# ВОПРОСЫ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ И ФЕДЕРАТИВНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ

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### ВОПРОСЫ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ И ФЕДЕРАТИВНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ

Научный журнал

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### Objectives and themes

Academic journal "Issues of National and Federative Relations" is an international peer-reviewed scientific periodical in the field of political studies. The journal has an international character because of the composition of its Editorial Board, its editors, its contributing authors and topics of its publications.

The scientific journal is published since 2011 at the "Publishing House "Science Today". Translated (eng.) version of the journal is published since 2018. Since its inception, the journal was guided by high scientific and ethical standards and today it is one of the leading political science journals in Russia.

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The journal is intended for the publication of the results of fundamental and applied scientific research. Thematic focus of the journal is reflected in the following permanent headings: "Domestic history, ethnology and ethnography", "History of international relations and world politics", "History and philosophy of politics", "Political institutions, processes and technologies", "Political culture, ethnopolitics and ideologies", "Political problems of international relations and globalization."

Format of publications: scientific articles, reviews, scientific materials, materials of round tables, scientific reviews, scientific reports devoted to research problems in the field of politics and political science.

The Editorial Board and the editors of the journal in their activities are guided by the principles defined by VAK of Russia for scientific journals, including: presence of the institute of peer review for the expert quality assessment of scientific articles; information openness of the publications; availability and compliance with the rules and ethical standards for the submission of manuscripts by the authors.

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# ИСТОРИЯ РАЗВИТИЯ ШЕЛКОВОДСТВА НА ТЕРРИТОРИИ СТАВРОПОЛЬСКОЙ ГУБЕРНИИ. РОЛЬ А.Ф. РЕБРОВА В СТАНОВЛЕНИИ РОССИЙСКОГО ШЕЛКОВОДСТВА

Настоящая статья посвящена изучению исторических причин, предпосылок возникновения шелководства в России, на Северном Кавказе и в Ставропольской губернии в частности. В ходе исследования мы изучаем основные вопросы развития шелководства, связанные с деятельностью А.Ф. Реброва и промысловой культурой ставропольского казачества. Актуальность темы связана с необходимостью частного изучения особенностей регионального шелководства как фактора формирования экономических, социальных и культурных связей между городом и деревней в Ставропольской губернии. Практическая значимость заключается в возможности использования материалов работы в дальнейшем изучении российского шелководства XIX – начала XX вв. В методическом аспекте материалы исследования можно использовать на занятиях по историческим дисциплинам на уровне высшего учебного заведения. Научная новизна исследования обусловлена обнаружением связей деятельности А.Ф. Реброва, промыслов ставропольского казачества и торговлей жителей г. Ставрополя с представителями греческих поселений во второй четверти XIX века, эти факторы, ставшие основой регионального промысла, выносятся в качестве тезиса о зарождении в центре Ставропольской губернии первого целостного промысла по созданию шелка в истории

Российской империи. Методологический аппарат исследования составили специально-исторические методы, а также социологические и культурологические методы, используемые в качестве вспомогательных. Результатом исследования стало определение сущности, форм и особенностей развития шелководства на территории Ставропольской губернии в ХІХ – начале ХХ вв.

Ключевые слова: Кавказ, Ставрополь, Пятигорск, шелководство, тутовник, отрасль, казачество.

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### HISTORY OF SILKWORM BREEDING ON THE TERRITORY OF THE STAVROPOL PROVINCE. A.F. REBROV'S ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF RUSSIAN SILKWORM BREEDING

This article is devoted to the study of historical reasons, prerequisites of silkworm breeding in Russia, in the North Caucasus and in Stavropol Province in particular. In the course of the study we study the main issues of development of silkworm breeding associated with the activities of A.F. Rebrov and the craft culture of the Stavropol Cossacks, Relevance of the topic is connected with the necessity of private study of the peculiarities of regional silkworm breeding as a factor of formation of economic, social and cultural ties between a city and a village in the Stavropol Territory. Practical value consists in possibility of use of materials of work in the further studying of the Russian silk-growing of XIX – the beginning of XX centuries. From the methodical aspect, the materials of the study can be used in the lessons of historical disciplines at the level of higher educational institution. Scientific novelty of the research is stipulated by discovery of the links be-

tween the activity of A.F. Rebrov, crafts of the Stavropol Cossacks and trading of Stavropol inhabitants with representatives of the Greek settlements in the second quarter of the XIX century. These factors formed the basis of the regional craft, which is put forward as a thesis on origin in the centre of Stavropol province the first complete craft of silk production in history of Russian empire. Methodological apparatus of the study consisted of special historical methods, as well as sociological and cultural methods, used as auxiliary. The research resulted in definition of essence, forms and peculiarities of silk production development on the territory of Stavropol Province in XIX – early XX centuries.

**Key words:** Caucasus, Stavropol, Pyatigorsk, silkworm breeding, mulberry growing, industry, Cossacks.

**Introduction.** Silk farming is one of the oldest trades and is considered a special branch of agriculture. The following specific features are necessary for silk farming: favourable natural and climatic conditions in which mulberry (mulberry) can be grown – the basis of silkworm fodder, knowledge and skills about this industry, the predominance of manual labour. At the same time, the products of silkworm breeding are always in demand in the market, therefore the industry is economically promising. At the moment, silk farming can be a profitable industry for smallholders in southern Russia, as this region has quite a successful historical experience in silkworm breeding.

The value of silk lies in its significance for the general cultural, economic and military development potential of the state. Silk is a natural fibre of animal origin, a product of insects, in particular the mulberry silkworm.

Silk is a durable, high-quality material used to make fabric. Mulberry silkworm yarn consists mainly of fibroin (a strong elastic protein), coated with sericin (jelly protein). Virtually all silk comes from the cocoons of specially bred mulberry silkworms. These insects feed on the leaves of mulberry trees. One mulberry silkworm cocoon produces 600-900 m of thread. This filament is formed from the liquid that the caterpillar produces from its single spinning gland.

The silkworm wraps a silk cocoon around its body to turn into a butterfly afterwards. When the cocoon is ready, the silkworms heat them to kill the insect inside it. The cocoons are then soaked to allow the thread to unravel, and the fibres from several cocoons are unwound together to form one common strand of raw silk. This is used to make spun silk, from which cloth is woven.

Overview of sources and historiography. The source base for the study is represented by four groups of sources: 1) archival data; 2) statistical data; and 3) journalistic publications.

Archival information is represented by data from three archival databases – the State Archive of Krasnodar Territory, the Krasnodar Archive of the Stavropol Territory, and the Russian State Military Historical Archive. The archives form the basis of the study, as they contain the information necessary to reconstruct the historical picture of the Stavropol Territory's past.

The information of the State Archive of Krasnodar Territory is represented by fund 722 «Bailiff of the 2nd district of Temryuksky district police department». case 166 «Statistical data on population, factories and plants, land tenure, agriculture, trade, cattle breeding in the villages of the district» [3].

Data from the State Archive of Stavropol Territory is represented by fond 40. The Government Agronomist of Stavropol Province, Stavropol, file 5, The correspondence between the Government agronomist and the head instructor of gardening, peasants of the province, zemstvo and other institutions regarding the supply of planting material and seeds for vegetable and garden plants; Report of the zemstvo's instructor on his work in 1914» [5-7]; fond 79 «General administration of the Caucasus region 1822-1847 in the town of Georgievsk, from 1825 – in the town of Stavropol»; fond 1753 «Information about dachas, forests of the Caucasus Region» [8]; fund 9, «Stavropol Provincial Statistical Committee, 1835-1918 (Stavropol)», file 67, «Correspondence of the committee with the Caucasian section of the Imperial Russian Society of Gardening, the Stavropol Organizing Committee on the organization of an exhibition of garden crops in Stavropol in the autumn of 1900» [9].

Information from the Russian State Military History Archive is provided by fund 330 «Main Directorate of Cossack Troops», file 148 «Grebenskaya Cossack Regiment, 1853» [11].

Statistical data is represented by the collection «Military Statistical Review of the Russian Empire» (volume XVI), revealing the most significant social-economic and military-political aspects of the origin, development and integration of silk breeding in different cities, stanitsa and settlements of Stavropol Province [2].

The publication «Kavkaz» sheds light on the main trends in Russian silk breeding in principle, and the article by A.F. Rebrov «On the nearest ways to the proper development in Russia of improved silk breeding» reflects his contribution to the formation of a holistic system of silk breeding in Stavropol province and the city of Stavropol with the support of the Cossacks and the peasantry [12]. Alimirzaev N.Y. The emergence and development of silk farming in the Stavropol Territory (late eighteenth – twentieth centuries) [1]. Iofe, G. L. Founder of cultural silk farming in Russia A.F. Rebrov [10].

1. The origin of sericulture. The emergence and development of the first agricultural practices of silkworm breeding is associated with the name of Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich [Romanov], under whom the first attempts were made to breed silkworms as fodder for mulberry silkworms. It is known that already under Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich people were engaged in making raw silk in Astrakhan. From that moment the state authorities began to show great interest in the development of domestic silkworm breeding, and the Cossacks also began to master silkworm breeding [1].

In 1718 on the left bank of the Terek River arose Silkozavodskoe estate run by S. Vasiliev. In this regard, a raw silk processing plant was built near the estate and employed by the Kizlyar Cossacks, Armenians and Georgians. The activities of Armenian merchants are associated with the beginning of the promotion of silk production in the central regions of the North Caucasus [8].

At the end of the XVIII century the authorities turned their attention to the southern borders of the empire, as the lands suitable for silk cultivation. The North Caucasus became one of such experimental sites. The natural and climatic conditions of the region could contribute to the successful results.

In the «Military Statistical Review of the Russian Empire», compiled in 1851, on the natural riches of the North Caucasus and the trees growing there was mentioned: «...at last the most remarkable, as giving development of special industry of the region, mulberry or mulberry tree, being of several grades, which differ by colour of berries between each other» [2. P. 80].

The Stavropol Territory, where the Cossacks were active in silk farming, proved to be one of the relatively successful regions in silkworm breeding. Even in the pre-reform period and before the end of the Caucasian War, there were rudiments for the development of silk farming in the Stavropol Territory.

Peter the Great drew attention to the development of silk farming on the Terek, he granted privileges to the Armenian merchant Safor Vasilyev and some others, who settled in Kizlyar. The Empresses Anna Ioannovna, Elizabeth Petrovna, Catherine II took various measures as privileges for merchants, discharge of masters, prohibition to import silk from Persia trying to support silk cultivation in Kizlyar, and therefore in the middle of XIX century it produced the best silk in the province [2. P. 187].

In Stavropol Province at that time mulberry trees were bred by all inhabitants of stanitsa, villages, constituting public property. Machines for unwinding silk were made rather primitively, for the care of worms and for the production of silk people with experience in this matter were hired, «mainly in the days when the worms cocoon, and moths put seeds» [2. P. 187].

The governor of the Caucasus, Prince Mikhail Semenovich Vorontsov arranged a model silk-growing establishment in the mulberry city garden of Stavropol, where silk production was to be based on the European model [1].

On the orders of the governor, 25 boys were taken from the villages of the state peasants to an institution for training and were ordered to accept cocoons from the inhabitants for a known fee, in order to encourage their industry with easy marketing. In this way the foundations were laid for the teaching of silkworm breeding and the popularisation of the industry. In addition, in the pre-reform period there were considerable plantations of mulberry trees in Stavropol. As of 1851, state peasants had 172 plantations of mulberry trees and in 1850 they

unwound 7 poods and 17 pounds of raw silk, a pound of which cost from 2 to 3 rubles in silver, i.e., totaling about 700 rubles. In the Caucasian linear Cossack troops 12 poods and 11 pounds of raw silk were unwound at the sum of 982 roubles in silver [2. P. 187-188].

The cities of Stavropol, Georgievsk and Pvatigorsk were not engaged in silk production during this period. Silk cultivation existed in Mozdok: there were about 8 thousand mulberry trees and up to 24 poods of silk valued at 3 rubles per pound a year [3].

Silk cultivation was most developed in Kizlyar, where historically its centre was formed, where various Cossack communities sold silk for the purchase of weapons. The city had about 20 thousand mulberry trees and annually produced up to 100 poods of raw silk and 120 poods of cotton silk, totaling about 19 thousand roubles [3].

Technical processing of silk in pre-revolutionary times was done in two ways:

- 1) by direct unwinding of cocoons one received cocoon threads, joined by several pieces in the so-called raw thread [5];
- 2) if the cocoon can't be unwound, it is unravelled and the separated silk fibres are spun in the same way as for other fibrous materials [6].

The resulting varn was called, depending on how it was made:

- 1) cotton silk («chappe»; «Floretseide»; «floret silk»);
- 2) «bourrette» («bourre de soie»; «Stumba»; «bourrette»; «waste silk»);
- 3) «silk shoddy» («Seiden shoddy») [3].

The profitability of such occupation as silkworm breeding also attracted the attention of landlords. For instance, landlord Skarzhinsky in Burgon-Majary in Pyatigorsk uyezd produced 2 poods of silk worth 300 rubles silver a year. In Vladimirovka, the landowner A.F. Rebrov produced 5 poods worth 1.5 thousand roubles. The activities of the latter should be noted in details, because it was A.F. Rebrov who founded not only the Stavropol, but also the all-Russian silkworm breeding. In his estate A.F. Rebrov was engaged in research and experimental activities aimed at obtaining high quality silk, which could be supplied not only to the domestic but also to the international market [10].

Russian historian N.Ya. Alimirzaev, who was engaged in the history of silk farming in Stavropol region, writes about this figure the following: «At the experimental silkworm breeding station Rebrov created a school at his own expense, and for free distribution of silkworms he established a special plantation, in fact he developed a scientific basis for breeding new breeds. On his initiative, a Silkworm Breeding Committee was established under the Moscow Society of Agriculture» [1].

In «Military Statistical Review of the Russian Empire» it is also indicated that silk breeding of A.F. Rebrov can be considered exemplary, its silk of extraordinary whiteness, at the exhibition in Moscow connoisseurs compared it with that of Lyons [2. P. 188]. N.Ya. Alimirzaev believed that Rebrov's successful experiments and initiatives were the result of individual enthusiasm and were based on serf labour <...> therefore, after his death in 1858, the poorly connected economy with the market ceased to exist [1].

Due to the fact that most peasants were illiterate, A.F. Rebrov proposed the Silkworm Committee to provide images of the silkworm in all its periodic ages and modifications until its future revival from an egg. The production was also complicated by the fact that each such picture had to be accompanied by a table indicating the temperature of revival, housing, amount of feed and placement by age. A.F. Rebrov wrote in the Kavkaz newspaper that quantitative and qualitative characteristics of silk processing were inaccessible to the peasantry because they were poorly educated. At the same time, the Stavropol Cossacks did not see benefit in silk farming in the short term. Many well-to-do Cossack women were engaged in horse breeding, viticulture and wine-making. Their wives were engaged in vine-growing. It turns out that there was no time left for silkworm breeding, and it was simply impossible to entrust such a complex occupation to the peasantry [12].

2. The rise and fall of sericulture. In the third quarter of the XIX century, Stavropol silk was purchased mainly locally by merchants and was sent mainly to the Nizhny Novgorod and Makariev fairs; a small part of it was sold in the Stavropol Territory. Rarely, silk reached Astrakhan Province. Further successful development of silkworm breeding in the Stavropol region was hindered by a silkworm epidemic in Europe and Russia in the 1860s [4].

In addition to this, with the abolition of serfdom the landlord silkworm breeding was abolished, and also the state ceased to exert a coercive influence on the spread of the silkworm breeding industry in the region. Only from the 1880s, the government once again turned its attention to the development of silkworm breeding. In 1881 a committee of Moscow silkworm breeders examined the state of the industry. In 1883 the Caucasian silkworm breeding was transferred to the Ministry of State Property, which in 1884 set up a model worm breeding centre in Zakatala (Azerbaijan) [4].

In 1887 was created in Tiflis «Caucasian Silkworm Breeding Station», which was of great importance for silkworm breeding in the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia, which helped to overcome the crisis in the domestic silkworm breeding. In the Stavropol Territory during the counter-reform era of Alexander III silk farming still existed and even some recovery of the industry after the silkworm epizootic was observed, however, there was no inflow of capital. The consequence of this was not silkworm breeding decline but activation of private entrepreneurs [4].

At the turn of the XIX-XX centuries in Stavropol Province silkworm breeding was practiced as a permanent branch of agriculture, especially in Prikumskiy district, where this trade was considered common. As before, manual labour was largely used. It follows from the correspondence of the Committee with the Caucasian Department of the Imperial Russian Society of Horticulture and the Stavropol Organizing Committee on the arrangement of an exhibition of horticultural crops in Stavropol in the autumn of 1900 that there was an idea of further development of local silk production and its transition to the international level. Thus, one of the aims of the exhibition was to draw the attention of Cossacks, farmers and gardeners to such industries and products that are little developed or absent at all, but can be useful and profitable for them [9].

Applications were sent to the exhibition directly from the Stavropol, Terek and Kuban provinces. In the third quarter of the XIX century, Stavropol silk was purchased mainly locally by merchants and was sent mainly to the Nizhny Novgorod and Makariev fairs; a small part of it was sold in the Stavropol Territory. Rarely, silk reached Astrakhan Province. Further successful development of silkworm breeding in the Stavropol region was hindered by a silkworm epidemic in Europe and Russia in the 1860s [4].

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Applications were sent to the exhibition directly from the Stavropol, Terek and Kuban provinces. It was intended to exhibit among other agricultural categories: 1) mulberry products – mulberry seedlings and seeds, fruit, mulberry alcohol, etc.; 2) herbaria of mulberry trees; 3) products of silk production – grenades, cocoons, silk gregarious, twisted, boiled and dyed; 4) remnants of product, fabric, knitting and embroidery, cords, etc.; 5) large collections of silk-woven fabrics; 6) machine tools, all-purpose implements, etc. [9].

Some isolated petitions of the population give an indication of their interest in silkworm breeding, as an industry, which can give considerable income, if all its specific conditions are complied with. More often than not, the local authorities were limited in funds for such needs, as the first priority was to expand the crops and cultivate more profitable crops. This was not the case with silkworm breeding in the Kuban area. This industry is mostly mentioned in archival sources only in the post-reform period, and, as a rule, its spread was very small compared with the Stavropol Province. In Kuban, farmers were primarily interested in the expansion of grain crops, as well as in the growing profitable crops, such as tobacco [7].

Here is some information from the Statistical Description of Moldavanskaya volost, Temryuksky uyezd, Kuban oblast for 1877: «The Greeks strive to move from the development of tobacco-growing to good buildings, to have good horses for riding and oxen for works <...>, take up gardening and even silkworming, but all these enterprises and even allowance for very limited bread-growing, depend on tobacco-growing [4].

From the example of the settlers, it can be seen which crops were in the first place of financial gain for the population. In the early twentieth century, some educational institutions and individuals were engaged in silk cultivation in the Kuban region in small numbers.

So, from the funds of the Russian State Military History Archive one knows that in 1899 a burgher from Maikop town Marey Zarshtovsky subleased from the Kuban Cossack troops 5 dessiatinas of the spare army land for 24 years at 5 roubles for 1 dessiatina a year for breeding a mulberry plantation for sericulture in Belorechenskaya summer residence [4].

Then we find information about M. Zarshtovsky and other persons, wishing to engage in silk-growing, dated 1901: «During the first 6 years he was obliged by his contract to plant a mulberry garden of 2 ½ des, 400 trees on each tithe, and on the rest 2 ½ des – a mulberry nursery. As there were few mulberry plantations in the Kuban area, conditions were concluded with him <...>. Collegiate registrar Konstantin Shaposhnikov and a petty bourgeois from Maikop town Ivan Filenko made the same request. In 1901 they also asked to lease the land for 24 years. The terms were worked out the same as those of Zarshtovsky» [4].

In 1902 the Kuban and Tersk army chiefdoms (and the Kuban economic society) with the approval of the Minister of Land Economy and State Property have planned measures on development of silkworm breeding in these areas. In the Kuban region, it was proposed to increase the number of silk plantations, introduce compulsory planting of mulberry trees in villages, organize «public

silkwormeries», establish army scholarships at the Batumi Artisan School in the silk weaving department, organize silk-weaving exhibitions, conventions, publish brochures and give awards to private persons for useful activities in silk cultivation [11].

Due to the historical circumstances, including the First World War and the 1917 revolution, silk breeding as a whole area of agricultural activity of the peasants and Cossacks of the North Caucasus is in decline.

It is not known what successes Kuban silkworm breeding might have achieved if economic and political circumstances had favoured it. However, it should be noted that the North Caucasus and Stavropol Territory in particular had very competitive non-grain crops, such as tobacco, sunflowers and grapes, which contributed to the development of various industries. Silkworm breeding required special conditions, of which there were few in the Kuban land. For example, the presence of forage for silkworms, i.e. a significant number of mulberry orchards for the emergence of the silk industry. Also required was silk-scutching experience among the population and a considerable amount of time to engage in silkworm breeding.

Conclusion. Thus, the history of development of silkworm breeding and breeding of new silkworm breeds in Stavropol region was of great military and political and general cultural importance for the southern direction of the Russian Empire. Despite the fact that in the first half of the XIX century silkworm breeding was developing actively, mass diseases of silkworms inflicted a serious damage to the domestic silkworm breeding in the 1860-1870s, which could partially recover only by the early XX century. However, the silk industry continued to develop: new factories were opened, artisanal unwinding of silk decreased, it was replaced by factory unwinding, silkwinding looms were slightly improved, etc. Part of the cocoons continued to be unwound directly in the region, the other part, most of which went for sale within the empire and abroad (mostly raw silk). At the same time, the foundations were laid for further development of domestic silkworm breeding – not only was the high profitability of silkworm breeding proven in Soviet times, but also the impressive potential of the North Caucasus region in this industry.

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