

Abstract

The diploma thesis aims to map the transformation of the image of the Cossacks in the works of key Russian historians of the 19th century and early 20th century. Formulating the topic, the author assumes that the Cossacks played an extremely important role in shaping the concept of Russian history in the 19th century – the era of modern, scientific historical research in the Russian environment. Analysing the Cossack myth, author focuses on the remarkable fact that Russian 19th century and early 20th century historiography with Cossacks its specific leaders (leaders of the Cossack uprisings Kryshtof Kosynsky, Severyn Nalyvaiko, Hetmans Bohdan Khmelnytsky, Ivan Vyhovsky, Petro Doroshenko, Ivan Mazeppa) associates (sometimes quite contradictory) with historical processes and roles (defense of Orthodoxy, driving forces in the formation of the Russian state, an anarchist, dangerous element disrupting state order, personification of desire for free life or opposition to Tsarist autocracy). The greatest attention will be paid to the two hetmans of the Ukrainian Cossacks – Khmelnytsky and Mazeppa. At the end of the thesis, the author defines the models and long-term tendencies of shaping the image of the Cossacks and their historical role with regard to the existence of various historical schools and at the same time to different thought backgrounds of specific historians. The author attempts to confront the view of Russian historiography with the Ukrainian historical research of the 19th century, where the theme of the Cossacks played a key role in the birth of modern national consciousness. The source of the work will be significant historical works of the 19th century, including thematic monographs (Kostomarov) and general history of Russia (Karamzin, Bantysh-Kamensky, Ustryalov, Solovyov, Ilovaysky, Klyuchevsky, Platonov). In addition to reviews of the history of Russian historiography (Macûrek, Vernadsky), theoretical papers will be used to form the national consciousness (Hroch, Hobsbawm), as well as Western Cossacks literature (Manning, Massie).

Key words

Cossacks, Historical Myth, Bohdan Khmelnycky, Ivan Mazeppa, Russian Historiography, Ukrainian Historiography, Western Historiography, 19th Century.