Uyezd Ideology: religious and political life in Russian province in 1860-1910

The subject of the publication is religion and policy in a Russian province, peculiarities of their manifestation in the everyday life of a typical uyezd in Central Russia within the 50 years period from the abolition of serfdom and to the February Revolution of 1917.

The publication is based on the archive materials and published uyezd and gubernia (province) sources of Shuya uyezd in Vladimir gubernia (province) sources of Shuya uyezd in Vladimir gubernia. The investigation reconstructs the principles of relations of authorities at various levels in political and religious problems, mechanism of arriving at decisions, adaptation of the state ideology to the province realities and political decisions of the central authorities to the local conditions which the author calls the "uyezd ideology".

Together with the general theoretical and methodological problems the following issues will be also discussed:

- political component of the local authority activities on establishing stability, including the control over population spirits and informational flow, control over the activity of legal and illegal political and social organizations, organizing election campaigns in province, relations of the uyezd intelligencia and the government, activity of illegal organizations, etc.;
- the religious component of the provincial life in terms of a specific place of the church within the relations of the population and the authorities and the state and Orthodox traditions that existed;
- the problems of the local authority relations with the right monarchist organizations—the only legal political formations in the province which proclaimed themselves the only supporters of the Supreme power;
- analysis of interrelation (synchronization) of social and political activity of the population and the traditional religious practice (religious festivals);
- ideological impact of the state and civil festivals (jubilees) upon the social life in province;
- political rumors and the authority's struggle with them as a component of the social life in the Russian province;
- the impact of the Old Russian Church on the religious and political life of the province;
- ethnoconfessional problems (phobias) in the Russian province: such as the "Jewish problem", the image of the defeated enemy (prisoners of war) and many others;
- political and legal aspects of the government's attitude to the "vices" which undermine the idea of the provincial morality and threaten the stability.
The author concludes that under the strict centralization of governing and total prohibition of any political activity the uyezd authorities were pursuing a very specific "policy without policy"—creating special religious and political reality within the limited administrative-geographical area. In their activity the local authorities based themselves both on their own notions of political rationalism and on the conservatism of common Philistines and other religious orthodox traditions. The aim of this policy was to maintain stability and order by means of "uyezd isolationism" and to preserve the traditional social relations and values.

This historical experience is of interest and value for the contemporary religious and political elite.

Юрий Иванов
Шуйский Государственный Педагогический Университет, Ивановская область, Россия
sgpu@tri.ru

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"Уездная идеология". Религиозно-политическая жизнь русской провинции 1860-х-1910-х гг.

Для завершения монографического исследования автор провел сбор дополнительных архивных материалов в Санкт-Петербурге (Отдел рукописей Российской национальной библиотеки, архив Российского этнографического музея), Москве (Российская государственная библиотека, Российская историческая библиотека), Владимире и Иваново (ГАВО, ГАИО, ЦДНИИО, ЦДНИВО).

Рукопись монографии Ю.А.Иванова "Уездная идеология". Религиозно-политическая жизнь русской провинции 1860-х-1910-х гг." была рекомендована в печать и принята издательством Ивановского государственного университета. В монографии реализованы основные идеи проекта (см. выше краткое изложение на английском языке). Кроме того, ряд сюжетов, выявленных в ходе архивной работы, но не вошедших в монографию (анализ численности и состава маргинальных слоев провинции, провинциальные духовные писатели-монахи и др.) предполагается опубликовать в виде сообщений в исторической научной периодике.