Abstract

Formation of administrative system in the Kalmyk steppe in the first quarter of the 19th century led to emergence in that inorodtsy environment of a professional group of officials characterized by diverse class composition, various levels of education and confessional affiliation, which was
radically different from autochthonous population leading a nomadic life and professing quite
different religious views. Despite abundant historiography on the problem of bureaucracy in the
Russian Empire, this professional group serving in the inorodtsy directorates remained out of
researchers’ eye. However, it represents the social capital of the region, thus explaining the
interest in the issue. The research assesses everyday life of the ulus administration officials
who lived on the territory of the Kalmyk steppe in the second half of the 19th – early 20th
century highlighting three areas: image of home and home comfort; intra-family relations; and
infrastructure. It draws on documentary materials from the fonds of the National Archive of the
Republic of Kalmykia containing personal data of civil servants and paperwork. The
socio-demographic picture of the professional group in question was obtained through analysis
of service lists and certificates. Integrated use of reconstruction methods and content analysis
of documentary materials, as well as descriptions compiled by researchers, permits to
reconstruct the appearance of the ulus stavka, administrative center where the officials lived;
interior of the trustee's house and to assess his welfare and intra-family communications. The
author concludes that everyday life of the ulus officials depended not only on their official
position, level of education, financial solvency, and mindset, but also on such factors as natural
and climatic conditions, autochthonous population's economic management, and incorporation
of the territory in the national socio-economic and political-legal space. Isolation from familiar
environment and established communication ties and lack of accessible infrastructure
predetermined changing role of women in this micro society, which was formed on the principle
of service.

Keywords

Historical sources, integration process in the Russian Empire of the second half of the 19th –
eyearly 20th century, daily life, trustee of the ulus, official, inorodtsy directorate, trustee stavka,
nomadic inorodtsy, Kalmyk steppe.

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References


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