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Okutina Nataliya Nikolaevna

«Legal regulation of the bourgeois estate governance in the Russian Empire
(on of the Middle Volga Region)»

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TRANSLATION OF AN ABSTRACT

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The issues of formation and development of local governing bodies are of particular importance with regard to the constant search for the optimal interaction model between the society and local authorities at the current stage of development. The study of historic activity of governing bodies is intended to reconstruct the legal models of citizen participation in the public authority. The activity of bourgeois communities as part of the local self-governing bodies stand out from all legal relations in the pre-revolutionary period. This is due to the fact that it was the members of the bourgeois communities that were the most massive estate in the structure of the urban population, not only the Middle Volga region, but also in the Russian Empire during the 19th century. At present, the problem of estate corporations' participation in governing in the post-reform period is still unresolved, and the role of the bourgeoisie in the governance system and their legal status are insufficiently studied.

The scientific development of the study topic is characterized by an extremely small number of works in which the questions of bourgeois communities' legal status have not been properly reflected. Some certain facts and fragmented conclusions do not give a full picture of bourgeois self-governing development both in the territory of the Middle Volga region and in the Russian Empire.

The object of the study is the system of public relations connected to the legal regulation of the organization and activity of bourgeois communities, that developed in the Russian Empire in the last third of the eighteenth century and existed until the beginning of the twentieth century.

The subject of the study is the legal framework of the Russian Empire of the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries and the legal regulations of local authorities, and on its basis the analysis of general laws and development features of the legal status of bourgeois communities in the Middle Volga region is determined.

The objective of the thesis study is a systematic comprehensive review of the legal status of bourgeois communities and the legal regulation and activities of their self-government in the Middle Volga region based on the study and analysis

of the central and local authorities' legal sources in the last third of the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In accordance with the objective, the author of the work set the following study tasks:

1) to summarize the available scientific views and approaches to the development of bourgeois self-governing in the study period;

2) to analyze the laws and regulations in order to identify the degree of legal support for the organization and the activity of bourgeois self-governing bodies;

3) to explore the bourgeois communities' activity in the local governments and state authorities;

4) to cover the system of bourgeois self-governing bodies and determine the peculiarities of their legal status at various stages of the historic development of the Russian society and the state;

5) to identify the legal status features of bourgeois self-governing bodies formed in the Middle Volga governorates, etc.

The territorial scope of the study covers the governorates of the Middle Volga region - Kazan, Simbirsk and Samara. This choice is due to the existing and stable historical, cultural, geographical, political, economic and social relations. Also the unique ethno-confessional composition of the studied governorates' population is noteworthy, the basis of which was the Russian and the Tatars.

The chronological framework of the study is determined by the objectives and covers the period from the last third of the eighteenth to the beginning of the twentieth centuries.

The leading methods that formed the basis for solving the identified problems were system-historical, analytical, technical, statistical, chronological and others.

The source base of the study was archival legal acts related to the research, many of which were introduced into scientific circulation for the first time.

In the presented scientific work, a comprehensive study of the bourgeois communities' legal status and their governing bodies was carried out for the first time, bourgeois participation forms in the public authority activity were covered,

and their competencies and functions were determined. The author introduced into scientific circulation a number of new sources of legislative and law enforcement practice that have not been published before.

The analysis shows no clear legal separation of powers among authorities, as well as the “gap” of law. The structure of the bourgeois self-governing body was represented by the bourgeois assembly, the headman and the council. Three periods are defined in the development of the legal foundations of bourgeois self-governing bodies: the end of the XVIII – second half of the XIX centuries, the second half of the XIX – the last third of the XIX century, the last third of the XIX – early XX centuries. The bourgeois self-governing activity in the Middle Volga region is characterized by a partial mismatch of de facto and de jure legal regulation. The appeal to the norms of customary law and the low level of legal culture led to numerous violations in the activity of bourgeois communities operating in the territory of the Middle Volga region.

It was determined that the bourgeois self-governing bodies ensured the fulfillment of such powers as issuing passports, ensuring the procedure for recruiting and military service. Bourgeois communities were, first of all, an effective tool of fulfilling the extremely important function of collecting taxes and obligatory payments for the government bodies and local self-governing communities. The analysis of legal acts and law enforcement practice indicates a gradual weakening of the bourgeois self-governing position, a limitation of legal regulation in general, as well as increased administrative control.

The results of the study can be applied both in theoretical studies devoted to the analysis of historic forms of the population participation in the local self-government, and can be taken into account in further legislative activity.

**The main provisions of the dissertation research are reflected
in the following works of the author:**

In publications included in the List of leading peer-reviewed scientific journals and publications approved by the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation:

1. Okutina N. N. The philistine society in the structure of urban bodies management in the last third of the XVIII century / N.N. Okutina // Leningrad Journal of Law. - 2011. - No. 3 (25). - S. 179-186. (0.5 p. L.).

2. Okutina N.N. The procedure for acquiring and changing the urban state in Russia in the second half of the 19th century using the example of representatives of the middle class Volga societies / N.N. Okutina // Leningrad Journal of Law. - 2011. - No. 4 (24). - S.113-119. (0.5 p. L.).

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5. Okutina N. N. Organizational and legal support of the activities of bodies of estate self-government on the example of philistine societies of the Middle Volga region / N.N. Okutina // History of state and law. - 2013. - No. 9. - S. 2-5. (0.6 p. L.).

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In other scientific publications:

10. Okutina NN Meshchansky elder in the structure of organs of the estate management in the last third of the XIX century / N.N. Okutina // Problems and prospects of modern sciences: materials of the international correspondence scientific and practical conference August 24, 2011. - Yekaterinburg: IE Birulya NI, 2011. - P.76-78. (0.4 p. L.).

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12. Okutina N. N. Meshchansky community gathering in post-reform Russia / N.N. Okutina // Simbirsk Scientific Bulletin. - Ulyanovsk, 2011. - No. 4 (6). - S. 122-126. (0.5 p. L.).

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Solutions, Proposals". Issue 2 (27). - Ulyanovsk: UISU, 2012 .-- S. 100-103 (0.4 p.p.).

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