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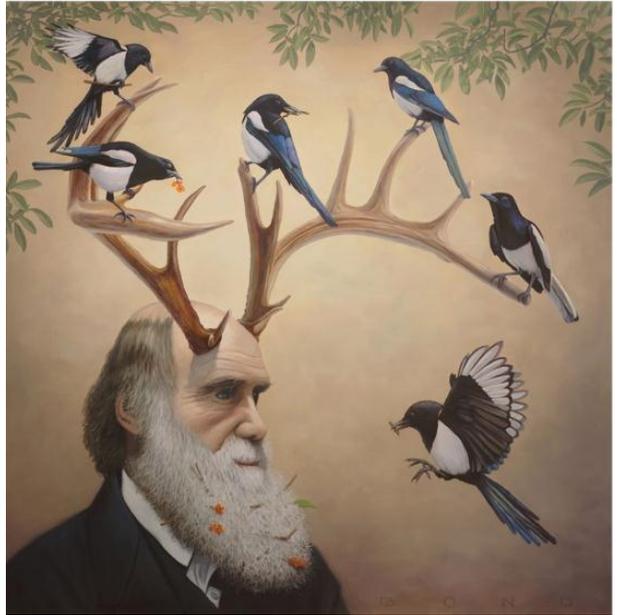
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# The Palace Settlement in the Kazan Region in the XVI-XVII Centuries

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## Abstract

The aim of the article is to determine the spatial organization of Palace settlements in the Kazan region in the XVI-XVII centuries. The methods of investigation are system approach and system analysis. In result, in the second half of the XVI century, the vicinity of fortified settlements became the place of compact residence of palace peasants in the Middle Volga region; and secondly – coastal lands of Kama river basin's rivers. In conclusion, the localization and tracing of palace settlements serve as a marker that denotes the main direction of the colonization process which coincided with the vector of domestic policy.

**Keywords:** Middle, Volga, Region, Kazan, Ownership.

## El asentamiento del palacio en la región de Kazan en los siglos XVI-XVII

### Resumen

El objetivo del artículo es determinar la organización espacial de los asentamientos del Palacio en la región de Kazan en los siglos XVI-XVII. Los métodos de investigación son el enfoque del sistema y el análisis del sistema. Como resultado, en la segunda mitad del siglo XVI, la vecindad de los asentamientos fortificados se convirtió en el lugar de residencia compacta de los campesinos del palacio en la región del Volga Medio; y en segundo lugar, las tierras costeras de los ríos de la cuenca del río Kama. En conclusión, la localización y localización de los asentamientos del palacio sirven como un marcador que denota la dirección principal del proceso de colonización que coincidió con el vector de la política interna.

**Palabras clave:** Medio, Volga, Región, Kazán, Propiedad.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### *1.1. The relevance of the problem*

The characteristics of the Middle Volga region's entry into the Russian state in the second half of the XVI century, the nature of the economic development of a multi-ethnic and multi-religious region cannot be understood and recreated without an examining of the emergence of new forms of land tenure, the dynamics of their subsequent development and the resulting ethno social stratification of society. These interrelated and interdependent aspects of the integration of the annexed lands into another political organism precisely reflect the results of the social and economic policy of the tsarist government in this suburban region and allow us to grope its vector (KOMISSARENKO, 2006).

### *1.2. The object and aim of the study.*

The necessity to study the history of the genesis, development and growth of the palace land complex and palace economy in the remote outskirts of the Russian state is determined by the need to identify the Palace's participation in the economic development of the annexed territories, and the designation of the status of palace peasants in the social structure of medieval society. By the middle of the XVII century, Palace land ownership became one of the leading forms of

feudal land ownership in the region. The history of its formation and developmental dynamics is not only one of the components of the socio-economic functioning of the region which had its own ethno-political and socio-economic characteristics, but also the evolution of the combination of the palace, i.e. of Tsar, state ownership and state interests under the conditions of colonization of the newly-established territories (INDOVA, 1964; AMIRNEJAD, ELAHI & YAZDI, 2018; TURAL, 2018).

This circumstance makes it legitimate to choose the palace land ownership that took place in the Kazan region in the second half of the XVI-XVII centuries as the object of the research. Since the study of the history of palace settlements serves as a means to achieve a more complete understanding of the socio-political and economic processes in the Middle Volga region, the article attempts to understand the origin and development of the palace village not only in time but also in space. Hence, the purpose of the study is to determine the features of the spatial organization of palace possessions in the Kazan region in the XVI-XVII centuries (ERMAKOV, 2008; TORQUATO, ARAUJO, UMESH & MACIEL, 2018).

### *1.3. Degree of the problem's knowledge*

The study of the emergence and development of palace land ownership in Russia has almost two hundred years of history. Information of varying degrees of completeness and depth about the

palace economy and the peasantry is reflected in studies of both a general and special nature. But a systematic narration of the history of palace land ownership and peasantry in the Middle Volga region does not exist yet. Although since the 80s of the last century, a tendency towards a regional study of the palace village has been outlined and intensified, the research topic has expanded, not only written but also archaeological and linguistic material has begun to be involved in the analysis. Despite certain achievements in studying the history of the palace village, there is no unity in the representation of the social status of the peasantry in historiography:

Along with its recognition as one of the categories of the Russian peasantry, it is also represented as one of the types of privately owned peasants. In consequence of the broad interpretation of the content of historical and geographical concepts, there is an incorrect use of source material in the districts of the Kazan and Vyatka regions for illustration of the processes taking place in related areas (GORLANOV, 1980: 112).

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### *2.1. Research Questions*

In the course of the study, the following questions were solved: a) highlighting the stages in the formation and development of palace villages and the fund of palace lands in the Kazan region; b) finding out the type and nature of accommodation and interrelations between palace settlements; c) the definition of features in the spatial

localization and distribution of palace settlements between the administrative and territorial units of Kazan county (ERMOLAEV & LIPAKOV, 1984).

## *2.2. Methods of investigation*

The noted contradictions in the historians' points of view on the social and legal status of palace peasants dictate the use of a system approach and system analysis to the history of the palace village and its inhabitants. These methods involve consideration of the palace economy's complex as a kind of subsystem functioning within the state organism and society, which is subjected to dynamics and evolution. These methods were used in the analysis of the source base, a significant part of which is consisted of mass sources - writing materials that can be subjected to statistical processing. Therefore, in order to obtain representative information, quantitative and mathematical methods were applied (BAKHTIN, 1998).

## *2.3. Base of study*

A number of descriptions of the royal domain in the Kazan region of the second half of the XVI-XVII centuries were brought to the analysis: a sowing book of the village of Fedorovsky in 1616, thirteen written books of Kazan County, compiled from 1565 to 1678, two extracts from the census Books of the Kazan County, compiled in

1710 and 1714. Valuable information about the palace complex of the Kazan region was revealed in a variety of material - various letters, petitions, «sotniye» and other records (POLOVINKIN, 1996).

### **3. RESULTS**

#### *3.1. Preconditions for the occurrence of palace lands*

The preconditions for the appearance of palace lands in the region are two interrelated and interdependent factors. The desire of the growing Moscovia to subordinate the Volga khanates to its political will, on the one hand, and the migration impregnations of the Finno-Ugric and Slavic population in the Middle Volga region caused by socio-economic reasons, on the other. In total, these factors predetermined the expansion of the territory of the Russian state that was accompanied by the unconditional recognition of the Moscow Tsar as the supreme owner of the newly acquired lands, which determined their status, development and termination of certain land relations (MUSTAFINA, 2010).

#### *3.2. Stages of development of the palace domain in the Kazan region*

In the formation and development of palace land ownership, it is legitimate to distinguish four stages (waves). The first wave of the

development of domain property was the result of joining of the mountainside of the Kazan Khanate to the Moscow state in the early 50s of the XVI century, as well as the following conquest of Kazan and the confiscation of the lands of the former Khan and representatives of the nobility. This circumstance led to the location of the palace villages which constituted a district at the same distance from the center (of Kazan), adjacent to the city from the north, northeast, east and southeast, which included the fortified suburbs of Kazan - Tetyushi and Laishev (OBORIN, 1990).

Along with this, there was an influx of population to the newly acquired lands from the central regions of the state. The newly arrived peasants independently established settlements, cleared the forest, plowed up the land and, with the next registration of land, received the status of palace peasants. The need to solve urgent domestic political tasks of pacifying the region, ensuring security and spreading the centralizing and centripetal ideology led to a reduction in the initial fund of the palace domain. Palace lands were distributed to service people and monasteries. Nevertheless, social and economic-fiscal interests contributed to the formation of compact groups of villages which were subordinate to one administrative center that remained under the jurisdiction of the Palace. The result of this process was the formation of palace estates in the vicinity of fortified settlements and the emergence of settlements classified as a palace, on the lands along the main highways of the time - rivers.

Localization of villages along the banks of large rivers was in the interests of both the government and the peasants. Such placement allowed the authorities to control the movements along the rivers, crossings, and the peasants were able to engage not only in agricultural production on fertile lands but also in the mills, fishing and trade, and, therefore, they were involved in trade relations. Until the mid-80s of the XVI century, government structures played a decisive role in the formation of the palace estates in the Kazan region. Although, in essence, the expansion of palace land ownership was solely the result of the initiative of the peasants which were arriving in the region. The contingent of the palace population was formed at the expense of the liberated prisoners and the newly baptized ones; the latter, along with the local population, included Latvians, Germans, Mordovians, peasants and bobs from the central internal regions of the state and the region itself, as well as exiled disgraced people (SMIRNOV, 2014).

The second stage in the history of the palace volosts was associated with the events of the eve and the period of overcoming the consequences of the Time of Troubles, which pushed the peasant masses to search for a relatively safe habitat and management. Chronologically, it covers the last decade of the XVI century and the first two decades of the XVII century when the movement of the Russian people to the south and east was carried out without curation by government bodies and was free, dispersed but intensive. The settlers settled in the already existing villages and thus contributed to the inclusion of abandoned lands, wastelands, etc. into the economic turnover. The relative security was provided to them by the fortified

cities built in the 50s –80s of the XVI century. A characteristic feature of land management during this period was the existence of unaccounted land and various forms of land ownership in the same locality.

This is not much of the evidence of using the palace lands fund for distribution to landlords, as it is traditionally interpreted in the literature, as it reflects the depth of colonization in the region, successes achieved in the gradual step-by-step development of the territory of the former khanate. It is known that government agents-scribes recorded already accomplished facts - plowing of new lands, cultivating arable land with *vzgon*, letting the landowner of his estate to the palace village, the emergence of a new village, consequently, the peasants' actions on developing the region were ahead of the state's efforts at the time. The third stage of the formation of the palace estates in the Kazan region was characterized, on the one hand, by the enlargement of existing settlements on the palace lands and, on the other hand, by the formation of new settlements along the Kame river and its tributaries which led to the addition of the Chelny, Sarapulsky and Osinskaya volosts.

It occupied the time period from the 20s to the end of the 40s of the XVII century and became the time of completion of the formation of the palace complex in the Kazan region. The peculiarity of this stage was the growing attention of the government to the migration of people to the outskirts and the state-initiated relocation of palace peasants caused by the need to expand the colonization of the eastern and

southeastern suburbs, to organize the guarding of the state's borders and to erect fortifications (Great Abatis Lines). The fourth stage in the history of palace land ownership is right to count from the late 40s of the XVII century. It is characterized with the convergence of the social and legal status of the lands with the status of other forms of land ownership which ended in the early XVIII century.

### *3.3. Features of palace settlements' localization.*

Sources indicate that the distinctive features of the palace complex in the region were the nesting or cluster nature of accommodation, the location of the main settlement, strengthened if it is possible, is on the banks of a large river, the yard multiplicity of maternal settlements and the small number of yards in the subsidiary villages in the early stages of their existence. By the 20s of the XVII century, the palace complex of the Kazan region included 237 villages which were fiscally accountable to 17 villages. Judging by the sources involved in the analysis, these 17 villages with villages and repairs were subdivided into a number of groups - subcomplexes - depending on the fiscal and administrative subordination formed as a nest or bush was formed around the center.

The first subcomplex included nine villages: Fedorovskoye, Voskresenskoye, Sabugoli, Rozhdestvennoe at Ukrech, Tsaritsyno, Borisoglebskoye, Chepchugi, Rozhdestvennoe at Polyanka, Kukarskaya Sloboda. Geographically, these points were located on

both banks of the Volga River in the southeastern part of the lower Kama Region and the northeast corner of the Volga region and adjoined the city of Kazan and its suburbs Tetyushi, Laishev and Urzhum.

The second subcomplex included the following five centers: the villages of Anatysh, Rybnaya Sloboda (Omars) at Omar, Tresvyatskoe at Yelabuga, Voznesenskoye at Sarapul, Nikolskaya settlement at Osa, located on the right bank and tributaries of the Kama River. If the villages of Anatysh and Omars subsequently retained the status they achieved, the other three centers of compact residence of the palace population - Yelabuga, Sarapul and Osa escalated into cities and became district centers in the XVIII century. The third subcomplex united settlements near to the villages Chelny Pochinok and the Cape in Zakamye, and was part of the Ufim district. This same district also included a group of villages belonging to the village of Karakulino.

Despite the continued supplying of the servants with estates and unstopable grants to monasteries during the XVII century, the domain fund continued to remain quite significant. In the middle of this century, it accounted for more than a quarter of all county lands (28-29%). At the same time, a little less than a third of the palace possessions were located along Arskoy, almost a quarter - along the Zureysk, a little more than 30% - along the Nogai and over 14% - along the Alat roads. On the Galician road, the Palace had no property. To a certain extent, the fund of palace lands was replenished by so-called replies to the sovereign, allowances for arable land of abandoned

vacant lands as well as the inclusion of wild field spaces in the state-owned land. The most active process of economic development was in the east and southeast directions.

#### **4. DISCUSSIONS**

In the literature, it is proved that the palace peasants played an important role in the colonization of the Middle Volga and Ural regions. Special attention was paid to the study of the regional characteristics of the village but the focus of the research was mainly on the village of the XVIII-XIX centuries. The object of the study was the question of the formation of the palace volosts in the Urals and Middle Volga region in the second half of the XVI-XVII centuries. However, the complex of sources used by the author predetermined the choice of a segment for the analysis and a substantial part of the Kazan region remained beyond this segment. In order to avoid the danger of accepting a single and particular for the general and universal it is necessary to analyze the material that has not been included in the research turnover and which is deposited in the archives and reflects the entire territory of the Kazan Territory. Moreover, the issue of localization of palace settlements has not yet become the object of special attention.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

Thus, the formation of palace land ownership and the spatial organization of palace settlements in the Kazan region in the second

half of the XVI–XVII centuries became the objective result of the interrelation and interdependence between the interests of the average man who felt the need for fertile lands that could be used for vital activity and the government's desire to incorporate the newly acquired lands into the socio-economic system of the Russian state as soon as possible. The cascade of Kazan or Cheremis wars required the immediate solution of social and political tasks and the organization of defense of state borders. In these circumstances, the coming to the region population recognized as palace peasants served as one of the economic development tools of the former Kazan Kingdom. The calm after the Time of Troubles allowed the government to actively engage in the economic development of the Volga lands, resettle the peasants to the region and relocate them for the effective implementation of nationwide work.

As a result, the localization and tracing of palace settlements serve as a marker that denotes the main direction of the colonization process which coincided with the vector of domestic policy. Undoubtedly, the interconnection between the government and peasants was much more complex and controversial, its main essence and subsequent evolution can be traced by analyzing the dynamics of rental relations which consideration seems to be the future task.

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