

Annual Program of the Journal “Novoe Proshloe / The New Past” 2020

“Battles for History” (1/2020)

Issue's Executive Editors: Aleksei Abazov, Dmitriy Prasolov

The issue aims at considering scientifically the impact of commemorative images on current socio-political discourse. According to the famous saying of Zigmund Graff, “History is the policy that cannot be turned back. Politics is the history that can be turned back”. The main questions for discussion are as follows: What is the way historic symbols are presently used by authorities and the public? What are the ethno-political strategies of exploiting them? How anniversaries turn into commemorative dates? etc. The answers may highlight the potential of historic symbols for public and municipal authorities. They can also contribute to characterizing the mechanisms of historic symbols politization as well as raising the profile of expert community as a regional ethno-political monitoring agent.

“Custodian of Antiquities” (2/2020)

Issue's Executive Editors: Victor Apryshchenko, Andrey Boyko

The issue is devoted to the transformation of history-writing practices in various historical contexts. Just like most artifact collectors, contemporary historians often choose the historical sources at random without due consideration of the research methods applied. While balancing its status between ‘science’ and ‘art’, history-writing is influenced by contemporary technologies including digitalization and political discourses. The issue considers the role of a historian as a ‘Custodian of Antiquities’ and a keeper of memory about the collective past. It is also devoted to the status of history (viewed as memory and knowledge) in various cultural environments while emphasizing its up-to-date context. The range of issues raised in this volume are: dynamics of attitudes towards the past and factors triggering these changes; transformation of research instruments and methods of dealing with historical sources; factors and practices of instrumentalization of history as well as contexts and discourses which determine this process.

"Warrior at the Crossroads" (3/2020)**Issue's Executive Editors: Andrey Korenevskiy, Igor Danilevskiy**

In this issue, we intend to continue the discussion initiated earlier (1/2017 – "Lost Illusions", 3/2019 – "Roads We Take") about the "bifurcation points", "historical road forks" and the problem of choosing alternative paths of development. The focus is now shifted to the "Russian Middle Ages" – the epoch of Russian national history separated from subsequent eras by a grandiose cataclysm of the Troubles Times. That is why the title of A.A. Zimin's book on the Muscovite Civil War in the second quarter of the 15th century has been taken as a key metaphor for the theme of this issue able to illustrate such turning points. Being far from sharing the author's concept, we nevertheless see a certain accord between the narrative strategies of our journal and A.A. Zimin's cycle of works, which were both classical academic monographs in terms of essence and literary works of nonfiction genre in terms of form. At the same time, the fate of one of the most controversial books by A.A. Zimin, which stimulated debates over historical alternatives without being accepted by the academic community, allows for historiographical perspective of the discussion. It might be worth reflecting on the fact that "bifurcation points" can be characteristic of our understanding of history as well as history itself.

«They Fought for Their Country» (4/2020)**Issue's Executive Editors: Evgeny Krinko, Maria Ponomareva**

The issue continues the discussion of previously raised questions of war (3/2016 – "The War and The Peace") in the context of the formation of memory of the past (1/2016 – "What to Recall"). The main specificity of the issue does not arise from the research of the events of military history per se, but from the research of its reflections in various forms of historical memory, public consciousness, everyday life, culture and language, as well as "problems of its institutionalization and verification. We also invite you to discuss the anthropological features, demographic and psychological consequences of various wars and armed conflicts, the problems of people and societies coming out of war. Special attention is paid to the memory of the Great Patriotic / World War II, which is largely because of the influence that the war had on the entire subsequent development of the Soviet society and the world as a whole. Images of war in the post-Soviet space transform and take on new features because more and more war witnesses pass away. The title of the issue uses the name of the Mikhail Sholokhov's novel, as he was one of the first to raise questions about the formation of the Soviet Soldier's psychology and the difficulties soldiers had to endure along the way. The solution of these problems inevitably implies interdisciplinary approach and allows us to invite not only historians, but also demographers, political scientists, sociologists, ethnographers, anthropologists, linguists, folklorists and representatives of other disciplines to offer their views on the war and its reflections in memory.