

Study of Local History in Sakhalin Region, Far East of Russia

— Brief history, current situation and perspectives —

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Abstract — The purpose of this article is to illuminate and evaluate a current situation and probable perspectives of the local study in the field of history and culture of the people of the island world of Sakhalin and the Kurils. A brief notes on the development of the historical science in Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands in 19-20 the centuries is followed by detailed descriptions on the organizations for historic researches, historians, and conferences of the historians. The authors propose a new concept of the history of this region. The history of the region is extremely complex, very inconsistent, and almost confusing. It is explained, first, by the fact that the sources of history of the islands have been investigated rather poorly. Second, both Sakhalin and the Kurils have been an object of sharp territorial dispute between the Russian Empire (and its assignee USSR), now Russia, and Japan. In this connection, both the Russian (Soviet) and the Japanese researchers have been mostly searching for arguments for their governments in the century dispute instead of studying of the history of the islands properly. However, the history of the named islands cannot be presented only as a history of the opposition of the two countries within the centuries. The history of Sakhalin, Hokkaido, and the Kurils is the history of Ainu, Nivhgu, and Uilta, and it is also a part of history of the Chinese and Manchzhu, Mongols and Korean, the Dutch and the French, English, and Americans. And certainly, first of all, now it is an important part of the history of Japan and Russia. The authors propose a joint project by the historians of Sakhalin and Hokkaido which includes the stages of the preparation and simultaneous edition of the joint Russian-Japanese schoolbook on the history of the region. In this book the history of development of Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kurils by a Man from the time of the Early Paleolithic up to now will be described.

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1. Introduction

The peoples of Russia form the youngest population of the Far Eastern region. Our ancestors came to the coast of the sea of Okhotsk in the 17th century. The total exploration of eastern lands started in the 19th century. The professional study of history began in the Far East only 150 years ago. The Japanese began to develop Ezo in the 12th century, but for some reason we do not know so much about

this history of the region.

We should also note that there are many blanks and contradictory interpretations in the recent monographies and schoolbooks on the history of the island world of the northern seas. We assume that neither Russian nor Japanese historians have a complete understanding of the real historical conditions in the region, where our countries have been neighbors for more than two hundred years. In our opinion, the main reasons, for the lack of progress in the study of the

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local history of the islands of the northern seas are mostly political. We should not forget our responsibility to our schoolchildren and students for that history, which we teach them in our lectures. Today we should take responsibility for the future but it is necessary to do it cautiously.

2. The purposes of this presentation

At this seminar we would like to share our concern about the problems in the study of the local history in the island world of the northern seas. The purpose of the present publication is the illumination and on evaluation of the current situation and probable perspectives on the local study in the field of history and culture of the peoples of the island world of Sakhalin and the Kurils. It concerns the problems of the scientific study and teaching of local history of the islands in the northern seas. As a matter of fact, historical problems were the objects of political affairs during the 50 years of the ideological fight between the USSR and Japan. First of all is the question of teaching local history at schools in Sakhalin, the Kurils and Hokkaido. Hereafter we will present the new conceptual approach of the new Sakhalin school of historians to the study and teaching of local history at schools and higher educational institutions of the Sakhalin region. A joint Russian-Japanese solution to the problems of our science in the beginning of the coming century is possible. Our proposals to the Japanese colleagues on behalf of the historians of the Sakhalin state university concern the perspectives of the development of the international cooperation with scientific schools of Japan.

3. Brief notes on the development of historical science in Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands in the 19th and 20th centuries

The historical science in the Sakhalin region has already passed through at least three stages. The stage of collecting and of the primary understanding of the historical information dates back to the end of the first half of the 19th century (1860s - early 1950s). It is characterized by isolated researches done by Russian and Japanese historians and amateurs, mainly concerning the fields of ethnology and archaeology, and to a lesser degree to the history of the isles of the northern seas. It is connected to the great names of Ivan S. Polyakov, Matsuura Takeshiro, Lev Ja. Shternberg, Bronislav O. Pilsudski, Ryuzo Torii, Tsuboi Shogoro, Kiyono Kenji, Ito Nobuo, etc.

Researches into the local history and cultures of the peoples of the island world, and publishing of scientific and educational literature on various subjects occurred in the second stage - in second half of the 20th century (1950 - 1985). At that time, after the Second World War, historical science in the USSR, Japan, and elsewhere played a very special role, so the governments controlled and it accord-

ing to their will and needs. On the other hand, progress in the study of history in Sakhalin region was caused by the dynamic progress of society and science in this period of time all over the world, the USSR included.

The third stage of development of historical science on Sakhalin is the present one. Its development was caused by the fall of the communist regime in our country. It started in the mid-1980s, i.e. from the beginning of reorganization (perestroika) in the USSR and has lasted until the present time. Liquidation of the old ideological controls (including preliminary censorship), simplification of access to materials in domestic archives and libraries, and the development of communication with foreign researchers and organizations have created opportunities for work never known before in Sakhalin region. Many more opportunities have also appeared for those Japanese and other foreign historians who study the history of Sakhalin and the Kurils in Russia. For example, Honolulu University professor of history John Stephan, who was very famous for his two books on Sakhalin in the 1970s was never permitted to visit and see the object of his study before. Now he has very good free connections with Sakhalin historians and his books have been translated and published in Russian in Sakhalin.

4. Organizations doing historical research in the Sakhalin region

The post- WWII history, the current status and the prospects of historical sciences in the Sakhalin region are closely connected to the activity of such research organizations as Sakhalin State University, the Sakhalin Regional Local Study Museum, the state Archive of the Sakhalin Region, and the Sakhalin Centre for the Documentation of Modern History. In the pre-perestroika period their researches were carried out within the framework of constant cooperation with head academic institutes in the USSR and under the ideological control of the regional committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). For example, up to 1991 the structure of the scientific council of of the Sakhalin Regional Committee of the Communist party Sakhalin Regional Museum included the representative of the Sakhalin Regional Committee of the Communist party. The subjects of scientific life of Sakhalin University were also under the control of the university's bureau of the CPSU, and of the two special departments of the regional committee of the Communist party.

Now organizations doing historical research in Sakhalin have an essentially other, more independent status. They are also independent in the definition of their scientific policy. At the same time, in the 1990s, in the scientific life of the Sakhalin region the lack of academic influence is clearly felt. That influence was lost together with the process of decentralization of the control system all around the country.

4.1 Sakhalin State University (SakhSU) was formed in 1949 as a teacher's institute; in 1954 it became a pedagogical institute, and in 1998 a university. Among the first faculties of the institute there was the philological department for training teachers of history, as well as the Russian language and literature. Since that time the faculty has been repeatedly transformed. Now historians are trained by the faculty of history of the Institute of History, Sociology and Management.

Studies in the field of history are carried out in the laboratories of archaeology, sociology, and eastern study, in the Regional Center for the Socioeconomic Investigations of the Scientific Research Institute of Man, and also in the departments of social and political sciences, and economics of the Institute of Pedagogics and other divisions of SakhSU. In total, about 30 persons in SakhSU do research on the history, archaeology, ethnography, local folklore, economy, sociology, and the history of pedagogics of the Sakhalin region. The chiefs of divisions are M.S. Vysokov, A.A. Vasilevski, S.V. Prokopenko, G.V. Borovskoi, S. Ch. Lim, S.S. Tlekov, and Bok Zi Kou.

The results of studies of history are published in the various publications in Sakhalin, Russia and abroad. There is also a new annual magazine "The Scientific Notes of Sakhalin University", which appeared in the last month of 1999 publishing by SakhSU.

Basically, historical researches are financed by the budgets of the university, and of the regional and the central governments. But getting a grant is extremely difficult and as a rule the financing is carried out from the insufficient budget sources. At the same time, the faculties and laboratories, scientific groups and each teacher annually have to report at the appropriate sessions about the results of their scientific activities. It is considered that the state provides money for science in the teacher's salary. In fact, this payment is so small, that it is not necessary to speak about any state financing of the teacher's scientific work. Nevertheless, investigations in the field of history continue, and their results are not worse, but for better than in the 1970s. The reason for this is the freedom of creativity and love of the scientists to study history. Having no opportunity to go repeatedly to the central archives because of lack of money, Sakhalin's historians stick mostly to their home history and local sources of historical information.

The Science department of the university headed by the prorector on science E. Lisitsina annually holds student and teacher conferences, in which the section "Local Study" is obvious. Different subjects of local study are also welcomed by other sections. In the science department of the university the speciality "History of Russia" has existed since the early 1990s. About 10 postgraduate students do their study under the direction of professors A.M. Pashkov, L.S. Twarkovski, M.S. Vysokov and others. The basic subjects

of their study are also connected to the history of the Sakhalin region. In addition, some persons do their postgraduate historical studies in other higher educational schools of the country in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, etc. The main problem of the young scholars in this field is also the lack of money for study.

4.2 The Sakhalin Regional Local Study Museum (SRLSM) was founded in 1896 in Aleksandrovsk-Sakhalinski. Later it also inherited the museum of the Karafuto Docho in Toyohara (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk). Today, this is a very important scientific and cultural establishment, one of the centers of local study in the region of Sakhalin and the Kurils. Its staff collects, processes, studies and distributes the local scientific information in the Sakhalin region. In the museum the historical researches are carried out by about 20 persons, including three PhDs. It has a department of local history, laboratory of archaeology, department of ethnology and the Institute of Bronislav Pilsudski heritage for study of different aspects of the local history of the Sakhalin region. The museum also has branches in the district centers of the region, where different local history subjects are also being studied.

The chiefs and directing experts of the Sakhalin regional museum include V.M. Latyshev, T.I. Roon, V.D. Fedorchuk, V.O. Shubin, K.Ya. Cherpakova, O.A. Shubina, I.A. Samarin, and M.M. Prokofiev. The financing of their investigations is carried out by the Sakhalin Regional Board of Culture (the government of the Sakhalin region) and also under various grants. In the 1990s historians of the Sakhalin Regional Museum paid the greatest attention to the search and study of the monuments from the Middle-Ages, investigation of the traditional culture of the Uilta (Orok), the history of the sea fleet and so on. Unfortunately, the rather broad international study of the Russian settlements in the Kuril islands was stopped in the 1990s. It is also especially necessary to note the progress of the joint research by archaeologists from the Sakhalin Regional Museum and the Museum of Development of Hokkaido on 1989-1999 in both islands.

In 1994 the Sakhalin regional museum began to issue its annual publication, "The Herald of the Sakhalin Museum". In 1994-1999 the six issues of "The Herald" were published. "The Herald of the Sakhalin Museum" is one of the most interesting and useful scientific publications in the Far East of Russia. Since 1998 the Sakhalin Regional Local Study Museum has also issued "The News of the Institute of Heritage of Bronislav Pilsudski." Thus far, three issues of the "News" have been published. The Sakhalin Regional Museum and its branches conduct excursions, lectures, school and scientific conferences, and information about local study is also published in the mass media.

4.3 The district and special museums In addition

tion to branches of the regional museum in some cities of the region there are museums managed by the district administration, and also museums of organizations, companies and departments. Among them are the Sakhalin Regional Museum of Arts (Sakhalin Board of Culture)(director- M.I. Ishenko), the museum of the book of A.P. Chekhov "The Island of Sakhalin" (director I.A. Tsupenkova), and also museums of fishery, geology, district museums of the cities of Tymovsk, Korsakov, and Uglegorsk, and the Museum of the Sea in Kholmsk. There, historical researches are carried out at various levels by about 7 persons, including one Ph.D, ethnologist M.I. Ishenko.

4.4 The State Archive of the Sakhalin Region

(Administration of the Sakhalin region), formed in 1938 is the most valuable storehouse of historical documents of the 19th and 20th centuries for Sakhalin and the Kuril islands. In its halls and library the students, historians from our university, and also scientific researchers from Sakhalin and other regions of Russia, and also from overseas, are constantly investigating. Without this archive the development of the historical science on islands would be impossible. Speaking about historical researches using the archives of Sakhalin, it is necessary to note the work of the director of archive A.I. Kostanov, G.I. Dudarets, N.I. Vishnevski, V.L. Podpechnikov, N.I. Kolesnikov and others. In 1994 the State archive of the Sakhalin region began to release its year-book "Historical Readings". In 1995 -1997, two issues of the book were published.

4.5 The Sakhalin Center for the Documentation of Modern History

From 1991-1997, the Sakhalin Center for the Documentation of Modern History worked as an independent research establishment within the network of the archival divisions of the archival service of the Sakhalin region. The center was created in 1991 on the basis of the Communist Party archives. Its first director was M.S. Vysokov. The main tasks of the historians working in the establishment are the study and introduction of historical sources on the modern history of Sakhalin and the Kurils. Now, the center has become the structural division of the State Archive of the Sakhalin region.

4.6 Historians In the second half of the 20th century there were three generations of researchers of local history, cultural historians., archaeologists and ethnologists in Sakhalin. We should mention B.A. Zherebtsov, and L.S. Gribanova, R.V. Kozireva (Chubarova), who began the study of the ancient history and ethnology of the local population in the eastern islands area after the Second World War, in the first generation of the late 1940s-early 1950s. Under the conditions of the Stalin regime they did not manage to do so much, but the results of their research in those

years were published later and have been of great benefit to science.

The historians of the late 1950s-1970s were more numerous and successful. Most of them worked in the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk State Pedagogical institute (YSSPI). Among them were I.A. Senchenko, A.N. Ryzhkov, A.M. Lopachev (YSSPI), and V.V. Vyazovskaya (SRLSM). From 1962 to 1999 the founder of the island school of archaeologists, V.A. Golubev, worked in the YSSPI. In the 1970s the historians N.I. Kolesnikov, V.M. Latyshev, S.S. Tlekov, A.M. Pashkov, archaeologist V.O. Shubin, and economist and historian Bok Zi Kou began their work, which continues to the present day.

The new generation of Sakhalin historians of the 1980s-1990s were students of the researchers of the 1970s. These include the archaeologists O.A. Shubina, N.V. Plotnikov, M.M. Prokofiev, S.V. Gorbunov, V.D. Fedorchuk, ethnologists M.I. Ishenko, T.I. Roon, historians A.I. Kostanov, L.S. Twarkovski, S.Ch. Lim, I.A. Samarin, N.V. Vishnevski, S.P. Fedorchuk, and A.A. Ipatieva, as well as the authors of the present publication. Now, graduates from the post-graduate school of the Sakhalin State University and a number of higher schools of the country are making their mark in historical studies.

A significant influence in the development of science in Sakhalin was rendered by the works written about Sakhalin by historians from Siberia and Far East. The directors of the academic institutes- the academicians A.P. Okladnikov, A.I. Krushanov, A.P. Derevyanko, and also R.S. Vasiljevski, Ch.M. Taksami, and B.P. Polevoy were very authoritative in the Sakhalin region. In the beginning of the present stage, of special value for Sakhalin historians are the books of the professor J. Stephan of Honolulu University, "Sakhalin. A history" and "The Kuril Islands: Russo-Japanese Frontier in the Pacific."

4.7 Conferences of the historians In the 1960s and 1970s, more conferences on the local history were held in the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Pedagogical Institute, and also under by the "Znanie" society under the direction of the departments of science and education, and the propaganda division of the regional committee of the CPSU. Sometimes historical readings, in which historians from the greater centers of science of the country also participated were carried out.

Since the 1980s the SRLSM has held scientific conferences not less than once every two years. At these conferences the historians of Sakhalin have the opportunity to inform their colleagues about the results of their research, and to share and to discuss current problems. Among all scientific conferences carried out by the Sakhalin museum the international conference devoted to the 125th anniversary of B.O. Pilsudski's birth (in 1991) was especially interesting.

In the 1990s the Sakhalin center for the Documentation of Modern History has held such interesting conferences as “The Slavs in the Far East” (1993), “A.P. Chekhov and Sakhalin” (1995), “The Kuril islands: a history, present, and prospects” (1997). The preparation and holding of the conferences was carried out under the direction of the Board of Culture of the Administration of the Sakhalin Region with the assistance of the museum and Sakhalin State University.

Since 1989 the Sakhalin State University and Sakhalin Regional Local Study Museum have annually carried out the R.V. Kozyreva memorial readings. At these readings Sakhalin’s archaeologists discuss the results of the past field season. Since 1996 historians of the Sakhalin region have also held readings in memory of the historians A.N.Ryzhkov and A.M.Lopachev.

5. The current status and the prospects of development of historical science in the Sakhalin region in the 21st century

At the present stage there is a significant rise of the level of research at the Sakhalin State University, SRLSM and the State Archive of the Sakhalin Region. In 1989 an independent organization of the researchers, the Society for the Study of Sakhalin and the Kuril islands, was found, and began to hold annual (including international) scientific conferences. In the conditions of perestroika, the regional CPSU archives formed the basis of the Sakhalin Center for the Documentation of Modern History.

In 1990, the first regional historical journal, “Kraevedcheski Bulletin” (“Local study bulletin: problems of the history of Sakhalin, the Kurils and Neighbouring Territories”), was founded. The editor of the magazine is M.S. Vysokov). The founders of the magazine were “The Society for the Study of Sakhalin and Kuril islands”, SRLSM and Sakhalin Fund for culture. Later, the Sakhalin Center for the Documentation of Modern History and Sakhalin State University joined the group.

Summarizing, we shall note the following features of the present stage of development of historical science in Sakhalin region:

- the absence of censorship and freedom of scientific creativity;
- the expansion of the circle of historians and independent researchers;
- expansion of resources for the historical investigations;
- expansion of subjects of scientific study;
- expansion of international cooperation with the scientists of Japan, the USA and Europe;
- work on constructing a new conceptual mentality and new understanding of the history of Sakhalin and the Kuril islands;
- the wide dissemination of the results of historical studies

in local scientific publications and the mass media;
 · a discrepancy between finances and the scientific needs of the organizations conducting scientific activities in the field of the local history of the Sakhalin region.

As the sharply negative fact, we estimate the localization of the circle of the researchers engaged in the study of history of Sakhalin and the Kurils. Interest in the island’s history, in academic circles is growing. But the academic institutes of the Far Eastern (Vladivostok) and of Siberian (Novosibirsk) branches of the Russian Academy of Science now study the island mainly through communication with local researchers. Today their financial situation does not allow them to plan and carry out any large study in the remote regions of the Russian Far East. At the same time, the interest of the Sakhalin scientific organizations in continuing programs with those academic institutes still exists. We understand that the further localization of historical study can cause a decrease in quality, the growth of the localist tendencies, and the loss of a wide view of the problems of history by the local historians.

Recently we feel the extraordinary interest of foreign researchers, especially the Japanese, Americans, and Europeans. Meanwhile, archaeologists of Sakhalin and Hokkaido have managed to raise their joint research up to the level of the long-term target international programs. The programs on Susuya-Okhotsk problematics and the study of the fortified settlements of the Middle Age which are carried out, by, universities and local study museums of Sakhalin and Hokkaido are typical. In the last 10 years more than 20 expeditions have been carried out, and then results have been published both in Sakhalin and Hokkaido.

6. The new concept of the history of Sakhalin and Kuril islands and Prospects for the development of historical study in the early 21st century

In the 1980s and 1990s, due to a burst of creative activity by the Sakhalin historians, the opportunity to create an essentially new concept of the history of Sakhalin and the Kuril islands appeared. The necessity of such a concept is indisputable in that Russian society has realized that the time has come to put the end to the distortions of the historical truth about history of the islands. Now the diligent archaeologists, ethnologists, and historians of the region have a large amount of essentially new information, which has completely overturned old concepts. In the field of archaeology there were certain basic changes: sites of the Lower, Middle and the Upper Palaeolithic, Early, Middle and Late Neolithic were found and have been studied by modern methods.

The problem of the Sakhalin Middle Age is also actively discussed. In the 1990s in a number of articles, in the university course of lectures and in some scientific presenta-

tions in different conferences the modern concept of the prehistoric past of the island world of the northern seas was proposed by one of the authors. Appreciable event of the present stage of historical research in Sakhalin has led to the development of the modern conceptual view of history of Sakhalin and the Kurils. In 1994 M.S. Vysokov published his book "A Brief History of Sakhalin and the Kurils". The authors of this article have united their efforts to create a concept of a general character covering all periods of the prehistorical and the historical past of the island world from the Lower Palaeolithic to the present time.

7. The essence of the new concept

Proceeding from the opening of sites of the Lower Palaeolithic in Sakhalin and in the islands of the Japanese archipelago, the given territories should be treated as parts of the global area where the most ancient types of *Homo sapiens* lived and replaced each other during hundreds of thousands years. In these regions the activities of humans have caused the processes of the development and change in ancient, medieval and modern societies. Though Sakhalin and the Kurils have been on the far periphery of the world system of the past have always been connected with each other.

The history of Sakhalin and the Kuril islands includes the pre-literate (or prehistorical) epoch, and the periods illuminated by the written historical sources, i.e., the Middle Age, the New Age and the modern history of the world system.

During there periods different cultures arose inside this area or were introduced from the outside, then blossomed, declined and perished in the land of islands. Over the centuries many of the powerful cultural groups were replaced by others. The Russians were not the first and, certainly, they will not be the last in the milleniums of struggle, coexistence and changes of cultures on our islands.

Sakhalin and the Kuril islands are interesting not only by themselves. In the past they (completely or partially) were part of the huge land bridge that connected Asia and America, and the barbarous periphery of the great Chinese civilization, as well as the far lands of the Mongolians, the Manchus, the Russians, the Japanese and the Soviet empire. Thus, the history of the islands should be considered in the context of world history, and also within the context of the history of the Asia-Pacific region.

The history of the islands is extremely complex, very inconsistent and confusing. This can be explained at first by the fact that the sources of history of the islands have been investigated rather poorly. Secondly, both, Sakhalin, and the Kurils were for a long time and still continue to be the object of a sharp territorial dispute between the Russian empire (and its assignee, the USSR), and now Russia and Japan. In this connection both, Russian (Soviet), and Japa-

nese researchers were mostly searching for arguments for their governments in the century, long dispute instead of the proper study of the pure history of the islands.

Thus, Soviet historians searched for proof that "Sakhalin and the Kurils belong to our native land under the right of first discovery, the right of first exploration, the right of first development and the right of first connection" as Iosif Stalin directed them to. All that did not fit with this was ignored and denounced as falsification. It is quite natural that it is rather difficult to speak about the objectivity of such research.

It is necessary to note that there has been no basic research devoted to the history of Sakhalin and Kuril islands from ancient times up to the present. Now Russian historians have the opportunity to create a history of Sakhalin and Kuril islands that will be free from any political influence and will be based upon universally human, instead of national or political, values. This became possible due to the fall of communism in Russia and the liquidation of the old ideological controls (including preliminary censorship), simplification of access to materials in domestic archives and libraries, and the development of communication with foreign researchers and organizations.

In recent decades, historians of Sakhalin have saved a huge stock of actual information, new methodological approaches have been developed and a new concept of the historical past of Sakhalin and the Kurils have been formulated. This makes universal research on the history of the island world not only possible, but also necessary. We consider that, within the next five years, on the basis of the new concept, such research can be carried out by historians of Sakhalin State University. The authors of the present article are the organizers and the first participants of the author's collective effort for a future book.

The project of the Russian-Japanese schoolbook "A History of the island world of the Seas of Okhotsk and Japan from the most ancient times up to the present: Sakhalin, Hokkaido, and the Kuril islands."

Even more interesting and more promising would be to write such a schoolbook together with our Japanese colleagues. In this connection we make here a proposal to the Japanese historians and experts in the field of education of Hokkaido University.

The first thing that should be done by both Russian and Japanese historians for this book on the objective history of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kurils, is to refute the psychology of the first pathfinders and the explorers of the virgin lands. It is necessary to understand, though, that Russia, nor Japan annexed uninhabited wild islands in the North. They annexed islands already occupied by the peoples with an original and ancient history and culture. The history of Sakhalin, the Kuril islands and Hokkaido can not simply be reduced to a history of their colonization by Russia or Japan.

Besides, the history of the islands cannot be presented only as a history of the opposition of the two countries over the centuries. The history of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kurils, is the history of Ainu, Nivhgu and Uilta; it is also part of history of the Chinese and Manchus, Mongols and Koreans, the Dutch and the French, Englishmen and Americans. And certainly, first of all, it is now an important part of the history of Japan and Russia.

We do not mean to draw any speculative political conclusions from the above. Our scientific mentality is based on the principles of depolitization and denationalization of history as a science not politics.

As mentioned above, conceptually, the main contents of a history of Sakhalin and the Kurils for us is the activity of humans in their development.

There is no doubt of the huge value for successful work on an objective history of Sakhalin and the Kurils of the connections that Sakhalin historians have with foreign researchers and organizations, such as the connection between the historians of Sakhalin and Hokkaido, first of all the historians of Sakhalin State University and Hokkaido University. There is much in common in the history of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kuril islands as far as they were closely connected to each other in the past. We never can understand the history of Sakhalin and the Kurils, without knowing the history of Hokkaido. The same holds true for the history of Hokkaido, which cannot be studied isolated from the history of the islands to the north of it. Thus, the joint project proposed by the historians of Sakhalin and Hokkaido is extremely promising.

The project includes the preparation and simultaneous publication a the joint Russian-Japanese schoolbook on the history of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kurils in Russian and Japanese. In this book the history of development of Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kurils by humans from the Early Palaeolithic to be present will be described.

This approach will allow us to avoid excessive politicization of the history. It will prevent the use of history as a tool to serve to the current needs and requirements of diplomats and politicians. Thus, we can find general approaches and rules that will allow us to better understand the history of islands of our home Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, on which coasts we were born.

The realization of the project will have also large value for the education of the younger generation. The students of the Sakhalin region and Hokkaido will have an opportunity to receive objective, truthful and universal information on the history of the northern islands. They will be able to understand that the main contents of a history of Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kurils is not only a question who was the first to stand on Sakhalin or the Kurils, the Chinese, Japanese, Dutch or Russians, but how and when a hundred thousand years ago the development of these lands by humans begun.

8. Conclusion

The absence of any political and ideological pressure, the mutual openness and the rapprochement of the positions of the historians, archaeologists and ethnologists of Japan and Russia will, in the near future certainly benefit everyone. It will allow us to make impartial evaluations and interpretations of the already known and new historical sources to produce breakthroughs.

The expansion of international scientific contacts in the region can lead us to a qualitatively new step, when long-term targets and complex joint programs, including those dealing with previously forbidden subjects are created and carried out. An important role for the solution of historical problems will be played by the development of modern methodological and methodical means. All these will at last allow us to create an essentially new, more realistic conceptual view of the historical past of the island world of Eastern and Northern Asia within the first decade of the new century.

In conclusion, we consider that the strategic target of the Sakhalin and Hokkaido historians is a transition from competition and rivalry in the field of scientific research to fair cooperation and mutual assistance for the interests of future generations. We regard it to be necessary for this purpose, to separate history from any ideology and instead to work in an academic spirit of commonwealth and fidelity to science. This is especially important in the field of teaching of history for the pupils and students of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kurils. All this will help to educate a new generation, which could solve the territorial problems between Russia and Japan without any shocks and establish eternal friendship between our countries.

9. Proposal of the administration of the Institute of History, Sociology and Management of Sakhalin State University for communication with the historians of Hokkaido University

1) Proposal for the creation of of a association for the writing of a joint schoolbook on the history of the island world of the Seas of Okhotsk and Japan.

For realization of the above project we regard it necessary to conclude a contract for preparation of the text and about the publication of a joint Russian-Japanese book on the history of the island world of Sakhalin, Hokkaido and the Kurils between the Institute of History, Sociology and Management of Sakhalin State University and one of divisions or a group of the historians of Hokkaido University.

We consider that the authors' association can be composed of two or three representatives from each side. In particular, the authors of the present article are ready to join

this working group for the preparation of the book. In the case of expression of any similar desire from the Japanese side, we hope to create a team within one year. The second step is to have working meetings, both in Sakhalin and Hokkaido and, to reach a mutual arrangement on the basic principles and of the plan for writing the book.

The subsequent stages of its writing, publication and distribution can be coordinated at the appropriate time.

2) Proposal of the Russian side on organization of training of the Japanese experts and post-graduate students in the Institute of History, Sociology and Management of Sakhalin State University.

One of the most important objectives of historical research in Sakhalin is the study of the peoples living in the territory of the Sakhalin region, and also the modern inter-ethnic relations in Russia. It is especially important because now in the territory of Sakhalin and the Kurils there are more than a hundred different ethnic groups. Of special in-

terest, certainly, are the native peoples of Sakhalin.

The Institute of History, Sociology and Management of Sakhalin State University is ready to assist Japanese researchers interested as in the study of the native peoples of Sakhalin, the modern demographic situation and the problems of interethnic relations in Russia as a whole. For this purpose we plan to organize studies by post-graduate students and short-term training of foreign researchers in Sakhalin. Subsequently, training in archaeology is proposed at the Faculty of History of the Institute of History and Laboratory of Archaeology of the Institute of Man at SakhSU.

During study the foreign researchers can receive theoretical knowledge (attend special courses of lectures), and carry out independent researches among various national groups practically any place of Sakhalin. The trainees will have an opportunity to receive advice and help from the most qualified experts working in Sakhalin. The term of study and training in the Institute of History, Sociology and Management of Sakhalin State University for foreign researchers is from one month to one year.

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Appendix

Высоков М.С.

Многоуровневая программа "Сахалиноведение"⁴.

Важным проектом, о котором по нашему мнению стоит поговорить является программа "Сахалиноведение", разработанная автором в стенах Сахалинского государственного университета. Суть данной программы в нижеследующем. Изменения, охватившие практически все стороны жизни России, в очередной раз поставили перед российской школой чрезвычайно сложную задачу по реформированию образования. Практически все реформаторы ставили перед собой задачу приблизить школу к жизни. Однако и по сей день данная задача так и не решена. Особенно недопустимо то, что выпускники как средних, так и высших учебных заведений практически не знают особенностей того региона, в котором им предстоит жить и работать (кстати, то же самое можно сказать и о тех, кто уже давно покинул стены учебных заведений и занят в сферах управления, производства или культуры). Именно это обстоятельство заставляет меня ставить вопрос о разработке и реализации программы "Сахалиноведение" для всех уровней образования в Сахалинской области.

Главными целями проекта являются:

- создание условий для подготовки специалистов, обладающих знаниями об особенностях нашей островной области и максимально приспособленных к работе в ее специфических условиях;

⁴ This is the program of Sakhalin study prepared by dr. Vysokov M.S. in 1997. Now it is discussed in the teachers and administrative spheres.

- воспитание людей, знающих и любящих свою малую родину – Сахалинскую область.

Именно этим стратегическим целям и подчинен проект по созданию цикла учебных программ и учебных пособий "Сахалиноведение". Считаем, что изучение курсов "Сахалиноведения" позволит значительно улучшить качество как среднего, так и высшего образования в Сахалинской области, сделав его гораздо ближе к жизни. Кроме того, последовательная реализация названного проекта будет способствовать воспитанию чувства любви к своей малой родине, преодолению того комплекса временных жителей, которым заражено подавляющее большинство сахалинцев и курильчан и который наносит огромный ущерб нашим островам.

Для последовательной реализации проекта имеются все условия. В школах области уже накоплен определенный положительный опыт краеведческой работы. В Сахалинском государственном университете, департаменте образования, культуры и спорта администрации Сахалинской области, Сахалинском областном краеведческом музее, областных архивных учреждениях имеются квалифицированные кадры, которые смогут принять участие в реализации проекта.

Проект рассчитан на восемь-десять лет. В связи с тем, что реализация столь крупномасштабного проекта потребует довольно крупных средств, мы считаем возможным выделить две-три наиболее важные подпрограммы и реализовать их в ближайшие три года. Считаю, что начать необходимо с подпрограмм "Дошкольное образование" и "Начальное образование". Именно в раннем возрасте необходимо начинать растить в детях чувство любви к родному краю и закладывать в их головы первые систематизированные знания о нем. Однако нельзя ограничиваться только первыми двумя подпрограммами. Полноценную отдачу можно ожидать только в том случае, если проект "Сахалиноведение" охватит все уровни образования (от детского сада до послевузовского образования и переподготовки кадров).

Предполагается, что проект пройдет через следующие этапы:

- Первый этап реализации проекта предусматривает разработку программ и создание авторских коллективов.
- На втором этапе будут подготовлены рукописи учебных пособий и проведена их экспертиза органами народного образования, а также подготовлены методические пособия для учителей.
- На третьем этапе учебные программы и пособия будут изданы и начнется их обязательное внедрение в учебный процесс.

Средства на реализацию проекта должны быть выделены частично из бюджета, а частично спонсорами. Однако после издания первых трех учебных пособий основная часть

средств на осуществление проекта должна поступать от реализации книг учащимся, студентам, учителям, родителям и т.д. Устойчивый же покупательский спрос на книги, издаваемые по программе "Сахалиноведение" зависит от того, будут ли учебные программы и пособия настоятельно рекомендованы руководящими органами народного образования к обязательному использованию в школах области.

Программа "Сахалиноведение" предусматривает проведение следующих мероприятий:

I. Подпрограмма "Дошкольное образование" ("Мой родной край"):

- 1) Разработка программы и методических указаний курса "Мой родной край".
- 2) Подготовка к изданию и издание книжек-раскрасок "Растительный мир Сахалина и Курил", "Звери Сахалина и Курил", "Морские животные", "Птицы Сахалина и Курил", "Земноводные Сахалина и Курил", "Рыбы Сахалинских морей", "Насекомые Сахалина и Курил", "Все работы хороши - выбирай на вкус".
- 3) Подготовка к изданию и издание книги комиксов "Путешествие в прошлое".
- 4) Подготовка к изданию и издание серии наглядных пособий "Мой родной край".

II. Подпрограмма "Начальная школа".

- 1) Разработка программы и методических указаний курса "Сахалиноведение" для начальной школы.
- 2) Подготовка к изданию и издание учебного пособия "Сахалиноведение: Рассказы о природе и истории Сахалина, Курильских островов и окружающих их морей" (одна книга для 1-3 классов или три книги для 1, 2 и 3 класса).
- 3) Подготовка к изданию и издание книги для чтения "Сказки Сахалина".
- 4) Подготовка к изданию и издание комплекта наглядных пособий по курсам "Сахалиноведение" для начальной школы.

III. Подпрограмма "Неполная средняя школа".

- 1) Разработка программ и методических указаний курсов "Сахалиноведение" для неполной средней школы.
- 2) Подготовка к изданию и издание учебных пособий и книг для чтения:
 - "География Сахалинской области";
 - "История географического изучения Сахалина и Курильских островов";
 - "История Сахалинской области";
 - "Растительный мир Сахалинской области";
 - "Животный мир Сахалинской области".
- 3) Подготовка к изданию и издание комплекта наглядных пособий по курсам "Сахалиноведение" для неполной средней школы.

IV. Подпрограмма "Старшие классы средней школы и средние специальные учебные заведения".

1) Разработка программ и методических указаний курсов "Сахалиноведение" для старших классов средней школы и средних специальных учебных заведений.

Подготовка к изданию и издание учебных пособий и книг для чтения:

"Экономическая география Сахалинской области";

"Население Сахалинской области";

"Проблемы экологии Сахалинской области";

"Сахалин, Курильские острова и окружающий мир с древних времен до наших дней";

"Сахалин и Курильские острова в русской литературе";

"Сахалин и Курильские острова в художественной литературе: Хрестоматия";

"Сахалинская область: Книга для чтения на английском языке".

3) Подготовка к изданию и издание комплекта наглядных пособий по курсам "Сахалиноведение" для старших классов средней школы и средних специальных учебных заведений.

У. Подпрограмма "Высшая школа".

1) Разработка программ и методических указаний курсов "Сахалиноведение" для высшей школы.

Подготовка к изданию и издание учебных пособий

"Экономика Сахалинской области";

"История Сахалина и Курильских островов";

"Этнография Сахалинской области";

"Археология Сахалинской области";

"Геология Сахалинской области";

"Природные катастрофы на Сахалине и Курилах".

УІ. Подпрограмма "Послевузовское образование и переподготовка кадров".

1) Разработка программ курсов "Сахалиноведение" для организаций, занимающихся переподготовкой кадров.

Подготовка лекционных курсов

"Экономика Сахалинской области: история, современность, перспективы";

"Особенности управления Сахалинской областью: история и современность";

"Проблемы истории Сахалина, Курильских островов и сопредельных территорий";

"Сахалин и Курильские острова в системе международных отношений";

"Проблема межнациональных отношений в Сахалинской области".