

## All-Russia academic seminar ‘State, capitalism and society in Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries’

On 19-21 October, Cherepovets State University held all-Russia (with international participation) academic seminar ‘State, capitalism and society in Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries’ arranged by the Department of History and Philosophy, Humanities Institute with financial support from RFBR (project No. 17-01-14056), as well as within the framework of implementation of the development program for a flagship university ‘Sociopolis 35’. The seminar turned out to be quite impressive: more than 60 scholars took part in its work – employees of academic institutions, university lecturers and school teachers, post-graduate students and students in the master’s programmes – from different cities of Russia (Moscow, St Petersburg, Oryol, Severodvinsk, Kaluga, Yelets, Vologda and others), as well as from the neighbouring CIS and non-CIS countries (the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania).

At the opening of the seminar, the Pro-Rector (Development) of Cherepovets State University M.G. Belova greeted its participants, noting the importance of the hosted event not only for re-thinking of the historic past of Russia, but also for search of solutions for the problems that the Russian society is facing nowadays. The director of the development program for a flagship university ‘Sociopolis 35’, professor of the Department of History and Philosophy O.Y. Solodyankina was talking about importance of such meetings for the academics to develop the University-level science. The chairman of organizing committee of the seminar, head of the Department of History and Philosophy A.N. Egorov noted the importance of objective comprehension of the developmental problems in the Russian society on the eve and during the October Revolution of 1917, the centenary of which is being commemorated this year, pointed to the range of problems that were supposed to be considered during the seminar and spoke in detail about the procedures.



The plenary session was noted for its lively debates. Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences A.N. Egorov (Cherepovets) in his report considered the debatable issues in the development of capitalism in Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. According to Andrey Nikolayevich, the development of Russia in the stated period did not differ fundamentally from that in the West. Its differences lied in the fact that “in Russia there was no ‘capitalism’ as a special type of society. In Russia, there were only separate elements of capitalism (bourgeois way of life)”. And, whilst ‘in the West the capitalism built up the state according to its needs’, then “in Russia the state was using capitalism for their own needs”. Associate Professor at Faculty of History (History of Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) at Lomonosov Moscow State University (Moscow) F.A. Gaida presented a report devoted to the problem of inclusion of public members into the State Council of the Russian Empire during the Coup of June 1907, interesting not only from the point of view of understanding of certain realities in the public life of the Russian Empire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but also within the context of considering the problem of correlation of community and professional principles in the activity of governmental authorities in general. The speech of the leading research worker at the Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow), V.A. Dyomin provoked an enormous controversy, in which he touched upon the issue of participation of entrepreneurs in the work of the Third Imperial Duma, whose activities were rated ambiguously. The contribution of professor, head of the Department of the History of legal doctrines at Oryol State University (Oryol) D.V. Aronov was dedicated to a complex issue – the nature of state authority in Russia during the period of February-October 1917, from a legal viewpoint. According to Dmitry Vladimirovich, the Russian Provisional Government established at that time, did not possess “features of monarchical power – heredity and lifelong enjoyment of the privilege”, but was rather collegiate and embodied the principles of popular sovereignty. In the report of Doctor of Philology Sciences, Professor A.V. Chernov (Cherepovets), the content of the brochure “Whirlpool. Thoughts and topics. Regarding drama by Leo Tolstoy ‘The Power of Darkness’”, written by Cherepovets city head I.A. Milyutin and published in St Petersburg in 1888, in the wake of recently staged Tolstoy’s play in Paris. The speaker emphasized that the tragic fate of the characters in Tolstoy’s play, related to the development of the Russian country-side in the after-reform period, was perceived by I.A. Milyutin as an inevitable sacrifice offered up to the catching-up modernization of the country. The sacrifice, “which could be avoided, and from constant reoccurrence of which one should protect oneself with the true and not imaginary enlightenment, enlightenment which not only and not so much ‘showing them the ropes’ of reading and writing, but also aiding in the ‘self-identity’ of a person”. The report of professor of the Department of World History at Vologda State University (Vologda) I.N. Tyapin related to the reflection on the ‘Russian Idea’ as a set of philosophical-

historical concepts and its role in the development of Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the contributor's opinion, 'the Russia Idea' did not develop into a comprehensive national-state ideology during that period, which was one of the reasons that triggered the crisis in Russia, which in the end led to the revolutionary upheavals of 1917.

Further, the work of the seminar was continued in sections. In total, there were six sections ('Power, business and society in Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – early 20<sup>th</sup> century', 'Power and society in historiographic and social-philosophical reflection', 'Reflection of development processes of the capitalist society in the periodical publications and literary tradition', 'Power and social-revolutionary movements in Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries', 'Debatable problems of social-economic development in Czarist-era Russia' and 'The onset of civil society in the Russian Empire').

The conference papers summarizing the reports have been published in the digest book of the seminar, prepared for publication by the Department of History and Philosophy of Humanities Institute, Cherepovets State University prior to commencement of its work.

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