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УЧРЕЖДЕНИЯ КОНФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО САМОУПРАВЛЕНИЯ
КАРАИМОВ И АСПЕКТЫ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ИМПЕРИИ В XIX – НАЧАЛЕ XX ВЕКА: К ВОПРОСУ О
ПЕРСПЕКТИВАХ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ПРОБЛЕМЫ

Аннотация: в публикации проанализированы основные направления в изучении вопросов создания, функционирования и деятельности учреждений конфессионального самоуправления караимов Российской империи в XIX – начале XX в. в контексте интеграции старожильческих народов полуострова в российские социальные институты. В рамках российского правового поля были законодательно закреплены различные права и привилегии караимов. Определены основные векторы в изучении истории учреждений конфессионального самоуправления караимов Российской империи в указанный период.

Ключевые слова: Российская империя, Крым, караимы, государственная политика, «иногородцы», органы конфессионального самоуправления.

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INSTITUTIONS OF CONFESSIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENT OF
KARAITES AND ASPECTS OF THE STATE POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN
EMPIRE IN THE 19th – ON BEGINNING OF THE 20th CENTURIES: TO THE
QUESTION OF PROSPECTS FOR STUDYING THE PROBLEM

Abstract: The publication analyzes the main directions in the study of the creation, functioning and activities of institutions of confessional self-government of the Karaites of the Russian Empire in the 19th – early 20th centuries in the context of the integration of the old-timer peoples of the peninsula into the Russian social institutions. Within the framework of the Russian legal field, various rights and privileges of the Karaites were legislated. The main vectors in the study of the history of institutions of confessional self-government of the Karaites of the Russian Empire in the specified period are determined.

Keywords: Russian Empire, Crimea, Karaites, state policy, “foreigners”, bodies of confessional self-government.

In modern realities, Crimea is a region of close religious and ethnic contacts in the Russian Federation. Due to ideological narratives and attitudes of the past in Soviet historical literature, many plots in the history of the Crimean Tatars, Karaites and other ethnic and confessional groups of the population of the peninsula abounded in numerous lacunae; exploration of most topics was not welcome. That is why an objective, with the involvement of a wide range of sources, the study of the peoples living history in such multinational and multi-confessional regions, as the Crimean peninsula was and remains, is relevant and timely today.

One of the old-timer peoples, whose presence has been recorded in the Northern Black Sea region since the Middle Ages, are the Crimean Karaites. Until now, such problems as the ethnogenesis of the Karaite people, the emergence of Karaite communities directly on the territory of the Crimean peninsula, aspects of the interaction of the Karaites with power structures (first the Crimean Khanate, and then the Russian Empire), as well as with the Muslim community and Jewish rabbinical

community. Already after the accession of Crimea to Russia in 1783, the active integration of the Karaites into the Russian educational and cultural space indicated the need to create institutions of their confessional self-government. With the entry into the Russian Empire of a number of territories annexed after the divisions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, part of the Karaite population, who previously lived in Lithuanian and Polish lands, became Russian subjects in 1793–1795. Soon, activities to create institutions of confessional self-government were initiated by the Lithuanian Karaites also. Thus, both in the Taurida region (and later in the Taurida province – “gubernia”) and in the North-Western Territory of Russia, the “Christian statehood” and the “Karaite population” entered into direct interaction, carried out various contacts, strengthening the Russian presence in the regions. Simultaneously with the organization of spiritual government, the Karaites actively strengthened their positions in the field of civil law.

In connection with the above vectors of studying the history of the creation and activities of institutions of the Karaite confessional self-government, the process of their formation, legitimation and profile work is of direct research interest. This is especially important in the context of the development of a multi-confessional situation both in Crimea itself and in the western provinces of the Russian Empire. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze and introduce new, unknown sources into scientific circulation, to study the Russian legislative framework in the context of the transformation of the legal status of the Karaite population. Particularly significant for the study of this topic is the study of the process of formation of Karaite confessional institutions from the moment Crimea was connected to Russia, as well as the stages of the creation of Karaite confessional institutions after Lithuanian and Polish territory became part of it.

Among the no less significant tasks facing the researcher, one should name the following: identifying the features of the election of the composition of the Karaite higher and parish clergy within the legal field of the Russian Empire; disclosure of the functional duties of members of the Taurida and Odessa Karaite’s Clerical Government (TOKCG) and the Troky Karaite’s Clerical Government (TrKCG); determination of the main points and essence of governmental, administrative and public projects for

the reform of these institutions. Among other things, it is necessary to comprehensively study the main aspects of the activities of TOKCG and TrKCG, namely: spiritual and legal, educational and social.

Analysis of the reasons for the transformation of Karaite ideologies in connection with the beginning of the process of de-Judaization of the Karaites, which led to the loss of Jewish-Karaite traditions and self-identification, is one of the specific tasks in the study of this issue. First of all, its scientific novelty is determined by the content, since the diverse activities of TOKCG and TrKCG in the chronological period under consideration have not been comprehensively studied. D.A. Prokhorov publications are the exception, because he was who for the first time, based on numerous sources, attempted to compare all the currently available information on the history of the Karaites [8–10]. Among the authors of other noteworthy works that have studied this topic, one should name such specialists as: G. Akhiezer [1; 2], O.B. Bely [3], M.I. Gammal [4; 5], V.A. Elyashevich, V.Z. Tiriyaqi, A.V. Efimov [6], M.B. Kizilov [7].

Nevertheless, the process of scientific reconstruction of the history of the Karaites establishments of confessional self-government of the Russian Empire requires a deeper and more detailed study, namely: the restoration of the stages of formation and development of the institutions of the Karaite confessional self-government, the analysis of the key areas of their work. Using an interdisciplinary approach, it is required to study the issues of religious leadership of the Karaite community, to identify the temple construction nuances. Compilation of biographies of prominent representatives of the Karaite clergy deserves special attention. The use of a wide range of sources will reveal the role of the Russian administration in the activities of the TOKCG and the TrKCG, as well as their influence on the spiritual and social life of the Karaites.

The problem of the formation and activity of Karaite confessional establishments should be considered in a complex, with the involvement of a wide range of sources, including previously unpublished ones. In the course of the analysis of an array of archival documents, written sources of the late 18th – early 20th centuries, concerning

the history of the emergence and activities of the TOKCG and the TrKCG, it becomes possible to most fully reveal the religious and social life of the Karaites. Objective scientific conclusions about the emergence, development and activities of the bodies of Karaite confessional self-government in the framework of the control of the religious and social life of the “foreign” population of the Taurida province and the western provinces of the Russian Empire by the regional administration, representatives of the highest authorities are impossible without a comprehensive analysis of the entire source base – from archaeographic materials, archaeological artifacts, objects of sacred architecture to the content of museum collections.

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