УДК 94(470)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-1-131-144

Angelina S. Rogozhina

Orel State University, Orel, Russian Federation

“That the Price of Bread Be Always in My Hands”: Catherine II and Formation of the Grain Storage System in Russia

Abstract

Historically, national food supply for population in time of crop failure and famine came within state interests during the reign of Emperor Peter I. Then, national food supply acquired its status of a separate branch of the government. Under Peter I, a whole set of preventive measures was developed to combat crop failure and famine. However, Peter I's idea of grain stores remained unrealized. Only after accession of Catherine II the question of creating Russian grain stores system as a main mechanism for dealing with crop failures and famine was re-introduced. Over the entire period of her rule, much legislation was issued aimed at

preventing hunger in case of crop failure. Crop failure in Russia always led to a rise of bread prices. To combat this, grain stores were introduced throughout Russia. Catherine II personally drafted the Charter on Bread, which, however, was not implemented. What differed the Charter on Bread from subsequently adopted rules for creating, maintaining, and spending grain supplies, was that the state itself was responsible for their replenishment. It had to enter into contractor's agreement or supply contract and to supply the bread to the store. By the end of her reign, consistent policy of Catherine II led to the creation in Russia of a sustainable food supply mechanism, which continued until 1917. Catherine II's legislature also improved preventive measures and promoted national and international grain trade.

Keywords

Archive, historical source, crop failure, famine, famine prices, food security, grain stores system.

Download the article: [rogozhina_doi](#)

References

ERMOLOV, A. S. Nashi neurozhai i prodovol'stvennyi vopros [Our crop failures and the food issue. In Russ.]. Vol. 1. St. Petersburg, Tip. V. Kirshbauma publ., 1909, 599 p.

KOVAL'CHENKO, I. D., MILOV, L. V. Vserossiiskii agrarnyi rynek XVIII-nachalo XX veka

[All-Russian agrarian market: The 18th – early 20th century. In Russ.]. Moscow, Izd-vo MGU publ., 1962, 412 p.

LESHKOV, V. N. O narodnom prodovol'stvii v Drevnei Rossii [On national foodstuffs in Ancient Russia. In Russ.]. Moscow, Tip. V. Got'e publ., 1854, 62 p.

MILOV, L. V. Velikorusskii pakhar' i osobennosti rossiiskogo istoricheskogo protsessa [Great Russian plowman and features of the Russian historical process. In Russ.]. Moscow, ROSSPEN publ., 2003, 573 p.

About author

Rogozhina Angelina Sergeevna, PhD in History, Orel State University, assistant professor, Orel, Russian Federation, +7-915-504-41-85, rogozhinaas@yandex.ru

Submitted 9.03.2019, published (for citation):

ROGOZHINA, A. S. “Chtoby tsena khleba vseгда v moikh rukakh byla”. Ekaterina II i formirovanie khlebozapasnoi sistemy v Rossii [“That the Price of Bread Be Always in My Hands”: Catherine II and Formation of the Grain Storage System in Russia. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2020, no. 1, pp. 131-144. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-1-131-144

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](#) .