

The problems of socio-economic and cultural adaptation of the Baltic settlers in Siberia in the late XIX - early XX centuries
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It is known that part of the population of Siberia has long been exiled. With the development of capitalism, the low-land and landless peasant masses (Ukrainians, Belarusians, Chuvashs, Estonians, Mordovians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians, Germans, etc.) were looking for a way out of the difficult economic situation in resettlement and waste. Siberia in this regard was a fertile land. Resettlement to Siberia took on a wide scale in the late 1890s, but the main peak of agrarian migrations occurred in 1907-1911, as a result of the Stolypin reform.

The national immigrants brought with them to new places the established national habits, traditions and features of the economic structure, forming closed settlements, isolated to a certain extent from the surrounding population, which became known as colonies. The term "colony" in the designated German, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, partially Polish settlements became widespread in scientific literature, in documentary materials and everyday life and began to act as a distinctive feature of villages of national and ethnic groups from Russians both in Central Russia and in Siberia.

For us, in this case, it seems important that the term "colony" carries a double semantic load - isolation and self-sufficiency. However, already before the October Revolution, the Baltic colonies began to lose these features - their inhabitants increasingly began to be drawn into trade and economic relations with the surrounding (mainly Russian) population.

The migrations of the Latvian and Estonian peasantry to Siberia were determined by the socio-economic, political, demographic and cultural conditions in which the Latvian, Estonian and Siberian villages were located.

The socio-economic and cultural adaptation of the Baltic settlers in the Siberian region was undoubtedly determined by its main features:

1. Large area. Extending for several thousand kilometers from west to east and more than 2 thousand km from north to south, the territory of modern Omsk inhabited by Baltic settlers, Novosibirsk, northern part of Kemerovo, southern and central parts of Tomsk regions, the central and southern regions of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the territory of the Altai Territory, Khakassia and several regions of the Irkutsk Region includes the steppe, forest-steppe and forest zones, as well as the taiga subzone. This became a positive factor in the development of the Baltic colonies (the availability of natural resources, a variety of conditions) and negative (low population density, difficulties in interaction between residents of different colonies, the cost of overcoming long distances).

2. Harsh nature. Siberia is located in the harsh natural and climatic conditions of the northeastern part of the country.

3. Placement contrasts. In one of the most developed regions - Omsk - the share of the urban population is 68%, and the population density ranges from 2.6 in the northern zone to 17.2 in the southern forest-steppe and averages 15.6 people per 1 sq. km.

4. One-dimensionality. The most economically and culturally developed areas of Western and Eastern Siberia are squeezed to the Trans-Siberian Railway. Like placement contrasts, this exacerbates the negative impact of long distances.

5. The complexity of the territorial structure is the existence of simplicity and randomness. Two rules hold sway here. Firstly, the "center - periphery" pattern is clearly traced - the concentration of life in cities and the drop in population density, economic activity as they move away from these centers. (The highest degree of social stratification and economic development was in those Baltic colonies that were located near large cities or the Trans-Siberian Railway). Secondly, there is often no mesoscale: it is easy to distinguish large parts (macromscale) on the territory of the region, each inhabitant of the colony knows his habitat (microscale) well (it is no coincidence that the farm was one of the main ethnomarketing elements among both Latvians and Estonians), but parts of the middle level are rare.

6. The appearance in Siberia of a reaction to space, previously unusual for the culture of the inhabitants of the Baltic States (a relatively weak sense of distance, borders, place). This is partly due to the peculiarities of nature (distances are too large, natural boundaries are not expressed). This manifested itself among the Baltic colonists after the final liquidation of the farm system in the late 1930s.