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**THE PEASANTS OF THE POLESIE DURING THE
ABOLITION OF SERFDOM**

The Reaction of the Peasantry To The Abolition Of Serfdom In Pinsk
District Of Minsk Province of Russian Empire, 1861-1864

Dissertation abstract

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ABSTRACT

From the exact wording of the thesis title was this study engaged in a broader sociological and cultural anthropological discussion about the meanings and implications of the historical event as was the abolition of serfdom in the Russian empire in 1861 on the everyday life of its contemporary actors. For well-devoted reader (in the different methodologies of the history and European national historiographies), it would seem that the topic of the abolition of serfdom in the Russian empire and its impact on society and social and cultural sphere is largely explored. But at the moment, when the critically analyzing readers begin to think closely about how the understanding of serfdom abolition has worked during the last hundred year, it might be quite obvious for them, that no one of dozen university intellectuals and amateurs has tried to go to the heart of the historical event; many intellectuals only got all mixing up on the field of quasi-scientific abstractive terms and creating unreadable texts by compile ways. That was the essential reason why it was necessary to turn the research focus around to acting individuals, not to scientific abstractions. So, in the middle of the study is staying the concept of historical understanding of the event through the colorful narrative of event storyline. This concept should be placed into too narrowly space-time area and the then conditions and circumstances, and will never use scientific abstractions, preferring instead to real contemporary actors. Due to the fact that majority contemporary actors have almost left written sources after themselves, contemporary well-educated eyewitnesses could do it more instead. So, these persons exactly and own way understood the time around, saw others, knew them, talked with them and had relations closely. That is why the second chapter of this study, be more precise, replaced the big stories of glorious or tragic sides of national historical backgrounds with insignificant stories from concrete contemporary eyewitnesses. This way the readers should to find out more precise information about the hidden past of the time and the space and the actors of the serfdom abolition event in the Pinsk district in the human everyday life topics:

contemporary literal and non-literal discourse in local society and abroad its, the ways of the cultural perception themselves and others, prevailing ideas and opinions about the event and different aspects around, the culture of social behavior and the everyday forms of interpersonal relations. The area of human behavior was presented with analyzing of the collective conduct dynamic from everyday violence rituals to non-violent attacks, through spontaneous quarrels, sudden brawls a coordinate destruction to dispel attacks and everyday routine violence. An absolute majority of contemporary peasants were illiterate and innumerate, all information and its interpretation knew by hearsay. Of course, the rumors were not based on true stories as a rule. Spreading information by hearsay registered as a seemingly chaotic but in the short-term or long-term alarming rumors, which shape behavior and social interaction interdependently. Collective ideas and the forms of the everyday behavior has influenced interdependently and created temporary and interpersonal relations between all participants in the serfdom abolition process. Should not forget to add that the forms of interpersonal relations were affected by concrete persons and their personal characteristics, motives for the acts and goals, means and situation coincidences. However, have to know, this study has no goals the readers initiate into the detailed answers to all questions about this event, but broaden new horizons in the field of the historical knowledge by throwing up many grounded questions about human everyday life in past and present.

KEYWORDS: Emancipation Manifesto, Polesie, Pinsk district, 1861-1864, peaceful conciliation, everyday life, rural society, ideas, behavior, relationships, rumors, collective violence, historical anthropology, historical sociology.