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Baksht D.A.,

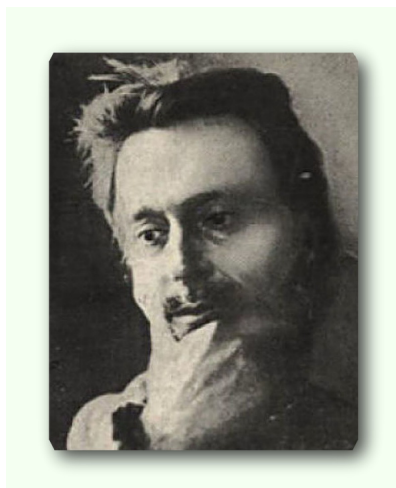
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation.

Lev Chorny (P.D. Turchaninov) in Exile in Siberia (1907–1910): Documents of the Police Department Agencies in the Reconstruction of the Russian Anarchist's Biography

Abstract

Studying the full spectrum of the Russian revolutionary movement of the early 20th century is essential for objective understanding of the pre-revolutionary situation in Imperial Russia. Anarchism, one of the extreme left ideologies, was rather popular during the First Russian revolution, but gradually went into decline. The benefits of its theoretical insights were reaped after the Revolutions of 1917. Biographies of the social and political movement participants are important for studying the ideologies, as well as the Russian Revolution and the Civil War. The publication is devoted to one of the national anarchist leaders of the first quarter of the 20th century, Lev Chorny (P.D. Turchaninov), founder of the "associational anarchism" and head of the Moscow Black Guard in 1918. The article focuses on his Siberian exile in 1907–1910. It is the least known part of his biography, and the publication strives to identify the most important issues that troubled L. Chorny at the time. Chorny's correspondence censored by the Department of Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Yenisei Gubernial Directorate of Gendarmes is the basis of the research. The letters are being published for the first time. Gendarmerie records management demonstrate that police knew of the "associational anarchism" and considered it an unimportant trend in the Russian revolutionary movement. Overall, documents portray life in Siberia as one of crucial periods of Turchaninov's biography: he lost almost all contact with his family, as well as manuscript of his major work; he refused to participate in the "Turukhansk revolt" (in winter 1908–1909). After his exile Turchaninov emigrated and until 1917 was out of step with the Russian socio-political movement.

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Keywords

Archival document, Department of Police, Pavel Turchaninov, Lev Chorny, anarchism, "associational anarchism", Siberia, exile, postal censorship.

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