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Documents from the State Archive of the Mari El Republic concerning Uezd Town Tsaryovokokshaysk of the Kazan Gubernia on the Eve of the Revolutionary Events of 1917
Abstract

The article overviews the fonds of the State Archive of the Mari El Republic that store documents on the history of revolutionary events in Tsaryovokokshaysk town, an uyezd center of the Kazan gubernia, from March to December 1917. Tsaryovokokshaysk (Tsar’s city) was the capital of the Mari region. Administratively, prior to the revolution of 1917, the indigenous Mari population was divided into several groups. About 60% of the population within the territory of the modern Mari El Republic formed a part of the Kazan gubernia, over 30% lived in the Vyatka gubernia, and about 10% was a part of the Nizhny Novgorod gubernia. This division well explains the complexity of studying the participation of the Mari people in the revolution. After the establishment of the Soviet power and its administrative reforms, archival materials on the revolution were accumulated in the archives of various regions and republics. The article studies archival documents from the State Archive of the Mari El Republic: materials of zemstvo executive board, uyezd Soviet of Workers', Peasants' and Red Army Soldiers' Deputies, and Krasnokokshaysk uyezd food committee of the Vyatka gubernia. The materials from the former party archive, which were collected by the Commission on the History of the Communist Party and the October Revolution in the Mari Krai under the Mari Regional Committee of the AUCP (b), are of great importance for reconstructing events of 1917. The authors introduce into scientific use documents from the ‘Military Commander of the Tsaryovokokshaysk uyezd of the Kazan gubernia’ fond, which reflects the exceptional circumstances of the uyezd center, where a significant number of Austro-Hungarian and German prisoners of war had been concentrated since late 1915. Presence of prisoners of war and refugees in the uyezd center determined a particular run of the revolutionary events. Comparative analysis of archival documents and historiography on the issue shows that the topic of the 1917 revolution in Tsaryovokokshaysk remains an open question and requires further study with the use of modern methodological approaches.

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