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The Theme of the Issue:

**RUSSIAN ECONOMIC REFORMS:  
REGIONAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the journal is devoted to the consideration of regional aspects of economic reforms in Russia/USSR in the 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The aim is to study the stages of economic reforms, as well as to trace the general and specific influence of the spatial factor on the ideas, implementation and results of transformations. The main attention is paid to the reconstruction of regional peculiarities of agrarian development, analysis of extra-economic factors of economic functioning, scientific comprehension of social consequences of reforming the national economy.

The articles offered to the reader's attention are united in this issue of the journal in the following thematic sections: “Reforms and Economic Development”, “Extra-Economic Factors in the Economy”, “Museification of the Economy”, “Agrarian Development”, “To the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1954 Virgin Lands Campaign”, “Sources on Agrarian History (Open Archives)”.

The first of these sections opens with an article on the formation of zemstvo statistics in Russia, the materials of which are traditionally the source base for the study of the Russian economy in the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The subject of analysis of other articles in the section is the activity of commodity exchanges in the conditions of the collapse of the NEP; the development of local industry and trade in the Magadan region in 1953 – early 1960s; social consequences of radical-liberal reforms in the North-East of Russia in the 1990s – early 2000s; features of urbanization processes in Tuva.

Extra-economic coercion is one of the basic features of the Soviet economy during Stalinism. The works included in the corresponding thematic section are devoted to the formation and functioning of extra-economic methods of coercion to labor. One of them examines the course and outcome of the discussion on the use of forced labor of convicts on the pages of the legal press in the 1920s. The article “Turn to Coercion in the USSR on June 26, 1940: A Reading at the Intersection of Global and National History” is controversial in its working hypothesis, and therefore deserves attention. The final section of the article attempts to comprehend the concept of “socialist legality” through the prism of the struggle against plundering of collective and state property in the postwar years.

The section “Museification of Economy” is represented by the article, which presents the experience of studying branch and corporate museums of small towns in Russia. The article considers various options of economic objects museification – factory-museum, museum complex, museum-reserve, technopark, branch museum.

The thematic section “Agrarian Development” brings together works that examine trends, stages, results, general regularities and regional specifics of the development of the agrarian sphere in Russia/USSR: the struggle against livestock epizootics as a factor in the development of animal husbandry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries is highlighted; the peculiarities of the Makhnovshchina as a component of the all-Russian peasant insurgency during the Civil War are revealed; the formation of the collective farm system in Kazakhstan is studied; the dynamics of livestock breeding development in the Kyrgyz Republic is reconstructed. The article included in the section, which analyzes the complex of factors that repeatedly led to outbreaks of famine in rural areas in the 1940s, is of important historiographical significance. In the author's opinion, vulnerability to famine was a consequence of both the increased mobilization pressure



on the collective farm village and the long-term effects of the state's agrarian policy of the 1930s. Rural residents remained the least protected category of the population, receiving no guarantees of survival from the state.

The “Anniversary” section “To the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1954 Virgin Lands Campaign” is represented by an article that discusses the background, progress, results and significance of the campaign to develop virgin and fallow lands.

The publications of documents included in the rubric “Open Archives” are thematically adjacent to the two previous sections. It introduces archival documents that represent the course and results of agrarian transformations in the USSR: state farm construction as an integral part of the program of socialist reconstruction of agriculture; factors and methods of social adaptation of single-owners to the challenges of collectivization; implementation of the bread procurement policy in the 1930s; regional aspects of the development of agricultural production in the years of the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

The issue concludes with a report on the All-Russian scientific conference “Industrial Development of Russia: Stages, Features, and Prospects of Study”. The review contains information about the reports on the history of Russian and Soviet industrialization and the discussion at the round table.

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