, "English Language Center" Director, Samara, e-mail: contest200vs@gmail.com

- **The Urals and the Volga-Vyatka Region**
  Bashkortostan Republic, Chelyabinsk Oblast, Kurgan Oblast, Orenburg Oblast, Perm Kray, Sverdlovsk oblast, Udmurt Republic, Adygey Republic, Chuvash
Regional coordinator: Vyacheslav Dmitriyevich Shvayko, Director, American-Bashkir InterCollege, e-mail: contest200uv@gmail.com

- **Siberia**
  *Altay Kray, Gornyy Altay Republic, Kemerovo Oblast, Novosibirsk Oblast, Omsk Oblast, Tomsk Oblast, Tyumen Oblast, Khanty-Mansi AO, Yamalo-Nenets AO, Aginskiy-Buryat AO, Buryat Republic, Chita Oblast, Evenkiyskiy AO, Irkutsk Oblast, Khakass Republic, Krasnoyarsk Kray, Taymyrskiy AO, Tyva Republic, and Ust-Ordynskiy Buryat AO*
  Regional coordinator: Olga Vasilyevna Salkova, Associate Professor, Head of Chair, Novosibirsk State Technical University, e-mail: contest200sib@gmail.com

- **Far East**
  *Amur Oblast, Chukotka AO, Kamchatka Oblast, Koryak AO, Khabarovsk Kray, Magadan Oblast, Primorskiy Kray, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Sakhalin Oblast and Yevreyskaya AO*
  Regional coordinator: Galina Nikolayevna Lovtsevich, Associate Professor, Head of Chair, Far Eastern National University, Vladivostok, e-mail: contest200fe@gmail.com

**Judging Criteria**

Essays will be judged based on how successfully they:
- Demonstrate a thoughtful, original choice of an event in the history of U.S.-Russian relations that had an important international, national or local impact.
- Explain why this event has become a major milestone
- Develop convincing arguments supported with specific examples
- Communicate ideas clearly
- Demonstrate good organization of ideas
- Are written in compelling and original manner

**Prizes**

**First Prize:**
- Award certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador and the Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Historical Society
- Collection of books on U.S. history and American Studies

**Second Prize:**
- Award certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador and the Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Historical Society
- A book on U.S. history and American Studies

**Third Prize:**
- Award certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador and the Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Historical Society
- A book on U.S. history and American Studies

**Finalists (five from each hub):**
- Certificate signed by the U.S. Ambassador and the Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

**Questions and Inquiries**
All questions and inquiries should be directed to the National Contest Coordinator through the contest website: [www.hello-online.ru](http://www.hello-online.ru) or by email at [contest200central@gmail.com](mailto:contest200central@gmail.com). The Hello-Online site will be operational in January 2007. American teachers interested in participating should contact the Massachusetts Historical Society's Education Director by email at [jgordon@masshist.org](mailto:jgordon@masshist.org).