

Russia and the Caucasus: historical factors of unsuccessful incorporation

In the article an attempt is made to present an original interpretation of the notions of «colonialism» and «colonization», of the processes and phenomena behind them, to determine the readiness of the Russian Empire to solve the tasks of the colonizational exploration and transformation of the imperial periphery. The authors argue that the Russian authorities, having embarked on the colonization of the Caucasus, had no thoroughly drafted plan and failed to foresee all the effects of this process. The article identifies the reasons why the process of the colonization of the Caucasus in a large number of the historical challenges facing the Russian Empire failed to be its successful project. The authors come to the conclusion that as long as the mountaineous ethnic groups preserve their positions in their natural «feeding landscapes» and the landscapes themselves remain intact, it is impossible to make every mountaineous inhabitant cease to distance their own world of the Caucasus from the rest of Russia.

Key words: the Caucasus, historical factor, unsuccessful incorporation, colonialism, colonization, the Russian Empire, traditionalism, ethnic group, mountaineer, landscape, exploration, authority, settlement.