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The Theme of the Issue:

CITIES OF SIBERIA IN MODERN TIMES: ECONOMIC AND SOCIOCULTURAL DIMENSIONS

FROM THE EDITOR

In March 2025, the Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences hosted an All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference on the History of Siberian Cities in Modern Times, with international participation, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the birth of Dmitry Yakovlevich Rezun (1945–2012), a renowned scholar, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, and expert in Siberian urban studies¹. This thematic issue of the journal is primarily composed of articles based on the presentations that were made at the time. The relevance of studying the history of Siberian cities is determined by their leading role in the socio-economic and cultural development of Asian Russia, but unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a noticeable trend towards narrowing the chronological scope of research in this area, with fewer publications focusing on the 17th and 18th centuries. When preparing the issue, the goal was to overcome this imbalance as much as possible. Readers can judge the extent to which this was achieved.

The authors of the articles in this issue examine a wide range of matters related to the urbanization processes in Siberia from the 17th to the early 20th century, including the sources and historiographical aspects of the topic, as well as the preservation and promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of Siberian urban planning. The broad scope of the problems required the involvement of specialists in various fields: historians, ethnographers, philosophers, and museum experts.

The first block of articles is memorial and devoted to the biography and scientific legacy of D.Ya. Rezun. The materials included in it not only allow the readers to get acquainted with Dmitry Yakovlevich's contribution to scientific research, but reveal his personal qualities, highlight the beginning of his work activity, interaction with colleagues, his methods of work.

The section "Social Structure of a Siberian City" provides an analysis of the composition of the urban population, as well as the problems associated with staffing and material support for employees and officials. The focus is primarily on the cities of Eastern Siberia: Krasnoyarsk, Yakutsk, Irkutsk, and Chita. Based on mass statistics, the article highlights and characterizes the gender, age, and ethno-religious categories of the urban population. It traces the fate of one of the Siberian entrepreneurial dynasties over several generations as well.

The next block is titled "State Power and Regional Communities" and consists of both theoretical materials and articles written in the form of case studies, which use detailed analysis of specific cases to discuss general issues. We would like to highlight the presence of a well-founded theoretical article written by a professional philosopher on the theory of assemblies. The lively response to the relevant report presented at the aforementioned conference shows that it is very useful for historians working with specific factual data to occasionally look at their subject from different, sometimes unusual, angles.

Six articles are grouped under the heading "Lifestyles and Sociocultural Practices of Urban Residents". Naturally, some of them overlap with the section on the social structure of the Siberian city. The articles cover a wide range of topics, including the status of women in Siberia, the appear-

¹ For more information about the conference, see: Komleva, E.V. (2025). *Goroda Sibiri v Novoe vremya v diskurse sovremennykh istoricheskikh issledovaniy (po itogam konferentsii «Goroda Sibiri v Novoe vremya: ekonomicheskoe i sotsiokul'turnoe izmereniya»*, Novosibirsk, 18–19 marta 2025 g.) [Cities of Siberia in Modern Times in the Discourse of Contemporary Historical Research (Based on the Results of the Conference "Cities of Siberia in Modern Times: Economic and Sociocultural Dimensions", Novosibirsk, March 18–19, 2025)]. In *Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. History*. No. 96. P. 202–206.



ance of the Siberian city, the reception of embassies, the evolution of urban planning and infrastructure, and urban toponymy.

Separately highlighted are articles devoted to the study and preservation of historical and cultural heritage – an extremely important area, especially relevant in connection with the national line on the development of domestic tourism. Materials on local history, historiography, museumification are presented here.

The issue concludes with the “Scientific Life” section, which contains reviews of two very interesting events that demonstrate both the dynamically developing research field of modern Russian historiography and the interaction between professional historians, archivists, and local historians with the growing genealogical movement, which brings together people passionate about finding their roots.

Even a brief overview of the materials included in the issue demonstrates their diversity, and we hope that reading them will be interesting, useful, and perhaps raise new questions, contributing to further research on the history of Siberian cities not only since the second half of the 19th century, but during earlier periods as well.

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