

## The Russian Military Emigration: Historiographical Aspect

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**Abstract:** We set out and described the political-ideological, organizational and scientific factors that influence the development of historiographical process, resulting in the Russian emigrant science appeared as a problem caused by the conditions of the historical development of the state and society. The scientific community paid attention to such a range of sources of historical knowledge, as thesis, which, according to tradition, are less used in scientific work of researchers. Although they have a special place among the scientific documents, because they contain a lot of scientific, bibliometric, science documentation data and give an idea about the direction of scientific thought on the topics that are on the focus. It is considered a range of Russian dissertation and related published works on the history of the White Army in exile.

**Key words:** Russian military emigration • Historiography

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### INTRODUCTION

Unbiased study of Russian abroad has become one of the most urgent problems of modern Russian science. There are several reasons for it. The first is: in terms of appearing in countries of new abroad (the former USSR), a multi-million related to the Russian diaspora has acquired an unprecedented urgency to study the experience of the Russian adaptation of the different layers of different waves of immigration to the conditions of life in a foreign land. The second reason-is the perception of the big creative heritage of immigrants is crucial to the spiritual, cultural and socio-economic revival of Russia in the conditions of the new state and the choices of social development. Finally, the third main reason – is the need to review many aspects of the country's history, an objective assessment of our country's past, combining cultures of Russia and other countries of the metropolis.

Declaration of The State Sovereignty of the RSFSR, adopted June 12, 1990 by the First Congress of People's Deputies of the Republic, marked the beginning of the restoration of the Russian state on the basis of the most valuable achievements of mankind: human rights and freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, pluralism, market economy and social partnership. Adoption of the declaration meant the destruction of deep wall that existed

between the Russian diaspora and the country of origin. In issued on December 25, 1990, in the press center of the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR appeal of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR Boris Yeltsin to compatriots that are abroad was called for the reunification of the Russians in order to revive the fatherland, "the revival of all the best that has been lost since October 1917... revival that made Russia to be Russia" [1]. The appeal was declared openness of the Russian leadership's contacts with foreign nationals (which later resulted in particular in the establishment of the Supreme Council of Russian Committee for Relations with the Russian foreign countries). Formulated the task to restore the lost in the ideological struggle of the Russian spiritual heritage back to the Russian national treasures of philosophy and science, literature, music, theater and cinema, painting and ballet, to rehabilitate religion and church [1]. The implementation of these goals has been elevated to the rank of the state policy.

If until 1991 the return of the spiritual values of the Russian emigration wore largely random, spontaneous and commercial character that he was now carried out under the auspices of the Russian state, who sought to use the intellectual potential of immigrants for the benefit of its revival. But thanks to the efforts of scientists, this process was analytical support, which gives importance to society results.

For two decades the geography of the Russian study has greatly expanded abroad. In Moscow and the regions of the Russian emigration engaged in many of the state and public education, research, archival, historical, educational, informational, cultural and religious institutions: universities, institutes, libraries, foundations, museums and carrying out research and producing publications, conferences, contacts with representatives of the Russian emigration and the descendants of different waves.

The volume and the diversity of studies conducted since 1991, the most of them are thesis of emigrant science force to assume the appearance of a new direction in Russian humanities.

As for foreign authors-their subjects connected with the Russian emigration are not too interested. As showed our search of untranslated literature of Russian immigrants in domestic catalogs of libraries, most studies focus on foreign immigrants from Russia to the United States and the stories of many of these works concern is the mass emigration of Russian Jews of the late XIX-early XX century on the territory of the Russian Empire, including Poland. These processes, the contribution of Russian Jews in the culture of American, are studied in the works of N. Cohen [2], H. Frost [3], J. Thornton [4]. In books by American authors R. Bowen [5], M. Green [6], T. Peterson [7], D. Shasha [8] describes the causes of the latter (the end of the twentieth century) waves of emigration from Russia to the United States, its ethnic composition ( according to official statistics and Russian Jews in the years alternated the lead in the number of travelers to the U.S. from Russia), changes in the lifestyle of Russian Americans their culture, language, especially integration into American society.

In the works of German researchers talking about all the waves of emigration from post-revolutionary Russia: the first post-revolutionary [9, 10], post-war [10–11] and the time of "perestroika" [12–14]. Last is seen in conjunction with the theme of human rights, the priority is given to the national question, the authors are also interested in aspects of adaptation of immigrants on German earth. Of the outstanding names should be called Wolfgang Cossack, Professor, University of Cologne, he has long headed the Institute of Slavic Studies. Engaged in the literature of the Soviet period and the Russian literary wave of emigration, but gave preference to the third wave, because personally knew and were friends with many immigrants. V. Kazak assembled a remarkable collection of émigré journals ("Renaissance", "Echo", "The Third Wave", etc.), which

is stored at the Institute of Slavic Studies. Its merit is the numerous conferences on the subject. Chief summarizing the work of V. Kozak is "Russian literary emigration in the XX c" on the Russian has not translated yet [15]. The book provides essays on all three of emigration, their history, composition and the reasons for departure, etc. are considered the biography and works of the most prominent authors.

In Munster, the student of Kazak prof. Gebler works. Under his leadership in Germany in October 2003, there was an international conference "The Russian emigration from 1917 to 1991: Reading-Language-Culture", the proceedings of which were published by F. Gebler and W. Lange [16].

A few interesting books were published in Paris. Among them-the book of Daniel Bon-Gray "Historians of Russian emigration [17] and of Frans Lemaire "Russian fate and music", dedicated musicians in exile from 1917 to the present day [18].

The phenomenon of Russian foreign is studied and by its representatives. Of the non-translated into the Russian language is said to be released in 2004 in New Haven (USA), Yale University Press book Catherine Andreyev and Ivan Saviský "Russia Abroad: Prague and the Russian Diaspora, 1918–1938", which is the first full account of the Russian community immigrants in the Czechoslovak Republic from 1918 to 1938, when the Nazi invasion of their newly dispelled. The authors of named publications investigate the causes of the Russian refuge in this Eastern European country, the various aspects of life of immigrants, including scientific and cultural [19]. Published and widely known in the homeland of the book of Russian-German journalist and social activist M.V.Nazarov, "The mission of Russian emigration" [20] and historian of Russian culture abroad, curator of Bahmetevskiy Archives in New York City, M.I. Raëff "Russia abroad: The cultural history of Russian emigration" [21].

The post-revolution emigration from Russia was a direct effect of the course and outcomes of the Civil War. The military that were defeated in battles against the Red Army and moved abroad or were evacuated by sea made up the major part of the first wave of emigration. As V.F. Yershov points out, the Russian military emigration spread across virtually the whole world and its sizable share in the Russian Abroad, to a large extent, defined the social, cultural and ideological-political profile of this unique historical phenomenon [22, p. 26]. In conjunction with that, the subject of the Russian military-political abroad is explored in numerous

dissertations devoted to various aspects of its history: emigrant military organizations [23–25]; specific commanders and their activity in emigration Y.K. Miller [26], N.N. Yudenich [27]; military education in Foreign Russia [28] and its component-rearing patriots [29]; military-academic institutions [30], the military print media of the emigration [31]. Of major interest is the study of the reasons behind the debacle of attempts by the heads of the military emigration to put together a mass movement of emigrants on the side of Nazi Germany in 1939–1945, revive the “White idea” and return under its banner to Russia [25; 32–36].

V.F. Yershov’s studies make the issue of White-emigrant political futurology into a separate area of scientific research. It is shown that the ideologists of the Russian All-Military Union and White extremism were engaged in developing politological concepts for the internal development of the Russian structure of society, planning the destabilization of the economic and political state of affairs in the USSR, working on the idea of building state authority in post-communist Russia, designing projects for carrying out military and state-political coups in the USSR and seeking “social allies” among the Soviet people. It is noted that this subject is positioned at the juncture of two sciences – history and politology; the degree of utopianness and realisticalness of such projects is assessed; it is shown that specific fragments of these projects manifested themselves in modern history in the 1990s, subsequent to the disintegration of the USSR. In his works, the author also examines the degree of support the Soviet population could have rendered the White interventionist forces in case of their invading the USSR, which leads to the conclusion that subsequent to the implementation of radical changes to the social structure of Soviet society in the 1930s the White extremists had no one in the social strata back home capable of rendering them support (save for a really negligible number of social groups) [22; 32–36].

Historian A.L. Khudoborodov’s doctoral dissertation demonstrates that the study of the ideology and politics of collaborationism within the Cossack milieu can make it possible to put together a fuller, more objective account of the Cossacks’ role in the confrontation between the forces of the anti-Hitler coalition and German fascism during World War II [37]. Khudoborodov points out that over that decade—from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s by far not all emigrants had the wisdom and power to renounce their old illusions and hopes; many pinned their hopes on getting the White idea materialized, toppling

the authority of the Soviets back home, but through the use of foreign bayonets at that. Some of the emigrant Cossacks didn’t want to face the truth and refused to acknowledge that the interests of German fascism and Japanese militarism are not only adverse to the communist ideology, but contradict the goals of the White emigration—the revival of national Russia. The direct military cooperation with the Hitler regime in Europe and the Japanese militarists in the Far East had tragic consequences for many Cossacks. But, having said that, as A.L. Khudoborodov points out, some of the emigrant Cossacks openly assumed a patriotic stance and evinced a disposition to support the interests of the USSR in the war against the fascists, rendering direct support to the Resistance movement and guerilla detachments. Many Cossacks rendered passive resistance to the aggressive policy of Germany and Japan, staying away from direct participation in armed activity and military mobilization.

In addition to the above authors, a sizable contribution to the study of the Russian military abroad was made by the documentary studies and publications of the following Russian historians professionally engaged in exploring the White Movement and the Russian Civil War: V.G. Bortnevsky, S.V. Volkov, V.I. Goldin and A.V. Okorokov [38–51]. S.V. Volkov had several books published by the *Tsentropoligraf* publishing house as part of *The White Movement* series [44–49]. The book *The Exodus of the Russian Army of General Vrangel from Crimea* is devoted to highlights of the last battles of the Russian army of General P.N. Vrangel and its evacuation from Crimea and covers the period from September to early November of 1920. The book “*The Russian Army Away in Foreign Lands. The Gallipolian Epopoeia*” is devoted to the history of the stay of the Russian army of General P.N. Vrangel in encampments in Gallipoli and other places within the first year of its evacuation from Crimea at the end of 1920. The book *The Russian Army in Exile* is devoted to the history of Vrangel’s army after 1921, when it was decided to relocate it to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. It was shown that the army heads started to gradually disperse throughout Europe and across other continents; in 1924, the Russian army was transformed into the Russian All-Military Union (RAMU). Certain individuals reminisced about the participation of Russian military divisions in internal events in Albania, Bulgaria, Iran and Paraguay. The book *The Russian Emigration in the Struggle against Bolshevism* is devoted to the struggle of the Russian military emigration against the Soviet

regime in the 1920s–1930s, i.e. subsequent to the end of military action in the territory of historical Russia. Starting from 1924, upon the formation of the RAMU, the practice of the anti-Soviet struggle consisted in the sending of small military groups to the USSR. Prior to World War II, most emigrant officers had subscribed to the slogan ‘The Kuban Campaign Goes On!’, which made the struggle against the military emigration the major focus of the Soviet intelligence. A considerable segment of the book is devoted to the depiction of the well-known *Trest* operation, but on the part of the Whites and the history of the military establishment of General A.P. Kutepov. Of special interest, too, is the depiction of the case of B. Koverda who murdered Soviet diplomat Voikov at the platform of the Varshavsky railway station. The book is enriched with ample commentaries containing many unknown biographical notes on the authors and protagonists of the essays. One more book by S.V.Volkov, *The White Emigration in China and Mongolia*, is devoted to depicting the White military units which after the end of military action in the territory of historical Russia were forced to retreat to Mongolia and China. Major focus is given to the tragic fate of such mainstays of the White Movement as generals B.V. Annenkov, A.S. Bakich, A.I. Dutov and R.F. Ungern-Shternberg. There is an in-depth description of the nearly 20-year history of the Shanghai Russian Regiment and its officership.

S.V. Volkov’s encyclopedia for the White armies’ military units on all of the Civil War’s fronts contains articles on organizations within the White Movement- both underground, which operated in the territory controlled by Soviet authority and emigrant. Sizable space in the publication is devoted to personalia – about three and a half thousand articles on the most prominent participants of the White Movement [50].

One should note the value of the study by A.V.Okorokov, *The Russian Emigration: The Political, Military-political and Military Organizations of 1920–1990*, which was put together as part of the scientific activity of the Center for the Study of the Russian Abroad of the Institute for Political and Military Analysis. This is a reference publication which includes information on the most active political, military-political and military organizations of 1920–1990 [51].

In 2002, the US branch of Oxford University published a historical monograph of Paul Robinson, entitled *The White Army in Exile, 1920–1941* [52].

## CONCLUSION

Despite all the work carried out by researchers, the activity of many organizations of the military emigration and lives of many of its representatives still need to be studied and elucidated on further, for many sources, both published and archived, have so far been used quite superficially and, for the most part, just illustratively, or haven’t been used at all, while there are many issues of the material, political and moral order that need to be conceived and re-conceived.

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