

Summary

Subject matter: Interrelations of the Russian Orthodox Church and Soviet State in 20-30s of XX century.

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Information about customer organization: Ways, forms and pattern of interrelation of Soviet government and the Russian Orthodox Church, also anti-ecclesial policy of party bodies and public institutions in the period examined in the research.

Topicality of the research: The question of relations of the Church and the State in 1925-1929 always was interested among researchers as one of the most difficult. Particularly, collapse of absolutism in March 1917 was taken by the top executives of ROC as “new epoch” in the church life that led to appearance diverse directions inside orthodoxy: from church conservatives and traditionalists to church reformers. Revolution of 1917 and Soviet government’s decrees followed it rendered clear destructive influence on the union of the state and the clergy. Church and government were inseparable in public mentality, traditionally. In the period of the Soviet power “militant atheism” ideology undermined ROC’s authority in people life.

Objective of the research: state-confessional relations in the USSR in 1925-1929.

Tasks of the research:

- To study the difference of views between right-wing trend and Stalin’s group on anti-religious question;
- To show as Stalin used those differences for Buharin’s impeachment;
- To show what influence on religious institutions the win of Stalin’s variant of fight with the Church had.

Theoretical and practical significance: Theoretical significance is in elaboration of the theoretical points directed at explanation of methods and ways with the help

of which Stalin struggled with “right-wing trend”, to appraise influence of Stalin’s win in interparty fight, at religious institutions. Practical result of the research is awareness of historical experience of our country that allows to think more carefully about relations of the Church and the state and as a result to consolidate these relations.

Results of the research: Win of Stalin’s variant of anti-religious policy was the result of his win in interparty fight. New wave of persecutions on the religion follows, repressions are strengthened, legislation in religious questions becomes more severe, more and more churches are closed. So, in the result of Stalin’s win to the end of 1930s he managed to reach almost full destruction of the Russian Orthodox Church in the way that was forming during centuries.

Recommendations: The problem of coexistence of religious and state institutions is not solved today and the discussion around the law of conscience freedom in 1997 indicates it. The study of past experience is especially important to escape possible mistakes and to find actually mutually acceptable variant of interrelation of state and religious confessions.