

Scientific article

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2026-3-796-810

For citation

Suslov, A. Yu. (2026). The Socialist Revolutionary Party journal «Svoboda» as a historical source, 1933–1936, Herald of an Archivist, no. 3, pp. 796-810. DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2026-3-796-810

Suslov, A. Yu., Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia

The Socialist Revolutionary Party journal «Svoboda» as a historical source, 1933–1936

Abstract

The article examines the publication of the journal «Svoboda» (1933–1936), published by the Socialist Revolutionary Party abroad, as a historical source. It is noted that information about the journal is contained in works on bibliographical and publishing activities of the émigré community, in reference and encyclopedic publications, and does not go beyond the scope of short reviews. A general description of the publishing activities of the Socialist Revolutionary Party in exile in the 1920s and 1930s is provided, with the dynamics and main printed organs identified. The history of the creation of the «Svoboda» journal in Paris, its structure, key themes, and authors is analyzed. In the mid-1930s, «Svoboda» journal was practically the only organ of the Socialist Revolutionaries abroad, and their last periodical printed publication in Western Europe. Particular attention is paid to the draft platform of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, authored by M. V. Vishnyak and S. M. Soloveichik. The article examines the evolution of the party's programmatic constructs in exile. It is noted that the economy envisaged a combination of elements of classical and state capitalism in industry, and private and collective land ownership in agriculture. The similarity between the programs of M. V. Vishnyak and S. M. Soloveichik is emphasized, with the exception of some details. They incorporate significant changes that occurred in Soviet Russia (the federal nature of the state, collectivization) and propose taking these achievements into account. The article analyzes the party life of the Paris group of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, and its reaction to current events in Soviet Russia and international life. Attention is drawn to the negative position of foreign Socialist Revolutionaries in connection with the attempts of the Workers' Socialist International (which included the SRP Delegation Abroad) to reach an agreement with the Comintern. The article examines the reflection of party history issues on the pages of the journal (the 1914 conference in Switzerland), reviews, and obituaries of party leaders. It is concluded that in the émigré environment of the early 1930s. Some former Narodniks, while recognizing the fundamental principles of European culture, sought to develop their own model for transforming Russia, taking into account national specifics and Soviet realities, while rejecting the negative aspects and undesirable trends of Western civilization. In other words, they wanted to create a hybrid system combining the advantages of both worlds. Some Socialist Revolutionary émigrés have shifted away from socialist doctrine (influenced by the experience of the 1917 Revolution, the Civil War, and the practice of European social democracy) and toward bourgeois liberalism.

Keywords

Emigration, periodical press, Socialist Revolutionary party journal, M. V. Vishnyak, S. M. Soloveichik, Socialist Revolutionary Party (SRP), Soviet Russia, V. V. Rudnev, P. I. Novgorodtsev, socialism, program, historical source.

Download the article: [suslov doi](#)

References

Avksentyev, N. D. (1933). An Urgent Task, Svoboda, no. 1, June, pp. 3-4.

Bazanov, P. N. (2004). Publishing Activities of Political Organizations of the Russian Emigration, 1917–1988, St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts, 432 p.

Vishnyak, M. V. (1957). «Sovremennye zapiski», Memoirs of the Editor, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 333 p.

Kudryavtsev, V. B. (2011). Periodical and Non-reccurent Collective Editions of the Russian Abroad, 1918–1941, An Attempt at an Expanded Directory, In 2 Parts, Part 1, Journalism, Literature, Art, Humanities, Pedagogy, Religion, Military and Cossack Press, Moscow, Russkiy Put, 932 p.

Novgorodtsev, P. I. (1991). On the Social Ideal, Moscow, Press, 638 p.

(1933). On the «United Front». Resolution of the Paris Organization, Svoboda, no. 1. pp. 14–15.

(1934). Projects of the SRP platform, Comp. by M. V. Vishnyak, Svoboda, no. 2, October, pp. 13–14.

(1934). Projects of the SRP platform, Comp. by S. M. Soloveichik, Svoboda, no. 2, October, pp. 14–15.

(1934). Resolution of the Committee of the Paris Organization of the SRP on the «United Front», Svoboda, no. 2, p. 15.

(1935). Resolution of the Committee of the Paris Organization of the SRP on the internal and external situation of the Soviet of Russia, Svoboda, no. 3, p. 24.

Rudnev, V. (1935). From the History of the Party, Svoboda, no. 4. December, pp. 13–18.

Rudnev, V. (1935). On the Revision of the Party Program, Svoboda, no. 3, July, pp. 20–23.

Safonov, I. A. (2009). Socialist Revolutionaries in Exile. IN: Social Thought of the Russian Diaspora, Encyclopedia, Moscow, ROSSPEN, pp. 107–117.

Fedorov, M. V. (2015). Editorial Board of the Journal «Volya Rossii» in 1922–1932, Proceedings of the Faculty of History of St. Petersburg State University, no. 21. pp. 105–118.

Jakushev, I. A. (1928). Die Zukunft Sibiriens, Prag-Vr?ovice, Legiografie, 218 s.

Nicolayewsky, B. I. (1938). Historique de la presse p?riodique de l'emigration socialiste russe 1917 – 1937, Bulletin of the International Institute for Social History, Vol. 2. P. 5–17.

White, E. (2010). The Socialist Alternative to Bolshevik Russia, The Socialist Revolutionary Party, 1921 – 1939. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, New York, Routledge, 208 p.

About authors

Suslov Aleksei Yurievich, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Docent, Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University, Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Department of Regional Studies and Digital Humanities, Professor, Kazan, Russia, +7-987-296-41-99, plusha131333@yandex.ru

ORCID 0000-0002-2926-8102

The article was received in the editorial office on 29.04.2025, recommended for publication on 20.06.2026

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](#) .