

## SUMMARY

**Subject matter:** Features of the political biography of Empress Tsy Xi.

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**Topicality of the research:** The period of the late XIX - early XX centuries for almost the whole world has become a time of great change. It is no exaggeration to say that world history then went through cardinal transformations.

Many states have experienced severe, radical political, social and economic transformations; some countries have completely disappeared from the face of the Earth as a result of wars and revolutions.

The most impressive events against this background are events that took place both in the largest states of Europe and Asia. And, without a doubt, one of the oldest countries in the world, China, has become a telling and striking example of the dramatic events of the second half of the XIX - early XX centuries.

Both in Russian historical science and in foreign science, a growing interest in China has long been noted, and it has been especially noticeable recently, due to the activity of China in the sphere of economy, politics, and military relations.

At present, according to many experts, the era of China is beginning. China is rapidly turning into a world leader, exerting an increasing influence not only on the world economy, but also on all international, global processes of the modern world. The main feature of modern China is the skillful combination of commitment to its own tradition and the simultaneous assimilation of the best practices of other countries, which largely determined the current success of the country.

Meanwhile, some pages of the history of China, their consequences, as well as the individuals behind them, are still assessed ambiguously. Among the most controversial and controversial figures in Chinese history is the personality of

Empress Tsy Xi (Cixi). Her example is largely unique to Chinese history and culture.

Chinese political and social traditions focused exclusively on men. Women in China did not have the right to interfere in politics at all levels of government, and even more so at the highest level. It was unacceptable to manage a woman even in some administrative area, not to mention the whole country. The traditions of Chinese government even demanded caution about the influence of women on those statesmen who had access to power. At the same time, in the history of China there were precedents when women ruled the country or, at least, had a significant impact on the management of public affairs.

Gradually, as history testifies, the views on the role of women in society, even in the most conservative societies, underwent transformation, especially depending on her social status and level of economic independence. Currently, a woman no longer wants to put up with her secondary position, seeks to realize her role and place in society. There is a rethinking of the role of women in key areas of manifestation of her personality, such as family, social production, culture.

For a fairly long period, politics was considered exclusively as a male sphere of activity. The appearance of women in big politics was an almost impossible phenomenon, but it also became a reality. Nevertheless, a female politician is regarded as a kind of deviation from the standard. The more vivid and noticeable figures in the world political elite both in the modern period and in world history are women - politicians who determine the key areas of international relations and world politics.

For a long time, a woman was a being of the “lower” (feminine), dependent on a man, husband, clan, society. That is why women who have ever held important government posts or, moreover, were monarchs, have always attracted the attention of historians. Even today, a female politician or statesman is less common than a man in such a field. And in a traditional society, to which, of course, China belonged to the period under review, a woman who played a prominent political role in the life of the country often provoked the disapproval of

contemporaries, and prevailing stereotypes and prejudices influenced her perception.

This is exactly what happened with the figure of Tsy Xi, whose real personality is difficult to separate today from those layers and conjectures, legends and myths that surround her. This indicates the need for a thorough study of the main aspects of the political life of the Chinese empress, one of the most significant figures in the new history of China.

Her political views and ambitions certainly require a separate consideration in the context of the particularities of Chinese political culture that has developed over many centuries.

**Objective of the research** – to analyze the main aspects and characteristics of the political biography of Empress Tsy Xi, as well as her influence on the domestic and foreign policy of China during the second half of the XIX century - the beginning of the XX century.

**Research Objectives:**

- to consider a brief biography of Tsy Xi before entering the throne;
- to characterize the activities of Tsy Xi in the initial period of government (during the first regency);
- to consider the features of the international situation and foreign policy of China under the Empress Tsy Xi;
- to analyze the successes and failures of Tsi Xi's domestic policy;
- identify the features of the image of Tsy Xi in the cinema;
- to analyze the assessment of the image, personality, activities of Tsy Xi in fiction.

**The theoretical and practical significance of the study** lies in the fact that the materials of this work can be used in the educational process in the study of such disciplines as “The History of China”, “The History of International Relations of Asian Countries”, etc.

**Results of the research:** When writing the work, the author used various methods, and also analyzed the topic under study. The main methods were historical, comparative, comparative, cultural, linguistic, etc.

So, first of all, the political biography of Tsi Xi was examined in accordance with the principle of historicism, according to which the problem is posed of how much the expression in the works of historians, in the works of literature and cinema of the image of the Empress Tsi Xi corresponds to the cultural and historical situation of her time. Also, chronological, historical-genetic, historical-comparative, historical-typological became methods of research.

When writing the work, the authors' works were used, which are devoted to the history of China, in general, and to the study of biographies of individual historical personalities, especially Tsi Xi herself and her contemporaries.

**Recommendations:**

1. In the course of further work on this topic, it is necessary to analyze in more detail the features of the international situation and foreign policy of China under the Empress Tsy Xi.

2. It is necessary to consider the features of the international situation and foreign policy of China under the Empress Tsy Xi.