

ИСТОРИЧЕСКИЕ НАУКИ

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THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SIBERIA IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE XIX CENTURY (TO THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF M.M. SPERANSKY)

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Annotation: The article dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding statesman and reformer M.M. Speransky examines the fight against corruption and abuse of power in Siberia in the first quarter of the XIX century. The growing interest in regional history is connected not only with the desire of researchers to analyze the events of the past more deeply, but also with today's purely practical needs and requirements. The fight against corruption and anti-corruption legislation did not appear in Russia today. It is important to take into account the historical experience that has been accumulated over the centuries, returning to the past and forgotten traditions of local government. The methodological basis of the work is the principles of scientific objectivity, historicism and a systematic approach. The author comes to the conclusion that the orders of immediate superiors, personal enterprise and official diligence were important factors in the outlook and life of Siberian officials. In order to confirm their high social status, local officials in the first quarter of the XIX century tried to find additional sources of income by engaging in embezzlement, illegal entrepreneurship and bribery. The supreme power, unable to provide a high living standard for Siberian officials, looked through its fingers at the corruption manifestations that flourished on the Siberian outskirts of the Russian Empire, and pursued only its isolated and egregious cases.

Keywords: history of Siberia; power; local government; administration; governor; powers; police.

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БОРЬБА С КОРРУПЦИЕЙ В СИБИРИ В ПЕРВОЙ ЧЕТВЕРТИ XIX ВЕКА (К 250 – ЛЕТИЮ СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ М.М. СПЕРАНСКОГО)

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Аннотация: В статье, посвященной 250 летнему юбилею со дня рождения выдающегося государственного деятеля и реформатора М.М. Сперанского, рассматривается борьба с коррупцией и злоупотреблениями власти в Сибири в первой четверти XIX века. Возрастающий интерес к региональной истории связан не только с желанием исследователей глубже проанализировать события прошлого, но и с сегодняшними, сугубо практическими нуждами и потребностями. Борьба с коррупцией и антикоррупционное законодательство появились в России не сегодня. Важно учитывать исторический опыт, который был наработан веками, возвращаясь к прошлым и забытым традициям местного управления. Методологической основой работы являются принципы научной объективности, историзма и системный подход. Автор приходит к выводу, что приказы непосредственных начальников, личная предприимчивость и служебное усердие были важными факторами мировоззрения и жизни сибирских чиновников. Для того, чтобы подтвердить своей высокий социальный статус местные чиновники в первой четверти XIX века пытались найти дополнительные источники доходов, занимаясь казнокрадством, незаконным предпринимательством и взяточничеством. Верховная власть, не имея возможностей обеспечить высокий прожиточный уровень сибирским чиновникам, сквозь пальцы смотрела на коррупционные проявления, которые процветали на сибирской окраине Российской империи, и преследовала лишь ее единичные и вопиющие случаи.

Ключевые слова: история Сибири; власть; местное управление; администрация; губернатор; полномочия; полиция.

Introduction

The relevance of the study of the fight against corruption in Siberia in the first quarter of the XIX century is determined by its insufficient study in Russian historical science. The problems of fighting corruption in the first quarter of the XIX century

have not yet become the subject of close attention of Russian historians and lawyers. Only individual plots of the topic have found their refraction in studies of a more general nature.

The socio-economic development of the Siberian region in the first quarter of the XIX century determined the need to organize a more flexible system of regional management. The contradictions that arose between departmental and territorial systems of administration, after the establishment of ministries in the Russian Empire in 1804, put the issue of unification and unification of local administrative structures on the agenda. The supreme power was also pushed to reorganize the regional administration by a high level of corruption, which became especially noticeable under the Governors-General I.B. Pestel and I.O. Selifontov.

In 1803, the Siberian Governor-General was appointed I.O. Selifontov, who at the end of the XVIII century held first the post of Tobolsk vice-governor, and then the Irkutsk Governor-General [1, p. 5]. I.B. Pestel, who replaced him as Siberian governor-General, was in the region for 10 months in 1807 and did not appear in Siberia anymore, but he led the region from St. Petersburg for another 12 years. By putting the management of the region in the hands of civil governors and creating reasons for a large number of jokes and witticisms. He appointed N.I. Treskin, who was personally devoted to him, as the governor of Irkutsk. N.I. Treskin later became "his right hand, his main employee, a model for other Siberian governors, their mentor" [2, p. 9].

I.O. Selifontov chose Irkutsk as his residence, where he arrived with his favorite Boye. Everyone immediately understood through whom and how any cases could be solved. P.V. Bakulin was appointed head of the office of the Governor-General, who immediately began to manage the region at his own discretion and for his own benefit. Another close important adviser and assistant to the Governor-General was the secretary of his office, F.F. Belyavsky, who subsequently conducted business for Treskin, and then for Pestel [3, p. 188]. At Pestel, the wife of the Irkutsk governor A.F. Treskin openly took bribes, there were rumors that she, through figureheads, was engaged in selling appointments to official positions. To do this,

Treskin's wife maintained contacts with Belyavsky, who retained his position and influence [4, p. 34].

Treskin and Pestel "destroyed the disobedient with terrible measures, everyone fell into, if not formal, then political dependence on them. Not excluding even the military..... Pestel and Treskin strictly adhered to the rules: whoever is not with us is against us, and whoever is against us needs to be strangled. And strangled, as they say, in a coffinMoreover, they frankly thought that they were strangling scoundrels and villains for the good of the whole region" [5, p. 105].

Discussion

At the beginning of the XIX century, the crown authorities of the Russian Empire began to understand that there was a need to create a special model of local administration for Siberia. This idea has been embodied in the reform of regional public authorities. In 1819, M.M. Speransky was appointed Siberian Governor-General, who by that time had extensive experience in state construction and he understood that humanistic ideas and legal norms in law enforcement practice might not be implemented, or implemented, but not as the legislator saw them.

Having assumed the post of Governor-General, M.M. Speransky first of all began checking the region. «He began it with the Tobolsk province, where only the head of the Yalutorovskaya police was put on trial. In the Tomsk province, because of the greed of his wife and the stupidity of the governor Illichevsky himself, as well as the bad character of his brother, the local postmaster, things were much worse» [4, p. 25]. "The peasants of the village of Zhukovskaya complained that the police officer Popov in 1818 he ordered them to keep clean, which he had not demanded before, then ordered the Cossacks to cut a cart of rods and having gathered the peasants of the whole village, forced the Cossacks to whip them, thereby forced them to give him 500 rubles, did not ask for more cleanliness and said, live as you want" [5, p. 110]. However, the real hotbed and nest of corruption was in the Irkutsk province. Nizhneudinsky police chief F.B. Loskutov, before the arrival of the auditors, took away paper and ink from the population, it was the same Loskutov who ordered even the priest Orlov to be flogged [6, p. 25]. The locals were so intimidated

by Loskutov that they believed that no one would dare to arrest him, they shouted to Speransky: "Father, what are you doing, but it's Loskutov himself! During the search, in addition to furs and precious metals, a significant amount of money of 138 thousand rubles was seized from Loskutov" [4, p. 26].

However, the audit showed that it is impossible to correct the situation only by repressive methods. In the Yenisei province, peasants told Speransky that "they wrote a complaint against the local police chief before the arrival of the auditors, but then changed their mind and decided that the new one would be worse than the previous one, since there are no worthy candidates for this post. In addition, the new chief will take revenge on them for the complaint filed, and finally, the old police chief is already rich, and the new one will look for ways to enrich himself at their expense. There were many complaints about the illegal actions of Siberian officials, and the Russian legislation of the early XIX century was harsh, so Speransky was forced to exclude the concept of a bribe from his audit report. However, he was satisfied with the work of some state institutions, for example, the Tobolsk provincial government and its adviser Rosing (Memorial Book of the Tobolsk province, 1884, p. 104) [7, p. 104].

During the Siberian audit, 73 criminal cases were initiated, the total number of persons under investigation reached 680, of which there were 174 officials (that is, over 50 % of all Siberian officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs). Two governors and 46 other high-ranking officials were brought to justice, according to Speransky himself, many more should have been brought to trial, but they were not brought to criminal responsibility. The fines and penalties imposed reached a huge size for those times – 3 million rubles. "At the same time, it should be understood that only simplified methods of carrying out investigative actions and the lack of time and opportunities for auditors have reduced the number of persons under investigation to 680" [2, p. 643].

The actual state councilor, Irkutsk governor Treskin, was put on trial in 1821, deprived of ranks and nobility, but von Brin, the governor of Tobolsk, was acquitted

and even made a senator of the Russian Empire. A criminal case was also initiated against Governor-General Pestel, but it did not reach the court [8, p. 43].

"Not only passively, but also actively, the governing bodies of the region contribute to abuses" Speransky believed. He saw the main reason for the abuses in the absence of legality in the state-building of the region: "where there is no legality, personal power controls everything there. Hence, the habit has taken root in Siberia not to expect anything good from the law, but to rely on an official, and therefore to resort to bribes in every case" [5, p. 103].

Speransky, carrying out the Siberian reform of 1822, wanted to achieve legal regulation of local government, as well as create special Siberian legislation. He developed and ensured the adoption of 10 charters and regulations on the main management issues of Siberia. However, the reform did not achieve its goal, as a result of its implementation, the bureaucratization of the region became higher than in the central parts of the empire. The lack of self-government, democratic freedoms and control over the local vertical of power by civil society favored corruption, negatively affected the administrative and police system. The Siberian bureaucracy was irresponsible to the population and cut off from civil society. "Administrators and police officers, known for non-fulfillment or abuse of their official powers, bribery, were protected from criminal and administrative prosecution by their superiors" [9, p. 1235]. Punishments were very rare and concerned mainly only the perpetrators, without affecting the leadership of the local bureaucracy [10, p. 35].

Conclusion

The underdevelopment of communications, vast territories, weak intensity of political and socio-economic ties gave rise to uncontrolled actions of Siberian officials, which was insufficiently provided with an appropriate regulatory framework. In Siberia, due to its remoteness and size, the arbitrariness of local authorities was not limited by much. The situation was aggravated by the discrepancy between the high status in the local society, which was automatically communicated by the position of the bureaucratic apparatus, in the civil service, and the relatively small salaries of Siberian officials. The chief of the city police – the police chief

received 572 rubles a year, police officers from 143 to 228 rubles [10, p. 31–35]. However, the cost of the consumer basket increased, which was reflected in inflation and rising prices for consumer goods with a relative fall in the exchange rate of the then ruble. So, flour in Omsk from 1823 to 1835, for twelve years, has risen in price by 45 kopecks., meat – by 80 kopecks., butter – by 3 rubles., boots – by 1 ruble [10, F. 3. Op. 1. d. 1630. L. 142; F. 9.Op. 1. D. 106. L. 8]. This greatly affected the financial situation of especially small officials who lived from paycheck to paycheck, since the monetary salaries of civil servants were established in the XVIII century and remained unchanged throughout the first half of the XIX century.

The monetary allowance received for service was the main source of livelihood for most civil servants, it made them dependent on the state, formed a loyal psychology and a loyal attitude to the existing political regime. The orders of their immediate superiors, personal enterprise and official diligence were important factors in their outlook and life. In the first half of the XIX century, ordinary officials could not boast of a decent financial situation and high incomes. In the 20s of the XIX century, about 1 % of Siberian officials had land estates, their own houses – about 6,5 %. The necessary monthly expenses of an unmarried official at that time amounted to about 48 rubles, with a salary of 15 to 20 rubles per month [11, p. 199]. This created an additional breeding ground for the existence and development of a corrupt system.

In order to confirm their high social status, local officials tried to find additional sources of income by engaging in embezzlement, illegal entrepreneurship and bribery. The supreme power, unable to provide a high living standard for Siberian officials, looked through its fingers at the corruption manifestations that flourished on the Siberian outskirts of the Russian Empire and pursued only its isolated and egregious cases.

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