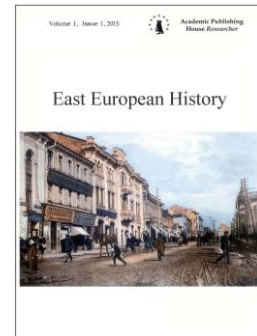


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## The January Uprising of 1863 Influence on the Status of Officials of Polish Origin in the Middle Volga Region and the Urals

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### Abstract

This article is devoted to the analysis of the reaction of the officials of Polish origin who served in local government bodies in the Middle Volga region and the Urals to the January Uprising of 1863. Based on the materials of the central (GARF, RGIA) and regional (NART, GAKO) archives, the author shows that many representatives of the Polish diaspora in this region, including some officials, “greeted” this event sympathetically. Some individuals were not afraid to openly express their negative attitude to the tough actions of the Russian authorities to suppress the Polish national liberation movement. Not only the Polish employees themselves, but also members of their families (for example, wives) demonstratively wore various Polish symbols. Such a manifestation of solidarity with the insurgents, although of a single character, nevertheless contributed to the formation of a certain stereotype to all Poles of the region. They were perceived by the leaders of local administrative and police bodies as supporters of nationalist and separatist ideas. Naturally, it had a negative impact on the future career of officials of Polish origin.

**Keywords:** Polish uprising in 1863–1864, Middle Volga and the Urals, regional authorities, confessional policy.

### 1. Introduction

In January 1863, a major armed uprising broke out in the western regions of the Russian Empire, covering the territory of Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Right-Bank Ukraine. The main goal of the uprising that was organized by the Central National Committee, was the restoration of Poland's independence that was lost at the end of the XVIII century as a result of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth separation.

Polish uprising that took place in thousands of miles from the Volga-Ural region, had a direct impact on the region's social and political life. By the middle of the XIX century, large Polish diasporas were formed in all the provincial centers of the region, and the officials of Polish origin were “the core” of the diasporas. After the beginning of the uprising, many of them showed open sympathy to the Polish national liberation movement, and some even tried to support it directly. The example of this activities is the so-called “Kazan conspiracy”, when Polish officers that served in the Russian army (N. Ivanitsky, A. Mrochek, R. Stankevich, etc.), attempted to raise a rebellion in the Middle Volga region with the support of Russian revolutionaries (the first “Land and Freedom”).

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## 2. Materials and methods

The reaction of officials of Polish origin (as well as their relatives) to the uprising of 1863-1864 can be analyzed by studying the unpublished sources from the funds of the State Archives of the Russian Federation, the Russian State Historical Archive, the National Archives of the Republic of Tatarstan, and the State Archives of the Kirov Region. They also provide plentiful study material of the relationship of regional administrative and police authorities with representatives of the Polish diaspora, including the officials. Different materials of personal character such as memoirs, as well as correspondence of local Poles are of a great importance.

## 3. Discussion

The relation problems between the Poles who lived in the Volga-Ural region and local administrative and police authorities in 1863-1864 were first covered in Soviet historiography. They were partly presented by the historians who did the research in the field of the Polish exile and the Russian-Polish revolutionary relations. The works of P.N. Luppov, V.M. Fomenkova, V. D. Sergeev and etc. may serve as an example.

In contemporary Russian historiography, this problem was mentioned in the works of Kirov researchers T.A. Dvoretzkaya, L.G. Podlevskikh, as well as in works of the Chuvash historian V. A. Pavlov. However, up to this day, there are no special studies of this problem.

## 4. Results

A powerful armed uprising in the west of the Empire, the anti-Polish campaign in the official press, and finally the "Kazan conspiracy," involving Russian officers of Polish origin – all this could not but create a prejudiced attitude towards the Poles who lived in Russia, and this attitude was common not only among ardent conservatives and nationalists. Dmitry Alekseevich Milyutin, who was considered to be one of the most liberal ministers in the government of Alexander II, wrote: "A lot of officers of Polish origin served in numerous army regiments, especially in cavalry and special services. Poles were able to deftly get into all parts of the administration: they occupied influential posts, served in all special, technical departments, namely: educational, postal, telegraphic, railways and etc. They also invaded the inner life of the Russian families as home teachers, tutors and estate managers" (Milyutin, 1999: P. 52).

The regional leaders demonstrated prejudiced and often hostile attitude towards the Poles. This, first of all, affected the Polish officials, many of who served in various local governing bodies. There were 61 officials of Polish descent in the province, (30 of whom lived in Vyatka) in early 1863, according to Vyatka Governor V. N. Strukov's report to Governor-General A. E. Timashev (GARF. F. 39. Op. 1. D. 21: 19 – 20). Most of the Vyatka Poles served in the regional structures of the Ministry of State Property (20 people), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (15 people), the Military Ministry (13 people) and the Ministry of Justice (9 people) (GARF. F. 39. Op. 1. D. 21: 20 ob.). Among the most influential provincial Polish officials, one can mention Colonel Adamovich of the Gendarmerie, Advisers of the State Property Chamber Dravert and Mikulski, Provincial Postmaster and State Councilor Matsulevich, Chief of the telegraph station Filippovich and others (GARF. F. 109. 1 exp. Op. 38. D. 23. Ch. 212: 11). In Kazan province, the number of Poles was also significant among the officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of State Property. For example, Tsarevokokshaisk district police officer Troyanovsky was Polish (NART. F. 1. Op. 2. D. 1852: 87).

The conclusions of the authorities of the Vyatka and Kazan counties about the disloyalty of Polish officials and even sabotage were often based only on rumors and unverified information. Thus, one of the denunciations on the headquarters officer Adamovich stated that in Vyatka "there are up to 30 Poles who have a harmful influence on the course of affairs and they are headed by the Gendarme Colonel himself" (Fomenkova, 1965: 128). However, sometimes the Poles who served in the provincial government, gave reason to doubt their loyalty through their actions or statements. For example, the Vyatka governor V. N. Strukov sensitively responded to Colonel Adamovich's refusal to carry out secret surveillance of the Catholic mass that was held at the exiled bishop of Vilnius Adam Krasinski's house (GAKO. F. 582. Op. 60. D. 24: 22 ob.). Tsarevokokshaisk Governor Troyanovsky celebrated Easter together with the other Catholics in the apartment of the exiled Polish, Pomarnatsky in the province of Kazan in March of 1864 (Pavlov, 2006: 31). The district attorney's memorandum addressed to the Governor stated that at Troyanovsky's place "all these

Polish people are often on a visit, and in particular in the evenings ... they stay for a long time and are then taken to their apartments on Mr. Troyanovsky's horses. I do not find it decent for the Head of the county to host suppers and dinners for the people who tried to harm our legitimate government" (NART. F. 1. Op. 2. D. 1852: 87).

Some of the officials of Polish origin openly demonstrated their negative attitude towards the government's actions to suppress the January uprising. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 1863 the Vyatka Honor Society Club held a ball dedicated to the Anniversary of the coronation of Alexander II. When one of those present proposed a toast to the Governor-General of Vilnius, M. N. Muraviev, who was known for his harsh repressive actions against the insurgents, Ken, the senior auditor of the Vyatka Excise Administration, publicly refused to raise his glass to him. This fact received so much publicity that the Governor of Vyatka V. N. Strukov was forced to report this incident to the Minister of Internal Affairs P. A. Valuev (GAKO. F. 582. Op. 140. D. 309: 57–61 ob.).

The Poles of Vyatka and Kazan provinces also used other forms of demonstrating their negative attitude to the actions of the authorities in the west of the Empire. Thus, the wives of the Polish officials wore mourning attire as a sign of their sorrow for the rebels who were executed during the suppression of the January uprising. At first, the local authorities were confused and did not know how to react. "Can the Polish women be allowed to wear mourning dresses, if they do not have legal proof of the death of their relatives and can they be allowed to wear special signs (metal buckles with the united coat of arms of Poland and Lithuania)?" - the Yadrinsky district police officer inquired in his report (GARF. F. 39. Op. 1. D. 31: 3).

Provincial authorities responded quite quickly. "On your inquiry dated July 29, 1863 on the Poles of the Yadrinsky district wearing mourning attires, I am notifying that ... this is a clear statement of sympathy for the uprising, and therefore can not be tolerated ... If this happens again, immediately report to me for taking appropriate measures to end the unrest", - ordered Governor-General A. E. Timashev (NART. F. 1. Op. 2. D. 1860: 3–3 ob.).

Polish officials' wives (usually housewives) often expressed their opinion more actively than their husbands who were afraid to put an end to their careers. Rare cases were reported, when male Catholics who worked in the Vyatka province not only showed complete loyalty towards the authorities, but also reported about their wives who supported the opposite side. V. M. Fomenkova gives an example when the police established strict control "upon the Polish woman, the spouse of engineer Cappachio, who was accused by her own husband for adherence to her nation" (Fomenkova, 1965: 129).

Numerous denunciations and imprudent actions of the Poles themselves created a quite definite opinion among regional authorities on the officials of Polish origin. "... Those in the service in Vyatka: the Gendarmes corps Staff Officer Colonel Adamovich, Provincial Postmaster and State Councilor Matsulevich as well as the Head of the telegraph station, Lieutenant Filippovich are of Polish descent and if not themselves, then their families undoubtedly have sincere sympathy for the Polish uprising", - Governor V. N. Strukov wrote in his report to the Minister of Internal Affairs (RGIA. F. 1282. Op. 1. D. 197: 14). It should be noted that many other governors and members of the Russian government shared his opinion. Minister of Internal Affairs P. A. Valuyev, to whom V. N. Strukov addressed his report in May 1863, wrote in his diary: "Due to the panic fright of the Poles, who occupy different positions, in Smolensk, Moscow and other places, it is suggested ... firing them out at least from the police, postal institutions and the railway administration" (Pavlov, 2006: 70). However, P. A. Valuev took a rather flexible position on the status of the Poles in Russian state structures, standing against excessive infringement of their rights. As L. E. Gorizontov points out, "P. A. Valuev spoke out for their wide involvement in the public service and until the end of his political career he was persecuted by Pobedonostsev's camp as a "traitor to the Russian idea" (Gorizontov, 1999: 68).

Orders from St. Petersburg and suspicious attitude towards officials of the Polish origin from their direct authorities adversely affected the career of the Poles. Thus began the gradual extrusion of the Polish people from the provincial and district government bodies, primarily from the administrative and police structures. Colonel Adamovich of the Vyatka Gendarmerie resigned due to the numerous demands of the governor V. N. Strukov (RGIA. F. 821. Op. 3. D. 996: 17). Another denunciation, now coming from the Polish exile E. Nabut, forced Tsarevokokshaisk police officer Troyanovsky to resign (Pavlov, 2006: 32). The adviser of the Vyatka State Property Chamber Mikulsky, Malmyzh Postmaster Barantsevich and others also lost their jobs.

Such an attitude towards the Catholic officials was preserved long enough after the suppression of the January uprising. Thus, in 1871, the Head of the Vyatka county Gendarmerie in his report to the Chief of the Third Department of the Imperial Chancellery P. A. Shuvalov accused the provincial forest ranger Svido of secretly supporting his Catholic subordinates, allegedly being engaged in sabotage. "Involuntarily you start to believe the rumors that some of the local Polish forest rangers (who are patronized by Svido) say that the Russians ravaged the Poles, so they, the Poles, will use all the available means to destroy the Russian peasants", – wrote the Head of Vyatka Gendarmes (GARF. F. 109. 1 exp. 1869 r. Op. 44. D. 5. Ch. 26: 53).

However, even a decade after the suppression of the January uprising, when the negative emotions noticeably subsided, the behavior of some regional officials of Polish origin, according to the provincial authorities, remained defiant. The cultural isolationism of some Poles was perceived as a manifestation of political disloyalty and even nationalism, for example, their reluctance to attend various official events, etc. Thus, the governor of Vyatka V. I. Charykov informed the Minister of Internal Affairs A. E. Timashev about the arrogant behavior of the Sarapul county magistrate Felix Kulvets. In his opinion: "Kulvets never attends prayers for the health and welfare of the Royalties and when police ministers gave him invitations to the prayer services and asked him to sign them, Kulvets, returning the papers usually said: "Brother, I do not care" (GARF. F. 109. 1 exp. 1869 r. Op. 44. D. 5. Ch. 26: 50). According to the governor "Kulvets as a magistrate can not be tolerated in such a remote region as Vyatka county, inhabited by up to 300 Polish people in exile, and especially in Sarapul county, with its dissenters and Molokans, who can easily be affected by the bad example of such a high-rank official" (GARF. F. 109. 1 exp. 1869 g. Op. 44. D. 5. Ch. 26: 50).

## 5. Conclusion

Thus, the Polish uprising of 1863-1864 dramatically worsened the situation for the officials of Polish descent who served in provincial and county government bodies. Local governors often perceived them as the supporters of the ideas of Polish nationalism and the potential "fifth column". This stereotype was formed due to the activities of some local Poles, who really sympathized with the Polish national liberation movement.

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