

The aim of this presented Bachelor's work is to familiarise potential readers with the intellectual development status of the Russian Empire during the reign of Catherine II the Great through an analysis of the influence of intellectuals within and close to the czarina. Attention is devoted to the central position of the czarina itself as an intellectual centre and to activities of important scientific institutions and main scientific disciplines. The work also focuses on the origin and nationalities of intellectuals (Russians, Germans, and other nationalities), the development of education and individual cultural fields. The activities of freemasons and their contacts and relationship with the czarina and role of female intellectuals are also presented. Emphasis is placed on issues regarding the social origin of Russian intellectuals and the degree of their dependence on the state.