

Abstract

The proposed thesis deals with informal political associations and organizations (so called informals) in Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic with a special focus on Leningrad in the second half of 1980s and at the beginning of 1990s. The thesis is trying to find a place of political informals within the Soviet society and within perestrojka as well as it is trying to portray informals as a pluralist element in the Soviet society, as a beginning of multipartism, as an alternative structure to official state organizations and as a strong politization and radicalization factor for masses of Soviet citizens.

First part of the thesis is dedicated to the theoretical part of the problem and so it concentrates on basic characteristics of informals, its variety, ideological and social differences. Also the relations of informals and a dissent movement, democratic movement, the attitudes of power structures towards informals and relations between informals themselves are assessed here. Apart from that, the fate of informals after the dissolution of the USSR and the place of informals within perestrojka are discussed.

The second part of the thesis deals more specifically with a situation of political informals on the territory of Leningrad, which was a very important city from the point of view of informal movement and from the point of view of real results of activities by informal politics.