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Confessions of Russia in the Policies of the Provisional Government: 1917

Abstract

The large-scale collection of documents on religious policy of the Provisional government compiled by professor M. Babkin is the first such publication in the Russian historiography. Materials in the collection reflect the legislative process (and partly its results) concerning regulation of religious organizations of all Russian confessions and sectarian groups in the Provisional government period: from March to late October 1917. The collection consists of two major sections. The first one contains legislative acts of the Provisional government: general resolutions and regulations that set up a framework for its religious policy and provided legal basis for activities of all religious organizations and societies in revolutionary Russia in 1917.

This section is supplemented by subordinate legislation and departmental correspondence on the regulation of religious life and abolishment of some confessional restrictions. The documents of this section provide a comprehensive coverage of the Russian transition to freedom of faith as presented in regulations and declarations of the Provisional government. The second section of the book groups materials of the Provisional government legislation by confessions. It mostly focuses on the Orthodoxy, Old Believer denominations and Edinoverie. There is less data on Catholics, Uniates of the Armenian Apostolic Church, sectarians, and people of other faiths. The publication contains 14 valuable appendices, which complement its content, as well as all necessary indices. The document collection is a significant publication on the history of Russian confessions in revolutionary 1917.

Keywords

Documents, Provisional Government, religious policy, confessions, freedom of conscience, legislation.

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