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**Social and Economic Consequences of Inheritance Law in the Russian Empire**

Foreign law’s influence over the national legal system and its penetration into it was a great factor of different legal systems’ evolution and integration. So, the question of a degree of foreign (including Roman law) legal experience’s influence on Russian legislation, legal doctrine and procedural practice is significant.

We should restrict the research with so-called “conditional testaments” or “conditional testamentary dispositions”. We should stress that Russian legislators and judges referred *legatum, substitution, fideicommissum* to conditional testaments.

In pre-revolutionary Russian practice of a testament’s compilation a testator included a condition frequently leaving legacy to a successor. It was the definition of a successor’s qualities or of the date of the acquisition of legacy or of an unknown future event for legacy’s inheritance. It is so called *modus, dies, conditio* in Roman law.

All the questions connected with the conditions in a testament were interpreted by the resolutions of the Civil Cassation Department of the Ruling Senate of the Russian Empire (20 resolutions).

The absence of the direct definition gave the Senate an opportunity to interpret and comment the conditional testament’s questions. Many senators and advocates had juridical education (for example Bogolepov, Pobedonostsev, Pakhman). They studied Roman and Pandect law at the university courses that was an important factor for a senatorial formulation of their resolutions and the advocate’s arguments.

Due to the predominant agrarian and patriarchal origins, strong survivals of group feudal order and the general lagging behind industrially developed countries (French, Germany) Russian lawyers had to refer to foreign experience in regulating new bourgeois relations. The Russian legislators’ juridical techniques were based on the achievements of Roman and foreign law. The foreign legal influence was penetrating through legislation practices and legal procedures because Russian lawyers got their education mainly studying Roman law and foreign legislation. Russian scientists, judges, senators constantly expressed their respect to Roman law, Roman juridical experience and also to the contemporary legal science, especially German. However, the borrowing of juridical constructions and definitions is not the evidence of the direct transplantation of Roman and foreign legal institutions. We see that many traditional legal institutions acquire another point and color on the Russian national soil. Besides that, we should not forget that the general part of the Russian Empire’s population (the Russians and many other populations) lived according to the common law. The question if to follow customs and people’s view on the law or to apply to centuries-old Roman and foreign countries’ experience had remained unsolved by the beginning of the First World War.