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The socio-political thought of Musa Bigijewa and its reception in the Russian Federation

Summary

The religious freedom which was the result of democratic transformation in Russia in the late 80s and early 90s of the 20th century created the opportunity for Muslim people living there to develop their own culture, educational system and administrative structure. Islam has also become one of the four *traditional religions*¹ of Russia. The process of „Islamic Renaissance” in Russia leads the Muslim community to look back and take advantage of historical experience and achievements of Tatar theological thought in order to use it in the process of building identity of Russian Muslims. In recent years, the most visible element of this process is the attempt to rethink the concept of Jadidism – the reform movement among Muslims in the Russian Empire at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. One of the most important persons of this movement was Musa Jarullah Bigiev – religious scholar, politician and writer. His works relate to topics such as Islamic jurisprudence, politics, history, law and economy.

The purpose of my dissertation is to analyse the socio-political thought of Musa Bigiev in the context of the socio-political movement of Judaism, which was extremely important to Russian Muslims at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition, the dissertation refers to the contemporary social and political situation in the Russian Federation, in particular among the Muslim community. This dissertation is based on a source materials that is a selection of Bigiyev's work, which deals with the issues closest to political sciences with its subject matter. A significant element of the source material of this dissertation are also legal acts. The most important research problems of this work are: the similarity and

¹ Traditional religions are understood as four confessions that bring together the majority of believers in Russia and, at the same time, have the longest tradition in this country. These are: Christian Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. This division was legally sanctioned in the Act On freedom of conscience and religious associations in 1997.

differences of thought represented by Musa Bigiev to the other Muslim thinkers; the question is whether the social and political thought of Musa Bigiev is innovative in relation to the concepts that have been created so far; reception of ideas proclaimed by the Musa Bigiev and the possibility of applying these ideas to the contemporary challenges. The dissertation contains two most important research hypotheses: Musa Bigiyev's thought is the most innovative against the whole movement of jaddidism, which was expressed in the innovative approach of the thinker to issues related to the functioning of the state, the Muslim community in a non-Muslim country, social issues, law, education, but also issues directly related to the Muslim theology; the processes occurring among the Muslim community living in the Russian Federation, such as, the development of Muslim education, active participation in the public life of Muslim organizations, can be seen as a reference to the intellectual heritage of Musa Bigiev.

The dissertation is composed of four chapters. The first chapter presents the theoretical background. This chapter focuses on the most important problems related to the issue of jaddidism. Jadidism is still a subject of keen interest for researchers, but it should be noted that a common definition of this concept has not been developed in both Russian and international science and also in religious literature. This chapter also shows the formation of the socio-political thought among Russian Muslims from a historical perspective.

Chapter Two presents the biography of Musa Bigiev in the context of the political situation in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century. Musa Bigiev is considered as one of the most outstanding Muslim political activists, thinkers and religious reformers of the beginning of the 20th century in Russia. Chapter Three presents the most important ideas about the state and society in the thought of Musa Bigiev. This chapter focuses on such issues as: the importance of war and revolution in the life of states and nations, Islamic law and society, human rights, property and workers' rights, educations, woman rights. The fourth chapter presents the practical dimension of the functioning of the Muslim community in Russian Federation in reference to the ideas proclaimed by Musa Bigiev. This chapter discusses the legal framework for the functioning of the Muslim community in Russia, the formation of Muslim education in contemporary Russia - the political, social and religious aspect of this phenomenon, activities of Muslim organizations in Russia and contemporary ideas about the development of Islam in the Russian Federation.

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