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Siberian City Cossacks in the First Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of M.M. Speransky and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Institution for the Administration of the Siberian Provinces")

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**Abstract.** In 2022, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Russian reformer and statesman, the author of "Institutions for the Administration of Siberian provinces and Regions", the creator of the Collection and Code of Laws of the Russian Empire, M. M. Speransky, will be celebrated. The purpose of the article is to consider, on the basis of archival sources and pre-revolutionary legislation, the legal regulation of the estate status of city Cossacks in the "Charter on Siberian City Cossacks" of 1822, which became part of the "Institution for the Administration of Siberian provinces and regions" and prepared by Speransky. The increased interest in the history of the Cossacks is connected not only with the desire of researchers to look deeper into the past and revive forgotten traditions, but also with urgent practical needs. Today you can hear about the proposals of organizing special Cossack formations as part of the Rosgvardiya of Russia, which would carry out police and military service in their places of residence. The relevance of the chosen topic is also explained by its little study in modern historical science. The author comes to the conclusion that the legal regulation and the attempt to reanimate the Siberian city Cossacks in the "Statute of the Siberian City Cossacks" of 1822, at least to some extent, improved the situation of the Cossacks, and also reduced the state budget expenditures on the police apparatus in Siberia, but in general, was not crowned with success. The city Cossacks, who performed the main local police service in Siberia until 1867, ceased to be used to protect public safety and law and order, and their units were liquidated. By the 70s of the 19th century in Siberia, there was not a single city Cossack regiment left, the city Cossacks as a class ceased to exist. The city Cossacks were transferred to the estate of state peasants with the right to transfer to the Siberian and Trans-Baikal Cossack troops, and their villages were renamed villages.

**Keywords:** history of Siberia, police, Cossacks, governor, administration, management.

Research area: Social Structure, Social Institutions and Processes; Russian History.

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Сибирские городовые казаки в первой половине XIX века (к 250-летию со дня рождения М.М. Сперанского и 200-летию «Учреждения для управления сибирских губерний»)

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Аннотация. В 2022 году исполняется 250 лет со дня рождения выдающегося российского реформатора и государственного деятеля, автора «Учреждения для управления сибирских губерний и областей», создателя Собрания и Свода законов Российской империи М. М. Сперанского. Целью статьи является рассмотрение на основании архивных источников и дореволюционного законодательства правовой регламентации сословного положения городовых казаков в «Уставе о сибирских городовых казаках» 1822 года, вошедшего в состав «Учреждения для управления сибирских губерний и областей» и подготовленного Сперанским. Возросший интерес к истории казачества связан не только со стремлением исследователей глубже заглянуть в прошлое и возродить забытые традиции, но с насущными практическими потребностями. Сегодня можно услышать о предложениях организации в составе Росгвардии России специальных казачьих формирований, которые бы несли полицейскую и военную службу в местах своего проживания. Актуальность избранной темы объясняется также ее малой изученностью в современной исторической науке. Автор приходит к выводу, что правовая регламентация и попытка реанимации сибирского городового казачества в «Уставе о сибирских городовых казаках» 1822 года хоть в некоторой степени и улучшили положение казаков, а также снизили расходы государственного бюджета на полицейский аппарат в Сибири, однако в целом не увенчались успехом. Городовое казачество, выполнявшее в Сибири до 1867 года основную полицейскую службу на местах, перестало применяться для охраны общественной безопасности и правопорядка, а их подразделения были ликвидированы. К 70-м годам XIX века в Сибири не осталось ни одного городового казачьего полка, городовое казачество как сословие прекратило свое существование. Городовые казаки были переведены в сословие государственных крестьян с правом перехода в Сибирское и Забайкальское казачьи войска, а их станицы были переименованы в села и деревни.

**Ключевые слова:** история Сибири, полиция, казаки, губернатор, администрация, управление.

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#### Introduction

The relevance of the chosen topic is explained by its insufficient study in modern historiography. The legal regulation of the estate status of Siberian city Cossacks in the "Charter on Siberian City Cossacks" of 1822 has not yet become the object of close attention of researchers. Only certain aspects of the problem have found coverage in works of a more general nature. In the pre-revolutionary period, they were reflected in the work of V. I. Vagin (Vagin, 1872), among modern researchers, attention should be paid to the articles of V. I. Zuev (Zuev, 2007) and I. A. Konovalov (Konovalov, 2020).

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study were the principles of historical cognition – historicism and objectivity, which imply an unbiased approach to the problems studied, as well as a critical attitude to sources. In the work, along with general scientific methods, historical methods of scientific research were used: comparative-historical, historical-systemic, and problem-chronological.

#### Discussion

Like all serving people, Siberian city Cossacks were initially divided into two categories: according to the "fatherland" - people from a family of serving people, and "according to the device" - recruited or recruited. The city Cossacks were in the "device" of their Cossack "head", who recruited them for service. The Cossack "heads" were subordinated directly to the city voivodes. The Cossacks were divided into guards, mounted and on foot, above them were heads, atamans, yesauls, centurions, pentecostals and foremen, who were chosen for a one-year term. The "devices" were divided into hundreds, under the command of centurions. Hundreds were divided into fifty (led by a Pentecostal) and tens (led by a foreman). The rights and duties of the officials of the city Cossacks corresponded to the powers of the same officials of the Streltsy. The Cossacks stationed in the cities received the name of the city where

they served. The Cossacks who entered the service in detachments (villages) retained their elected atamans, who were subordinate to the city governor or Cossack head.

The personnel of the city Cossacks consisted of various elements, the beginning of which was given by the Ryazan Cossacks, and subsequently replenished with an influx of Don, Little Russian and Volga Cossacks, who for various reasons fell into Siberia. This core of Cossacks was joined by people from Streltsy, children of boyars, peasants, exiles, Tatars, Kalmyks, Buryats, Tunguses, Yakuts and other peoples of Siberia.

The peculiarity of the management organization of the Siberian Cossacks was their "regularity" and "constituent character". Thus, G.E. Katanaev believed that their local government was organized almost exclusively on the initiative of the state authorities (Katanaev, 1908: 4). Therefore, in local government, the regimental atamans played a leading role among the Siberian Cossacks, and not self-governing bodies.

The number of city Cossacks in trans-Ural Russia changed throughout the XVIII century, which was determined by changes in their staffing. For the first time, the staff of Siberian city Cossacks was approved in 1703 by the head of the Siberian order, Judge A. A. Vinius, and they operated until the 20s of the XVIII century, when, at the suggestion of the Siberian governor M. V. Dolgorukov, new staff of city teams were drawn up. The next reorganization of the staff of the city Cossacks was carried out in 1737 (Zuev, 2007: 24).

At the beginning of the XIX century, the city Cossacks, as a class category, remained only in the trans-Ural part of Russia, their management, their distribution into teams was still based on the staff drawn up by the Siberian Order in 1737, in accordance with the needs of Siberia back in the XVIII century. The Krasnoyarsk team was especially large, from which up to 500 Cossacks were sent to the border

guard service every year. The staff of 1737 also determined the maintenance of the Cossacks – the annual salary of the officer's salary, but not more than twenty rubles with the issuance of food and fodder. The Cossacks had to purchase weapons, uniforms and horses at their own expense (Vagin, 1872: 209).

According to the pre-revolutionary Siberian researcher V.I. Vagin, the city Cossacks "did not have a regular position and were almost not used to escort exiles and search for criminals, Bashkir and Meshcheryak Cossacks were used instead." They were mainly engaged in patrol and patrol duty and traveling. There was no uniformity in the uniforms or weapons of the Cossacks. In addition to the service, they were engaged in small-scale trade and agricultural work.

The number of Siberian city Cossacks according to the states of 1737 was 6,172 people, of which 2,990 Cossacks served in the Tobolsk province. The staff of the Siberian Order of 1737 did not regulate in any way the self-governing principles of the Siberian Cossacks. There were some peculiarities in the local self-government of the Siberian Cossacks. So, all Cossack chiefs, starting with the constables, were called "foremen". Siberian city Cossacks still preserved traditions about the independence of the Cossack "circle", but this independence was severely limited and even suppressed by local authorities (Vagin, 1872: 210).

At the end of the XVIII century, the service of the city Cossacks was aimed at fulfilling mainly administrative and police powers. They were included in the regional police bodies, which reduced the cost of maintaining the local police apparatus (Konovalov, 2021: 1235).

The "Statute of the Siberian city Cossacks" of 1822 was caused by the unsatisfactory state of the situation of the city Cossacks, who received an insignificant salary and engaged in numerous abuses in the service, and were turned by Siberian administrators into a kind of oprichniks. So, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, with the help of the city Cossacks, the Yenisei mayor Kukalevsky kept two counties in awe and – which is hardly believable, if not for the stories of the victims themselves – the passage through the

city by local officials harnessed to a carriage, because they dared to write a complaint against him. The same Cossacks helped Loskutov in his abuses in the Irkutsk province, where residents of Western Siberia came not without fear, although the same Cossacks exterminated robberies and robberies in this province and arranged convenient roads (Korf, 1861: 235).

As V. I. Vagin wrote, city Cossacks, along with officials, were a real disaster for Siberians. So, even during the audit of M.M. Speransky, the peasant Shchepin "was beaten to death by a Cossack of the Blue." However, being "despots" in relation to the local population, the Cossacks were disenfranchised in relation to their commanders. So, the Irkutsk Cossack regiment brought a complaint to Speransky that ataman Skorogovorov attracted them to work for their own needs for a minimum fee. The Tunka Cossack hundred complained about their commander Cheusov, who forced them to build food warehouses without payment, purchase stationery, prepare firewood for state needs, and also sold them ammunition at an inflated price. In 1813, horses were started in the Irkutsk Cossack regiment, for which the Cossacks were obliged to prepare hay on their own mowing, fishing was established, which they were forced to engage in in favor of regimental income. The Cossacks were particularly annoyed by combat training classes, which were carried out in the summer and distracted them both from field work and from carrying out other official duties.

In addition to their main official duties, the Cossacks performed a large number of works on behalf of Siberian administrators. So, only at the office of the Governor-General there were four Cossacks and their foremen from the Irkutsk regiment and other commands. Cossacks were involved even for the needs of the Irkutsk gymnasium and the city hospital (Vagin, 1872: 212).

The "Statute of the Siberian city Cossacks" was approved on July 22, 1822. After the adoption of the "Charter on Siberian City Cossacks", which became part of the "Institution for the Administration of Siberian Provinces" in 1822 by M. M. Speransky, the city Cossacks were finally transferred from the jurisdiction of

the Military Ministry to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The "Statute of the Siberian City Cossacks" consisted of an introduction and two parts divided into chapters. As part of the first part devoted to regimental city Cossacks, there were 14 chapters, which regulated the legal status of city regimental Cossacks, their jurisdiction, providing them with salaries and food, the order of service and official duties, as well as the Order of the regimental ataman. The second part, dedicated to the village Cossacks, consisted of 9 chapters describing the organization of the village administration, the composition of the villages, the duties of the Cossacks regarding service and local duties, as well as the benefits granted to the village Cossacks.

The "Charter" established that Siberian city Cossacks were part of the local police bodies. The "Charter" of 1822 divided all Siberian city Cossacks into stanitsch and regimental. The regimental Cossacks were those who did not have their own farms and served for salaries in places remote from their permanent residence. The village Cossacks, who did not receive salaries, carried out temporary police service in places located in close proximity to the villages where they lived. In each Siberian governor-general, city Cossack regiments were created, 4 – in the East Siberian and 3 – in the West Siberian and 4 – in the East Siberian governor-general. The regiments were headed by elected regimental atamans, the regiments were divided into hundreds, under the command of centurions. The assignment of officer ranks was carried out on the proposal of the governors by the Senate.

The regimental ataman was equated to an official of the 9th grade, with a salary of 400 rubles a year. Centurion – to the 12th grade with a salary of 270 rubles. Cornet – to the 14th grade, with a salary of 20 rubles. The guards received from 12 to 36 rubles. Ordinary city regimental Cossacks received 6 rubles a year. In total, 1,824 Cossacks served in three West Siberian regiments, and 2,288 in four East Siberian regiments. In addition to salaries, the officers and Cossacks received food rations, they were allocated funds for the purchase of weap-

ons, uniforms and the maintenance of horses (Obozrenie, 1841: 34).

The Cossacks themselves established the villages. The villages were made up of teams that either had already entered this category before, or wished to enter the village composition. Subscriptions were previously taken from the village city Cossacks that they would remain in the villages and refuse state support. After that, the Cossacks could not move to other villages and change their place of residence. The village city Cossacks were charged with the duties of protecting the places inhabited by them from internal and external disturbances, they had to carry out police service, catch fugitive criminals, maintain border guards, guard state property located in the subordinate territory.

In each of the villages had to live from 50 to 100 city Cossacks, who were subordinate to the local zemstvo police officer. The village Cossacks were exempt from state fees. They could engage in trade and crafts. Uniformity in uniforms was not required of them, they were allowed to wear ordinary Cossack uniforms with a blue collar, without shoulder straps. The village city Cossacks were obliged to be able to wield weapons and serve with them on the road and on guard duty. During their service, they had to be armed with spears, sabers and firearms.

The "Charter on Siberian City Cossacks" of 1822 for the first time established the legislative regulation of Cossack public administration in Siberia. Each village elected a head and a foreman for three years, the law specifically established that the election could take place for an unlimited number of terms of office. The elected heads and foremen were confirmed in their positions by the governors. The elected head was equated to the rank of cornet, and the foreman was a Pentecostal. The village assembly became the administrative body of the Cossack administration, in which Cossacks who had reached the age of 25, who lived on the territory of the village, with the exception of those who were physically punished, had the right to take part. The village assembly solved the issues of local economy and land provision of the Cossacks. He approved the budget, controlled the activities of officials and imposed punishments for the perpetrators. The heads and foremen, in addition to managing the villages, were engaged in combat and service training of the Cossacks, sorted out minor civil disputes and administrative offenses that arose in the Cossack environment.

Cossack public administration, as urban and peasant self-government, starting from the moment of their legal regulation on the Siberian outskirts of the empire, was absorbed by the local state administration, which used the estate institutions of self-government to carry out the administrative and economic powers assigned to it. Cossack self-government was used to fulfill the tasks facing the state power, which regulated it in detail and did not abolish its class character. The legal regulation of the village administration among the Siberian city Cossacks established relations on the principles of centralism and statism between the Cossack self-government and the local state administration, which subordinated the village administration to the local crown authorities.

Work in self-government bodies was not prestigious and burdensome for officers and wealthy Cossacks. A significant part of them did not seek to participate in the work of its bodies, and in cases of election to office showed negligent attitude to their duties. Officers who had experience in administrative and police service did not feel the desire to become village atamans because of a demotion in rank (equated to cornet), as well as a small salary.

The city Cossacks who lived in the villages were allocated agricultural land. They could engage in farming and crafts, and in turn, not far from their places of residence, carried out police service. The Cossacks were given the right to apply to the courts with civil claims. Ordinary Cossacks could be brought to criminal responsibility only after the consent of the regimental ataman, and officers - the local governor. The preliminary investigation of criminal cases involving Cossacks was to be conducted with the obligatory presence of Cossack deputies. They also received the right to bring complaints to higher authorities against local government. Each Cossack of the village could, at his own request, transfer to the regiment. The children of the deceased village Cossacks, whose maintenance the villages recognized as burdensome for themselves, should be brought up in regimental schools and then enter the regiments. (Andreev, 2012: 6).

The city Cossacks were a closed, privileged corporation, ready to stop any manifestations of illegal actions. Siberian city Cossacks acted in the first half of the XIX century as ordinary police officers, as well as a reserve of the police management system. The involvement of Cossacks in the service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs reduced government spending on the maintenance of police bodies.

The police units formed from the city Cossacks cost the state budget less than the personnel police structures. However, at the same time, they had a lower level of training than regular police officers. Police service for most of the village city Cossacks, who had, even within the framework of Siberia, prosperous farms, was burdensome duty, did not arouse interest and they sought to evade it in various ways. In addition, the reforms of the 60-70s of the XIX century were based on the wordless principles of the formation of law enforcement agencies. Therefore, the supreme power embarked on the path of abolishing the city Cossacks and eliminating the city Cossacks as a class (Nedbaj, 2001: 296).

Since 1851, the transfer of city regimental Cossacks to the War Ministry under the new regulations began. This year, the Yenisei, Irkutsk, and Trans-Baikal regiments were transformed, and the latter joined the Trans-Baikal Cossack army. In 1861, 3 West Siberian regiments: Tobolsk, Siberian Tatar and Tomsk were assigned to the Siberian Line Army. Finally, in 1868, the Yakut Regiment was transformed (Savel'ev, 1913: 5).

The city Cossacks, who performed local police service in Siberia until 1867, ceased to be used to protect security and law and order, and their units were liquidated. The Cossacks were transferred to the estate of state peasants with the right to transfer to the Siberian and Trans-Baikal Cossack troops, which some of them took advantage of. State debts were forgiven to the former city Cossacks, and their lands were transferred to their ownership, the

regimental capitals that were available were transferred to the former Cossacks.

The villages of the city Cossacks were turned into villages and transferred to the volost administration. Cossack officers were also excluded from the Cossack estate, they were given significant plots of land in hereditary possession for each of two hundred dessiatines, and the constables and Cossacks owned fifteen dessiatines of land (Savel'ev, 1913: 5).

The "Charter" and the establishment of villages had the goal, firstly, of settling and protecting remote or sparsely inhabited lands, and secondly, of fulfilling state needs without special costs, and reducing the composition of regiments and the costs of their maintenance. Cossacks could not be moved from one place of residence to another without their own consent. Before the introduction of the "Charter", most of the Cossacks had no allotted lands; the maintenance of the Cossacks was insufficient; they had neither immediate superiors nor strictly defined duties; Cossacks often moved from place to place, served far from their permanent residence and had no opportunity to farm.

#### Conclusion

The "Statute of the city Cossacks" did not establish a new estate, and did not even give the Cossacks new rights, but it arranged order in its affairs, eliminated the abuses under which the Siberian Cossacks were oppressed, and more precisely defined the order of management of the Cossacks, their official duties, and the position outside the service. He pointed out to the Cossacks the right means to arrange their economic life – the village position. The village Cossacks were to form a special kind of rural population free from taxes and duties and obliged to perform a certain service for this. According to the "Charter", all Cossacks had the right, subject to certain conditions, to switch to a stanitsa device.

Speransky's "Charter" streamlined the life of the city Cossacks. The main purpose of the "Charter" was to give the Cossacks monotonous rules of management, like police officers and settled villagers (Remney, 2015: 193). In the "Charter", the desire was especially noticeable - to reduce the personnel of the Cossack city regiments as much as possible and to turn the Cossacks into villagers who carry police duty for benefits. Hence the significant advantages of the village Cossacks and the facilitation of the regimental teams of the transition to the villages. By the 70s of the XIX century, there were no city Cossack regiments left in Siberia, not a single village governed by the "Charter" of Speransky in 1822. According to numerous testimonies of contemporaries, it is not known how much the state gained from this transformation; but it can be positively said that the Cossacks themselves lost a lot from this.

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