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**The State, the Village Commune and the Orthodox Church-Were technological change and P.A. Stolypin's Land Reform Processes 1890-1914 Consistent with Autocracy?**

The stability of the Tsarist autocracy rested on the Imperial army and the Orthodox Church legitimization (Freeze 1996). This chapter suggests that, the technological change embedded in railroad construction, caused the transition from hierarchical-authoritarian to egalitarian and participatory ecclesiastical leadership model (applied Shevzov 2004). The, democratization of the Russian Orthodoxy increased autocracy's "surveillance costs" (applied North 1973). The military debacle in the Russo Japanese war of 1904 forced the Land Rights Reform of 1906 (applied Yaney 1982, Mironov 2000, Sztern 1997).

The, through the Tsarist State entrepreneurship (Gerschenkron 1962, 1968), imported railroad construction (ibid., Westwood 1964) enabled an evolution of *pious rationalism* (applied Worobec 2001), shaking the foundations of the Church and State symbiosis (Freeze 1996, North 1990). Destabilizing the Empire through the cognitive-, social- and spatial peasant mobility increase (applied Crafts N EHES 2007, Martens B 2004, Burds 1998, Smurova O.V. 2003), the railroads initiated autocracy's orientation towards an alternative legitimacy base; *economic progress* (Freeze 1996).

The codification in 1906 Reform, of a land tenure system transition from collectivism to individualism, aimed at stimulating agricultural productivity increases (applied Barzel 1989, Sztern 1994, 1997, based on Gerschenkron 1962, 1968, Yaney 1982, Klimin 2002) thereby strengthening the sense of "*grazhdanstvennost*" – citizenship sentiment of the peasant warrior, reducing "surveillance costs" (Klimin 2002, North 1973). However, the formally emerging individual household head property rights in land, (Gaudin C 1998) proved inconsistent with non participatory government system (applied Pipes 1994, Sztern 1994, 1997, Martens B 2004).

The chapters' empirical supplement, contains a cross section simple linear regression model adjusted to the Zemstvo-rural self government-statistics for the Penza Province 1913. The distance in km to the railroad points in volost' = a settlement of rural communes (explanatory variable) is regressed on the most individualistically cultivated land type; non allotment, individually managed consolidated parcel – *otrub*, in desiatinas (2.73 acre.); (dependent variable). The expected test results measure the impact of railroad construction on the *pace* of the Stolypin 1906 Reform implementation. The latter indicates the Tsarist modernization specific challenge of technological change to the authoritarian belief systems and the congruent hierarchical economic and political structures (North 2005, applied Shevzov 2004, inspired by Hodgson 2004, Mokyr J 1990, Sztern 2008, Ascher 1988).

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I was born 1957 in Belaya Cerkov former USSR. Entered the PhD programme at The Department of Economic History Lund University in Mars 1998. Am since 1996 Supervised by Professors Michael Keren and Gur Ofer The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Formal supervisor since 2003 responsible for my PhD programme at Lund University is professor Lennart Schön. Had previously presented my work at the Sound Economic History Workshop the University of Copenhagen 2006, The 10<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Institutional Economics The University of Hertfordshire Poster Session 2008, The Lomonosov State University in Moscow Economic History Seminar 2008, EHES – European Economic History Society Conference in Geneva 2009. My Dissertation is planned in Autumn 2010.