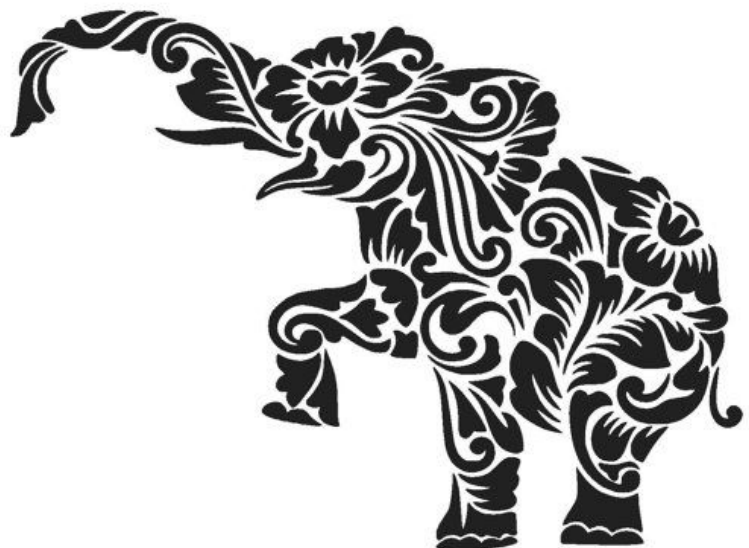


Teaching aid on the specialized course

# **RUSSIAN-INDIAN RELATIONS:** *History and Modernity*



**KAZAN (VOLGA REGION) FEDERAL UNIVERSITY**  
Institute of International Relations

**G.F. Mratkuzina, D.V. Bobkov, D.S. Mratkuzin**  
TEACHING AID ON THE SPECIALIZED COURSE

**Russian-Indian Relations:  
History and Modernity**

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**Reviewers:**

**Latypov L.N.**, vice rector for international relations of Kazan Federal University

**Akhmad I.G.**, Director of the Center for the Development of Relations between Tatarstan and India at the House of Friendship of the Republic of Tatarstan

**Mratkhezina, Guzel Ferdinandovna**

**Bobkov, Dmitriy Vyacheslavovich**

**Mratkhezina, Daniel Saidovich**

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Indian studies represent both a scientific task and an applied one connected with geopolitical and business interests of Russia. The study of the Russian historiographic and source studies tradition and innovations of the topic «Russia-India» is of academic, scientific and humanistic significance.

Introduction of new historiographic and source studies facts into scientific use, formation of original aspects of investigation of Russian-Indian relations at the present moment have determined the necessity of setting the specified topic, introduction of the specialized course and copy editing of this teaching aid intended for academic specialists, university educators, students and post graduates of Oriental specialization in all modes of study, as well as for everyone interested in these issues.

The materials of the teaching aid have been employed by the author in delivering general and specialized courses, preparation of educational and methodical study aids.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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*This specialized course* is a systemic and complex analysis of the phenomenon of relations between Russia and India in the Russian social consciousness and scientific mind.

*The aim of the teaching aid* is exposing of conceptual and factual content of the Russian historiographic and source studies of Russian-Indian relations in the framework of Russian Indology and Oriental studies.

### **Main concept**

- Scientific reconstruction of history of Russian Indology as an integral part of Russian Oriental studies.
- Understanding of historical and scientific landmarks of Russian Indology.
- Defining of up-to-date trends of conventional and new range of problems «Russia-India».
- Evaluating of historical frontiers, typology, scale and intensity of evolution of Russian-Indian relations which have shaped traditions of Russian Indology.
- Substantiation of theoretical, historiographic, source studies of the investigation basis of Russian-Indian relations and classification of the accumulated materials.
- Finding the degree of historical and culturological value of the problem «Russia-India».

## **Practical activities (tasks)**

- Generation of multidimensional view of history with students.
- Extension of historical outlook, shaping general culture of students.
- Forming students' creative attitude and their own stand in evaluating past events.
- Impartation of intellectual skills and intelligent leisure habits with students.
- Enhancing professional competencies of students.

## **Expected result**

Upon successful completion of the specialized course program, students must know, understand and master, demonstrate ability and readiness to:

- ✓ define the importance of historical and Oriental studies problems and state their modern concepts;
- ✓ analyze specific historical, archival, historiographic components of the phenomenon of history and prospects of Russian-Indian relations;
- ✓ evaluate facts and events in the history of Russian-Indian relations;
- ✓ form new understanding of the history of those relations, corresponding to contemporary scientific and social realities;
- ✓ activate and deepen the subject of investigation of Russian Indology characterizing its current stage.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### **Importance of the course**

Contemporary Oriental studies bring conceptual solutions into the study of historical and civilizational problems of the East. The key outcome has been revival of theoretical, methodological, as well as specific historical research. The problem of the phenomenon of the East, history of study and modernity appears important in Russian historiography.

Theoretical and conceptual foundations which have signified the new stage of essential understanding of the problems of Oriental studies in Russia are being systemized today. At the turn of XXIst century it has become obvious that many problems of the modern East are linked not only to the fundamental tradition, but also the mutual influence which has served as the framework for coexistence of countries and peoples of the East and West, first of all, Russia and the East.

Understanding of many historical problems and Oriental studies issues has unraveled contemporary concepts of Russian-Indian relations. And again, we become convinced of the importance of the Indian phenomenon. The matter is not only India's geopolitical position determining the development of the situation in the South Asian region as a recognized leader of the South. The Indian civilization and the realities of our times in India enforce significant corrections to the image of this country and Indian society as a whole. Today the relations between Russia and India are built on a new, pragmatic foundation, based on the necessity to maintain continuity and take into account new realities.

The contemporary geopolitical situation in Eurasia, remaining economic, social and cultural interests of Russia in Central Asia, the need to develop a coherent Russian international policy in the East all impose the necessity to study specific historical, archival, historiographic



components of the phenomenon of history and prospects of Russian-Indian relations.

Today, the crucial task of historiography has become the study of the origin and regularities of Indology development, acquiring the accumulated historiographic and source study materials, development of theoretical foundation of Indology, all of which will allow to establish the level of understanding of Indology development problems in Russia in XVIII-XXth centuries. It is important to update Indology with new concepts, promote the knowledge of history and culture of Indian nations. Those scientific, social and worldview attitudes become clarified in the research of Russian authors on the history of Russian-Indian relations.

Students must get the idea that contribution of Russian Indologists into world science is incontestable. The key issue is becoming determining the relevant trends of conventional and new problematics «Russia-India». Setting the mentioned problems implies forming the new understanding of the history of political, trade, economic and cultural relations reflecting contemporary scientific and social realities and allowing to broaden historiographic and source studies knowledge of the past history of relations between Russia and India. Considering historical and scientific landmarks of Russian Indology is also becoming important. Its modern state is characterized by activating and deepening the subject and object of the research. Scientific and objective study of the history of Russian Indology remains the task of contemporary Russian and global Orientalism.

### **The degree of development of the problems**

Historiography and source study of Russian-Indian relations represent an independent part of Indology studies. Russian Indology has solved the task of *chronological systemization* of the history of Russian Oriental studies.

*The periodization of Russian Indology* coincides with the main periods of evolution of this human science: late XVIII - early XIXth centuries; late XIX - early XXth centuries; 1920-80s, post-Soviet stage. During those periods, the problem of the history of Russian Indology was studied in a multi-faceted fashion.

The science about India becomes the object of investigation of the early Russian historians-orientalists. The origin of historical scientific knowledge about India in Russia form by middle XIXth century. Those materials were peculiar in their rational structure and justified facts. The study of the history of Russian Indology is linked to the long-time tradition rooted in the works of Russian Indologists of early XIXth century. The first works dedicated to Indology in Russia already represented identity of the science. Historiographic and source studies materials on the history of Russian-Indian relations appear at the time of emergence of the science about India. The connection of the shaping Indology to the problem of study of Russian-Indian relations is not accidental, moreover, it takes systematic and complex form.

At the turn of XXth century, historiographic and source studies traditions of investigating the history of Russian Indology take shape. Russian historiography of the history of Russian Indology implemented part of tasks set before it. Studies were published throwing light on the chapters of history of Russian Indology. Historiographic analysis shows that many articles and other works were dedicated to topics touching upon Russian-Indian relations. However, the history of these relations in the mentioned papers was covered fragmentarily.

In early XXth century, the process of shifting paradigms, common to the human sciences, played its role. Researchers master new scientific methods and evaluate history of Russian Orientalism as an indispensable part of scientific knowledge and public culture. They stated the view of the subject and tasks, cognitive and social roles of history of relations between

Russia and countries of the East. The activities of a number of prominent Indologists, their scientific and educational legacy played an exclusive role and made up a whole era in the history of science. Their works represent generalization of the key outcomes of Indology in the pre-revolutionary Russia.

Historical events in Russia in early decades of XXth century became pivotal for Russian Orientalism, including Indology. The problem of development of revolutionary schemes and Marxian approaches to the study of history and culture of Oriental countries becomes important. While until 1917 Russian Orientalists represented an impressive group of specialists in the global community, following 1917 we can observe a decline in classical Oriental studies.

In 1920-30s there appeared new generation specialists. Soviet Oriental science started to develop, overcoming controversies and difficulties. Leningrad Orientalists, especially Indologists, studied first of all linguistics, literature and philosophy, while representatives of Moscow school were interested in modern history, social problems, economics. Leningrad Orientalists paid most attention to classical antiquity and Middle Ages, Moscow ones, to modernity and the colonial history of the Oriental countries. The Leningrad school rested on its vast scientific background, the Moscow one, on the teaching of Marxism-Leninism considered the most advanced method of historical analysis at the time.

During the post-war years, prominent are the problems of scientific school of Indology due to physical loss of many specialists. This problem was to be solved by scientists whose childhood or adolescence fell on WWII and post-war time. The transitional period of society in all its diversity - economic, political, legal and ideological - became a political and theoretical problem. That generation of scientists had to investigate and evaluate the transformed political situation in African-Asian region. It was difficult to do not only because of the novelty, uniqueness and complexity

of processes in the East, but also due to the dogmatic school of previous years. The shortcoming of the works of 1940-50s is following the political and ideological conjuncture of the time.

The time of «ideological thaw» facilitated revival of theoretical research on the history of India. 1960s make a new stage of fundamental comprehension of the problems of the Orient linked to the process of decolonization of the East and the phenomenon of the developing world. Landmark events of Indian history (gaining independence in 1947, proclamation of the republic in 1950) were reflected in Russian historical science. Objective circumstances left an imprint on the research work of scientists in that decade. First, intellectuals of the awakened East established their own scientific schools. There appeared national historical centers. The mode of work for national archives and libraries was altering. Orientalism acquired an original basis and a new starting point. Second, Russian Orientalists got an opportunity to make scientific trips to the studied countries.

Publications of pre-revolutionary and Soviet researchers of history of Russian-Indian relations were based on original materials. Unfortunately, their contribution was not fully appreciated. It is only starting with middle XXth century that consolidated research start to be published based on various archival and historiographic materials, manuscripts and rare books. Systematic research of pre-October and Soviet periods implied revival of the broken traditions of science in late XVIII-early XXth centuries.

By 1990s, ideological, administrative and political character of influence of the Marxist methodology of history in Soviet Orientalism loses its grip. On the whole, Russian Oriental studies and Indology of late XXth century developed rapidly and impressively.

In late XX - early XXIth centuries there comes demolition of outdated stereotypes. Researchers stress civilizational, religious and cultural factors of studying global history. Studying the Oriental countries, they consider

problems of re-evaluation of originality of the historical process in the East, mechanisms of transformation and westernizing influence.

Evaluation of contemporary India is linked with defining the signs of its civilizational, ideological and cultural self-identification, as well as the impact of Indian culture on the global one. On the whole, there opened new vistas of modern Russian Indology, its conformity to the current level of development of the world historical science. Historiographic and source study innovations make evidence of the current level of research of the topic «Russia-India».

In the relevant chapters, the teaching aid also provides analysis and evaluation of scientific literature issued during the last decades on the history of Russian Indology and Russian-Indian relations. Russian Indological historiography became enriched with original investigations which allow to determine the level of the state of exploration of history of Indology in Russia. General evaluations have been given and the picture of development of Russian Indology in the context of Russian and global Oriental studies has been provided.

In 1980-90s, based on archival and historiographic materials, collections of works were published, from the first knowledge about India in Russia to the history of the Soviet period in Indology (1917-1991). Also, a lot of authentic imaginative works were published, based on various sources with exploratory generalizations, new approaches and ideas.

At present, the social, cultural and worldview context of Indology influencing the growth of knowledge about India and the destiny of Russian Indology has been partly reconstructed. Of interest is the application of new methods of scientific analysis in modern investigations.

The system of contemporary Indology research retains achievements and legacy of the previous generation of scientists and practitioners. The scale of their personalities is getting uncovered, continuity in research is being formed. This is the essence of progressive advance of science.

Russian investigations have allowed to bring the objective research of the topic «Russia-India» to a more qualitative level. Most specialists-historians exploring this theme have paid principal attention to Russian-Indian relations. The authors highlighted the known and unknown chapters of history of relations between Russia and India in a well-argued manner. Russian researchers broaden and deepen the topic. Their works are devoted to the phenomenon of relations, continuity, accumulation of scientific knowledge in Russian Indology.

The topic «Russia-India» has become a priority in the works of Russian historians. Russian historiography and source study of the history of Russian Indology has demonstrated a high level of scientific research.

### **Scientific novelty of the course**

Until recently, the practice of representation of the principal original approaches and viewpoints, evolution of intrascientific search in highlighting the problems of Russian-Indian relations in Russian historiography and source study remained fragmentary and incomplete.

Russian historiography and source study of Russian-Indian relations are represented with various materials investigating history of understanding the past and present of those relations. Modern research literature on these problems contains rich factual and conceptual materials. New historical sources are introduced into scientific use. Historians have done great work in understanding different problems of Russian-Indian relations.

However, historical literature and sources on the problems of Russian-Indian relations have not been until recently systemized in Russian historiography and source study.

Students-Orientalists must take into account that the requirement of the time demands for objective highlighting of the main trends in

interpretation of the problem «Russia-India», and critical approach to this problem creates a problematic situation in Russian Indology.

Understanding of the legacy of Russian Indology became for the authors of this teaching aid an object of independent research. It is only by the beginning of the current century that this topic became summarized in Russian literature. Historiography and source study of important problems of the history of Russian-Indian relations should become the *subject of research* for students.

### **Methodological background of the teaching aid**

The materials of the teaching aid are represented on the basis of *analytical and synthetic methods* of research. The main content of historiographic analysis were highlighting, evaluation and criticism of scientific concepts of the history of Russian-Indian relations. Realization of historiographic synthesis is based on the principle of correspondence of the concepts characteristic of the whole scientific research.

The result of theoretical and methodological materials of the teaching aid is evaluation of continuity and finding further opportunities of employing historiographic and source study investigations.

It is recommended for the students to conduct the study of the history of Russian-Indian relations at the *local and regional levels*. The teaching aid employs the *problematic and chronological principles* of representation of the materials. The use of these principles will allow the students to investigate the objective process of deepening Russian historiography and source study of Russian-Indian relations and evolution of scientific concepts of Russian Indology.

*The chronological framework* of the topic of the specialized course embrace XIX-XXth centuries - the period of formation and development of

academic and university Indology in Russia. Analysis of the modern stage of research is intermitted with historiographic journeys.

Holistic approach has been taken to the whole assembly of the materials considering the linguistic and stylistic culture as well as formal and logical ways of presentation.

## **Review of sources and literature**

While highlighting the materials of the teaching aid, sufficiency of the research sources introduced into scientific use was considered. The process of enlarging the circle of sources further defines many facts and events of the history of Oriental and Indological science.

The main source base of the teaching aid is divided into *two groups*, which is reflected in the bibliography list recommended for students.

The first one includes *published historical sources*. Analysis of this group of sources allows to acquire the necessary information for consistent specific historical, historiographic and source study research of the problem.

Historical sources proper were the following types:

*reference and bibliographical materials*;

*movement materials* (official documentation, reports);

*personal provenance materials* (travel sketches, letters, diaries, memoirs).

The aggregate of these source materials contributed considerably into interpretation of the problem «Russia-India». It served as a foundational basis of development of Russian Indology as a scientific discipline. The employment of vast factual materials reflected in archeography of the past and present, is estimated by the real fact of enlargement and extension of scientific knowledge about the history of Russian-Indian relations.



Contemporary research adequately corresponds to the trends of development of source study and to requirements determined by the practical experience of the previous generations of researchers. Judging about the source study sufficiency for the research on the whole, authenticity and representativeness of those source study materials can be ascertained.

Another group of sources includes various *historiographic sources* whose critical analysis allows to make a conclusion concerning the degree of exploration of the topic on the whole and its individual aspects.

Students must avoid blunt evaluation of the stages of Russian historiography of the problems «Russia-India». The teaching aid pays special attention to works of scientists who contributed considerably into the investigation of the topic and the problems of the specialized course.

The research practice of modern Russian Indology seems a logical stage of the process of the genesis of pre-revolutionary and Soviet science. Students must take into account that selection of documents, completeness of their presentation, comments – all these could look biased or subjective. For example, *Soviet archeography* abounded in thematic publications exposed to all peculiarities of the epoch, time and situation. However, they often were not intentional, but determined by the contemporary level of social and political evolution or development of source study.

Dialectics of study of the history of Russian-Indian relations in the historiographic aspect is determined not only by the regularities of the object of research, but also by the demands of the time. Historical literature inevitably reflected the influence of the epoch and historical periods. It also demonstrates subjective views of the research authors. Thus, anything may be seen in historical investigations – from innocent delusions to deliberate fraud. And this should be taken into account while using different

literature. Though any work should be evaluated, first of all, according to innovations it introduced for its time, and not only from today's perspective.

Moreover, students must bear in mind that in recent years the circle of sources under study has been broadened. Archival materials have become available, and many of them have been declassified. Special library funds transfer a lot of literature and sources into free access, including documentation, memoirs, periodicals. More sources on the history of relations between Russia and India arrive from abroad. Information possibilities of reading the sources introduced into scientific use have enhanced, due to deideologization of source study, rejecting schematic approaches or absolute priority of the degree of credibility given to some groups of sources. This creates basis for attraction of a wide circle of sources, their analysis.

As all literature is different in the scientific level and the content of factual materials, this allows to group it as follows.

First of all, the review includes *works of general character* determining the place and importance of the topic. *Scientific and study literature* where our problem is not the subject of special analysis, provides opportunity to get the idea about the place of the topic, allows to feel confident in the issues of methodology, modern approaches to history of science.

Of interest are *materials of discussions and scientific conferences* whose topic and its components became a subject of special discussion.

An important trend in the area of Russian Indology is *archivistic research*.

*Critical reviews of writings* of Indologists famous in the past, bearing with different segments of the history of Russian-Indian relations deserve the attention of researchers. Academic approach to the study of India is distinct in its interest for creative legacy of Indologists, especially those who dealt with the problem «Russia-India».

Investigations of *political connections* between Russia and India were reflected in the sketches with the common theme of adaptation of Russia and India to the transformed conditions in the world.

Questions of *modern Indology* are for the most part studied in Oriental scientific specialization. Yet, such theoretical considerations allow to make a conclusion concerning traditions and innovations of Russian Indology.

In recent years Russian historiography develops scientific research such as comparative studies, represented by *culturological works* important for understanding the inherent meanings of cultures and mastering broad horizons of mutual cultural enrichment.

It is important to note that to determine the significance of scientific and research tradition in the history of Russian Indology, students must employ up-to-date investigations of Russian authors, that will allow to define the contemporary level of elaboration of the problem. Moreover, such works often comprise the experience of previous historiography of the topic.

It is beneficial to turn to the latest fundamental investigations. The concept of most authors rests on the idea that the fall of the centralized state, associated first of all with the Russian Empire and then with the USSR, does not cancel the historically formed connections. Cooperation of Russia with Eastern regions makes a constant factor of its history, «Eurasian» baseline in the civilizational image of Russia and a crucial component of its social, cultural and geopolitical order.

### **Theoretical and practical significance of the course**

Investigation of Russian historiographic and source study traditions and innovations of the topic «Russia-India» is of educational, methodical, scientific and humanistic significance.

Introduction of new historiographic and source study facts into scientific use, forming original aspects of research of Russian-Indian relations at present have determined the demand for setting the specified topic, introduction of the specialized course and compiling this teaching aid intended for scientists, educators, students and post-graduates in Oriental specializations of all modes of study.

The materials of the teaching aid have been used by the authors while delivering general and special courses on the history of the East, history of Russian Oriental studies, history of relations between Russia and India, arranging educational and methodical blueprints.

The content of materials used in this teaching aid, critical approach to their analysis testify to the necessity of further study of historical, archivist, culturological problems of Russian-Indian relations.

Setting the problems of the specialized course and the content of the teaching aid will allow the students to trace the continuity and originality of Russian Indology, as well as broaden theoretical, conceptual, historical and scientific problems of Russian-Indian relations.



## **MAIN CONTENT OF THE COURSE**

### PART 1.

#### THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL BASIS OF THE THEME «RUSSIA-INDIA»

The first part of the teaching aid is of presuppositional character. Based on *holistic source study, historical and scientific analysis*, here we provided significant events and tendencies in the history of Russian Indology, explained common and specific features of the phenomenon of this science, revealed its influence on the development of Russian scientific and practical Orientalism of XIX-XXth centuries.

At the current stage, when the image and content of Russian Oriental studies is changing drastically, objective understanding of the history of this humanities trend of education and science is determined by the idea of unity and continuity.

Russian Orientalists have made a detailed analysis of the key questions of Russian science about India. The system of formation of the scientific laboratory of Indologists, their scientific achievements and creative biographies are represented in the *обобщающих* works on the history of Russian Oriental studies. Works in the area of Russian Indology lie in line of the analysis of Oriental science.

Study of the history of Russian Indology should be conducted taking into account its *periodization, organization of science and education, traditions and innovations, problematics and specialization*. The peculiarities of historical development of Russia and India, evolution of intrascientific explorations determined the stage-by-stage approach of Indological research. According to the main tendencies, the *stages* pointed out by the modern authors are as follows: *practical and linguistic* (late XVIII - early XIX centuries), *cultural and philological* (late XIX - early XX centuries), *general social* (1920-80s), *conceptual and factographic* (1990s – early XXI century).

## 1.1. TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS OF RUSSIAN INDOLOGY



ATTENTION! Students must take into account that Indology in Russia emerged, first of all, out of practice, state interest and social demands. Scientific and social significance of Russian Indology, its level have been determined by the objective knowledge about India and particular interests of the state and society for their understanding.

We owe the accumulated scientific experience to previous stages of the history of Russian Indology. Russian Indologists demonstrated the dawn of the unique science about the mental world of the peoples of India, revealed ideological, esthetic and scientific value of historical and cultural legacy of nations of the Indian Subcontinent. Today the study of the problems of the phenomenon of Russian Indology emerges full blown. History of pre-revolutionary, Soviet and modern Indology sets the problems of preservation and regeneration of fundamental science, understanding of tendencies of evolution of classical and practical Indology in Russia.

The present condition of Indology actualizes the problem of understanding the conceptual and factual content of Russian Indology. On the whole, there opened new vistas of its conformity to the contemporary level of development of world historical science. The object of the research analysis and discussion was the peculiarity of the subject of historiography and source study of Russian-Indian relations, problematics of historical and scientific research in this area. The accumulated source study and historiographic experience of Russian-Indian relations put forth the problem of its methodological adoption, development of theoretical foundation, scientific generalization and popular scientific distribution.

## 1.2. PECULIARITIES OF RUSSIAN SOURCE STUDIES OF THE PROBLEMATICS «RUSSIA-INDIA»



ATTENTION! Students must take into account that the investigation of the problem of Russian-Indian relations depends to a large extent on the complex of sources, their fullness and representativeness, accuracy and objectivity, as well as the level of treatment, scientific criticism and methods of employment of historiographic materials.

The teaching aid employs the array of the sources complementing each other with scientific information. The present list of materials is not final, and many provide a complex of the sources reflecting the true process of formation and development of bibliographic and source study research of the history of Russian-Indian relations.

In Russian historical science, collection, processing and publication of sources, including archival ones, have conventionally been one of the priorities. The present interest for investigation and publication of archival rarities is linked with scientific and academic tasks. In prospect, cooperation between Orientalists and профессиональных archivists gains urgency.

Development of historiography is accompanied by introduction into scientific works of various kinds and categories of the sources keeping up to the radically new research tasks. Most documents and commentaries open unknown and little-known facts and events of Russian-Indian relations.

At the current stage the condition of the source base, the level and degree of exploration of sources make the essential features of historiographic thought.

### 1.3. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF RUSSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE PROBLEM «RUSSIA-INDIA»



ATTENTION! Students must take into account that investigation of the history of Russian Indology should reveal the evolution of ideas and theories. Among the topical tasks remain finding the genesis of the knowledge about India in Russia and covering essential factors of formation and development of Russian-Indian relations. Theoretical basis and methodology of this research, specific efforts of the study of the history of Russian-Indian relations make the favorable basis of contemporary historiographic research.

It is necessary to be able to explain the use of methodology and methods of historiographic research, which promotes adoption of the previous development of scientific thought, variety of scientific points of view, ways and techniques of scientific research work.

Theoretical and methodological methods of research allow to dialectically study and deepen the scientific basis of the history of Russian Indology, understand its phenomenon and trace the routs and regularities of its development, not only to reveal the multi-faceted empirical materials, but also generalize the theoretical basis of the historiography of Russian-Indian relations. Historical and scientific approach allows to view the axiological aspects of Russian Indology, which is important for historical, scientific and scientific research.

In the history of relations between Russia and India we can trace common social and general scientific values, the influence of ideology and practice of the state, social and cultural factors, system of human and intrascientific standards of ethics.



## **MAIN CONTENT OF THE COURSE**

### PART 2.

#### MAIN TRENDS OF RUSSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY OF RUSSIAN-INDIAN RELATIONS

The second part of the teaching aid presents *the main trends of Russian historiography* of Russian-Indian relations, the logic of evolution and regularities of progress and regress of scientific knowledge about India in Russia.

History of development of bilateral relations was made up of *large historical periods*, naturally interconnected for a long span of time. The main selection criterion for the numerous literature sources on the history of Russian-Indian relations was the scientific character of research.

The basis for Russian-Indian relations comprised *various foreign, trading, economic, scientific and cultural connections* with peoples of India, backed also by the distinctive national culture of peoples of Russia.

The second half of XVIII-XIX cc. saw the shift in the *worldview principles of research of Russian-Indian relations*. Historiography of such relations was an integral part of Russian humanities research.

XIX-XX cc. saw extending and deepening perception and scientific knowledge about India, strengthening historical and cultural connections between Russia and India. Research in the area of Russian-Indian relations acquire *systemic, complex and integral character*.

At today's stage, there is a need for systemic and complex analysis of the phenomenon of Russian-Indian relations, their wider and deeper understanding depending on the specific social and historical environment, fabric of society, system of education.

## 2.1. HISTORICAL AND CULTUROLOGICAL IMAGE OF INDIA IN RUSSIA



ATTENTION! Students must take into account that the topic of Indian realities and realia in Russian culture demands fundamental study of various sources and a wide circle of typological parallels in the history of cultural and ideological traditions of the East and West. The problem of reflection of the moral legacy of the East in the history of Russian culture is one most discussed in Russian Oriental studies. The controversy of the problem is determined by the fact that the scale of cultural contacts requires a rigorous scientific study.

In the contemporary Russian historiography, there appeared a number of comparative and culturological research of historical and cultural reflection of the legacy of India in the culture of Rus and Russia. Modern theoretical considerations narrow down to the idea that against the background the West's focus towards Oriental culture Russian-Indian intercultural communications were mostly emphasized. They were also peculiar in their multifacetedness, creative synthesis and harmony. Despite contrasts in the way of life, mentality and cultural originality, Russian-Indian relations could boast of long-standing traditions. They were not marred by military conflicts, political confrontation, rivalry in trade and ideological irreconcilability. Denying the form of intergovernmental relations and remaining without firm diplomatic status, they still were firmly culture- and value-based. It was in the cultural paradigm that relations between Russia and India got into place and acquired systemic connection corresponding to their role.

Recently, research of problems of Russian-Indian cultural interdependence has become more intensive, systemic and more popular.

## 2.2. INTERPRETATION OF MUTUAL RELATIONS OF RUSSIA AND INDIA



ATTENTION! Students must take into account that the study of contacts between Russia and India has accumulated rich traditions. Their main stages are covered in Russian historical literature.

XIX - early XXth centuries hold a special place in the history of Russian-Indian relations. Political situation on the Indian Subcontinent hindered establishment of intergovernmental relations, in the Eastern политике of Russian ruling circles India played the role of the subject subdued to Russian-английским relations. Russian-Indian relations were built on an unofficial basis. This circumstance, on the one hand, added ingenuousness and humanism, on the other, deprived them of consistency and coherence. However, connections of peoples in Russia and India tended to be sustainable. The necessary prerequisites for mutually beneficial economic relations were created, cultural and scientific exchange took shape.

At the current stage, Russian historiography of Russian-Indian relations presents an individual section of Oriental studies and a single component of the history of Russian society. History of Russian-Indian connections represents the origins of contemporary situation of relations. Rhythms of their history reflect the dynamics, constantly preserving even today. The retrospective and perspective of mutual contacts between Russia and India in modern literature are viewed in their connection.

The main directions of investigation of the history of relations between Russia and India in specifically historical aspect are as follows: history of foreign contacts; stages, specifics and tendencies of trading, economic, social, cultural connections.

## 2.3. RUSSIA AND INDIA IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



ATTENTION! Students should realize that to a large extent due to peculiarity of the current transitional period in relations between Russia and India new problems have arisen. With the dissolution of the single union center, uniformity and smoothness of the mechanism of bilateral relations are now long gone. The new Russia strives to develop its relations with its neighbors in South Asia impartially, uncontaminated with ideology, relying on its own vision of the situation in that region. Substantial, well-thought policy, making state interest the cornerstone, cannot underestimate or neglect the real power landscape, the potential of each country and the focus of its foreign policy agenda.

In the history of international relations of the Russian Empire, Soviet Union and Russian Federation, questions of relations with India made a special chapter, and they still do. This is linked to geopolitical aspirations, as well as to cultural and informative interests of the public and scientific circles.

The contemporary Russian historiography discusses the key questions of Russian-Indian relations, and there is a wide range of difference in the opinions of Russian specialists. Their evaluations объединены go under the category «Russia and India in the changing world». The main emphasis is on the prospects of mutual cooperation between Russia and India and international relations in the Asian region, retrospective analysis of the history of those relations is rarely employed. Today, the theme «Russia-India: перспективы of development of regions» is substantially represented in the context of the Republic of Tatarstan.

## **MAIN CONCLUSIONS**

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Russian Indology has traveled a long and difficult way of development. In the course of this development, perceptions about the subject of research, essence and specificity of Indology unescapably changed. Scientific and worldview principles of research work altered, tendencies of development of this science evolved.

Analysis of the nature of Russian Indology is of theoretical and practical significance.

Topicality of study of the history of Russian Indology is determined by covering its leading theoretical perceptions and concepts, revealing the process of acquiring the new knowledge. Russian Indology is distinguished not only by accumulation of vast factual materials in the areas of language, history, literature, culture of India. It is interesting due to practical and scientific tasks set by Russian Indologists.

In the recent years, a critical task of Russian Oriental studies is the opportunity to reveal regularities of development of Indology, adopt the accumulated source study and historiographic experience, develop theoretical foundation of Indology, and on the whole, document the level of understanding the problems of development of Indology in Russia.

Questions of nature and function of historiographic research in Indology, its place in the structure of history of historical science, mechanisms of its formation and development as an independent area of knowledge are crucial. The qualitative peculiarity of this research is the critical attitude to the history of Russian-Indian relations. The investigation of the history of those relations has led to the solution of one of the most important tasks, that is historiographic and source study analysis.

This teaching aid presents a panorama of formation and development of Russian Indology, sets out its history from the period of formation, considers further development of the science about India in the reputed

and unremembered research. One can trace close connection of Russian school of Indology to scientific, pedagogical research activities of outstanding Russian scientists. Indology, as a constituent part of Russian Orientalism, has established a humanities academic school of Russia, one of the conspicuous global Oriental sciences.

The scale of the problematics hinders its thorough analysis. The materials taking into consideration the presented concepts of scientific research allow to evaluate Russian historiography of Russian-Indian relations on the whole as follows.

- Today, the history of Russian Indology represents an array of multifaceted cognitive and theoretical materials. The task of historical and cultural understanding of Russian Oriental studies, its origins, history and regularities remain of crucial importance.

- Historical and scientific research allow to understand the phenomenon of Russian Indology, trace the roots and regularities of its development, not only to reveal the multifaceted empirical materials, but also generalize the theoretical basis of science studies and historiography. Of great significance is employment of methodology and methods of historiographic research. Methodology facilitates adoption of the practice of the previous development of scientific thought, variety of scientific points of view, ways and techniques of scientific research work. One of the important tasks of methodology is revealing nature, purpose and specific methods of historiographic work. On the whole, Russian historiography has accumulated positive experience and found a reliable method of historical research in the area of Indological science.

- Vital and prospective is the problem of restoring the lost traditions of the «Russia-India» problematics. Russian Indology and historiography of XVII-XXth centuries studied a wide range of issues comprising this problematic. The works of Russian authors investigate the specific history

of Russian-Indian trading, economic, political, cultural and scientific relations in the previous centuries.

- The history of Russian Indology is linked with the names of famous scientists, the accumulated significant scientific results, which held priority in Russian and global Indology. Some of its aspects were studied by several generations of Russian historians. Modern historiography unraveled new tasks and problems: formation and development of Indological schools, scientific and cultural views of Indologists, changes in problems and topics of Russian Indology, and historiographic activity of expert scientists on the whole.

- In the history of international relations of the Russian Empire, Soviet Union and Russian Federation a special chapter is devoted to questions of relations with India. This is linked to political, geopolitical aspirations of the countries at different stages of its development as well as to cultural and informative interests of the public and scientific circles. A wealth of written sources and scientific literature testifies to that loudly.

- Research of the problems of Russian-Indian relations стало более интенсивным and systemic. Development of historiography is accompanied by introduction into scientific works of various kinds and categories of the sources meeting essentially new research tasks. Most documents and commentaries open unknown and little-known facts.

- Scientific significance of those materials is determined by the fact that it is for the first time in Russian and foreign historiography that the provided archive documents have been published.

- Experimental science of the turn of the last century paid attention to self-reflection of an existentially thinking scholar. There are commonly accepted objective and scientific kinds of culturology. Metatext of modern culturology - national model of the world, including India, comprising undividable unity of natural and social, material and mental phenomena. The problem «Russia-India» is viewed in the context of the problem «West-

Russia-East», Eurasian basis of Russia, mentality of intercultural communication.

▪ Historiography of Russian-Indian relations is represented by a certain number of materials, various in their length and internal structure. That is why, it does not seem possible to fully uncover ways and conditions of formation and development of this science, it is quite difficult to cover in detail and touch upon all the aspects of characteristics of the stages passed. Outside of the analysis remain such questions as, for example, connection with the global science and others.

In the recent decades, research of the history of Russian Indology takes an effort to work out an optimized methodological program based on the combination of continuity, borrowing and preservation of traditions set up in Russian Oriental science over a century years ago. It stands to reason that we can consider such methodological program as systemic. It allows to take into account the specificity and relative independence of the problem.

The main conclusion is that students need to form new understanding of the history of Russian-Indian relations, conforming to contemporary scientific and social realia and allowing to expand source study and historiographic framework of the knowledge of the subject under research. The current level of the science requires of students the in-depth study of the history of Russian Indology in the light of the latest tasks and achievements.



## TASKS FOR INDEPENDENT WORK

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### **Main recommendations**

Students must take into account that Russian Indology is implicated by social, scientific and educational origins of Oriental studies, prospective schools and trends, key tendencies and regularities of Oriental science and education.

The problem of establishing connections with the leading centers of science and education in Great Britain and India becomes a vital task.

The problem of the study of Russian-Indian relations in Indian historiography seems to be promising.

Today, there is the problem of publication of research in the English language, that would allow the reputable Russian and Tatar Indology scientists to step up to a solid international level, and absolutely deservingly.

#### *Aspects of material selection*

➤ Independent work of students should represent the process of thorough selection of theoretical, specifically historical and historiographic комплекса of research materials.

➤ In the process of investigation, new historiographic facts and methodological approaches should be detected and introduced into scientific use.

➤ Selection of materials should be done in its logical interpretation, problems should be covered in unity, continuity and progress.

➤ Analysis of the selected materials should include the characteristics of the so-called «triunique historiographic question»:

- problems successfully investigated by the predecessors;
- questions set in the science, still unsolved and underexplored;
- topics that have not been studied.

➤ It is necessary to work out questions both at the theoretical and applied level considering the following tasks:

- review of a number of key provisions;
- conforming them to new theoretical reality;
- eliminating disproportions in areas of scientific research works;
- analysis of statements which can upon lapse of time look obsolete, as well as works of only popular scientific character and bearing no analytical tools;
- processing the new model of scientific research.

#### *Range of questions to research*

The following problems should become components of student research laboratory:

- ✓ • determining the status of cultural and civilizational research of the «Russia-India» problem;
- ✓ • reinterpretation of historical connections between Russia and India;
- ✓ •general regularities and individual cases of the history of contacts between Russia and India in the common historical process;
- ✓ • historical parallels and the problem of comparative analysis of Russian-Indian relations;
- ✓ •the problem of perception of historical fate by the peoples of both countries;
- ✓ •the problem of periodization and analysis of quality of Russian-Indian connections;
- ✓ •finding regularities of progress and regress of knowledge about India;
- ✓ •re-evaluation of the theoretical legacy of Russian science about India.

#### *Additional topics for discussion*

Prospective are the problems:

- ❖ • modern Indological centers of Europe and America;
- ❖ •topics, methods and tendencies of Western European Orientalism;
- ❖ • Indian historiography of Russian-Indian relations;
- ❖ •advantages and disadvantages of Indology research abroad.

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