
ВОПРОСЫ ПОЛИТОЛОГИИ

ВЫПУСК 4(68), 2021

Научный журнал

Журнал «Вопросы политологии» включен
в Перечень рецензируемых научных изданий
ВАК Министерства образования и науки РФ по политическим
наукам, в которых должны быть опубликованы основные
научные результаты на соискание ученой степени кандидата наук,
на соискание ученой степени доктора наук

Журнал включен в Перечень научных изданий
рекомендованных ВАК Республики Узбекистан
для публикации основных научных результатов диссертаций
по политическим и философским наукам

МОСКВА, 2021

ВОПРОСЫ ПОЛИТОЛОГИИ

Научный журнал

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Кетцян Г.В. (к.п.н. – зам. гл. редактора)

Шкурина С.С. (к.п.н. – ответ. редактор)

ISSN 2225–8922

**ЖУРНАЛ ВКЛЮЧЕН
В ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ ВАК РФ**

УЧРЕЖДЕН
ООО «Издательство
«Наука сегодня»

Журнал зарегистрирован
Федеральной службой
по надзору в сфере массовых
коммуникаций, связи и охраны
культурного наследия

Per. № ПИ № ФС77–46176
от 12 августа 2011 г.
Журнал издается ежемесячно

Журнал включен в базу РИНЦ
(Российский индекс
научного цитирования)

Включен в каталог
Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

Пятилетний импакт-фактор: 1,489.

Адрес редакции:
115598, г. Москва, ул. Загорьевская,
д. 10, корп. 4, поцошный этаж,
помещение I, комната 7-1, офис 4
Тел.: (910) 463-53-42

Интернет-ресурс:
www.voprospolitolog.ru
E-mail: voprospolitolog@yandex.ru

Мнение авторов может
не совпадать с мнением редакции.
При перепечатке ссылка
на журнал обязательна.

Научные статьи, публикуемые
в журнале подлежат обязательному
рецензированию.

Ответственный редактор
Шкурина С.С.

Перевод
Чернышова Е.В.

Компьютерная верстка
Анциферова А.С.

Подписано в печать 27.04.2021
Формат 60×84/8. Объем 24,3.
Печать офсетная.
Тираж – 1000 экз.
(1-й завод – 500 экз.)
Заказ № 000

Отпечатано в типографии
ООО «Белый ветер»
115054, г. Москва, ул. Щипок, 28
Тел.: (495) 651-84-56

ISSN 2225-8922 (print)

12 выпусков в год и

4 выпуска в год переводной (англ.) версии

Языки: русский, английский

<http://voprosplitolog>

Входит в перечень рецензируемых научных изданий ВАК РФ

Включен в каталог периодических изданий Ульрих

(Ulrich's Periodicals Directory: <http://www.ulrichsweb.com>)

Материалы журнала размещаются на платформе РИНЦ

Российской научной электронной библиотеки, Electronic Journals Library Cyberleninka

Подписной индекс издания в каталоге агентства Роспечать 70035

Цели и тематика

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Электронный адрес: voprosplitolog@yandex.ru

ISSN 2225-8922 (print)

12 issues a year plus

4 issues a year of the translated (eng.) version

Languages: Russian and English

<http://voprosplitolog>

Included in the list of peer-reviewed scientific publications of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Russian Federation

Included in the Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

Materials of the journal are placed on the RSCI platform of the Russian scientific electronic library – Electronic Journals Library Cyberleninka

Subscription index of the journal in the Rospechat Agency catalogue is: 70035

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АТЛАС БОЛЬШОГО СРЕДИЗЕМНОМОРЬЯ: КРЫМ НА ПЕРЕКРЕСТКЕ ЦИВИЛИЗАЦИЙ

В статье представлен обзор статей Атласа Большого Средиземноморья (rusrimland.ru), охватывающих ключевые события истории средиземноморско-черноморского региона. Вслед за обзором приводятся наиболее яркие сюжеты, указывающие на ключевое место Крымского полуострова на перекрестке цивилизаций, снабженные архивной картографической информацией. Представленные карты наглядно демонстрируют политические, культурные и военные процессы, повлиявшие на облик Европы и Азии. Атлас Большого Средиземноморья – академический онлайн-ресурс, представляющий научное знание с опорой на доходчивые для визуального восприятия карты и инфографику.

Ключевые слова: Крым, Севастополь, Атлас Большого Средиземноморья, Средиземноморско-Черноморский регион, Большое Средиземноморье.

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ATLAS OF THE GREATER MEDITERRANEAN: CRIMEA AT THE CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS

The article presents an overview of the articles of the Atlas of the Greater Mediterranean (rusrimland.ru), covering key events in the history of the Mediterranean-Black Sea region. The review is followed by the most vivid stories that point to the key place of the Crimean Peninsula at the crossroads of civilizations supported by archival cartographic information. The presented maps clearly demonstrate the political, cultural and military processes that have influenced

the image of Europe and Asia. Atlas of the Greater Mediterranean is an academic online resource that presents scientific knowledge based on visually understandable maps and infographics.

Key words: *Crimea, Sevastopol, Atlas of the Greater Mediterranean, Mediterranean-Black Sea region, Greater Mediterranean.*

Since ancient times, the Crimean peninsula has been the object of desire for many powers and nations. Only in the last millennium, the fates of Russians, Greeks, Khazars, Polovtsy, Pechenegs, Goths, Mongols and Turks have left a mark in its history. And for the last one hundred and fifty years, a lot of German, English, French and Italian people have been buried in Sevastopol.

The place of the peninsula in the world history is explained by its special geographical position. Being on the border of the great steppe, Crimea at all times was a part of the Black Sea-Mediterranean ecumene, and the nearby trade route from the Varangians to Greece made it a crossroad of three worlds.

Eurasian people, appearing and disappearing from the pages of history, left their mark on Crimea. Here you can view Greek sculptures, Silk Road items and Varangian weapons. Through this place Christianity came to Russia, and the plague came to medieval Europe from Asia. Here we can find a principality where in Orthodox churches people prayed in German next to Genoese settlers and Greek descendants who converted to Islam. And since the XVIII century the battles for Crimea have determined the most powerful countries in the world.

For the last two and a half centuries, Russia, having taken “Our Crimean peninsula under its power” [16], has been actively involved in the life of the Black Sea-Mediterranean region. The Institute of Social Sciences and International Relations of Sevastopol State University studies the past and the future of the Greater Mediterranean area based on the interests of Russia.

The online atlas of the Great Mediterranean area rusrimland.ru is intended to visually show the place of Crimea in the world history, based on the data of cartographers and the modern interpretation of historical evidence. The information is provided with comments of the leading historians and social scientists of the Institute of Social Sciences and International Relations (I.A. Chikharev, A.A. Irkhin, A.P. Kabachenko, A.M. Kanakh, V.V. Kovalenko, M.V. Ilyin, D.V. Makovskaya, M.A. Matrosov, L.P. Nelina, A.V. Martynkin, V.V. Blinov).

The Atlas of the Great Mediterranean area includes the articles on the historical periods of the development of the macro-region with an emphasis on the place of Crimea and Sevastopol in the current events.

First of all, it is worth mentioning the article “The Great Mediterranean area: development in time and space” written by M.V. Ilyin [2]. It deals with the chronology of events in this part of the world from the geological formation of the continents to the analysis of historical epochs, including the present time.

The author suggests the idea that the Black Sea appeared as a result of a fault in the Bosphorus region and the Dardanelles and further flooding of surrounding areas. That happened seven thousand years ago.

And its further flooding by the waters of the surrounding lowland, what remains to be remembered to humanity because of the relatively small age of events of seven thousand years ago. Furthermore M.V. Ilyin suggests an idea of the birth of humanity in the upper reaches of the Nile, describes the formation of the first three centers of civilizations, tells about the decline of the times of the Bronze Age crisis and resettlement of Aryan peoples to the regions of the Great Mediterranean area. A special place in the annals of the Great Mediterranean area is given to the peculiarities of the formation of the Kiev state and the thousand-year existence of Russia in a multitude of interrelations with the surrounding states. Review M.V. Ilyin can be called a brief planetary history of the macro-region.

A.P. Kabachenko, M.A. Matrosov in the article “The History of the Great Mediterranean area: from the first settlements to the X century” [7] draw attention to the formation of the first civilizations in the macro-region. They start with the history of the Sumerians, analysing the versions of the arrival of this mysterious people from the north or south. The authors describe further assimilation of the Sumerian ethnos by the Semitic tribes and the subsequent relocation of the center of the Middle Eastern world to Babylon. Kabachenko and Matrosov enchantedly describe mysterious Egypt, drawing attention to the achievements of Nile civilization in agriculture, astronomy, sciences and arts. The story of Egypt unfolds from the time of the most ancient kingdoms to the Hellenistic period. In the period under review, the authors highlight the characteristic features of all states and peoples of the macroregion, which are called “systematization of relations” or “increasing discreteness”. According to their interpretation, systematization leads to the accumulation of forces for qualitative development, the discrete state activates the search for new directions. Such directions reflect the global tendency of alternation of information and entropy stages. The authors trace the influence of these tendencies of development by the example of ethnic groups that appear in different epochs at the forefront of the Great Mediterranean: Greeks, Persians, Phoenicians, Romans, and subsequently: Germans, Huns, Slavs and others.

The work by A.P. Kabachenko and M.A. Matrosov “The History of the Great Mediterranean area in the X-XIV cc.” [6] begins with a description of the entropy period that followed the collapse of the Western Roman Empire and the constant clashes and confrontation of barbarians. Particular attention is paid to the Scandinavian tribes, who rushed both along the Atlantic coast, and also going “from the Varangians to the Greeks” into the Great Mediterranean area. The result of the enhanced Varangian expansion was the appearance of Scandinavian dynasties in Normandy, England and Russia. In the latter case, coming to power characterized by building agreements with the local nobility. Following the Normanization of the Greater Mediterranean, the authors see the main trend of the macro-region in

striving of Catholic Europe to conquer the Holy Land. At this time in Western Europe, there appeared a religious concept, substantiating the claims of the Roman First Bishop to secular power, which, in the authors' opinion, provoked opposition to Catholicism in the person of sovereigns. In many ways, this set the stage for the subsequent spread of Protestantism. Next, the authors consider the development of Islamic civilization in the designated time period. Special attention is paid to the development of science and arts. The authors cover before the period before the discovery of America and the advent of the Renaissance.

The article by A.P. Kabachenko, V.V. Kovalenko, M.A. Matrosov "History of Sevastopol and Crimea development from primitive times to the present day" [5] addresses the meaning of the term sacrality in connection with the description of the special significance of Chersonesus or Korsun in the history of Russia. The article provides information on the inner regions of Crimea and their special historical development. The authors claim that the first sites on the peninsula date back one hundred thousand years ago, and cattle breeding and farming appeared here two thousand years B.C. The work tells about the first Greek colonies, about successive transition of power over Crimea to Goths, Huns, Khazars during the period of resettlement of peoples. It tells how Chersonesus gradually lost paramount importance, describes the appearance of the capital of the Orthodox principality of Theodoro, the subsequent conquest of the southern Crimea by Turks and the transition of the Crimean Khanate, which was located in the north, in vassal dependence from the Ottoman Empire. Subsequently, the events surrounding the conquest of Crimea by Russia, the foundation of Sevastopol and Russian history in the Great Mediterranean area in the XIX and XX cc. are described. The authors bring the chronology of events up to the recent years, describing the return of Crimea to Russia and the reaction of Crimeans and Sevastopol to these events.

In the article "The Great Mediterranean area at the beginning of the XV – the second half of the XVIII century" D.V. Makovskaya [10] explains that it is appropriate to perceive the macroregion in a spatial sense in the light of the concept of Fernand Braudel, who considered the direction of expansion as an essential characteristic. From that prospect is the connecting point of the Greater Mediterranean. In the XV-XVIII centuries, the main contradictions of the macroregion were about the desire to take control of the sea routes. The most active challenger was the Ottoman Empire, which came into active conflict with the Catholic states. At the periphery of this confrontation, centralized Russian state was gaining momentum growing its power. In Crimea, in a bizarre way at the beginning of the XV century there appeared a number of contradictions, characteristic of the whole Great Mediterranean area started to appear. Here were located the carriers of Catholic, Islamic and Orthodox civilizational foundations. At the same time, Crimea was a key element of the trading system connecting the Mediterranean with India and China. The situation changed dramatically after the capture of Constantinople and the subordination of trade relations by the

Ottomans. In many ways, this situation pushed European states to seek new trade routes to India across the Atlantic. After the establishment of the Moscow Kingdom and the determination to be a defender of true Christianity, Russia is actively expanding across all borders. Of particular importance is access to the Baltic and Black Seas. After reaching the Baltic, the Russian Empire rushed in the Black Sea direction. The battles with Turkey were originally marked by the signing of the Kyuchuk-Kaynardzhi peace treaty, which gave Russia an unimpeded access to the Black Sea, and later annexation of Crimea by the Russian Empire in 1783.

A.A. Irkhin in the article “Russia and the Great Mediterranean area 1783-1920: from Crimea’s joining Russia to the evacuation of the white elite from Sevastopol” [3] studies the influence of the two systems formed under the influence of international treaties: Westphalian (1648) and Vienna (1815). At the beginning of this period, the Baltic-Black Sea arc turns out to be the leading direction of Russian expansion. Russia’s successes in this direction were largely due to the constant contradictions between Britain and France. The important milestones of the period under review are the Crimean War of 1853-1856 and the outcome of the Franco-Prussian War of 1871. If before the Crimean War, Russia was actively moving in the Black Sea direction, then in the second half of the 19th century, it faced consolidated opposition from the West. The annexation of Crimea by Russia becomes the point of explosion of fears from Europe, which affects the events of the Crimean War. In World War I, a secret protocol is signed between Russia and Britain, where Britain agrees to transfer the straits to Russia in exchange for not concluding a separate peace treaty with Germany. Unfortunately, the long-standing object of the desire of Russia is unattainable, and through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, the European powers send support to the white movement in the Civil War. In 1920, Wrangel evacuated the forces remaining at his disposal from the Crimea, which marks the end of the era in question.

The article “Russia and the Great Mediterranean area (1920-2014)” by A. Irkhin and L. Nelina [4] depicts the Versailles-Washington and Yalta-Potsdam systems of international relations’ influence over the macro-region at the given period of time; it was also affected by the Era of Stagnation from the year 1991. As a result of the end of the First World War, a powerful participator from the outside – the reinforced USA – entered the region’s territory. The period described could be divided into two completely different realities for Russia: from 1920 to 1991 and from 1991 to 2014.

The treaty on mutual recognition and settlement of the borders between Soviet Russia and Turkey was signed in 1921. In 1936 the issue of the Straits was agreed upon, which is relevant to this day. The Montreux Convention entitles a free passage of merchant ships in peacetime, during wartime Turkey is allowed to impose restrictions. After the end of the war Stalin made efforts to have the Montreux Convention revised by indicating the possibility of collaborative Soviet-Turkish defense which implied the establishment of a military base on Turkish territory,

but in vain. In the postwar world the USA attempted to limit the Soviet Union influence over the Great Mediterranean area with the help of their allies: Turkey and Greece being a united NATO front of the region.

The emergence of Israel and the further waves of the Arab-Iranian-Israeli confrontation affected the Great Mediterranean area. In the postwar years the Soviet Union relied on Syria and Egypt. The naval operational formation – the Fifth squadron of warships – located in Egypt, Syria, Yugoslavia, Algeria, and Tunisia, was established in the USSR in 1967. After the Soviet Union collapse the influence in the region considerably decreased and the presence of the Black Sea fleet in Sevastopol had been in doubt up to 1997. In the XXI century with the collapse of the bipolar world Turkey is gaining regional influence again.

The reunification of the Crimea with Russia causes less damage for Turkey rather than placing U.S. bases on the peninsula territories. The steps taken by Americans in the last decades aiming at expanding their presence on the territories of the former USSR republics affect Turkish interests and cause an intention to counteract. Furthermore, Turkey is increasingly focused on the domination of the region and the restoration of the power once lost.

The article by A.V. Martynkin, A.M. Kanakh [11] “The Black Sea Fleet in the context of Russian-Syrian relations” describes the realities after the Second World War. During this War the dominant influence of such superpowers as the USSR and the United States emerged in the Great Mediterranean area. As a result Britain and France claims took a back seat. The USSR began to support the national Arab movements against the former colonialists. The highest point of the emerging contradictions and designation of superpowers’ claims became the Suez crisis. After 1948, the Arab-Israeli confrontation became another important factor. It determined the balance of forces and the degree of contradictions. The United States interests were provided by the presence of the naval group. It was meant to be able to strike at the southern borders of the USSR with a capacity equal to 3400 atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima. Consequently, the presence of Soviet naval force based in the ports of the Mediterranean Sea was all-important. In 1967, the 5th Mediterranean USSR Navy operational squadron appeared. During the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, the USSR warned the United States of its readiness to use military measures to deter Israel. It was the act which played a role in the settlement of the conflict. In the context of the Arab-Israeli confrontation in 1973, the Soviet Navy also restrained Israel, threatening to support the Arab side. The presence of the Soviet Navy on a regular basis had a stabilizing influence on the military and political situation in the Eastern Mediterranean. From 1991 the combat service of Russian Navy ships in the Mediterranean sea ceased. In 1992 the 5th Operational squadron was disbanded. Full military presence of Russia in the Mediterranean Sea resumed only in 2013, when fleet formation was established.

Its tasks were similar to the former 5th Operational squadron. Russia’s strategic role started to grow significantly after the treaty with Syria on the use of

the Khmeimim Air Base. Nowadays, Russia is following the course of strengthening its role in the Middle East, facilitated by military presence in the Syria Arab Republic.

Special attention in the atlas of the Greater Mediterranean area is paid to old maps, which depict the outlines of the Crimean peninsula and the surrounding states of the macro-region.

The most interesting and pictorial cartographic works showing political geography, climatic characteristics and other circumstances of the epochs are reviewed on rusrimland.ru.

In the atlas they explore the impact of the ideological views of the authors and historical events on the maps.

Outlines of the peninsula through the eyes of cartographers from different eras. For a long time, maps of Crimea were based on simple sketches made by all kinds of amateurs. After all, without satellites, the main source of information for the maps was fragmentary information that cartographers put together, relying on courage and fiction. From time to time, the drawings were based on generalized stories told by some travelers.

Only rare archival maps can surprise by their credibility. One of them was successfully performed by the Turkish master who had an access to rich data of his compatriots about the Black Sea (Picture 1).

As for the maps of Europeans [1], here the abundance of inaccurate information was filled with amazing imagination.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Even if we consider the location of settlements, it is clear that it is difficult for a Dutchman to visit Bakhchisarai or Balaklava. The coastline looks very unusual as it was drawn based on significantly embellished seamen's stories about berthings. Many European maps of the Tauride Peninsula resemble the contours of the Norwegian fiords. They have nothing to do with the familiar to contemporaries triangle that faces the acute angle of the Sevastopol ledge towards Constantinople. On this map of 17th century the Black Sea coast and the coastline of Crimea are depicted by the famous Dutch cartographer Nicolas Visscher (Picture 2). [14].

The first thing that strikes our eyes is that the usual features of the Peninsula are distorted beyond recognition. Except for the inaccuracy of the sources, the form of display is explained by the important map function for naval commanders. This product of cartographic "expressionism" is a visual instruction for the navigator where they avoided keeping proportions and considered harbors. Thus, Sevastopol Bay is several times larger than the capital of the Crimean khanate Bakhchisaray.

The Russian military demonstrated a very detailed approach in the creation of the peninsula exact image. For them, the Tavricheskaya governorate became not just an “outskirt”, but a strategic outpost overlooking the former Greek territories. Mapping of Crimea was carried out by the Military Topographical Department of the General Staff of the Russian Empire (Picture 3) [15].

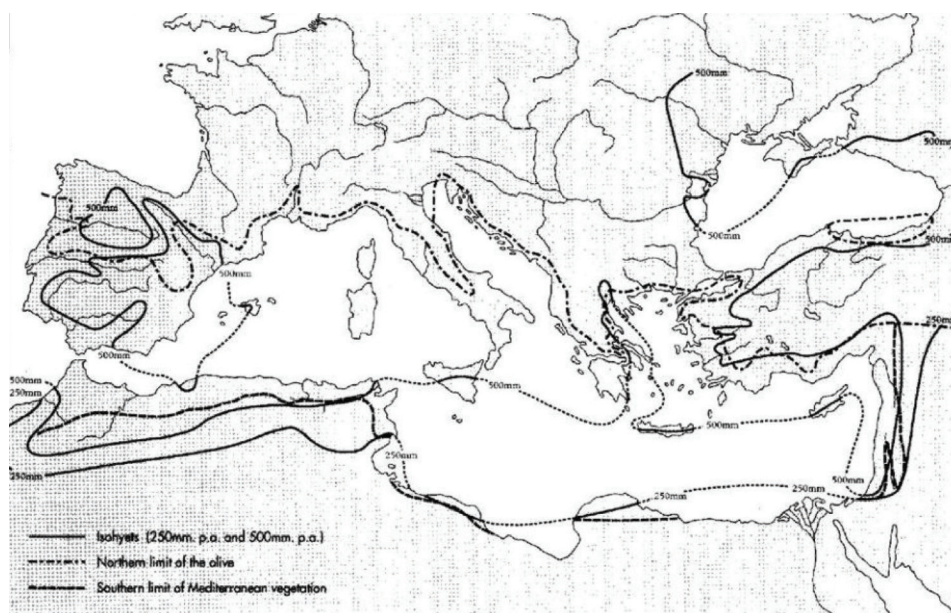
Climatic Ecumene. It is well known that climatic characteristics are determined by belonging to the common sea area. The Baltic and the Norwegian Sea, regardless of the northern latitudes, carry the warm waters of the Atlantic, heated by the Gulf Stream, and the climate of the Black Sea coast is very similar to the Mediterranean one.

Today, the perception of the world is based on the boundaries of political geography, but for ancient people Pont Evksinsky (EúxeinosPóntos), as well as the modern coast of Turkey, was a part of the ecumene – an area with a similar climate and lifestyle. As it can be seen on the map [12], the line of total Mediterranean precipitation (isohyets), as well as the boundary of vegetation, reaches the southern coast of Crimea. Even olives are found on the territory of Crimea, although there are fewer of them here than in Crete (Picture 4).

Aristotle pointed out that the division into Barbarians and Hellenes is determined by the climate. The northerners are filled with courage, but they are not capable of sensible management, and the Eastern peoples tend to be good at crafts, but suffer from the lack of courage. And the Greeks, unlike those and others, possess courage, intelligence and are born to dominate others. The pupil of Aristotle, Alexander the Great, put the views of his teacher into practice.



Picture 3



Picture 4

These ideas reflect the Hellenes' perception of the "homeland" and allow us to conclude that the Crimea is the border of the Greek ecumene, which for centuries has been located in the cradle of the Mediterranean civilization.

How Kerch became the first outpost of Russia in Crimea. Life shows that meaningful changes do not take place immediately. And it may seem strange to contemporaries that Crimea was an independent state when the Turkish territory stretched in the north. And Russia had very little influence in Crimea, having only one outpost there.

Nevertheless, this situation [13] characterises a short lull of 1774 between the Russian-Turkish wars, which was formalised in the Kyuchuk-Kaynardzhiy agreement. According to this document, Crimea was declared independent of Turkey, and Russia acquired some territories in the northern Black Sea region and cities that provided access to the Black Sea (Picture 5).

And if Azov is used to moving from Turks to Russians and vice versa, then Kerch becomes the outpost of the Russian Empire on the peninsula for the first time in the new history. The city blocked the Azov Sea from military activities, the entire coast of which, with rare exceptions, turned out to be under Turks.

Three hundred years before Potemkin. There is hardly a place on the Earth like Crimea, where so many people have left traces over the last millennium. The history of Russia indicates converting to Christianity of Vladimir the Great in Chersonesus as the starting point of a civilization. But for 800 years between the



Picture 5

Roman and Russian two-headed eagles, Crimea saw a lot of things, absorbing lots of people's stories in its history.

Being the arena of confrontation of Russians, Greeks, Khazars, Polovtsians, Pechenegs, and even Goths from the XIII century, Crimea became a dependent territory of the Golden Horde. After its collapse in the XV century the Crimean Tatar Khanate appeared, which assimilated numerous peoples in Islamic culture. Side by side with it, there was an Orthodox Greek-German principality of Theodoro, as well as Genoese colonies.

In the second half of the XV century, Turks came to Crimea. They captured Orthodox cities and Genoese colonies, and Tatars were declared vassals (Picture 6).

That lasted till the change of borders according to the Kuytchuk-Kainadzhirsky Treaty in 1774. The southern coast of Crimea was under the power of the Turkish Sultan, the northern part of the peninsula with the nearby steppes was under the rule of the Crimean Khan.



Picture 6

And if Krymchaks annoyed Russians with raids, they could not be considered as powerful as Moscow princes, then Russia and Turkey were destined to resist each other not for life, but for death like Rome and Carthage.

On the map of the XVII century, you can see the three hundred year status-quo on the peninsula, stretching from the XV till the XVIII century until the Russian military changed the boundaries.

Pre-imperial map. A picturesque picture of the Russian lands of the XVII century is compiled by the English cartographer John Speed [8]. Geographical details are provided with illustrations of large cities. The heart of the third Rome is framed by the images which artists of that time used as decorations of the outlines of maps (Picture 7).

Here, the symbolism is intentionally enhanced by double-headed eagles, personifying the hereditary power of the Constantinople Caesars. It was handed down to Moscow princes by Sofia Paleolog. The coat of arms crowns the “imperial city of Moscow”. It is depicted on the shield of a Russian resident, while the Kremlin is called “the emperours Court”.

It is characteristic that the word “imperial” literally means the succession of the Roman Empire, which the Austrian Hapsburgs and Russian Romanovs inherited at that time from Rome and Constantinople respectively. In Europe Russian Tsars had not dared actually to point to the “imperial” attributes of their power, being content with the royal regalia.

After all, the very word Tsar was formed from the title Caesar and marks the succession of Caesar and Augustus. The title of Emperor was assigned to the Russian autocrats from the time of Peter the Great’s victories when the heir of Rome confirmed his supremacy in the rank of military glory.

The map shows that the Russian land had ceased to be “Tartar” for Europeans by the XVII century. In fact, Muscovy was often named like this in the images of the previous centuries. Now the lands, lying to the east of the European part of Russia, are called this way.

Why does “Tartar” refer to the lands on the left bank of the Volga, when the “Caesars” power have already crossed the Ural Mountains under Ivan the Terrible and, under the first Romanovs, began to approach the borders of China and



Picture 7

the Pacific Ocean – this is the question which is to be discussed in the section below (See: map of Tsar Fedor).

Or it can be assumed that the cartographer drew attention not so much to shaky political boundaries as to the outskirts of the Map of Russia, which obtained special names closer to the edge. Thus, apart from Tartaria, Livonia, Volynia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Crimean Khanate are distinguished here. They are lands that are historically related to Russia in a wide sense and they will find themselves under “its power” in a short time.

Here is a remarkable map by Johann Batista Homann [9] of the early XVIII century. It depicts the lands to the north of the Black Sea, where Ukraine and Russia Rubra turn out to be one of the largest formations. Another significant territory is CosacciCircassi lands (Picture 8).

Johann Batist was born in Germany in 1664 after the entry of the Little Rus’ into Russia. The cartographic publishing house named after him was



Picture 8

founded in 1702. The presented map of Ukraine and Cossack lands came out between 1716 and 1720. This is the time when the events of the Poltava battle of 1709 were still fresh in the memory of Europeans, and when Mazepa died branded as a betrayer.

Even according to the terms of the “Treaty of Eternal Peace”, concluded between Russia and Poland in 1686, the borders of the States passed along the Dnieper, the left bank of which belonged to Russia.

Although the Sejm of Rzeczpospolita ratified the Treaty only in 1764, few decades before the country was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Above doesn't make sense, this is better. The treaty was eventually ratified in 1764 by the Sejm of Rzeczpospolita, a few decades before the country was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

As may be seen, the political system of that time was not in accordance with the drawn lines of state borders. These borders are given rather to point out the important regions of “Ukraine”, “Cossack lands” and surrounding new lands, not considering the realities of political geography.

There are different versions concerning who the artist portrayed under the title of the map. Some people are inclined to believe that the half-lying person in the center of the painting is Hetman Ivan Mazepa with A Swedish emissary, waving a sword with an appeal for war on his left, and Cossacks sitting near them. There is a version that Philip Orlik, Mazepa's right-hand, is also portrayed among them. Peter I is said to be on the Mazepa's very right, next to him the Polish king Stanislaw Leszczynski, who is also calling to war.

It is quite easy to guess that this work of cartographic art is an important artifact of the Ukrainian independence ideology. The work of “alternative history” of the XVIII century is now a part of the collection of the Ukrainian National Museum.

Map of Tsar Fyodor. The passion of the ruler on frequent occasions has a strong influence on the course of history. If in the case of Peter Alekseevich we see with our own eyes where the tsar's “fun” brought the state and the world to, and so a person of smaller scale can have A lesser but important impact on historical science.

Thus, Fedor Borisovich Godunov ruled Russia from April to June 1605, that is the shortest period in a thousand-year history, and he did not even manage to get crowned. Soon after the sudden death of Boris Godunov, the boyars killed the young Tsar, and handed on the power to the impostor. A lot of historical textbooks do not even mention that there was someone else between the time of Boris and False Dmitry I. Sometimes the narration is confined to the fact that the sudden death of Boris opened the way to the reign of Grigory Otrepyev.

We should focus on the enthusiasm of Fyodor Borisovich in cartography as an important historical fact. Thanks to his passion we now have a number of images that historians ascribe to the tzarevitch. In its turn, a lot of other maps were



Picture 9

based on these ones, that is why FedorBorisovich can be called the creator of the “viral effect” in the European cartography of the Russian lands of the XVII century (Picture 9).

We have admired one of such images previously, wondering why the English map of the XVII century was based on the information from a century ago, when the land to the East from the Volga had not been marked yet by the hands of the Russian rulers.

Apparently, in this case, an English cartographer used as a basis the image which was published by the Dutchman GesselGerits in 1613, what their similarity indicates. Gessel provided the map with the words “Map of Russia according to the manuscript, which Fedor, the son of Tsar Boris, took care to draw...”. He claimed that he published the work on the sketch made by Fyodor Borisovich. It is still a controversial question whether there was Prince Fedor’s order to print these sketches or the Europeans got it as a trophy from the ruined state. The only thing historians do not argue about is that Fedor took a map of a hundred years ago as a basis for his map. “A big drawing” that was composed by the order of Ivan Vasiliyevich the Terrible, or even some earlier document.

Undoubtedly, it remains a mystery why the heir to the new dynasty decided to ignore the actual geographical data and, in particular, description of the Siberian possessions. Thus, academician Boris Rybakov in his work “Muscovite Maps” supposed that Fyodor Borisovich reworked and supplemented the cartographic drawing of the year 1523. Leo Bagrov expressed his opinion that the map of Fyodor represents a training drawing, modelled on some earlier sketches.

Now we can only guess what happened in fact.

We should focus on the fact that the object of our close attention Tauride Peninsula in the canvas, which is attributed to Fedor’s authorship, is divided between Turkey and the Crimean Khanate. It is more likely to be the truth from the historical point of view than the version of the English cartographer. And the lands between Tartary, which in this case is appropriate to call the part of the Nogai Horde and Turkey, are separated by a narrow line of the Russian lands. It is the joined Khanate of Astrakhan which was ignored by the authors of the English maps of the XVII century.

Anyway, we would like to express our gratitude to Fyodor Borisovich for the fact that thanks to his efforts European cartographers began to draw Russian lands. Of course, with some mistakes and inaccuracies, but with significant interest. Looking at the pieces of the past, we get food for interpretation. (awful, use we get information to interpret).

Conclusion. We live in the age of information abundance, when the speed of communication flow overloads the semantic space. It is a peculiar feature not only of mass-media, marketing, the culture of blogs but also of scientific knowledge. The text narratives are more often replaced by interactive means with intuitively perceived infographics.

Though in modern times such things have changed the world’s image qualitatively, it has an established academic tradition. Since antiquity the maps have always been helpful to geographers, military men and historians, and graphic visualization has been an important branch of mathematics, statistics, and sociology. The new era has breathed new life into the graphic embodiment of information, and the emergence of software solutions has highlighted infographics not only in the academic field, but also in popular fields.

In modern times, databases are of particular importance, combining all sorts of formats in a convenient and visual form. The encyclopedic function, which has been traditionally presented in a multivariate textual narrative, structured alphabetically and equipped with illustrations, is replaced by visual online resources.

The rich history of the Crimean Peninsula, which is an important node at the crossroads of civilizations and the window of Russia in the Mediterranean, makes it necessary to develop a resource that makes it possible to present this data easily using infographics.

In the future, an important direction for the development of rusrimland.ru will be the consolidation of links with reviews and translations on the most important databases of life in the region of the Great Mediterranean area on its basis.

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