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**Forming of management of nature traditions in Russia: history**

**and the present**

*In this article the short sketch of development of environmental management and environmental protection in Russia of XIII – the first half of the 20th centuries is given. Special attention is paid to the influence of geographical, environmental conditions the management of nature. Physiographic conditions considerably determined the administrative-territorial division of Russia in the XIII – XV centuries; the extensive territory allowed develop a long time extensive agriculture; the Russian way of colonization of new lands was also created considerably under the influence of an environment. The natural factor brought to life such tradition of environmental management activities as the wasteful attitude towards the natural wealth that negatively affected economic development of the country and the ecological situation. On the contrary, the tradition of the state intervention in all spheres of life of the Russian society in the case of environmental relations proved as exclusively positive. In this article the most significant state documents regulating the use of natural resources and environmental protection in Russia and the USSR are noted (XV – the first half of the 20th century).*

**Становление традиций природопользования в России:**

**история и современность**

*В статье дается краткий очерк развития природопользования и охраны природы в России XIII – ХХ вв. Особое внимание уделено влиянию географических, природных условий на характер природопользования. Физико-географические условия в значительной мере определяли административно-территориальное деление Руси в XIII – XV вв.; обширная территория позволяла длительное время развивать экстенсивное земледелие; российский вариант колонизации новых земель также сформировался в значительной мере под влиянием природных условий. Природный фактор вызвал к жизни такую традицию природопользовательной деятельности, как расточительное отношение к природным богатствам, что отрицательно отразилось на экономическом развитии страны и экологической ситуации. Напротив, традиция государственного вмешательства во все сферы жизни российского общества в случае социоприродных отношений проявила себя как исключительно положительная. В статье отмечены наиболее значимые государственные документы, регулирующие использование природных ресурсов и охрану природы в России и СССР (XV – первая половина ХХ в.).*

***Keywords***: *management of nature activities, nature protection activities, nature protection legislation, colonization.*

***Ключевые слова:*** *природопользовательная деятельность, природоохранная деятельность, природоохранное законодательство, колонизация.*

Many features of development of Russia, not only the ecological plan, are connected with the nature of environment. Russia is the state with very extensive territory and severe climate. The famous Russian historian A.E. Presnyakov, characterizing the first period of resettlement of people in the territory of the East-European plain, wrote: "In the country rich with the wood and water, on the poor loam, the agricultural population had to win with great difficulty from the nature sites under an arable land, to be settled by small settlements, trying to discover for them convenient places, to be scattered at long distances, large value in its life of forest and water crafts – hunting, fishing, forest using increased an extensiveness of resettlement in a pursuit of untouched lands and harvests. Primitive economies gave it mobile, unstable nature. Depleted sites were easily left, population on the new lands in search of more favorable conditions for application of hard work easily moved.

Economic work slid on the surface of the country, spreading in breadth, seized the territory superficially in the case of domination of an extensive economy and the scattered, rare settling" [1, p. 333].

In the XIII – XV century physiographic features of the occupied lands were one of the main factors which determined specifics of the administrative-territorial division of Russia and distribution of the population to its territories. Regulation of the management of nature relations was performed through the volost heads; the volost resolved the issues of joint use of all lands. Small economic units (the yards, settlements) had the share in the ownership of pastures, woods, crafts.

The other form of economic use of lands in the medieval Russia, in addition to the volost land ownership, was the patrimonial land ownership, possessing such powerful economic and political levers as: labor strength of serfs, money, presence of the organized military force. Patrimonial land ownership in Russia was performed, generally by two estates – the nobility and clergy which had influence on the centralized power and, therefore, enjoying its support. Orders of the central power were the legal basis for distribution and occupation of lands, grounds forest etc., colonization of heathlands. (Later, in the XVI – XVII centuries, practice of distribution by the central power of natural grounds led to formation of the system of local land ownership). In Russia for the all middle ages there is close connection of public service with the land ownership.

On the one hand, it was simple to perform distribution of lands by the central power in Russia as there is a lot of lands. But among this abundance of lands there were very few places suitable for agricultural using, places on which it would be possible to live and manage rather easily and qualitatively. Therefore the second side of distribution of lands by the princely power was the aspiration of volosts and great landowners to hold the population.

The interesting feature which exerted very notable impact on the development of the management of nature relations in the medieval Russia in comparison with the countries of Western Europe, was much longer period of almost unrestricted development of extensive agriculture. Here the net natural, spatial, and inside - and foreign policy factors played a role. In the densely populated Western Europe possibilities of extensive development of agriculture and in general the agricultural industry were exhausted in the middle of our millennium that led to the strengthened colonizer movement. And this colonization, in turn, required the intensive plan of economic efforts: it was necessary to develop the industry and agricultural industry at home to have an opportunity to support the fleet, to provide economic and spiritual expansion in the very remote areas of the globe. Colonization of the neighboring lands was impossible as there the people which are at the same step of socio-economic development lived. Any attempts to occupy their territory led to a war of two opponents, approximately equal on force. Therefore for Portugal or Spain, for example, it was more economic to send the fleet and army to America, than to wage a war with someone from the closest neighbors.

Thus, in the countries of Western Europe intensive use of the own natural wealth became a condition of capture and development of new lands. Besides, the "western" colonization was oriented to the lands with favorable climate where the resource-and energy costs on production of the certain types of products were much lower, than in the metropole. It is known that the rich nature and soft climate – the most important economic resource of the state. Metropoles became even richer and stronger.

As for Russia, features of its geographical location peculiar influenced the development of the management of nature relations in its territory, and also on the development of colonization movement.

Economic development by the eastern Slavs of lands in the X – XV centuries (five hundred years!) was performed generally due to the slash-burn clearing agriculture. The poor loamy soils for development of agriculture were ineffective. Efficiency of the slash-burn clearing agriculture was provided due to the use of energy of the sun accumulated by the plants. Therefore while in the Eastern Europe there was an abundance of woods, its population could develop successfully and developed, despite the adverse natural, climatic conditions. In the 15th century the population of the North-western Russia was doubled, and there wasn't enough free lands. To the end of the century population of the Eastern Europe passes to ploughed field agriculture because of the impoverishment of forest grounds.

Russia was in the severe economic and political conditions at this time. Searches of permission of this situation were undertaken on the ways of strengthening of the centralized power, enslaving of the labor population and activization of the colonization policy.

Let's in passing note that at the beginning of our millennium the natural inaccessibility of places where the eastern Slavic tribes lived, initially caused the not only economic identity of their development. Owing to the above-named reason exchange with the other people at the eastern Slavs was complicated; they later, than the other people, joined such achievements of civilization as the rationalized religion and statehood.

However since the X century Russia, for the same mentioned reason, begins to draw more and more close attention by the western neighbors.

First, on the geographical location Russia became the true outpost of the Christian world. Secondly, Moscow held the all commercially profitable ways from Europe to the Asian countries in the hand: the all trade transit to the East passed through the Russian lands. Thirdly, Russia was of huge economic interest as the raw materials market and sale of goods.

If familiarizing with a world civilization for Russia, after Byzantium, went traditionally from neighbors from the West, then the eastern neighbors gave the chance to carry out colonization, spending for it a minimum of efforts. It was also natural, "small" colonization when the runaway Russian people settled on the state suburbs, entering numerous communications and relations with the population of border areas. It was also "big" colonization at the public policy level.

Neighbors from the East at the time of beginning of colonization were, generally at the lower level of social and economic development, than the Russian State therefore colonization of their lands didn't demand from Russia excessive military and economic efforts. We mean the process which is referred to as in the domestic literature "Development of Siberia and the Far East" which inherently was colonization of these territories.

In the XVI-XVII centuries the Russian colonization movement to the east covered the directions for the Kama and down the Volga. At the very beginning of the 17th century Yeniseisk, Krasnoyarsk were founded. The Russian pathfinders colonialists moved further, to the lands of Tungus and Buryats. By the tsar Mikhail Romanov (1596 – 1645) the Russians reached the Sea of Okhotsk, the coast of Yenisei and Lena, settled in Transbaikalia, the Anadyr region, got to the Amur. In 1689 the official agreement with China fixing the first differentiation of the Far-Eastern ownerships was signed.

Colonization movement in the western direction was initiated by the aspiration of Russia to receive the outlet to the sea necessary for the development of trade, the national economy, communication with the developed European people (the task was performed by Peter I).

In the south unused steppes with the rich fertile soils, and also the need of strengthening the southern, the most restless borders of the Russian state attracted Russia. Here the task was set to reach the coast of the Black Sea as the natural border from the South. The movement to the south begun by the tsar Mikhail continues by his son Aleksey Mikhaylovich. In the 60th of the 17th century Penza appears; as a result of colonization there are even repopulated Don and the lower Volga. In 1653 the territorial cathedral announced the decision on the Russia’s entering under the imperial power. The annexation of the Crimea to Russia which dragged on for many decades and costing to Russia a lot of economic and political efforts, and, above all – hundreds and thousands of human lives, finally happened by Ekaterina II.

In the north the economic interests of Russia required joining of lands of the Dnieper basin, mastering which facilitated an exit to the southern trade ways.

The important page in the history of Russia is also colonization of the Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

On the one hand, colonization of new lands didn't require the especially powerful growth of economy of the Russian state as for their extensive development the political and military force of the centralized power was necessary and sufficient. On the other hand, Russia was forced to make considerable economic investments in the development of attached territories, especially such as the Crimea, Ukraine, later – Transcaucasia – the territories possessing favorable climatic conditions and minerals.

But (in it one more feature of development and economic, and the nature management relations in Russia) expansion of the territory of the state didn't influence the growth of national well-being in any way. On the contrary, power of the state was under construction on an increase in exploitation of increasing population, maintenance of the extremely low level of its life.

Even those incentive measures which in the XVII – XVIII centuries were taken by the state on development of the industry and trade remained inefficient because of the weakness of domestic market. Development of the domestic market was interfered most of all by the serf system of economy. But the state didn't go for its elimination, having chosen an external way of "solution" of the problem – expansion to the east in search of the foreign markets of sale of the Russian goods.

In the second half of XIX – the beginning of the 20th centuries when possibilities of Russia to support the prestige of the great power at the expense of enormous territory and impoverishment of the population were exhausted, it also gave a peculiar answer to "the future challenges". As is once in XV, then – in XVIII, and at the beginning of the XX century an exit from the current situation is looked for not on the economic ways, but in the political peripetias. Similar situation occurred and in the late eighties – the beginning of the 90th years of the XX century. As a result of mass economically of in any way not verified and politically rash decisions and their implementation modern Russia appeared in those borders which it had in the 16th century. (The analysis of solvency of these decisions isn't included into the tasks of our research).

Owing to disintegration of two large economic organisms – the USSR and SEV – in Russia were almost destroyed the industry and agricultural industry, and the planned ecological crisis developed into the authentic social-and-ecological catastrophic crash which is followed by degradation of culture, science, education – all spheres of social life; deterioration, despite the stopping of work of the most entities, ecological situation, in particular, negative population growth, reduction of the average life expectancy, change of the structure of food towards its extreme impoverishment.

And, all this occurs in the country having 30% of the world reserves of coal, 40% – oils, 45% – gas, 44% – iron and 74% of manganese ores, 28% – diamonds, 30% – gemstones, invaluable inventories of the wood and fresh water. Rational use of such riches is capable to arise any bad economy: the nature here still gives a chance to the Russians. But the nature doesn't create legal and political systems, doesn't build models of economic development – all this in the power of the person and only the person.

Above we not accidentally carried out a short digression to the history of our state because, at least, two important features of development of the management of nature relations in Russia are connected with this story.

The tradition of the wasteful attitude towards the natural wealth which was always much is connected with the fact that the history of Russia till 20th century is, actually, the history of continuous colonization movement in public consciousness. Illusion of inexhaustibility of the natural wealth on the Russian soil held on much longer, than it took place at our neighbors both from the West, and from the East. The nature reformative activities of the person, spreading on a surface of huge spaces, yielded also the results as if "smeared" in this space not so obvious.

The second feature is connected with the fact that in Russia there is a long tradition of the state intervention in all spheres of life of the society. It belongs also to the management of nature and the nature protection activities.

From the XIV – XV centuries in Russia there were specialized villages and which tasks included cultivation and trade of the valuable animal species: beavers, falcons, gyrfalcons, fishes, bees. The right of trade of an animal and fishing was established by the princely appointed and preferential letters and strictly protected.

Due to the special value of sable, development of Siberia initially was followed by care of the imperial power of safety of the habitats of this small animal, protection of the sable grounds. In them the cutting of wood, burning out and its plowing-up under arable lands was forbidden. Establishment of borders between the Russian principalities, the boundary woods, at the same time promoted spontaneous emergence of reserves: in these woods it was forbidden to cut trees, to trade an animal and a bird.

The tsar Aleksey Mikhaylovich, the passionate fan of a falconry, ordered to consider reserved seven islands along the eastern part of the Murmansk coast (the modern reserve "Seven Islands"). Near Moscow for the needs of imperial hunting forests the Moose island and Izmailovo were allocated under the wildlife areas. Aleksey Mikhaylovich adopted several tens of decrees on an exclusive right of imperial hunting, terms and zones of hunting for different types of animals.

Aleksey Mikhaylovich's son, Pyotr Alekseevich occupied with the more problems of economic development of the country paid attention to an importance of such natural resource as the wood. In case of Peter I the decrees forbidding cutting of the wood along the floatable rivers were adopted. The concepts of reserved types of trees were entered, penalties for their spoil were established. Punishments for the illegal cutting of wood were tough: 30 rub for each cut-down tree for the first time; in case of the second violation – confiscation of a half of property of the violator; in case of the third – confiscation of all property and 20 years of work by galleys [2, p. 130].

At the initiative of Peter I the gardens and parks of rest in the neighborhood of Moscow and St. Petersburg were created.

For the first time by Pyotr Alekseevich target landings of wood in Russia begin: larches near St. Petersburg, oak groves in the Voronezh province and near Taganrog. In case of the Admiralty the special forest service which had an extensive network of employees was founded: from the head – an obershtalmeyster, to supervisors on the places performing monthly inspection of the woods.

Decrees on protection of the wood were adopted by Peter II, Anna Ioannovna. Huge damage to the forestry of Russia, A. Semenova-Tyan-Shanskaya notes, was put by Ekaterina II. Having repealed the Peter I's decree on prohibition of cuttings of the landowner woods in 1782, she permitted to use them somehow. "In only eight years were almost totally cut down the reserved ship woods in the Volga region and other places … Catastrophic crash was so obvious that the Paul I's government at once after Ekaterina's death in 1796 began to introduce new restrictions and prohibitions on operation of the woods and approved special forest department. But it was already impossible to recover the former woodiness. It was necessary to undertake measures for afforestation on the huge squares. Forest plantations began not only on the state, but also on the landowners' estates, especially in forest-steppe provinces. But among the landowners was few people understanding the value of the wood. And it continued to be cut, sold and exported abroad" [2, p. 132].

In 1802 in Russia the new forest Charter was approved, in 1805 – forest inspection is organized, in 1832 – the estate – forest guards is founded new, free from taxes.

The following edition of the forest Charter was accepted in 1888. In it the Petrovsk idea of the reserved woods was revived.

Also the care of protection of purity of the environment didn't leave from attention of the Russian state. The state decrees regulated the purity of reservoirs, utilization of the household waste.

The Russian state hunting legislation was rather soft, was limited to the system of insignificant penalties for poaching. With respect thereto it was considerably supplemented and adjusted by the local regulations.

But in one legal act of the state Russian, and then the value of nature or its separate components as such wasn't recognized to the Russian Empire – economic value of this or that natural resource for the state was recognized.

We think that the real situation in the field of protection of hunting grounds, waters and woods strikingly differed from ordered by the laws. If to consider that since the kingdom of Moscow the salary to the official in Russia was appointed taking into account that he "will be fed from a post", then the scope of violations of the law in the field of the management of nature activities was big.

Observance of the nature protection laws wasn't promoted also by the huge spaces of Russia. If the kingdom of Moscow of Ivan the Terrible's times still "reached" a majestic right to hand sable grounds of the Western Siberia, then St. Petersburg didn't show noticeable concern about a state of nature of the Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

Slightly better the situation was where the management of nature was performed with a support on the nature protection national traditions or where it was organized and controlled by the educated, rich enthusiasts.

Among the Russians in the turned look remained by the centuries and there are still echoes of the pagan relation to the nature. Ivan Kupala's holiday with the related belief in the magic mysterious forces of herbs and flowers on the night of Ivan, numerous rural holidays with their binding to the natural, seasonal cycles; absolute ecological solvency of the organization of the management of nature activity of the northern and priamursk ethnoses isolates – all this at the level of ordinary consciousness, let in an insignificant degree, but nevertheless promoted the development of territorial protection of nature.

The educated owners-land owners created reserves in the territory of their manors. In the late eighties of the last century the reserve "Chapli" (nowadays "Askania-Nova") in the F.E. Falts-Feyn's manor, the zoologist by education was created. Reserved territories have been founded in the manors of counts Pototskiy, Panin, Sheremetyev, in the Karamzin' manor.

The initiative of development of the state program of protection of natural environment was taken by the Geographical society of Russia. In 1909 this idea has been voiced and has got support at the XII congress of the Russian scientists and doctors. On it the program for ensuring safety of the rare types of flora, fauna, unique natural objects has been adopted. Creation of the network of reserves in the Russian territory went to interrelations with the development of social movement in protection of the nature.

From the middle of the 19th century in Russia the societies of protection animals begin to develop. The Russian society of protection animals had the journal, was engaged in the legislative activity in the field of protection of animals, carried out the corresponding instructing of the lower ranks of police, kept the animals shelters, created the school societies – leagues of the juvenile animal activists. The Russian society of protection animals participated in the work of the International union on protection of birds.

In 1906 the Society of fans of the nature has been created. The questions of nature protection drew more and more close attention of the scientists, public, statesmen.

The principles reported by I.P. Borodin and G.F. Morozov at the XII congress of the Russian scientists and doctors (planned creation of reserves, a concept of reference types of the bio-geographical zones) were the basis for preparation of the law on nature protection and the law on reserves. The drafts of these laws were reported on the Geographical Society in 1917. Further their substantial part was used in the Soviet nature protection legislation.

In the nature protection the Soviet state showed the considerable activity. After the October revolution natural resources of Russia (and the USSR) passed into the public property. The last concept is very indistinct as doesn't give the chance to specify the specific subject of the property. Really in the USSR there was a state-owned property on the all natural resources.

Interest of the socialist Soviet state in natural resources was not casual: in the country having after the war and two revolutions the negative economic balance, use of the richest resource potential promised a possibility of the solution of many social and economic and political problems.

Decrees of the Soviet power "About the earth", "About the woods" announced the called natural objects the national property. In 1918 the State committee on environmental protection (under the authority of Narkompros) and the Head department on fishery and fish industry (by Narkomprod) were organized; the decree "About the terms of hunting and about the right to the fowling piece" is signed. In 1918 there is a decree "About protection of the natural resort areas", in 1921 – "About protection of the fish and animal grounds in the Arctic Ocean and the White Sea", the decree "About the Baikal national parks for cultivation and protection of the valuable animals", the decree "About preserving and recovery of the woods of the Crimea", "About protection of the nature sanctuaries, gardens and parks"; in 1923 – the decree "About exploitation of the timberland in the Far-Eastern region", "About the Crimean national park and the forest biological station", in 1924 – "About accounting of the monuments of art, old times and the nature". We listed only some of numerous decrees and resolutions on the nature protection, adopted by the socialist Soviet state at the beginning of its existence [3].

In 1924 the All-Russian society of nature protection was organized. In spite of the fact that the membership in it was in many respects formal, the Society played the role in the nature protection, distribution of ecological knowledge, familiarizing of the younger generation with understanding of the nature, in creation and work of the local history organizations.

The ecological ideas was developed by such famous Russian scientists as V.I. Vernadskiy, K.A. Timiryazev, V.V. Dokuchayev, V.N. Sukachyov, etc.

In 1955 by the Presidium of Academy of Sciences of the USSR the Interdepartmental commission on nature protection, and also the scientific council "Complex biological studying of wildlife and scientific bases of its rational development and protection" was created.

Our tasks can't include creation of the complete list of all regulations in the field of nature protection which appeared since the Moscow Russia on the middle of the 20th century. But the carried-out short historical digression to the fields of the Russian natural study, the management of nature and nature protection allows be convinced of that, as the ecological knowledge, and the nature protection legislation developed in Russia successfully, according to the universal tendencies.

Really, the international community shows the interest in problems of the environmental protection, practically, since the beginning of the 20th century. The first international conference connected with these problems took place in 1913 in Bern. Within the next decades the number of actions which purpose was to draw attention of the governments and the people of various countries to the problems of the management of nature and environmental protection steadily grew. Some kind of result of the global theoretical judgment of the called problems was at the end of the XX century the conference of the UN in Rio de Janeiro (1992) at which the Concept of sustainable development which constituted some kind of paradigm of the management of nature and nature protection activities was adopted.

The separate principles of sustainable development found the reflection and fixing in the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

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