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The Theme of the Issue:

RUSSIAN HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY: SCHOOLS AND TRENDS

FROM THE EDITORS

Historical demography is one of the most relevant and complex areas in modern historical science. Interest in it is constantly growing, owing to demographic problems in the country and the world, as well as to a growing understanding of their deep historical roots. The interdisciplinary nature of this area requires serious training from researchers, knowledge of mathematics, statistics, medicine, and anthropology, as well as the ability to work with large amounts of data. To date, a number of fundamental works on historical demography have been published and a large number of articles have been written. The field of scientific research is constantly evolving, and the history of its study is still in its early stages. Unresolved problems and controversial issues remain, so it is important to demonstrate and evaluate the results achieved and to outline ways for further work.

This issue of the journal contains materials that allow readers to become acquainted with the history of the study of Russian historical demography at various scientific and educational centers in our country. The articles are arranged according to a problem-chronological principle. The first block contains articles on historical-demographic scientific schools and trends, including a collective article dedicated to the anniversary of the renowned scholar V.A. Isupov. This article describes the researcher's biography and contribution to science and is followed by an article by Vladimir Anatolyevich himself. That article examines the history of Siberian historical demography in the first half of the 20th century. During this period, the immediate demographic consequences of World War I, the revolution, and the Civil War were studied. The author characterizes the period from the 1920s to the early 1930s as the "golden age" of Siberian population science. The article emphasizes the growing body of research on population dynamics and demographic shifts and explores population reproduction. It then investigates the reasons behind the decline of demographic research in the latter half of the 1930s. The following articles are devoted to the formation and development of the Novosibirsk and Irkutsk scientific schools of demographic research, as well as to the legacy of L.L. Rybakovsky and the use of information technologies in historical demography.

The second block includes articles that examine specific issues related to population reproduction and migration, and their reflection in Russian historiography. N.V. Kabakova's article reveals the intricacies of the source base from the 17th–18th centuries, such as the 1701 *Dozornaya kniga* (cadastral survey book / land survey book) of Tara District, which contains valuable information on various aspects of the life of the population in that region, including migration movements within settlements. The *Dozornaya kniga* allows one to learn about the family and household structure of the inhabitants. However, despite the vast amount of information included in this document, it does not provide a complete picture of demographic events. This is because it does not include data on women, does not specify the age of men who are heads of households, and does not provide information about fertility and mortality rates. Other articles discuss the history of the population in the USSR and the RSFSR during the 1920s and 1930s, as well as during the Great Patriotic War, and particular aspects of migration in the Soviet and post-Soviet eras.

The third section includes articles about family and demographic changes, as well as healthcare in Russian history. The section begins with an article by E.A. Zapevalova that presents the results of her study on the female population in Nizhny Novgorod in the second half of the 19th century. This article examines the marital status, age at marriage, and divorce rates of women in that period. The study found that there were significant changes in class composition between 1870 and 1890. The development of zemstvo (local self-government) schools in rural areas and urban municipal schools contributed to increased literacy rates.

The article by V.B. Zhiromskaya and N.A. Aralovets, based on archival data from contemporary medical and sanitary statistics as well as published data, examines the health status of the population in the RSFSR during the 1950s and 1960s. The authors note that during this period the RSFSR had a social security system that provided free medical care for its population. However, they also point out negative trends in healthcare development and factors that led to a decrease in the quality of healthcare.

Other articles examine demographic processes among Lutheran Finns in St. Petersburg during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as the transformation of fertility in the North Caucasus in the 1930s and 1950s. They also examine reproduction, marriage, and divorce rates in the Far North and Siberia.

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