Written by Chernobaev A.A.
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World War I in the Most Recent Russian Source Readers

Annotation

The article focuses on studying the main stages of the integration of archive documents on World War I (an event that determined the destiny of mankind in XX century) into current scholarship. Although arbitrary and somewhat perfunctory in the assessment of the causes of the war, its economic and political pre-conditions and outcomes, the role of foreign policy factors, Soviet historiography of World War I history retains its value. Unique papers on various issues connected with World War I were published as early as 1920s and 1930s. These studies continued in later decades. However, we have to concede that for some reasons archaeography of the last war led by the Russian Empire – i.e. the studies dealing with the principles of publication archive documents on the subject - remained for a long time overlooked by researchers. Contributions of the scientific magazine «Historical archive» are much appreciated. Editorial staff selecting documents (especially for anniversary issues) made an effort to introduce topics unprovided with sources. The author intends to present documents on the operations on fronts and situation in the rear, on the fates of commanders and privates, on internal and foreign policy of Tsarist, Temporary and Soviet governments. The publication and overview of the sources was not meant to create a stir, and yet many of the papers printed for the first time in «Historical archive» revealed unknown facts in biographies of military and state leaders and expanded the knowledge of the heroic and tragic events of World War I.

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