

Abstracts and Keywords

Olga AGEEVA

THE PEACE OF NYSTAD AND RUSSIA'S IMPERIAL STATUS

Abstract. *The beginning of the 18th century was marked for Russia by a protracted war with Sweden, which lasted 21 years and ended with the signing of peace in Nystad on August 30, 1721. The article tells a documented story of the celebration of the Russian victory in the Great Northern War and the ceremony of presenting Peter I with the title of the Emperor of All Russia. The author also traces history of international recognition of the imperial title for Russian Tsars and imperial status for their land, which required diplomatic efforts and took several decades. This story clearly demonstrates the predominant understanding of the imperial status in the worldview of the epoch as a sign of a state's place in the European hierarchy of powers rather than other characteristics of the imperial type of rule.*

Keywords: *Russia, Peace of Nystad, Imperial title, imperial status, proclamation of Russia as an empire.*

Andrey ANDREEV

PETER THE GREAT. "THE MONARCH LIKE WHOM THERE HAS BEEN NONE ANYWHERE..."

Abstract. *The article offers a comprehensive analysis of Peter the Great's role and place in both Russian and world history. Peter's role in creating the basic model of Russian modernization is shown, and the main characteristics of this model are identified. Considerable attention is given to the originality of social and political creativity of Peter the Great and his associates. Discussing the revolutionary nature of Peter's reforms, the author considers the relationship of continuity and renewal in Peter's transformations and the key aspects of Peter's "revolution of Enlightenment". It is emphasized that Peter's transformations were not a purely personal initiative of "the autocratic giant", but were prepared by the whole development of Russian society. In this connection, the article analyzes to what extent Peter's reforms had support within Russian society and how they influenced social structures.*

Keywords: *Peter the Great, Peter the Great's Enlightenment, Russian society, variability of modernization, model of development, model of culture, modernity, revolution of Enlightenment, Russian science, Russian traditions.*

Markku KANGASPURO**RUSSIA AND THE BALTIC STATES: FROM NYSTAD TO THE PRESENT**

Abstract. *An overview of the main transformations in the geopolitical configuration of the Baltic region over the three last centuries shows that despite new geopolitical realities, which have emerged in our time, old challenges have remained. Nevertheless, there is still a balance of power between the major actors, which minimizes the threat of war and give grounds for an optimistic outlook. The key question is how to realize the full potential of economic, environmental and cultural development in the Baltic region. The author points out that security, trade and political developments in the Baltic space have always been of importance to all major European players and cannot be divorced from events in other parts of the world.*

Keywords: *Baltic region, Northern War, balance of power, major powers, geopolitical configurations.*

Hanna KOWALSKA-STUS**POLISH HISTORIANS' ASSESSMENTS OF THE GREAT NORTHERN WAR**

Abstract. *Polish historical science, largely concentrated on the Partitions of Poland, tends to look at both past and future from this perspective. Most Polish historians interpret the Great (Third) Northern War as a prologue to Poland falling into political dependence on Russia and the subsequent partitions of Poland. However, as this article points out, analysis of Polish historiography reveals a variety of approaches to the subject. Thus, some historians paint a broad panorama of the interactions and interests of European powers. Others focus on the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth' history, viewing the Northern War in the context of Swedish expansion in Eastern Europe, since the 17th-century Swedish Deluge. This article sets itself the task of acquainting the reader with research works that adhere to historical truth, tend to objectivity and seek non-simplified analysis of complex historical processes. An accompanying goal is to draw attention to the fact that history as a science is often subject to foreign policy pressures.*

Keywords: *Great Northern War, history of Poland, Peter the Great, Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Polish–Russian relations at the turn of the 17th–18th centuries, Polish historiography.*

Elena LINKOVA

“CHARLEMAGNE’S EUROPE” AND “PETER THE GREAT’S EUROPE”: RUSSIAN CONSERVATIVE THINKERS’ PERSPECTIVES ON RUSSIA’S INTERNATIONAL POSITION IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Abstract. *The international situation of Russia and its foreign policy were a subject of discussions within the framework of various currents of public thought in the 19th century. However, Russian conservatives, concerned about the future of the country in a changing world, paid special attention to these issues. The conservative concept emerged and evolved in the course of reflections and polemics on Russia’s place in the world and the relationships between foreign policy and domestic development. The emphasis in such discussions was placed on the era of Peter the Great, when Russia had become part of the system of international relations, declared its geopolitical interests and begun to implement them consistently. In fact, in Peter’s time, the Westphalian system, in which Russia was assigned a clearly peripheral role, was replaced by a new European order based on the Congresses in Utrecht, Rastatt and Baden (1713–1714), on the results of the Great Northern War (1700–1721) and the Treaty of Nystad (1721). Under these new conditions, Peter the Great showed not only continuity with his predecessors’ policies but also outlined the main foreign policy vectors, which Russia followed throughout the 18th century and, as conservative thinkers pointed out, the whole of the 19th century.*

Keywords: *conservatism, international position, Peter the Great, Great Northern War, Eastern question, Slavicism, Slavs, foreign policy.*

Natalia NAROCHNITSKAYA

TREATY OF NYSTAD, GEOPOLITICAL TRANSFORMATION OF EUROPE AND CONTROVERSIAL NARRATIVE ON RUSSIA’S IMPERIAL TRADITION

Abstract. *The 300th anniversary of the Peace of Nystad, which boosted a major geopolitical transformation of Europe, prompts a retrospective look at the jealous attitude of European powers toward Russian expansion and consolidation. The creation of the Russian Empire was an imperative of the time as a response to geopolitical and civilizational challenges. Since then, a nihilistic view of Muscovy enshrined in Western historical consciousness has been gradually transferred to Imperial Russia, the USSR and to contemporary Russia turning into a kind of phobia. Western media propagate the image of an alien, uncivilised and hostile Russian realm, originating from selected history books, regardless of differing perceptions of Russian history among Western scientific and intellectual communities. This image has incorporated negative stereotypes about Orthodoxy and Russia from various eras, from the Great East-West Schism and “Mongolian Slavery” to the Communist experiment and the new split over values and progress.*

Keywords: *Peter the Great, emergence of Russian Empire, Russia’s geopolitical role, Russia and Europe, Russia and the West, image of Russia, anti-Russian stereotypes.*

Galina SHEBALDINA

THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS: BASED ON MATERIALS FROM PEACE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND SWEDEN IN THE 16TH–18TH CENTURIES

Abstract. *Establishing legal norms regulating the status and position of prisoners of war was a protracted process. It started out as traditions, customs, and practical experiences accumulated during military conflicts. As time went by, the development of humane outlooks, in Europe strongly influenced by Christian morals and ethics, resulted in changes to the status and situation of prisoners. The article traces this process in detail, considering the relevant treaties concluded by Russia and Sweden in the 16th-18th centuries following the end of military conflicts between the two states. This research helps discover prerequisites for shaping a unified international law on prisoners-of-war in the late 19th — early 20th centuries.*

Keywords: *military captivity, prisoners of war, humanitarian law, international relations, Russia, Sweden, Middle Ages and Modern times, diplomacy.*

Alexey SHISHOV

MILITARY REFORMS OF PETER THE GREAT DURING THE NORTHERN WAR (1700–1721)

Abstract. *The Russian regular army and navy were created in the course of Peter the Great's military reforms carried out under the circumstances of warfare of the 20-year long Great Northern War. The article explores the main specificities of this military build-up process. It is shown how the introduction of conscription fundamentally changed the organization of the armed forces, made them regular, well-trained, combat-ready and provided with professional officer corps. The replacement of the old military administration bodies by the new ones as well as military implications of the territorial reform of 1707-1708s are considered. The author emphasizes that at the beginning of the 18th century, conscription was a progressive phenomenon and quickly proved its superiority over the systems of recruiting mercenary armies adopted in Western Europe. The army manning system established under Peter the Great lasted, on the whole, until Milyutin's military reforms of the 1860s-70s. In the course of Peter's reforms Russia created a military that could not only win the Great Northern War, but moved to one of the first places in Europe in organization, armament and combat training.*

Keywords: *Great Northern War, Peter the Great, military reforms, conscription, regular army, foreigners in Russian service, territorial reform of 1707–1708.*