

Summary

Subject matter of the dissertation: Secret societies in the period of Nicholas I's reign in Russia (the 20-50th of the 19th century).

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Topicality of the research. First of all this problem is insufficiently studied in Russian history. The main parts of works are devoted to a research of secret societies the periods before and or after Nicholas I's government are considered. Secondly, in modern information space are widespread various interpretations of secret societies in which the last are mystified, sustained in the spirit of pseudoscientific conspiracy theories. Such understanding of secret societies which, really, existed results in the distorted understanding of separate pages of history of Russia and the foreign states, the ideological bases and influences which secret societies on social and political processes which echoes are heard and now in the modern world refused. Thirdly, the research of ideological bases of the secret organizations can be useful and relevant in the conditions of modern Russia in the context of excessive saturation of information space various irrelevant data among which occur as the harmless interpretations of the secret organizations correlated to modern attempts of search of spiritual first principles of the world in the context of postmodern syncretism and rather harmful ideological and theoretical constructs capable to influence mass consciousness. At last, the analysis of conditions of emergence and features of existence of secret societies can be relevant in the conditions of the former civil society in Russia, in the context of search of ways and opportunities of establishing dialogue between political structures and various public organizations, supports of citizens' initiatives.

Objective: the complex analysis of emergence and activity of secret societies in the period of Nicholas I's government (the 20-50th of the 19th century), their place and a role in internal political processes in Russia.

Tasks:

1) to analyze the main directions of domestic policy of Nicholas I and its influence on public life of Russia 20 – the 50th of the 19th century;

2) to investigate a prerequisite and the cause and growth of social movement during the specified period;

3) to analyze features of functioning of secret societies in the context of public life of the Nicholas I's Russia;

4) to study sources, conditions and a historical context of emergence of freemasonry in Russia.

5) to consider the ideological and moral bases and features of existing of freemasonry during the Nicholas I era.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of work consists that results of a research will promote enrichment of appropriate sections of history of Russia during the specified period. The results of the work will promote the best understanding a role and the place of activity of secret societies. The practical significance of work consists that materials and conclusions of the thesis can be used during creation and improvement of the general and specialized courses and educational and methodical materials of «History of Russia», «History of socio-political movements», «Political history», etc. Results of this work can be also used in developing the theoretical bases of development and regulation of institutes of civil society in Russia.

Results of the research: in the first chapter of the work have analyzed, the activity of liberal, social-democratic and revolutionary circles and associations. We carried out the comprehensive analysis of the prerequisites for their emergence and development, their ideas and programs for the reorganization of the socio-economic and political spheres of the Russian Empire. The measures of Nicholas I's internal policy related to the strengthening of the role of the state apparatus and toughening of control over the social movement were studied. In the second chapter of the study, we were analyzing the phenomena of Freemasonry, its origins, ideological and historical grounds, and the specifics of development during the designated period. We also have studied the influence of Freemasonry on culture, education and other socially significant spheres. Based on the results of the work, we concluded that despite the prohibition of the activities of Masonic lodges in the

Nicholas I era, many of them continued their activities, but they did not have a political orientation, but rather they were aimed at spiritual and moral improvement.

Recommendations: on the basis of the result of the work, it is recommended to continue analyzing the specifics and influence of secret organizations on social processes, social and political thought and the origins of the formation of the ideological foundations of civil society in Russia.