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Archival Heritage as a Vehicle for Historical Policy in Modern Ukraine: 2014–early 2019

Abstract

This article is devoted to the role of archival heritage in the work of Ukrainian archives, while forming historical policy in Ukraine in the period from 2014 to 2019. Having studied official information resources of the archival service of Ukraine and its subordinate Ukrainian archival institutions, the authors analyze the features of the historical policy realized with the archives'

help. This allows to better understand an attempt to create a new concept of the Ukrainian history, one that denies positive experience of common historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of Ukraine and Russia. Archival heritage and archival school of Ukraine are among largest and most important in the post-Soviet space. However, the period from 2014 to 2019 is characterized by a radical change in the vector of development of Ukraine, which affected not just foreign policy and economy, but humanitarian sphere as well. In particular, this turn has manifested itself in a purposeful escalation of confrontation with Russia and in anti-Russian narrative. This policy has also affected the activities of the Ukrainian archives and the Ukrainian archival service, as they have become an important element in its development. There is a series of documents publications, archival exhibitions, and archivists' and archive managers' interviews to prove this. Although the recent developments have hindered the cooperation of Russian and Ukrainian historians and archivists, the Russian specialists and the Rosarkhiv continue to study the history of Ukraine, to introduce new sources into scientific use, to counter falsification of history and disjunction of historical memory of the peoples of Russia and Ukraine. The authors note that a deep and objective understanding of the historical past of Ukraine is impossible without cooperation with Russian historians and archivists and express their hope that scientific approaches and methods will prevail over the short-term political conjuncture.

Keywords

Archives, historical policy, historical and archival heritage of Russia and Ukraine, National Archival Foundation, Rosarkhiv, Ukrainian State Archive, Ukraine.

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