

HISTORY

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Conceptions of “friends” and “strangers” in the Cossacks’ ethnic mentality

The conceptions of every ethnic community, every nation, every ethnic or national group are unique. There are common trends in the behavior of different nations and ethnoses. One of such phenomena is the moment of inner self-determination and formation of the image of the ethnic uniformity, in contrast to the image of a stranger, an alien or an outsider. This issue is of conceptual and fundamental importance, both in theoretical and practical aspects, as those ideologies are exactly the major factor that often leads to formation of nationalistic views and doctrines. In this article, the author makes one of the first attempts ever to understand the conceptual image of “friends” and “strangers” in the world view and historical psychology of the Cossacks, the largest ethnosocial group in the population of Russia.

Key words: Cossacks, Russia, history, culture, policy, war, ethnos, state, law, consciousness, mentality.

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