

## ІСТОРИЧНІ НАУКИ

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### SOUTH BESSARABIA IN THE SYSTEM OF ALL-RUSSIAN POLICY

(60 – 70's of the 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY)

**Ключевые слова:** *крестьянская реформа, царане, городские думы, земство, судебная, образовательная, финансовая, военная, цензурная реформы.*

**Гончарова Н. Южная Бессарабия в системе общероссийской политики (60-70-е гг. XIX в.).**

В статье анализируются специфические черты проведения общероссийских реформ 60-70-х гг. XIX в. на юге Бессарабии, доказывается тезис о том, что самобытность в развитии края определила особенности в реформационных процессах в данном регионе.

In 1860-1870's in the Russian Empire were carried out reforms that later became known as "Great Reforms". This name is not accidental, because the general public got much more freedom than had previously. The reforms implemented in the provinces governments, cities, universities, parishes, democratized the court, and created a new army.

As a result of the defeat of the Russian Empire in the Crimean War of 1853-1856, Turkey, Russia transferred almost all of South Bessarabia, in its composition remained part of the Akermansky and Bendery counties. In March 1, 1857 Bessarabia region was subordinated to the Department of Novorossiysk General Government. It was divided into seven districts, and the counties – to the "plot" that meet "state". The development of the newly Bessarabia region in the investigated period was determined by all-Russian tendencies.

The main stages of the reforms in 60-70's of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the national level are highlighted in the work of O.V. Hisema, A.A. Martynyuk, A.F. Truhan, Y.A. Nikiforov and others<sup>1</sup>. Features of Bessarabia in the different historical periods examined by A.M. Lebedenko, A.K. Tichina, N.V. Abakumova-Zabunova, E. Bachynskaya and others<sup>2</sup>.

The aim of the article is to study the peculiarities of all-Russian bourgeois reforms in 60-70's of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Russian part of Southern Bessarabia, identifying the local features of their implementation.

The Crimean War brought terrible devastation of the Russian Empire. This caused unrest among

the peasants as the entire country and on a south. The peasants of the Southern Bessarabia threw estates of their masters and a large number fled to the Crimea "according to the will". Upon knowing that the population in Crimea fell markedly there a significant amount of the free land, the peasants were convinced the king will give them the land and turn to free, independent owners like colonists or state peasants<sup>3</sup>.

At first this movement was peaceful, but when the fugitives met the army against them, began to be a real clash of wounded and killed. Troops surrounded a group of the peasants and to force them back to the landlords, did executions upon them. The government, frightened by the scope of the peasant movement, searched for the organizers and sorted out the reasons for unrest. Among the peasantry there were rumors about the "allegedly existing Imperial decree about granting farmers the right to freely landlord began to leave from their landlords and attributed to free land in the Crimea". It is known, that exactly the same to other villagers fled to South Bessarabia. Hearing that it departs from Russia, the peasants hoped to be free there, and then return home and use rights "natives" who can not be what can not be enslaved<sup>4</sup>.

The mass peasant movement has demonstrated to the Russian government the need for the abolition of the serfdom. At this time, increasing movement of the military colonizes. With military colonize it solved relatively quickly and simply: July 4, 1857 was approved "Regulations on the new system of the military settlements cavalry," which actually meant they were abolished<sup>5</sup>. By the

end of 1858 military colonize became state peasants.

November 20 and December 25, 1857, January 17, 1858 were promulgated royal rescripts, which identifies the basic principles of the design issues "improve life landed peasants" in government circles and in a specially created committee of the provincial nobility<sup>6</sup>. In fact, the publication of the rescripts determined the transition to the vowel discuss the abolition of the serfdom. The emergence of these documents showed that "freeing the peasants in their own understanding was finally solved".

Tsarism had to reckon also with the Bessarabian landowners and part of the intelligentsia who demanded of the bourgeois reforms in the land. Tsarism had seen them in their social base. Undoubtedly, an important role in the decision of the question about realization of the bourgeois reform in Bessarabia played its proximity to the European countries, which had already existed bourgeois governments and bourgeois court<sup>7</sup>. An example of the European monarchies, which eliminated serfdom, testified that it is not weakened, but rather strengthened their positions because of the possibility accelerate socio-economic development. Wishing to establish its dominance in the Balkans, tsarism holding bourgeois reforms tried to arouse the sympathy for the peoples of the Balkans to Russia.

Rural reform in Bessarabia had its own peculiarities. She had to decide on the exemption from the serfdom and land structure of the various categories of the rural population: Gypsies and Russian serfs, who formed a small percentage of the population, and tsaran – the bulk of the rural population of Bessarabia, which were considered legally free, although their position they are not much different from the Russian serfs.

"Regulations" July 14, 1868 about a peasant reform in Bessarabia came out of the main principles of the "Regulations" February 19, 1861, because the conditions defining portions, redemption payments and obligations of the peasants in Bessarabia and Russia were basically the same. The land resettlement of the Cossacks, the state peasants, the colonists and the rezeshsky tsaran and the shallow-squire's estates took place on the basis of "Regulations" and "Rules" which were issued separately for the each category<sup>8</sup>.

Unlike the peasant reform of 1861 tsaransk's reform in Bessarabia is not touched by the abolition of the personal dependence tsaran as they are formally considered personally free.

"Regulations" 14 July 1868 establishing the conditions for granting tsaran land and buy plots. As in other provinces of Russia, in Bessarabia was also acknowledged ownership of the landlords in

all the lands which belonged to them to reform. The landlords were required to provide to the tsarans for established duties, the permanent use certain plots of land<sup>9</sup>.

The eligibility for these plots was given to all farmers at that time lived on the landlords and the monastic lands. The land transferred to the tsarans not communal use, as it was usually in Russia, but still in family-hereditary<sup>10</sup>. This procedure for the land use, as opposed to the communal, which involved the redistribution of the land, opened better prospects for the agricultural development through capitalist. The consequence of the reform in Bessarabia was more rapid disintegration in the countryside than where the community is preserved. That this is partly due to the fact that after the agrarian reform in the agriculture Bessarabia as the New Russia, the capitalist relations have evolved faster than in the central provinces of Russia.

The dimensions of the peasant holdings were determined "voluntary consent" of the tsarans with the landlords. Where such consent could not reach by the farmers remained their former lands, but not above the rules established by the "Regulations" July 14, 1868.

According to this provision in the Akerman-sky and Bendery counties the size of the holdings ranged from 10 to 13.5 tithes of the land in the yard. As a result of the peasant reform of 1868 in Bessarabia the average size allotment of the tsarans significantly reduced compared with what was established by the law. In 1875 the former landlords' tsarans received an average of 2.9 tithes of the land of the revizky soul<sup>11</sup>. The item of the "Regulations" 1868 that in the peasant allotment covers only the convenient land, which located at a distance of no more than 10 layers of the settlements, not actually performed.

For the parcels of the land the peasants had to pay the redemption to the landowner. The terms of the redemption were determined by the "Regulations" February 19, 1861<sup>12</sup>. The basis of the actual redemption amount was adopted capitalized rents – the sum value of all peasant dues and not cost the land. Naturally, this led to what had actually tsarans overpay landowners about 16.3 million rubles. Given the fact that the peasants could not pay all landowners redemption amount for allotment, the government made landlords 4/5 of the redemption amount, giving the credit to farmers for 49 years. Thus, farmers were debtors of the state, which were required during the 49 years to turn a loan with percents.

After the reform in 1868 among state peasants and rezeshsky tsarans unrest began. The government was forced to develop the special rules for the inversion of the former state peasants to the

colonize-owners, as well as legislation on the vesting land tsarans, settled on the lands of the shallow-squires nobles and landlords who owned rezeshsky fiefdoms<sup>13</sup>.

The "Rules" approved December 23, 1869 and consolidated the Land System of the state peasants on more favorable terms than equipping the landlords' tsarans. State peasants received the land ownership for the proprietary accounts, the issuance of which occurred in the 1870-1871 biennium. State farmers were given all the land that belonged to them before. This allotment land was enslaved not by the separate families, as landlords' tsarans, but by the communal ownership of the village<sup>14</sup>. It was a government measure that will result in Bessarabia kept in the communal ownership, which remained the predominant form of the peasant land ownership in other Russian provinces.

In the 1871-1872 periods the former colonists were converted to the colonize-owners and Cossacks canceled Novorossiysk troops.

In 1875, were approved additional "rules" about the arrangement colonize (tsarans) on the lands of the landlords who owned rezeshsky estates, and estates of the shallow-squires Bessarabian province.

A progressive value the peasant reform is that it has accelerated the pace of the capitalist economy, especially agriculture. The tsarist government, seeking to strengthen its positions in Bessarabia and turn it into a base to extend its influence in the Balkans during the peasant reform in Bessarabia went to some concessions were set lower duties and higher dimensions of the peasant holdings, than the Great Russian provinces. However, the reform of 1868 in Bessarabia, as the reform of 1861 in Russia, did not improve the economic situation of the farmers, helped ruin the bulk of the farmers and transform them into hired laborers.

The bourgeois content of the peasant reform, held in Bessarabia was more noticeable compared to the Great provinces. The peasants of Bessarabia were larger plots of the land, and "size tribute serf" was set lower than the black Russian provinces. Bessarabian peasants, despite the preservation depending on the landowners were "more free from the influence and oppression of the feudal" than the Russian peasants.

In general, the peasant reform did not satisfy the interests of the Bessarabian peasants. Realizing the true content of the reform, the peasants began to oppose the preservation of the feudal dues and redemption payments demanded the abolition of the refining and converting them to cash rents. Most of the rise of the peasant movement was observed in the 1869-1872

biennium. That is, before and during the peasant reform. During these 4 years in 76 villages were 87 peasant rebellions, and in 11 of these riots occurred twice. Peasant uprisings accompanied by a waiver of the statutory charters, the evasion of the duties, the removal from the office, beating, the arrests of the chiefs, managers and officials. 41 of 87 riots were suppressed by troops<sup>15</sup>.

A role in the development of the region played a set in the Russian Bessarabia based "City provisions 1870" local government. Even in 1862 in 509 cities were organized committees to develop the future reform. After a long discussion June 16, 1870 Alexander II had approved the draft of a new city position.

In terms of existing urban an earlier city councils replaced by non-estate whose members – "transparent" – elected for four years on the basis of the property qualification. The number of the vowels depending on the cities ranged from 30 to 72. City council elected Board, consisting of a chairman and several members<sup>16</sup>.

Elect vowels could only payers of the municipal taxes: industrialists, bankers, merchants, landlords and others. The electoral system based on these principles: the number of the vowels election depended not on the number of the voters, and on the amount paid by city taxes. All voters, depending on the size of the tax payable were divided into 3 categories. The first category belong most taxpayers who pay one-third of the total taxes of the city, the second - average taxpayers paid taxes which also constituted a third of the total amount of the taxes to the third - all the rest<sup>17</sup>.

According to three digits of the voters conducted three election meetings in which elected a 1/3 set for the total number of vowels. Under this electoral system at the first congress elected a vowel from fewer voters than the second, and the second – from less than a third. Thus ensured the predominance and thus the rule in the city councils and board removed the large urban bourgeoisie. In order did not avoid to the council and the management of the unwanted items to the bourgeoisie, the lists with the distribution of the voters in places approved by the city council. In some cases, cities with minority voters composition or comparable to homogeneity allowed to divide voters into two instead of three digits. The employees, officers and intelligent who do not pay city taxes in the elections vowels not vote and could not influence on the thoughts and activities of the urban management.

There were certain restrictions on non-Christian population. Thus, in step 35 "City Regulations" stated that the number of the vowels from

non-Christians in the city councils and the council should not exceed 1/3 of the total number of the vowels. By doing so, limited participation in the thoughts of the local national bourgeoisie, which is not, practiced the Christian religion<sup>18</sup>.

The activity of the city councils and managements as the activities of the zemstvs, limited to purely economic issues: food security of the citizens, city landscaping, construction of the markets, health care and public education, the local trade and industry, the construction of the piers, exchanges and credit institutions, the adoption of the fire prevention measures, the opening of theaters, libraries, museums and more.

Because the city councils and the managements did not have autonomy, they were, in fact, only one of the levers of the government in the local economy. The activity of the city councils and managements was under the supervision of the Governor and the Minister of Internal Affairs. In Section 1 "City Regulations" stated: "The guardianship and the disposal of the municipal and the city public improvement provided to the management and the oversight of its legal implementation – Governor"<sup>19</sup>. The meeting of the City Council was appointed at the discretion of the mayor, or at the request of the governor. Governor supervised the conduct of the municipal fees and expenses of the funds provided estimates of the City Council.

City Council granted the right to perform the following duties: valuation of real property, the documents on the right to engage in trade and crafts, with the inn schools, the inn and food shops, with transportation trade, with horses and carriages, which were kept by private individuals, from the auction of movable property of the goods imported and exported from the city, etc.<sup>20</sup>.

Cash city council were used for the maintenance of urban management, urban public buildings and monuments, schools, hospitals and charitable institutions, for heating and lighting and the maintenance of prison guards, city police, fire brigades, for various military purposes, improvement of cities, etc.<sup>21</sup>.

Thus, the local governments as well as the zemstvo were assigned the same costs that would be paid from the public funds.

The population of Bessarabia is not only sympathetic take to new "position of the City", but also expressed the wish that it was introduced early in the action.

According to the decree of the Senate, the new "City position" in Bessarabia orientate and initially only in one city – Chisinau. In the article 2 of the decree stated: "In other cities and provinces positions that are managed by general principles, except in Western and not remembered

in the article 1 of the towns and positions of the Eastern and Western Siberia and Bessarabia region to implement this provision in the short term, guided by local circumstances at the discretion of the Minister of Internal Affairs"<sup>22</sup>.

August 22, 1870 in Bessarabia was opened the regional presence in the urban affairs, whose role was assigned the necessary preparatory work to implement "the provisions of the City" first in Chisinau, and gradually in other cities of the land. March 23, 1871 in Chisinau, the new City Council was opened. After entering a new "position of the City" in Chisinau as a result of the correspondence between the Governor of Bessarabia and Minister of Interior reached agreement in principle on the implementation of this provision is in 6 cities: Ackerman, Bendery, Khotyn, Soroki, Beltci, Orhyeyev and in 3 positions: Papushoya, Turlaki, Shabo. From urban communities Ackerman, Bendery and Khotyn were prepared to implement appropriate application of these "provisions of the City June 16, 1870"<sup>23</sup>.

In September 1871 the Home Secretary allowed to introduce in the cities Ackerman, Bendery, Soroky and Khotyn new "City position". In 1872 in Ackerman were selected vowels and open City Council. In positions Papushoya, Shabo and Turlaky to enter the urban situation existed the townspeople public managements, which consisted of a police officer and two ratmans being selected from the population. The new "City position" in Shabo was introduced in 1875.

The absence in the cities of Bessarabia the big industry and lack of the development of the trade, resulting in local bourgeoisie was weak, affected the social composition of urban councils and simplified controls. Significant place in the city councils vowels and simplified offices occupied by the nobles, officials and other population groups, and representatives of the city bourgeoisie (merchants) were only 1/3 the number of vowels.

In the first years after the implementation of the provisions of the municipal position the city councils could not expand the activity by meager budgets. In 5 of the 7 cities of Bessarabia (Kishinev, Ackerman, Bendery, Khotyn and Soroky), which in the early 70's was introduced by "City position" situation means that proceeded to the budgets of municipal councils, was slightly better than the proprietary cities, but not enough.

Even before the introduction of the "provisions of the City July 3, 1869" the State Council decided the extension of Bessarabia "Regulations October 1, 1866" about the real estate tax in cities, towns and positions. It was decided to collect the tax from 1870, its size was determined for the area of 65 thousand rubles.

The main sources of the municipal revenues were estimated fee of the immovable property and taxes on trade and crafts. Despite the fact that in the cities and towns of Bessarabia were set excessively high taxes on the domestic needs of the cities remained quite small amounts.

Due to insufficient funding of the Bessarabian cities the members of City Council was called: the presence in all cities, towns and positions of the large amounts of arrears of the fees in favor of the treasury, zemstvo and municipal governments; population proprietary towns and cities, paying heavy taxes for owners use their lands, lands, was unable to make timely tax, whom it assessed by the city council; weak development in the cities and towns of Bessarabia trade, which limited sales of the rural goods were brought other provinces, as in most industrial goods Bessarabia was absent, the presence in the province a large number of the troops.

The main revenue of the cities were collected from real property, the collection of trade and crafts, meeting with horses and carriages; various duties, from the city property and tax articles, with local facilities and businesses. Among the expenditure items: the participation in the costs of government agencies; the maintenance of the urban public institutions and the cause of the fatherless, heating and lighting prison; the residential military duty, keeping the city police, fire brigade maintenance, improvement of the city, maintenance of city buildings (businesses), public education, medical, veterinary and sanitary parts; the maintenance and improvement of urban real estate, paying debts. At city spending remained more than 10% of the city budget. Consequently, the urban economy was still in poor condition<sup>24</sup>.

Implementation in Bessarabia "provisions of the City" was carried out gradually and covered in the period from 1870 to 1877. During this time the local governments have been implemented in 7 cities, 22 towns and 3 positions<sup>25</sup>. From them 2 cities and 19 towns throughout the period remained privately owned.

In terms of the manifestation of the Bessarabian nobility and intellectuals desire to connect Bessarabia to Romania and on this basis praised orders in Romania, tsarism considered appropriate the conduct in Bessarabia bourgeois reforms, including the zemstvo.

Created in Bessarabia in 1864 rural institutions that were noble in their composition, a series of the measures to improve the agricultural practices, use of the modern agricultural machinery, construction and repair of dirt roads, clearing the Dniester in order to use it as a water transport route transporting grain and other agricultural products by rail,

organization of "food business", promoting public education, health care, veterinary care, etc.<sup>26</sup>.

Although zemstvo represented primarily the interests of the landowners held their events in the field of the economy and culture contributed to the development of the farms, spread among the masses of the peasants' education, the medical and veterinary assistance, development of the small agricultural loan, etc.

In 1869 on Bessarabia region was extended all-judicial reform (1864). Previous pre-reform feudal court with a complete lack of publicity and the trial was replaced by the bourgeois jury. Under the new judicial statutes installed the vowel court involving the parties – the prosecutor and defenders. Trials are now held in public, reports, often published in newspapers. For the consideration of cases was small embedded worldwide court. In the village acted particular parish court, which still retained the right to use corporal punishment<sup>27</sup>. Save by the Russian government remains local feudal laws was driven more political considerations than the practical needs.

Of all the reforms 60-70's of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the judicial reform is best suited small bourgeois character. After converting the province of Bessarabia region in 1873, all local features in the proceedings were canceled and fully implemented all-Russian laws.

Important for the Russian part of Bessarabia was reform in the education. Despite the policy of Russification that tsarism was carried out in the fringes of the national and inflicted considerable damage to public education, reform efforts have created more favorable conditions for the spread of education among the people and improved quality of the educational process in all types of the educational institutions. In the post-reform period in Bessarabia was greatly expanded network of the both initial and secondary Public Schools<sup>28</sup>.

Conducting financial, military censorship and reform in the Russian part of the Southern Bessarabia did not consider the specific conditions of the land. From 1862 Ministry of Finance took control of the monetary system throughout the Russian Empire. It was founded by the State Bank, which received priority lending commercial and industrial enterprises. The State participating bank was created that got independent of the local administration of provincial control of the Chamber for the monthly review of all spending agencies. Canceled redeemed tax system and determined the excise taxes that are collected by state agencies<sup>29</sup>.

The legislative acts of the 1862-1874 biennium was made and re-uniformed of the army, improve its supply management system, training

of personnel officers. Rather than recruit sets introduced a new system of army recruitment through the introduction of general conscription for 20 year-old men the term of active duty was six or seven years<sup>30</sup>. The censorship reform in 1865 aimed at strengthening of the administrative influence on the press. Prior censorship of the newspapers and magazines was introduced. Editors, threatened closure of publications forbidden to touch the hot political issues.

Thus, reform the 60-70's of the 19<sup>th</sup> century despite its incompleteness and the presence of numerous and significant remnants of the feudal serf system, by their nature were bourgeois and contributed to the development of the capitalism in Southern Bessarabia.

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**Гончарова Н. Південна Бессарабія в системі загальноросійської політики (60-70-ті рр. XIX ст.).**

У статті аналізуються специфічні риси проведення загальноросійських реформ 60-70-х рр. XIX ст. на півдні Бессарабії.

Показано, що внаслідок поразки Російської імперії у Кримській війні 1853-1856 рр., майже вся Південна Бессарабія опинилася в складі Туреччини, а в складі Росії залишалася частина Акерманського та Бендерський повіти. Кримська війна принесла страшні спустошення і заворушення серед селян як по всій країні, так і на півдні. Масовий селянський рух продемонстрував російському уряду не обхідність скасування кріпацтва, а відтак, у 1860-1870-х рр. у Російській імперії були проведені

реформи, які пізніше отримали назву «Великих реформ».

У публікації простежено механізм упровадження селянської реформи в Бессарабії. Вона мала вирішити питання про звільнення від кріпосної залежності та земельний устрій різних категорій сільського населення та царан. Підсумовано, що наслідком земельної реформи в Бессарабії стало більш швидке розшарування на селі, ніж там, де збереглася община. Саме цим частково пояснюється той факт, що в пореформений період у сільському господарстві Бессарабії, як і Новоросії, капіталістичні відносини розвивались швидше, ніж у центральних губерніях Росії.

Автором доведено, що проведення фінансової, військової та цензурної реформ у російській частині Південної Бессарабії не вразувало специфічні умови краю і реформи 60–70-х рр. ХІХ ст., незважаючи на свою незавершеність та наявність багаточисельних та істотних залишків феодално-кріпосницького ладу, за своїм характером були буржуазними та сприяли розвитку капіталізму в Південній Бессарабії.

**Ключові слова:** селянська реформа, царани, міські думи, земство, судова, освітня, фінансова, військова, цензурна реформи.