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Leaders of the 1917 Revolution in Perception of the Contemporaries and Archetypes of Mass Consciousness: Concerning the Publication of M. V. Bryantsev's Monograph

Abstract

The review of the monograph of the Russian historian M.V. Bryantsev "Lenin and his successors: Essays on ideas of the 1920s Soviet people" (Bryansk, Novyi proekt publ., 2018, 120 p.) reviews specific issues of studying ideas of the Soviet periphery on the leaders of the 1917 revolution. The author has introduced into scientific use a wide array of documents from central and regional archives of Russia and the Republic of Belarus in order to study views of contemporaries of the 1920s events on the struggle for power and on the role of the individual in political history. The author points out prospects of further research into the influence of ideological structures of the ruling party over mass consciousness. He argues the need for a closer study of regional features of political environment, in which the political preferences of various social groups were formed. The authors of the review conclude that M.V. Bryantsev monograph demonstrates close attention to studying ideas of the people from the Russian periphery; it draws on fonds of the Russian State Archive of Economy, as well as state archives of the Bryansk, Orel, Smolensk, Kaluga regions and the State Archive of Public Organizations of the Gomel Region (Belarus). The authors of the review note that, while information potential of regional archives remains mostly untapped, M.V. Bryantsev has seen its value and, having systematically studied the fonds of state agencies and public organizations, as well as personal provenance sources, he has prepared an insightful scientific work. They are sure that the monograph shall be eagerly sought by scholars and experts interested in controversial social and political processes that had determined the fate of the country in the 20th century.

Keywords

Soviet Russia of 1920s, revolution, political history, Bolshevik party, mass consciousness, V. I. Lenin, L. D. Trotsky, I. V. Stalin.

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