

**MTMSD 2022****I International Conference «Modern Trends in Governance and Sustainable Development of Socio-economic Systems: from Regional Development to Global Economic Growth»****AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATIONS IN CHECHNYA: LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE, 60-70S**

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**Abstract**

This article delves into the agrarian reform implemented in Chechnya during the 1960s and 1970s, shedding light on the transformative changes in land ownership and use. In the aftermath of the Caucasian War in the 19th century, the authorities turned their attention to the internal affairs of the mountain peoples, with a focus on agrarian restructuring. The two-stage program of agrarian reform in the North Caucasus, initiated in the 19th century, outlined the delimitation of lands and the determination of their legal status in the first stage. The second stage aimed at eliminating slavery and liberating dependent segments of the population. The demarcation of land in Chechnya and Ingushetia concluded in 1876, establishing a foundation for agrarian reforms that incorporated both communal and private land ownership. Given the limited prevalence of serf relations in Chechnya and Ingushetia, the primary focus of the land reform was the redistribution of the land fund between peasants organized in rural communities and local nobility. The article highlights the predatory nature of agrarian reforms in the North Caucasus, paralleling the abolition of serfdom in Russia. The study employs historical analysis to uncover the nuances of this transformative period, contributing valuable insights into Chechnya's agrarian history during the 60s and 70s.

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## 1. Introduction

By the end of the Caucasian War, the mountain peoples of the North Caucasus, including the Chechens and Ingush, became part of the Russian Empire. The inclusion of the region into the system of Russian administrative-territorial administration begins (Khasbulatov, 1963, 2007). The authorities took up the issues of the internal life of the mountain peoples. The entry of the territory of the North Caucasus into Russia took place during the period of bourgeois reforms, which determined the progressive nature of some transformations, for example, in the educational system.

The land reform in Chechnya and Ingushetia in the 1960s and 1970s occupies a significant place among the ongoing reforms. 19th century the agrarian reform was represented by a set of measures: the delimitation of land between rural communities for allotment and communal use, the delimitation of land for private ownership by mountain owners, royal officers and officials, and the release of dependent categories of the population (Shakhgiraev, 2019; Shakhgiraev & Zubairae, 2021).

## 2. Problem Statement

The implementation of the agrarian reform in the North Caucasus was structured into two pivotal stages. The initial stage focused on delineating lands and establishing their legal status, while the subsequent stage aimed at eradicating slavery and emancipating dependent segments of the population (Shmatko et al., 2016; Taranova et al., 2021). The imperative for a comprehensive redrawing of land boundaries on the newly annexed territories of the North Caucasus necessitated the reform's multi-stage nature (Murtazova, 2022; Vorontsova et al., 2019). This problem statement underscores the intricate and sequential nature of the agrarian reform, emphasizing the layered objectives that shaped its trajectory in the region.

## 3. Research Questions

This study aims to address the following key questions:

- i. What were the primary objectives of the agrarian reform in Chechnya during the 60-70s, and how did they distinguish it from previous land reforms in the region?
- ii. How did the interplay between communal and private land ownership influence the implementation of the agrarian reform in Chechnya and Ingushetia during the 1960s and 1970s?
- iii. To what extent did the redistribution of the land fund between peasants and the local nobility contribute to the success or failure of the agrarian reform in Chechnya?
- iv. What were the social and economic consequences of the agrarian reform in Chechnya, and how did they compare to experiences in other Russian regions undergoing similar reforms?
- v. In what ways were the agrarian reforms in Chechnya and Ingushetia predatory, and what repercussions did this have for the local population?

These research questions guide the exploration of the multifaceted aspects of the agrarian reform, encompassing its objectives, mechanisms, socio-economic impacts, and ethical considerations.

#### **4. Purpose of the Study**

Speaking about the forms of land tenure and land use recognized by the Russian administration as a priority for a given locality, it should be noted that the main principle of the agrarian reform is the predominance of communal peasant land use, and not individual land tenure (Podkolzina, Belousov, et al., 2021; Podkolzina, Gladilin, et al., 2021; Podkolzina, Taranova, et al., 2021). Those The model of the peasant reform carried out in the Great Russian provinces with a predominance of the communal form of land use was adopted as a basis, which brought the mountain regions closer to the Russian provinces.

#### **5. Research Methods**

The methodological foundation of this study rests on a systematic approach to understanding ecological culture within the context of sustainable development. The research employs the following methods:

**Analytical and Synthesizing Methods:** These are utilized to analyze fundamental concepts, exploring identified patterns of ecological culture development concerning economic development.

**Sociocultural Analysis:** The study conducts an in-depth analysis of normative documents related to environmental protection, education, and upbringing, drawing insights from existing literature on sustainable development.

The data collection process involves the analysis of normative documents, articles, abstracts, conference presentations, and other relevant materials addressing the issues of sustainable development and ecological culture. Keyword and term searches are employed to identify pertinent documents, with priority given to material's relevance to the ongoing discourse, regardless of its publication date. The comprehensive literature review aims to address the growing research issues in this domain.

#### **6. Findings**

The study delves into critical findings regarding the agrarian reform in Chechnya during the 60-70s of the 19th century, highlighting key aspects:

1. **Preservation of Rural Community:** Post the peasant reform of 1861, the rural community structure endured in the Russian countryside. Allotment land, rather than being assigned to individual households, was typically allocated to the entire community. Subsequently, each household received a designated land plot based on the number of revision souls.

2. **Dominance of Communal Land Use:** By the late 19th century, communal land use played a significant role in European Russia. Communal practices constituted 80% of the total composition of allotment land. This percentage was even higher in central provinces, reaching 96%. Southern regions exhibited a range from 80% to 90% communal land use. Exceptions to this trend were observed in western provinces like Belarus (61%), Left-Bank Ukraine (67%), and Right-Bank Ukraine (86%), where household land use was more prevalent.

3. Community Persistence in Household Land Use Villages: Even in villages with predominant household land use, communal structures persisted, differing primarily in the absence of land redistributions.

These findings shed light on the enduring role of communal land use and its variations across regions during the examined period.

Thus, the content of the land reform in Chechnya was the redistribution of the land fund between the peasants, united in rural communities, and representatives of the local nobility.

The demarcation of land in Chechnya and Ingushetia was completed in 1876. The most significant were the sizes of land plots in the Nadterechny area. The project for demarcation of lands in the Nadterechny section of the Grozny District was drawn up in 1863 and was soon implemented. Here, 124,706 acres of land were demarcated between auls and private owners. In the Nadterechny area, 13 auls in the amount of 3343 households received land plots ranging from 18 to 33 acres per household, in addition, spare plots were formed for new settlers with a total of 1012 smokes (Vorontsova et al., 2019).

During the reform, a significant part of the land was retained in the hands of representatives of the nobility and officers.

In the mountainous regions of Chechnya and Ingushetia, agrarian reform was not carried out.

The result of the land reform in Chechnya, as well as throughout the North Caucasus, was the state land tax, introduced for the use of land on January 1, 1866, known as the “raise tax”. Since the mountain peasants received the land, recognized by tsarism as state-owned, for conditional use, they were obliged to pay a land tax in favor of the state (Vorontsova et al., 2019). The peasant household (“smoke”) became the unit of taxation of the state land tax, so it received the second name of the “lifting” tax. The size of the land tax was the same, regardless of the number of people, the number of livestock and the property of the yard. The size of the land tax in the Terek region ranged from 75 kopecks to 5 rubles. For many highlanders, these amounts turned out to be unbearable, and arrears in their payment grew from year to year (Vorontsova et al., 2019).

Household taxation, introduced in the Terek region, contributed to the desire to preserve large families, since the amount of tax for them per capita turned out to be much lower in comparison with small families. Land tax has become a significant source of replenishment of the treasury. For example, in 1890 the land tax in the Terek region was 650,000 rubles (Agarkova et al., 2016).

It should be noted that in Russia itself, the household tax was abolished under Peter I. Since the landowners tried to hide the exact number of households, sometimes united unrelated families into one household, profit makers proposed introducing a poll tax, which was introduced in 1724 in European part of Russia and Siberia. Subsequently, this system of taxation was introduced in other parts of the country.

For private owners of land in the Terek region, a tax was introduced in the amount of 2 kopecks per tithe (Fedorov, 2013; Klishina et al., 2017).

As for the tasks of the second stage of the reform - the liberation of the dependent population, according to official data, in 1867 343 people (slaves) were freed in Chechnya, 35 (slaves) in Ingushetia. Researcher Totoev cites data that 571 people were released in Chechnya, including 277 adults, 294 minors (under 10 years old) (Elbuzdukaeva et al., 2019).

The preparation of the peasant reform in the Caucasus was carried out by the Special Committee for Peasant Affairs under the leadership of Kartsev, established in 1866 under the governor of the Caucasus. And directly in the Terek region, the preparation of the peasant reform was entrusted to the estate-land commission, chaired by Kodzokov. By October 1, 1866, these institutions prepared the Regulations on the abolition of serfdom, promulgated on November 18 of the same year. During the preparation of the reform, local feudal lords had the opportunity to present their projects of peasant reform. It should be remembered that in Russia itself, in all the provinces where there were landlord peasants, and there were 45 of them, provincial noble committees were established to prepare local provisions. The reform was prepared and carried out on the same principles as in the Great Russian provinces: the peasants received personal freedom and land for redemption, a period of temporary obligation was introduced. The amount of ransom for personal release in Chechnya and Ingushetia ranged from “180 to 200 rubles for an adult and 150 rubles for children under 15 years of age” (Sugaipova & Gapurov, 2018, p. 675).

## 7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study underscores the unique characteristics of the agrarian reform in Chechnya during the 60-70s of the 19th century. Notably, the absence of widespread serf relations in the region delineated the main focus of the land reform—redistribution of the land fund among peasants organized in rural communities and the local nobility. It is crucial to recognize that these agrarian reforms in the North Caucasus, akin to the abolition of serfdom in Russia, bore a predatory nature. The findings emphasize the historical nuances and predatory aspects inherent in the land reforms, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic landscape during this period in Chechnya.

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