

Gorelki, Tesyi, Orehov [5]. On this the formation of the north-eastern border of the BSSR was completed.

Conclusion. Thus, the administrative border between the BSSR and the RSFSR in the Vitebsk-Pskov area passed through the territory of the Velizh, Nevel and Sebezh districts on the Pskov side and the Vitebsk and Polotsk districts on the Belarusian side.

Reference list:

1. State Archives of Pskov Region. – F. p-590. Op. 1. D. 1548. L. 9-10.
2. State Archives of Vitebsk Region. – F. 118. Op. 1. D. 398. L. 144.
3. State Archives of Vitebsk Region. – F. 118. Op. 1. D. 398. L. 1.
4. National Archives of the Republic of Belarus. – F. 31. Op. 2. D. 2. L. 26
5. Zonal State Archives in Polotsk – F. 51. Op. 1. D. 178. L. 2.

CYCLIC RECURRENCE OF HISTORY: MORAL DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND MODERNITY

A. Ignatyeva

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, Grodno, Belarus

History moves in a spiral. Practically all the events have a property to occur over and over, but each time they occur in different ways. Each time they come in a new spiral turn. Despite this fact their substance is the same. In this research we observe the cyclic recurrence of history using the examples of moral decay of the Roman Empire and cultural backwardness of the modernity. Countries with specific religion fabrics are carried out of the issue.

The problem of moral decline is the problem of current interest of the present. By drawing analogies between the decline of the Roman Empire and current situation it's quite possible to predict the future development of the modern world.

Our target is to examine a sociocultural component of the Roman Empire and the modernity.

Material and methods. In this article we use some historical and social works [1, 2] and the official statistics [3]. The method which we used is comparison between the historical processes of the Roman Empire and the processes of the modern world.

Findings and their discussion. According to the works of Edward Gibbon the fall of the Roman Empire can be divided into 3 stages:

1) The era of Antonines – a period of the highest level of the development of the Roman Empire and at the same time – the beginning of moral decline. Eventually, the country was conquered by the barbarian tribes.

2) Justinian's reign. This period is marked by a temporary revival of the Eastern Empire. The result is a rise of Charlemagne.

3) The revival of the Western Empire; later it was conquered by Turks (1453).

To begin with, it's necessary to stress out that the Roman Empire had already formed an image of a powerful country with a formidable army by the time of Antonines' era. In this case, the aristocracy didn't feel any need in material goods: everything came from the conquered lands, and what's more, there was a strong economic mainstay. Even before the start of the decline the army service was a valorous and prestigious action; the concept of honor and high moral values was on the first place. Science, legislation, art, social principles – everything was at a high level but in constant development, at the same time, was filled up with an Athenians' wisdom. The form of government was absolute monarchy, however, the law was rather fair from the point of view of that times. Spiritual culture is thought to be at a high level too.

Education and self-development were encouraged practically in each part of the country; the standard of living was constantly growing: considerable degree of comfort in houses was observed even in provincial towns.

However, since Antonines' reign hard slave labour had made a notorious contribution to the culture. Gladiator fights, endless gluttony and huge waste of money for circuses – that obviously was the beginning of moral collapse of the Roman Empire.

Military was getting weaker and weaker; mostly barbarians served in the armed forces that resulted in the establishing of military despotism. There was no more motivation to serve in the army. All the social principles of honor and just moral values were changing.

Roman aristocracy as well as ordinary people waited for only “bread and circuses”. For instance, Caligula had made no secret of his mistresses and he was also accused of incest and homosexual connections; what's more, historians point out that many rich people spent a fortune for the food. They ate as much as possible and then caused vomiting to continue eating.

Of course, lots of this facts can be explained as the specific behavioral features of that times. But still it's possible to observe a total moral corruption of the inner system, mostly caused by the satiety of material benefits. The family institution also depreciated. The network of brothels was expanded.

As a result it became impossible to organize disciplined military; the lack of moral values, the loss of authorities, constant pursuit of power resulted in the fall of the Roman Empire.

Speaking about nowadays, we can observe similar processes: the development of technologies could replace a human factor in manufacturing, that's why human labour is directed towards other spheres. On the one hand, technology influences modern society in a good way, helps in the raising of living standards; on the other hand, it causes loss of moral values and decline of cultural part as they don't matter anything for the younger generation. The cult

that is created by LGBT-relationships and by other directions, that early struggled for the minority rights, now has nothing but a political connotation, which gives food for the protests and as a result undermines family institution.

There is also a decline of literature culture. By studying modern popular literature, it's possible to say that most of the content is uncensored which gives more freedom for the author but at the same time destruct the spiritual and sublime meaning of art.

Education is mostly of the practical orientation type; in this order students don't broaden their outlook and develop only required professional skills.

The culture of communication has also undergone some specific changes; value proposition in general has changed beyond recognition. Our generation is not interested in anything except satisfaction of temporary needs that comes from the satiety of material benefits.

I can't but mention one more phenomenon: some people advocate ecologically friendly movements but most of their actions are aimed at the promotion and marketing of a particular product or, indeed, they have a political context.

Speaking about the problem of the moral decline in the modernity, it's worth mentioning that against this process we can observe a constantly growing disparity among the living standards of world countries. All the above-mentioned criterion relate only to the technically advanced countries.

Conclusion. History consists of some iterative processes which move in a spiral of a mankind. The modern world is now at its height as well as the Roman Empire was once. But the main distinguishing feature is a special mark of the 21st century – advanced technology. That's why modern world won't stop in its development as the Roman Empire did.

Earlier this process of moral decline appeared in only highly developed countries (the Roman Empire, Rzecz Pospolita), but nowadays there is a global tendency because of the globalization and cosmopolitanism. Probably, the concept of conservative features and of traditional moral values will be fully changed. On the one hand, it'll have a positive impact on human civilization as a whole, on the other hand such aspects as culture, art and family in their traditional perception will disappear.

Reference list:

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3. Pew Research Center [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://www.pewresearch.org/>. – Date of access: 09.11.2018.