

УДК: 930.253+94(47)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-1-98-108

Vadim V. Kulachkov

Bryansk State Engineering and Technology University, Bryansk, Russian Federation

Documents from the State Archive of the Orel Region as a Source for Studying Peasant Legal Sense in Early 20th Century

Abstract

The article studies documents from the State Archive of the Orel Region (GAOO) as an important source for studying the sense of justice of the Oryol gubernia peasants in early 20th century. Introduction of new archival materials allows to flesh out our knowledge and to produce

a true-to-life picture of the Oryol peasants' way of life. The peasant origins of the majority of the population necessitate a comprehensive study of peasant legal consciousness. Historical legacy is pertinent to present day, and forgetting its lessons is fraught with consequences. Evolution of modern Russian statehood hedges on its historical and legal traditions. The article studies documents in the fonds of public authorities, police, gendarmerie, courts, and prosecution offices. Introduction of new materials of public authorities, police, gendarmerie, courts, and prosecution offices into the scholarship promotes the analysis of the evolution of peasant legal sense in early 20th century. The chronological framework of the article is limited to the period from 1900 to 1917, its territorial framework is limited to the Oryol gubernia in its pre-revolutionary borders. The article studies reports, dispatches, and circular letters using the comparative method. The intensification of peasant protest was incidental to the first Russian revolution of 1905-1907 – the peasants hoped to force the government to settle the agrarian question, wherein lay the crux of their interests. As peasants of the Oryol gubernia suffered from shortage of arable land, antimonarchical sentiments gained momentum and translated a growing number of trials for contempt of the Emperor. Illegal literature spreading among the peasants, further radicalized them, and the authorities grew more and more hesitant in their assessment of peasant loyalty, which is quite intelligible in the archival documents. Thus, the use of new archival documents in addition to published materials promotes the scholarship on the peasant legal sense.

Download the article: [kulachkov\\_doi](#)

## Keywords

Historical source, legal sense, archival documents, peasantry, State Archive of the Orel Region, state policy.

## References

EL'CHANININOVA, O. Yu. Deformatsiya krest'yanskogo pravosoznaniya v usloviyakh sovetskogo politiko-pravovogo prostranstva vo vtoroi polovine XX v. [Deformation of peasant legal sense within Soviet political and legal framework of the second half of the 20th century. In Russ.] IN: Istoricheskie, filosofskie, politicheskie i juridicheskie nauki, kul'turologiya i iskusstvovedenie. Voprosy teorii i praktiki [Historical, philosophical, political, and legal sciences, culturology, and art history], no. 1 (27), 2013, pp.59-63.

KARPACHEV, M. D. O sotsial'nykh istokakh russkikh revolyutsii nachala XX veka [On social origins of the Russian revolutions of the early 20th century. In Russ.] IN: Vestnik Voronezhskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Seriya: Istoriya. Politologiya. Sotsiologiya [Bulletin of the Voronezh State University. Series: History. Political science. Sociology], no. 3, 2015, pp.21-28.

KULACHKOV, V. V. Pravovoe soznanie krest'yan Orlovskoi gubernii vo vtoroi polovine XIX-nachale XX vv. : diss. ... kand. ist. nauk [Sense of justice of the peasants of the Orel gubernia in the second half of the 19th - early 20th century: cand. hist. sci. diss. In Russ.]. Bryansk, 2006, 190 p.

KULACHKOV, V.V. Kharakteristika vospriyatiya imperatora Nikolaya II v pravovom soznanii krest'yan Zapadnogo regiona Rossii perioda pervoi mirovoi voiny [Assessment of the perception of Emperor Nicholas II in the legal consciousness of peasants of the Western region of Russia during World War I. In Russ.] IN: Nauchnye vedomosti Belgorodskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Seriya: Istoriya. Politologiya [Scientific bulletin of the Belgorod State University. Series: History. Political science], vol. 39, no. 15 (236), 2016, pp. 131-135.

KURENKOVA, Yu. O. Postsovetskaya istoriografiya o sotsial'noi aktivnosti krest'yan [Post-Soviet historiography on the social activity of the peasants. In Russ.]. IN: Agrarnoe razvitie i prodovol'stvennaya politika Rossii v XVIII- XX vekakh. Sbornik statei [Agriculture development and food policy of Russia in the 18th-20th century. Collected articles. In Russ.]. Orenburg, 2007, pp. 177-184.

## About author

Kulachkov Vadim Vitalyevich, PhD in History, associate professor, Bryansk State Engineering and Technology University, department of philosophy, history and sociology, assistant professor, Bryansk, Russian Federation, +7-953-270-81-37, vad2517@yandex.ru

Submitted 27.07.2017, published:

KULACHKOV, V. V. Dokumenty Gosudarstvennogo arkhiva Orlovskoi oblasti kak istochniki dlya izucheniya pravovogo soznaniya krest'yan v nachale XX veka [Documents from the State Archive of the Orel Region as a Source for Studying Peasant Legal Sense in Early 20th Century. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2018, no. 1, pp. 98-108. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-1-98-108

**You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .**

**Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .**