

## **POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN THE SPHERE OF ENLIGHTENMENT OF MOUNTAIN PEOPLES IN THE XIX CENTURY**

**Galina Malakhova<sup>1</sup> and Vera Chegarnova<sup>2\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Prof. Dr., The North Caucasus institute-branch of RANEPa, Russian Federation,  
malaxovagn@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Asst., The North Caucasus institute-branch of RANEPa, Russian Federation,  
werakmv@yandex.ru

\*Corresponding author

### **Abstract**

This article describes the main aspects of the educational policy of the Russian Empire in the Caucasus in the XIX century. Relevance of the chosen research is explained by the ongoing debate in the Russian and foreign studies on the theme: can we consider the policy of Russia in the Caucasus in XIX century colonialist?

The main purpose of this work is to show the interest of Russian authorities not only in the conquest of the Caucasus by military means, but in the full integration of the region into the Russian Empire with the preservation of cultural and religious identity of mountain peoples. Authors on extensive historical, statistical and documentary materials investigate the problem of enlightenment of the Russian Caucasus mountain population, highlighting three main areas: the overall development of the network of educational institutions to the newly acquired territory, the development of mass education among mountaineers and special education policy to prepare for elite education and public service from the local population.

In the first part of the paper in chronological order stages of the network of educational institutions in the Caucasus throughout the XIX century are presented. The major educational institutions are listed, the characteristics of education levels are given, statistical information on the number of schools and students are presented. Characteristics of the establishment and development of a network of educational institutions is given on the background analysis of the role of cities as centers of education in the Caucasus.

In the second part attention is paid to mass enlightenment of Highlanders. The authors have drawn extensive archival material; legal documents regulated governing the activities of the mountain schools. A brief analysis of the purpose of their creation, training programs, funding sources and role in the upbringing and education of the local population is done. Separately, the characteristic of the Church's role in the cultural and educational work of the Russian authorities on the newly annexed territories is done.

The third part reveals such a thing as "Caucasian students" - a separate category of students who are preparing for the passage of the Civil Service in the Caucasus. In addition to detailing these concepts, the authors analyze the process of preparation of elite personnel for service in the region, the statistics on a caste composition of students in the provinces of the Caucasus and Transcaucasia, the content of educational programs, financing and state support of future management and educational elite of the Caucasus, including immigrants from highland environment are given.

**Keywords:** Northern Caucasus, enlightenment, mountain citizens.