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Sociocultural transformation of the cossacks' phenomenon: reasons for the disappearance of the cossacks' "cultural ethnicity"

M. Sidorova, E. Gaylomazova

The article examines the problem of the transformation of the Russian Cossacks in the XVI-XXI centuries, refuting the thesis rooted in society about its "ethnic disappearance". The key political, economic, and socio-cultural factors that led to the change in the Cossack identity and status of Cossack communities have been identified and systematized. It is established that the modern Cossacks function as an institutionalized socio-cultural project supported by the state within the framework of the policy of patriotism and work with historical memory. At the same time, genuine practices of military culture, freedom, self-government, traditional family structures and values are not being recreated in everyday life but exist only nominally as elements of this project. The results of the study form the scientific and methodological basis for improving regional programs to support the Cossack heritage, integrating Cossack themes into educational and cultural standards.

Keywords: *Russian Cossacks, sociocultural transformation, identity, state policy, historical memory, constructivism, and patriotic education*

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Донской казачий государственный институт, г. Ростов-на-Дону

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