

Британская пресса об
отмене крепостного права в
России

Великобритания в 1861ом году

Шотланди
я



Уэльс

Реакции на отмену крепостного права в России в газетах Англии



The Spectator (23. 02.1861) – под заголовком «Русская революция»

„The House of Romanoff, with all its despotic principles, has been for ages in fair accord with its people... 'God and the Czar' is the cry of the Russian peasant, and he does not always distinguish accurately between the two Beneficences.“

„Несмотря на все их деспотические принципы, Романовы сейчас в ладу с русским народом... Бог и Царь – крик русского народа, и народ часто не отличает одного благодетеля от другого.“

The Spectator (23. 02.1861)

„The mass of the aristocracy...they can be spared. They have added nothing to European society beyond a somewhat bizarre magnificence, and in Russia their absence will be felt only in a sense of relief from a dead weight on human energy...we believe the decree of emancipation will add, at once, forty millions to the list of European freemen, without a single serious disadvantage.“

„Большинство дворян после указа исчезнет – но Россия должна быть рада этому. Дворянство – ненужная обуза, оно ничего не дает обществу. Мы считаем, что отмена крепостного права рождает 40 миллионов свободных человек.“

right. No proprietor in Russia claims a *right* to sell a child, or separate husband and wife, or breed slaves for sale. He may perform isolated acts of tyranny, tending to those results, but he performs them in the face of the law and public opinion, and not with their support. As to communities, he is powerless both in theory and practice. The Russian, like every other Asiatic, considers that the land belongs to him and his commune. He may be compelled to pay rent, or give service, but his right is wholly unimpaired. Like other Asiatics, too, he will fight for this single right with the most utter indifference to consequences. The same man who will bear insult and blows and taxation without a murmur, is a freeman the instant his land is menaced. A real assault on his village rights produces an insurrection as certainly as a cloud produces rain. His land has therefore been respected, and it is this remnant of citizenship, this last relic of property right, which has saved him from degradation, and which now forms the difficulty of emancipation.

The House of Romanoff, though the largest serf-holder in the empire, has almost from its accession been hostile to Russian serfage. There is no need to account for the fact by supposing the Czars either enlightened beyond all other Russians, or moved by any very recondite policy. Absolute monarchs usually dislike the classes which can resist them, and the nobles have been the resisting force of Russia. Absolute monarchs, on the other hand, are apt to regard all their subjects as equal, to care as much for the peasantry as the middle class. The Czar alone among Romans tried to alleviate slavery. Oriental kings in their fits of good government always hang a few satraps, and secure a decent tenure for the cultivators. The Russian House, moreover, has thirsted for generations for a high place in Europe, has keenly felt the loss of position involved in ruling over serfs. Indeed, this latter feeling may have been the strongest of all, for Nicholas, the only Czar who ever attained a commanding position in Europe, was also the only one who never attempted anything for the serfs. Other Emperors have not done much, but they have done enough to indicate their tendencies, and make themselves recognized as the sole protectors of the peasantry. This feeling has been their strength, and when on his accession to the throne the Emperor distinctly pledged himself to emancipation, it was his commune. Within a fortnight of the issue of the

The Spectator, 30.03.1861

„The serfs of Russia are not a class subject to a dominant race of Russian people. They are the population of Russia.“

„Русские крепостные – больше не слой, который служит русскому народу. Они сами – русский народ.“

„The greatness of the deed just performed by the Emperor is by no means lessened by the personal risk he has incurred. That he should, under such circumstances, have held firm, is one more proof among a thousand that the Romanoffs have at least one great claim to rule— the ability to do it.“

„Величие того, что Царь только что сделал, усиливается из-за угрозы, которой Он сейчас смотрит в лицо. То, что Он подписал указ, несмотря на эту угрозу, свидетельствует о том, что Романовы умеют править страной.“



Резюме

- Вообще кажется, что современные английские СМИ приветствовали отмену крепостного права в России. В одном случае, журналист даже назвал ее «русская революция».
- Событие считалось настолько важным, что газета **The Times** полностью опубликовала манифест Александра II
- Большинство англичан считало, что отмена крепостного права - это **шаг от Азии к Европе** для России
- Однако, более консервативные газеты отметили, что дворянству (и в России, и в отсталой части Европы) казалось такое мероприятие большой проблемой, и они предупредили о риске для Царя после принятия этого решения
- Позднее в 1861 году газеты немного разочаровались и стали обсуждать экономические аспекты отмены крепостного права
- В газете London Morning Herald, например, говорилось об утрате £67 кто «потерял» своих крепостных.

SERFDOM AND EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA.—There are amongst the Russian nobility some who possess from 70,000 to upwards of 100,000 serfs. Count Schermetzeff is considered the richest nobleman in Russia. He possesses 120,000 serfs, amongst whom are several whose wealth amounts to millions. His annual income is estimated at one and a-half million silver roubles (£250,000). Every serf pays to his master from 10 to 15 roubles annually, so that the annual income of a possessor of 100,000 serfs cannot be less than £400,000, independent of the income he derives from forests, mills, fabrics, &c. The total number of serfs now in Russia is upwards of 23,000,000, and taking the value of each serf at only 300 roubles (£50), the loss sustained by the owners, by the emancipation, is certainly not less than £1,150,000,000, or half as much as the National Debt of this country. Taking the interest at 5 per cent., the loss of annual income to the nobility cannot be less than £57,000,000, or more than double the interest we pay for the National Debt.—*Once a Week.*