

St Petersburg Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences

State Archive of the Krasnoyarsk Krai

Publishing House "Political encyclopedia" ("ROSSPAN")

"Norilsk Nickel"

INFORMATION LETTER I

DEAR COLLEAGUES! We invite you to take part in the International Scientific Conference dedicated to the industrial development of the North in connection with the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Norilsk deposit

«Mastering of the North: From the Past to the Future»

which will be held on December 14-16, 2020 in the State Archive of the Krasnoyarsk Krai:
Krasnoyarsk, Robespierre str., 4.

Economic development of the North has been going since Old Russia times. The North attracted by its remoteness from the centers of state power, by freedom. And, of course, attracted with its wealth too: at first it was salt, fish, walrus bone, fat, furs. Their extraction contributed to the advancement to the North not only of the state, monasteries as large economic corporations, but also of individuals, the development of new territories and the emergence of various kinds of economic settlements already in pre-Petrine times. In the XVIII-XIX centuries the northern forests began to be cut down on an industrial scale, plans were being developed for the construction of railways and the penetration of Russian banks into the North. The Northern Sea Route since its opening began to play a great role.

A huge role in the study of the North and its bowels was played by scientists. In 1921, a scientific expedition led by Nikolai Nikolaevich Urvantsev discovered a deposit of copper-nickel ore south of the Taimyr Peninsula. Later the city of Norilsk arose on this site.

Throughout the XX century more and more new mineral deposits were discovered and developed in the North. Industrial enterprises were built. At the same time, prisoners were to a large extent a labor force, especially in the 1930s — 1950s. The industrial development of the North, the using of its natural resources has become an important factor of the existence of the Soviet economy, as well as Soviet domestic politics, an ideological resource and a sociocultural phenomenon. Papaninists and Chelyuskinites, polar pilots and geologists became the heroes of not only newspaper publications, but also works of art, and the polar theme was actively museumified during this period. It is no coincidence that in 1937 in Leningrad (which since pre-revolutionary times retained the informal status of a center for scientific and practical research of the North) the first Museum of the Arctic and Antarctic arose.

The industrial development of the north, the work of the "industrial giants" of the military-industrial complex acquired special strategic importance during the years of World War II. Weapons and ammunition were produced from raw materials mined in the Arctic, in the Far North, in Siberia, and new technologies were developed and put into practice here: in particular, in 1943 in Norilsk cathode nickel was invented and is still used for military equipment.

In the second half of the twentieth century, the importance of studying and industrial development of the northern territories, using their economic potential was also among state priorities, including due to increasing urbanization, as well as the so-called "Arms race" resulting from the Cold War.

In the first post-Soviet years, the “northern vector” of state policy was very weak, which led to negative consequences for the economic development of the northern territories, and for the enterprises located there, and for the relevant branches of science. Only in the last decade, at the state and public level and in the public space, did strategic interest arise again in the Russian presence in the Arctic and in the development of production in the northern regions.

The following thematic panels are proposed at the conference:

- The beginning of the economic development of the North. Economic activity of peasant volost's, large monasteries and bishops' courtyards; the north as a place for the extraction of fur, the role of northern salt in the economic life of the country, the extraction of fish, walrus bone and whale fat
- The foundation of St. Petersburg as a result of the development of the northern territories of the country and its role in the economic life of the Russian Empire
- Northern wood, its felling and role in the domestic economy and export of the country.
- North and trade routes in the imperial period; railway construction plans for Arkhangelsk, Murmansk road; the idea of including the North in a single system of communication routes of the Russian Empire; Russian banks and their activities in the North in the XIX - early XX century
- State programs for scientific research of the North at the beginning of the 20th century, the history of the Northern Sea Route, Russian Geographical Society and its role in the development of the North
- History of Norilsk
- The Gulag in the industrial development of the North
- The history of industrial construction and industrial plants in the North
- Industry of the North during the Great Patriotic War
- Promotion to the Arctic - in search of a balance with the environment
- North as the territory of the economy of the future
- Development of the North in propaganda, literature and art
- Museumification of the history of development of the North.

As part of the conference the Krasnojarsk Archive will open an exhibition dedicated to the history of the industrial development of the North «Mastering the North in archival documents».

Applications for participation in the conference, please send for Varvara Vovina by e-mail: osvoeniesevera@mail.ru

The application must contain the subject of the report, its brief description (up to 800 characters with spaces) and personal data of the participant: full name, academic degree, country, city, position and main place of work, email address, contact phone number. Application deadline: September 30, 2020.

The expected duration of the report is 20 minutes (plenary session) and 15 minutes (breakout session).

The working language of the conference is Russian and English.

Participation in the conference is free. Travel expenses at the expense of the sending party. In exceptional cases, the organizing committee may consider paying for the fare (flight) and / or accommodation of the participant.

Texts of reports of the conference «Mastering of the North: From the Past to the Future. By the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Norilsk deposit» will be published in one of the leading publishers in Russia – "ROSSPEN".