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Landrat books of the historical region of the Belgorod line 1716-1719

Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of Landrat books of the historical region of the Belgorod region: Belgorod, Voronezh, Yelets and Kozlovsky districts (Landrat shares). Landrat books are the latest, most extensive and detailed household censuses of the population of Russia. This was done in 1716-1719. Landrat - special assistants to the governor. In science, there has traditionally been a skeptical attitude towards the data of the Landrat books. This source is considered unreliable. The author is confident that this attitude is based on an erroneous understanding of the conclusions of Mikhail Klochkov made in an article in 1915. It is believed that the scientist proved the inferiority of household censuses of Peter's time by comparing the materials of the description of 1678 and the results of the revision tales of 1728. This erroneous opinion is contained in "Essays on the History of the USSR" (1954) and from that time on, researchers refused to use the Landrat books, thinking that they were erroneous. The documents we studied were preserved in the fund 350 of the RGADA. There are many different materials here: small censuses of 1709-1718 (cities, regions, towns, population categories separately), various final extracts, population census for the purpose of collecting taxes, descriptions of lands from provincial offices. The documents of the Chamber Collegium, an institution that at that time was in charge of the allocation and collection of state revenues, are also kept here. The geographical boundaries of the article are determined by the great role of the Belgorod Line - a complex of military-defensive structures erected in the middle of the 17th century. on the territory of Belgorod, Voronezh, Yelets and Kozlov districts. Based on the purpose of the article - to demonstrate the practical experience and informative capabilities of Landrat censuses, the form of each book was analyzed and the three largest rural settlements were examined in detail. Based on the results of the work done, the author notes that full-fledged work with Landrat books is possible only if you fully understand the form of each book separately. The landrat book of a separate county has its own characteristics, but they all contain information about the gender and age composition, population movements, family ties, settlements and social gradation of society. An analysis of four Landrat books demonstrates the possibilities of using this type of documentation in historical research.

Keywords

History of Russia, landrat books, censuses, Peter I, fiscal policy, Belgorod line, population, formulary analysis, Belgorod district, Voronezh district, Yeletsky district, Kozlovsky district, social composition.

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