УДК 94(47)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-3-862-874

Yu. S. Nikiforov

K. D. Ushinsky Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, Yaroslavl, Russian Federation

Tolyatti's Rivals: The Volga Cities Competing for the New Automobile Plant as an Instance of Regional Lobbying in the Late Socialism Era

Abstract

The article addresses the topic of interactions of center and periphery in the recent national history. The publication of the office memorandums that are being thus introduced into scientific use throws light on the construction of the industrial plant. The article examines the problem of regional lobbying in the USSR in the mid-1960s, at the dawn of the Brezhnev era. It focuses on the declassified archival documents from the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI) and the Center for Documentation on the Contemporary History of the Yaroslavl Region (TsDNIYaO). The article analyzes office memorandums on the organization of a new

car plant. The record keeping documents of 1965, sent to the Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU for the RSFSR from several regions, are well reasoned petitions. The authors of the memos are Soviet regional leaders of the 1960s: A. A. Skochilov and V. P. Vasiliev (the Ulyanovsk Obkom of the CPSU and the Regional Executive Committee), S. L. Knyazev (Tatar Obkom of the CPSU), F. I. Loschenkov (Yaroslavl Obkom of the CPSU). The analysis of the documents provides answers to a number of questions. Firstly, what were the general trends of lobbying for regional interests in the system of arguments of the local elite? Secondly, what hidden potential problems of regional development of the RSFSR in the mid-1960s can be traced in the petitions of Soviet regional leaders? Thirdly, what were the peculiarities of the local elite language in lobbying for regional interests? Well-reasoned petitions of regional leaders of the late Soviet era on the organization of a new industrial facility are original and little-studied historical sources. The analyzed type of archival documents carries high source study potential, it is of great value for studying regional lobbyism in the early Brezhnev era. The study of such documents can shed light on the invisible processes of the economic life of the late USSR.

Keywords

Archival sources, car industry in the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, late socialism, lobbying, regional elite, communication practices, AvtoVAZ.

Download the article: [nikiforov_doi](#)

References

MEN'SHENINA, N. N., PANTELEEVA, M. V. Lobbizm [The Lobbying. In Russ.]. Ekaterinburg, 2016, 136 p.

SIGEL'BAUM, L. Mashiny dlya tovarishchei. Biografiya sovetskogo avtomobilya [Automobiles for the comrades: Biography of the Soviet car. In Russ.]. Moscow, ROSSPEN publ., 2011, 430 p.

SOKOLOV, A. K. "Kontrakt veka": mezhdunarodnoe sotrudnichestvo v stroitel'stve avtomobil'nogo zavoda v Tol'yatti (1966-1974) ["The Contract of the Century": International cooperation in the construction of a car factory in Togliatti (1966-1974). In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik rossiiskogo universiteta druzhby narodov [Bulletin of the People's Friendship University], 2007, no. 3, pp. 55-67.

SHUGUROV, L.M. Avtomobili Rossii i SSSR [The Cars of Russia and the USSR. In Russ.]. Moscow, ILBI; Prostreks publ., 1993, 253 p.

About the authors

Nikiforov Yury Sergeevich, PhD in History, associate professor, K. D. Ushinsky Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, national history department, assistant professor, Yaroslavl, Russian Federation, +7-920-115-99-15, Nikifor2108@yandex.ru

Grant information

This article has been prepared with financial support from of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (research project no. 18-39-00068 “The Soviet regional elites and their interaction with the center in the 1950-1980s: In archival documents and in historical memory”).

Submitted 30.07.2019, published (for citation):

NIKIFOROV, Yu. S. Soperniki Tol'yatti: bor'ba volzhskikh gorodov za novyi avtozavod kak chastnyi sluchai regional'nogo lobbizma epokhi pozdnego sotsializma [Tolyatti's Rivals: The Volga Cities Competing for the New Automobile Plant as an Instance of Regional Lobbying in the Late Socialism Era. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2020, no. 3, pp. 862-874. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-3-862-874

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](#) .