Caldwell, Melissa (2002) The Taste of Nationalism Food Politics in Postsocialist Moscow

Caldwell, Melissa


The biggest correction here is to add the database name and its shortened web address where you were able to access the full-text article. This will help your readers relocate the article more easily if need be.

I see you used a link below. In this case it worked but links often don’t and I specifically asked for a pdf of the article in my Inbox or by email. Given the problem with the Inbox instructions I’ll overlook this but links are very unreliable for full text articles and usually don’t work.

The article by Melissa Caldwell concerning entitled the Taste of Nationalism is an article that deals with defining a national way of consumerism in post-socialist Moscow. The author first introduces the reasons that Muscovites enjoy foreign food within Russia. The reasons she gives are for convenience, taste, and price. The introduction of western foods was for more than just taste. It was seen as an important step in bringing equality to Russia and the introduction of a capitalist system and way of thinking. Western food during socialism was seen as a commodity only to be enjoyed by the elite or government officials. The reasons she gives are for convenience, taste, and price. ?? repetition...did you proofread? The convenience factor mentioned is for preparation as well as ease from start to finish Do you mean ease of preparation from start to finish? .. Within traditional Russian cooking the females in the family would spend significant time making traditional foods from scratch using basic cooking ingredients. With the influx of foods from the west many of these items were already prepared and an individual simply needed to warm them up you changed verb tenses mid-sentence...stay consistent. This takes the use of recipes out of the equation and allows for the introduction of all kinds of different foods from different cultures not only American cuisine but others such as Asian, German and Italian (fix punctuation of this sentence) She also touches on the preference to for the taste of western foods. During their introductions the taste of such foods were well liked and they were perceived as flavorful and fresh in many cases they were preferred over typical Russian brands. re-read this sentence and fix it, it is not grammatically correct. To adapt to this demand Russian suppliers began to adapt westernized food as well as purchasing and using the machinery from the west to closely replicate the food as much as possible. During this time “Made in America” was a symbol of quality and as a successful selling tool. Western countries by this time had also become very successful at mass production. In comparison to the Russian agriculture, that which was still in a process of rebuilding after the separation of the collective farms that were controlled by the government during the socialist period, the west was able to offer goods at cheaper prices with as good if not better quality than Russian brands. close to a run-on sentence, could be broken into two

As time goes on however, views about their culture begin to change and a sense of nostalgia begins to grow within the Moscow community and the products that take individuals back to a feeling of pride about their country they begin to turn to foods that are deemed “Russian” or “ours”. this sentence is not grammatically correct (its like two sentence mashed together incorrectly) and would be better in past tense. Anything that does not fall into this category is seen as theirs or Western. When recently asked what the difference was in the products many had responded that they items from within Russia seemed fresher than those that were imported. The reasoning for this could be due to the importation process that requires goods to be inspected before they enter into the country. This means if the organization of the overseeing company is a few days off, depending on the product, the quality could be compromised. With the country resettling back into a capitalist system, demand is beginning to be met as well as an increased quality the new standards the western products help set have most likely led to better food products within Russia. This is another Frankenstein sentence that would be better split into two. It is also becoming more common to believe that Russian foods are in fact healthier because of the idea that western foods are riddled with preservatives and chemicals. Russians interviewed for this article claim that the Russian brands come straight from the ground of Russia and have Russian “soul” therefore it is much more natural for Russians to eat and now they are even more likely to prefer the tastes of such foods.

National pride of a country has shaped the opinion and mind of those within Moscow and Russia especially in the recent desire of for particular foods. ok now we are back to past tense! After the fall of the Soviet Union people sought items that had only been awarded to the most privileged, and one such commodity was the flavors of the west (flavors are not commodities but many foods are... fix this sentence). As the country began to get further away from its roots and more integrated into western economies (comma) the values and ideas as well as taste began to resurface as part of a nostalgia movement, beckoning individuals to get back in touch with and to be proud of their country and sense of being Russian. another very long sentence but this one is constructed grammatically Thus (comma) food within Russia has become associated with the increasing spread of nationalism that was once the heart and soul of Russia.

Phew! When you spoke to me about the writing assignments at the beginning of the semester you were very confident in your writing. This doesn’t live up to that confidence! I hope this was just a rush job. Simplify your sentence structure and make sentences shorter and you will not make so many grammatical errors. Keep the tense consistent. As for content, not a bad summary but not a lot of critical thought either. Also, the original text was about 750 words. 50% longer than the assignment stipulated.