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Attitude of the Political Elite of the Primorye to Privatization in 1990–92: Materials from the State
Archives of the Primorsky Krai

Abstract

The article is devoted to analysis of heuristic capabilities of the archival documents from the fonds of the State Archive of the Primorsky Krai, which reflect the initial period of the privatization in the Primorye. It studies the formation of regulatory framework for denationalization and privatization in the light of regional specifics, as well as the opinions and expectations of the regional political elite members concerning problems and prospects of practical implementation of the first privatization programs. The research has been carried out

mainly on the basis of records management materials of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Primorsky Krai and that of the city of Vladivostok. The basis of the article is sessions minutes the Soviets of the city and regional level. The authors take into account the source's limitations and supplement it with information extracted from other types of sources, both published and unpublished. Identified archival documents are analyzed using a synergistic approach and elements of hermeneutics. The authors also use a situational approach and elements of content analysis of the minutes' texts. The views of the Primorye political elite on the privatization course set by the Russian government during the post-Soviet transit were influenced by various factors and events, some of which occurred in the power structures of the federal center. Most local politicians embraced the beginning privatization quite enthusiastically. They were influenced by the myth of possibly fair and equitable privatization, as well as by their own interests and ideological convictions. The analysis focuses considerable attention on the role of individual in the history of privatization in the region, exemplified by V.S. Kuznetsov, the first post-Soviet governor of the Primorye and by deputies of the local Soviets. The authors conclude that the minutes had not just information function, but provided a tool for self-organization of the local political elite in the context of political crisis.

Keywords

Archival source, political crisis, privatization, denationalization, regional political elite, Soviets of People's Deputies, Primorsky Krai.

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