ВСЕСВІТНЯ ІСТОРІЯ ТА МІЖНАРОДНІ ВІДНОСИНИ

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SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF PEASANTRY IN 1905-1907*

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By the beginning of 1905, a crisis was impending in all spheres of Russian society. Agrarian problems caused by objective and subjective factors prompted the peasantry to declare their principled positions on solving agrarian problems. The period of 1905-1907 is a vivid example of the struggle of the driving independent force of the revolution, the peasantry, for carrying out an agrarian revolution.

Goal: To study the social and political activity of the Russian peasantry in 1905-1907.

During 1905-1907, Russia was unsettled by a tide of the social and political activity of the peasantry. The protests, which began in Poltava and Kharkiv Provinces, spread throughout the state and in a short time became uncontrollable by the authorities. Scholars give different figures for the total number of peasant unrests, but despite these differences, it is not difficult to determine that during 1905-1907 peasant unrests covered up to 50% of all European Russia in different periods of peasants' revolutionary activity.

Manifestations of the social and political activity of the peasantry can be observed in early 1905 in the spontaneous seizure of landowners' estates, later the peasants started to pillage, plunder, damage agricultural implements, go on strikes, and cut down forests without permission.

The manifestations of early 1905 did not become a novelty for Russian society, but 1905 – 1907 were a test for the power structures of the state. After all, the peasantry, although they still 'believed in the tsar', reacted to the unsystematic actions of the power in solving agrarian problems by radical actions and the large-scale protests.

Keywords: *agrarian policy, revolution of 1905-1907, agrarian issue, social and political activity of the peasantry*

The urgency of the topic is related to the need to rethink the causes, algorithms, and mechanisms of socio-political activity of the peasantry in 1905-1907. Preconditions, causes, and sources of socio-political activity of the peasantry in 1917 in many respects were due to the unresolved agrarian question in 1905-1907. The events of 1905-1907 are an important milestone in history, their rethinking helps to understand the essence of the peasant revolution in the early twentieth century.

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The events of the revolution of 1905-1907 became the subject of study in the works of O. Bezarov[1] (characterized the role of political parties in the revolutionary processes of 1905-1907), I. Verkhovtseva[2] (studied the features of peasant self-government during 1902-1907), K. Morozov[3] (describes the importance of the Socialist-Revolutionary Party in the formation of the «subculture of the Russian Revolutionary»[4] during and after the events of 1905-1907) and others. Peculiarities of social and political activity of the peasantry through the prism of regional peculiarities are observed in the works of M. Sydorenko[5], O. Gerasimenko and S. Kornovenko[6], O. Plakhotnichenko[7], and others.

The authors of the article aim to study the socio-political activity of the Russian peasantry in 1905-1907.

The beginning of the twentieth century was marked by significant changes in all spheres of public life in the Russian Empire. The world crisis of 1900-1903, which also affected the Russian economy, exacerbated the existing socio-economic and political contradictions. The situation of the peasantry in such conditions significantly deteriorated. According to V. Broslavsky, the tsar's policy towards the peasantry was to «flirt with the peasants,»[8] implying that the government did not grant the peasants any rights. It is clear that the peasantry began to show dissatisfaction with their situation, expressing it in demonstrations and riots.

The beginning of a large-scale socio-political struggle of the peasantry for the solution of the agrarian question is considered to be the actions of the peasantry in 1902. In the spring of 1902, an uprising broke out in Poltava and Kharkiv provinces. It was caused by the refusal of 300 peasants of the estate of Karlovka in Poltava province, who made an unsuccessful attempt to move to Ufa province, in endowing them with the land. The peasants seized 2,000 thousand dessiatin of land and took grain from the landlords. The uprising spread to the Kharkiv region and covered a total of 165 villages and 150 thousand people. More than 80 landowners' farms were destroyed[9]. Directed punitive troops suppressed the uprising, but isolated demonstrations of the peasantry took place in 12 provinces in Ukraine during 1902-1903.

The situation worsened during the revolutionary events of 1905-1907, which were

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[3] Морозов К. Партия социалистов-революционеров во время и после революции 1905-1907 гг. // Cahiers du monde russe. 2007/2-3. Vol. 48. P. 301-330.

[4] Ibid. P. 301.

[5] Сидоренко Н. 1905 год: пробуждение национализма на Урале // Трагедия великой державы: национальный вопрос в распаде Советского Союза. Москва: Из-во «Социально-политическая мысль», 2005. С. 43-56.

[6] Герасименко О., Корновенко С. Селянин-бунтар. Селянська революція в Україні 1902-1917 рр. Черкаси: Чабаненко Ю.А., 2017. 204 с.

[7] Плахотніченко О. Події революції 1905-1907 рр. та діяльність партії соціалістів-революціонерів на Чернігівщині // Культура народов Причерноморья. 2008. № 125. С. 74-79.

[8] Брославський В. Аграрна політика російського царату на Правобережній Україні у 1793-1861: зміни у землеволодінні і землекористуванні: дис.… канд. іст. наук: 07.00.01. Тернопіль, 2007. 223 с.

[9] Федоров В.А., Федорова Н.А. История России 1861-1917 гг. (с картами): учебник для среднего профессионального образования. Москва: Издательство Юрайт, 2018. URL: ttps://studme.org/1350082616201/istoriya/osvoboditelnoe_dvizhenie_rossii_rubezhe_xix-xx_vekov_revolyutsiya_1905-1907_godov

characterized by the mass activity of the peasantry in it. M. Koluzanov[10] noted that in early January 1905 the peasantry had not yet carried out aggressive protests. The socio-political activity of the peasantry was manifested in peaceful demonstrations, during which the peasants appealed to the landlords to reduce the rent for the land[11]. The strengthening of socio-political activity of the peasantry occurs in February 1905. The object of peasant attacks were grain stocks in landlord economies[12]. The uprisings began in the Kursk, Orel, and Chernihiv provinces[13].

With the beginning of spring fieldwork, in March-April 1905, the number of peasant seizures of landlord's land, agricultural equipment, taxes, etc. increased rapidly. Bread, land, livestock, and agricultural machinery were distributed among the peasants. The causes of peasant dissatisfaction were the traditional problems of agriculture: peasant scarcity of land, low yields, malnutrition of peasants[14]**.** Peasant demonstrations were characterized by the seizure of landed estates and the destruction of estates: buildings were burned, the household property was destroyed. According to various estimates, between 1905 and 1907, 3,000 to 4,000 noble estates were destroyed in the provinces of European Russia alone, which accounted for 7 to 10% of their total number. Most of them were destroyed in Saratov, Samara, Tambov, Kursk, and Chernihiv provinces[15].

In the autumn of 1905, more than half of the provinces of European Russia, almost all regions in which landownership dominated were covered by a semi-land of peasant surfaces. Peasant agrarian uprisings covered 291 counties of European Russia[16]. The most acute was the struggle of the peasantry in the Ukrainian provinces: Chernihiv, Ekaterinoslav, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Tavria[17]. According to V. Danilov, in 1905 there were 3228 peasant anti-government demonstrations. S. Dubrovsky concretizes them, noting that only in September 1905 there were 71 peasant demonstrations, 219 in October 1905[18]. According to S. Sidelnikov, in November 1905 the number of peasant demonstrations increased 3.6 times compared with October 1905[19]. The mass of peasant demonstrations is evidenced by the number of participants. According to M. Leshchenko, 131 million villagers were affected by the riots in 1905-1907[20]. V. Bezgin[21] estimates the total number of peasant uprisings, 21513 during 1905-1907, which covered European Russia. Minister

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[10] Колузанов Н. Крестьянские восстания в Саратовской губернии весной и летом 1905 года. URL: https://leninism.su/revolution-and-civil-war/4301-pervyj-shturm-samoderzhaviya-1905-1907-gody.html?start=9

[11] Ibidem.

[12] Бабашкин В. Русская революция в контексте крестьяноведения // Общественные науки и современность. 2014. № 4. С. 105.

[13] Данилов В. Крестьянская революция в России, 1902-1922 гг. URL: http://www.patriotica.ru/history/danilov_rev.html

[14] Священко З. Проурядові аграрні ініціативи в Російській імперії на початку XX століття: дис… докт. іст. наук: 07.00.02. Умань, 2013. 458 с.

[15] Данилов В. Крестьянская революция в России…

[16] История Украинской ССР: в 10 т. Т. 5: Украина в период империализма (начало XX в.). Редкол.: Ю.Ю. Кондуфор и др. Киев: Наук. думка, 1983. С. 129.

[17] Ibid. С. 130.

[18] Дубровский С. Крестьянское движение в революции 1905-1907 гг. Москва: Изд-во Академии наук СССР, 1955. 280 с.

[19] Сидельников С. Аграрная политика самодержавия в период империализма Москва: Издательство Московского университета, 1980. С. 59.

[20] Лещенко М. Українське село в революції 1905-1907 рр. Київ: Наукова думка, 1977. С. 297.

[21] Безгин В. Погромное движение 1905-1907 гг. И повстанчество 1920-1922 гг. тамбовского крестьянства: общее и отличие // История: факты и символы. 2017. № 3 (12). С. 23.

of Agriculture O. Yermolov, informing the emperor about the scope of peasant anti-government protests and the content of peasant slogans in the spring of 1905, wrote that a peasant war in Russia broke out against the landlords for the transfer of all land to those who cultivated it. «The slogan of the insurgents… was the idea that all the land belonged to the peasants,» Minister reported to Nikolai II[22]. According to the official, the existing land use is the main cause of peasant poverty, low agriculture, economic inefficiency of peasant farms, and, accordingly, «modern land turmoil». He saw the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the peasants, the restoration of political stability in the empire in the transition of peasants to farming, resettlement. The Minister was convinced that farming was more cost-effective than communal farming. Firstly, it does not require additional allotment of land to peasants, and secondly, it stimulates the use of the latest agricultural technologies, equipment, etc. by peasants.

Already during 1905, the socio-political activity of the peasantry reached considerable proportions. This is confirmed by the appeal of Nikolai II to the peasantry for peace. The peasantry, in turn, showed more signs of faith to the tsar. However, numerous appeals and petitions of the peasantry to the tsarist authorities requesting the publication of the Manifesto on the free transfer of land were ignored by the authorities[23]. As early as the beginning of 1905, the peasantry in their speeches uttered slogans that the land belonged to the peasantry. The peasantry greeted the first punitive troops in the spring of 1905 with slogans: «Take everyone…», «Hit us, shoot us, we won't leave…», «The land is our, anyway!»[24], as the peasantry was convinced that the land should belong to those who worked on it. The socio-political activity has undergone transformations since the autumn of 1905: pogroms have been added to the spontaneous seizures of landed estates. According to V. Danilov's calculations, during 1905-1907 the peasants destroyed from 3 to 4 thousand landed estates, which accounted for almost 10% of their total number. Landlords' estates in Saratov, Tambov, Samara, Kursk, Chernihiv, and Kyiv provinces suffered the most[25].

The highest point of socio-political activity of the peasantry reached in November – December 1905, the winter and the summer periods of 1906 were quiet enough, but the royal decree of November 9, 1906, did not completely solve the peasant problems. He could not satisfy the broad peasant masses, who expected not such «land» and not such «freedom». Peasants also had a negative attitude to the activities of the Peasant Bank during the Stolypin agrarian reform. This was due to the fact that the bank was a large landowner. The peasants were convinced that the bank's policy was predatory against them and beneficial only to landlords and wealthy peasants. Under such circumstances, peasants often refused to buy land from the bank or with its assistance, to pay cash contributions to the bank, and, traditionally, grazed cattle, made meals, and even seized land belonging to the bank[26].

In the summer of 1906, the socio-political activity of the peasantry intensified. According to V. Danilov's calculations, 2,660 peasant demonstrations took place in 1906, and 1,337 in 1907[27]. Forms of socio-political activity have also diversified. For example,

[22] Данилов В. Крестьянская революция в России…
[23] Плахотніченко О. Події революції 1905-1907 рр…. С. 74-79.
[24] Данилов В. Крестьянская революция в России…
[25] Ibidem.
[26] Брославський В. Аграрна політика російського царату на Правобережній Україні…
[27] Данилов В. Крестьянская революция в России…

V. Bezgin classifies the socio-political activity of the peasantry of the Tambov province in 1905-1907 as follows: 33.8% – looting and pogroms of landed estates; 21.1% – strikes; 10-15% – unauthorized felling of privately owned forests[28].

After the Provisional Government came to power in 1917, the agrarian problem remained acute[29]. The peasants saw the revolution as the end of the old land order and were confident that the Provisional Government would soon begin to resolve the agrarian question. L. Milov noted that the land was the main socio-moral value of the peasant world and the attitude to the agrarian question determined the entire political ideology of the peasantry[30]**.** «In the first months after the victory of the February Revolution, the Siberian peasantry, feeling the joy and satisfaction of the overthrow of the tsar, associated the changes that took place (as well as the opportunity to improve their living conditions and economy) primarily with a new body of government – the Provisional Government. A statement of confidence to the government, a willingness to support it, expressing gratitude and wishing success in «radical life changes», «strengthening a new order» – this is the most common and general mood for the peasants of Siberia»[31]**.** Such sentiments prevailed among the peasants of the whole country after the revolution. However, the first bills of the Provisional Government were not aimed at solving the political problems of the state. The peasants were convinced that the revolution had given them «rights» to seize landed estates, making them masters of the landed property acquired by peasant labor and that the Provisional Government recognized these «rights» and assisted them in the struggle against the landlords. But «the prospects for evolutionary development no longer existed»[32]. Among the objective reasons for the socio-political activity of the peasantry in 1917 is the failure to solve agrarian problems in 1905-1907. Agrarian problems that forced the peasantry to wake up in 1905-1907 only intensified and in 1917 exploded with a new force. Forms of socio-political activity have been replenished, the scale has expanded, and the number of peasant outbursts has increased significantly.

The socio-political activity of the peasantry during 1905-1907 underwent transformations both in the means of achieving the desire to resolve the agrarian question and in their ideological content. The socio-political activity of the peasantry in 1905-1907 generally differs from the socio-political activity of the peasantry in 1917. However, its commonality lies in the desire of the peasantry to restore historical tradition – to stabilize the agrarian situation in the state.

The socio-political activity of the peasantry during 1905-1907 did not become a new form of struggle of the peasantry for their rights, but the peculiarity of the revolutionary peasantry was the solidarity of the peasantry. Each region of Russia had certain features of socio-political activity depending on geographical location, natural conditions, number of peasants, etc., but slogans, requirements, nature of distribution, forms of socio-political activity – those components that united the peasantry in a common desire to solve agricultural problems and had consequences in 1917.

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[28] Безгин В. Погромное движение 1905-1907 гг.… С. 23.

[29] Центральний держархів вищих органів влади та управління України. Ф. 2241. Оп. 1. Спр. 21. Арк. 5.

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Суспільно-політична активність селянства у 1905-1907 рр.

До початку 1905 р. у всіх сферах російського суспільства назріла криза. Аграрні проблеми, спричинені об'єктивними та суб'єктивними чинниками, стали поштовхом для селянства для заявлення їх принципових позицій щодо вирішення аграрних проблем. Період 1905-1907 рр. – яскравий приклад боротьби рушійної незалежної сили революції – селянства за прагнення здійснення аграрної революції.

Мета статті: вивчити суспільно-політичну активність селянства Росії у 1905-1907 рр.

Протягом 1905-1907 рр. Російську імперію сколихнула хвиля суспільно-політичної активності селянства. Виступи, що почалися з Полтавської та Харківської губернії поширилися на всю територію держави та за короткий час стали некеровані владою. Вчені обраховують різні цифри загальної кількості селянських виступів, однак незважаючи навіть на ці розбіжності, неважко визначити, що протягом 1905-1907 рр. селянськими виступами було охоплено до 50% всієї Європейської Росії у різні періоди прояву селянської революційності.

Вияви суспільно-політичної активності селянства можна спостерігати на початок 1905 р. у самочинних захопленнях селянами поміщицьких маєтків, згодом до них додаються грабунки, погроми, знищення господарського інвентарю, також селянство страйкувало та самочинно вирубувало ліси.

Прояви суспільно-політичної активності селянства на початку 1905 р. не стали новизною для російського суспільства, однак 1905-1907 рр. стали випробуваннями для владних структур держави. Адже селянство, хоча ще й «вірило в царя», відреагувало на безсистемні дії влади у вирішенні аграрних проблем радикальністю дій та масштабами виступів.

Ключові слова: аграрна політика, революція 1905-1907 рр., аграрне питання, суспільно-політична активність селянства

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