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This article makes an attempt to analyze the content of the civil society components. Basing on the study of a number of works, especially by Russian researchers, the features of the modern Russian civil society are described in the article. The impact on formation of the civil society as a political system, political culture and dominating model of relations of the government and the civil society is shown. Outlining the role of civil society, it is pointed at inexpediency of idealizing its impact on social relations. The contradictions and difficulties of development in the Russian civil society are studied. The realities that emerged after 1991 are considered to be the fundamental problem of the civil society formation: establishing oligarchic-bureaucratic capitalistic relations; high level of corruption, slow development of “middle-class” population; high rates of population poverty. A contradictory state of spiritual factor that combines orientations of contemporary values and former soviet system values, and dominating values of authoritarian and paternalistic type is shown.

Key words: civil society; features of the Russian civil society; relations of the government and the civil society; spiritual values and orientations.

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