

Секция «Юриспруденция»

**Formation of guberniyas administrative units of the Russian Soviet Federation Republic in the first years of the soviet rule: the case of tsaritsyn guberniya**

*Бокова Олеся Николаевна*

*Соискатель*

*Урюпинский ф-л ГОУ ВПО "Волгоградский государственный университет факультет социально-гуманитарных и экономических наук, Урюпинск, Россия*

*E-mail: bokovk2004@yandex.ru*

The October Revolution of 1917 had a great impact on the state structure of <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />Russia, in the first months of the Soviet rule two important trends showed up: contraction of the state territory and formation of the Soviet federation. They made changes in the administrative and territorial structure inevitable. The general pattern of administrative division (guberniya – uyezd – volost) inherited from the Russian Empire was retained by the Soviet authorities in the first years of their rule. Guberniyas' borders were but slightly shifted, though some new guberniyas were also formed. The formation of new guberniyas was apparently caused by three basic reasons: 1) the central authorities' propaganda for breaking larger administrative units into smaller ones in order to "make authorities closer to people"; 2) building new large industrial and transportation centers; 3) separatist attitudes among local elite trying to secure their autonomy. J.V. Stalin noted: "the struggle between two political movements has not yet ended: the nationalistic counterrevolution and the soviets"[4,33]. In certain guberniyas local governments craved for independence from the central control. Even in some smaller units – volosts, uyezds and in some towns so called "mini-republics" were formed (Kronshtadt, Pereyaslavl, Krasnoyarsk, Novorossiysk and several others [3,120]. It should be noted that separatist attitudes were fairly common, even in places where they had not been traditional. Thus, one of Tsaritsyn leaders S.K. Minin said at a meeting of the military district command: "We, the representatives of Red Tsaritsyn, say proudly that ... we will never be under the thumb of the Center. Moscow needs us as much as we need Moscow. We need their support but they shall not think that they can buy us as slaves for it. Power in the provinces – that is our principle"[5,129].

Declared absolute power of the soviets implied that territorial borders were also under the jurisdiction of local authorities. "On 2 December 1917 the Council of People's Commissars explained that the new administrative division should be set by the interested soviets only"[2,312]. Later this instruction was legitimized by a decree "On the procedure of changing borders of guberniyas, uyezds and others" of 27 January 1918. It stated: "1. Issues of changing borders of guberniyas, uyezds and volosts shall be resolved only by the local Soviets of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies. 2. When a part of one guberniya or region is joined to another, all technical issues and misunderstandings shall be resolved by the mixed commissions of the interested regional soviets or of their congresses. 4. Oblasts, guberniyas, uyezds and volosts can also be divided into parts forming new administrative and economic units. 5. Detailed information on all these changes shall be given to the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs". Thus, the decree prescribed that issues of changing borders of guberniyas, uyezds and other regions must be resolved only by local soviets. The

local soviets only had to inform the central authorities of these changes. Local authorities of the Tsaritsyn Uyezd of the Saratov Guberniya did not follow the decree and did not decide on formation of separate Tsaritsyn guberniya.

As the influence of the central authorities grew, they adopted more regulations aiming to restrict the rights of local soviets: “On the order of resolving issues concerning changes of borders of guberniyas, uyezds and volosts” of 15 July 1919<sup>8</sup>; “On cessation of transfer of uyezds and volosts from one guberniya to another and from one uyezd to another and on cessation of amalgamation and division of volosts” of 6 July 1922; “On prohibition of changing borders of autonomous republics, oblasts, guberniyas, uyezds and volosts and on prohibition of forming new administrative units and renaming towns and villages without permission of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviet Russia” of 9 May 1923; “Instruction on the order of joining territories to a new administrative unit or transfer of territories from one administrative unit to another” of 8 October 1923; “On prohibition of changing borders without permission of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee” of 6 June 1924; “On suspension till the autumn of 1932 of changing borders of administrative units” and others. Besides, item “e” of Article 49 of the Soviet Russia Constitution of 10 July 1918 stated that “general administrative division of the Soviet Russia territory is exclusively within the competence of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee”. Despite of the legislation many guberniyas (including that of Tsaritsyn) were formed differently. On 7 September 1918 according to an order of the Military Council of the North-Caucasus Military District Tsaritsyn Guberniya was formed. “The Guberniya must be temporarily a purely military unit” [1,191]. Nonetheless Tsaritsyn Guberniya had been mentioned in an order of the Military Council of the North-Caucasus Military District of 11 August 1918 “On the state of siege” [1,4]. Some other sources of information also say about Tsaritsyn Guberniya as already existing in August of 1918. Though journalists started writing about Tsaritsyn Guberniya after the decree of the NKVD of 24 March 1919 “On determination of the borders of Tsaritsyn Guberniya”.<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

### **Литература**

1. Государственный архив Волгоградской области (ГАВО). Ф. 105. Оп. 1. Д. 3; Ф.105. Оп. 4. Д. 2.
2. Краснов Ю.К. Государственное право России: История и современность. М. 2002.
3. Сенцов А.А. Национально-государственное устройство России накануне Октября 1917 г. // Советское государство и право. 1990. № 11.
4. Сталин И.В. Сочинения. Т. 4. М. 1951.
5. Пименов А.Ю. И.В. Сталин на фронтах гражданской войны. Царицынский период / лето – осень 1918 года / Отечественная историография. Дисс... к. и. н. М. 1994.

### **Слова благодарности**

Тезисы доклада основаны на материалах исследований, проведённых в рамках гранта РГНФ № 03-03-00589а/В; гранта юридического факультета ГОУ ВПО «Волгоградский государственный университет» (проект № 1-2007) и при финансовой поддержке стипендии Президента РФ для аспирантов, 2007-2008 (Приказ Федерального агентства по образованию № 1922 от 18.10.2007 г); администрации Волгоградской области (Постановление Главы Администрации Волгоградской области "О подготовке к празднованию 70-летия со дня образования Волгоградской (Сталинградской) области от 30.05.2006 № 637 и Положение о проведении конкурса "Молодые ученые - родному краю").

## Иллюстрации

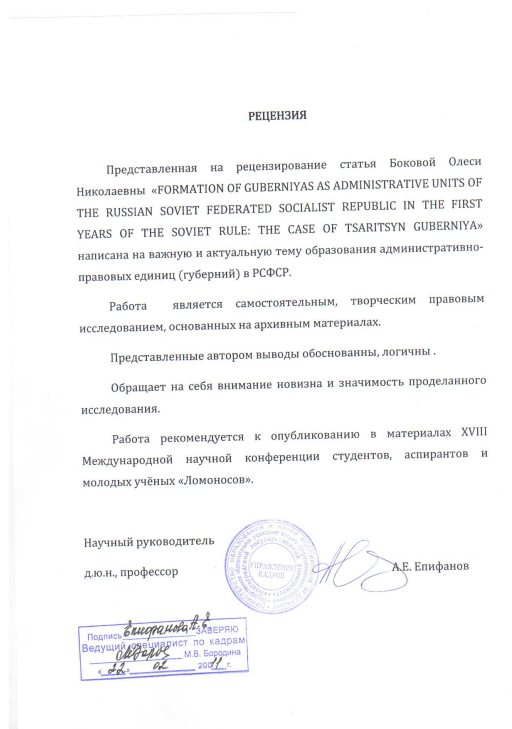


Рис. 1: рецензия