

Topsakal İlyas. An Analysis of Studies on Siberian History, Culture, Archeology and Civilization. In: *Siberian Studies (SAD)* 2.6 (2014): 1-22.

Modern local historians attribute the historiography of Siberia to the records collected in Siberian Office which was founded when the area was invaded by Russia and was thus officialized in 1637 AD. They tend to refer to the pre-russian period via archeological findings. As a matter of fact, studies conducted in pre- and post-soviet periods clearly show this distinction. Archives of central governments which ruled Siberia especially from late 17th century on contain very important data on the area. Various correspondence, official reports, pictures drawn by explorers, scripts found in local and central bureaus, maps, documents, winter camps, explorations, problems on land administration needs, their diplomatic and strategical solutions, official reports on mineral explorations and administration were the first things coming to mind.

Being the most prominent element in ethnographic history, systematic mapping studies which developed through tracking chronological order technique have continued since late 16th century. Route drawing of rivers, including Obi river in western Siberia, started in 1667 AD. Composite drawings of Siberia were made continuously in 1673, between 1684 and 1687 and finally during whole 17th century. Non-mathematical drawings of S. U. Remezov, one of the most prominent cartographers of Russia, consist of valuable information for starters.

Beginning in late 16th century and continuing through 17th century, annexation of Siberia into Russia was of the prime importance for the Russian Empire. The most prominent figure in this period was Yermak and the Cossacks in his army. Another important fact was the spread of intellectually developing Orthodox movements, which can be called Orthodoxization of Siberia. Esipov and Stroganov are two important sources on this period.

Following the initial century, works by Yermak started to produce conceptual terms about history of the area and his stories were mainly focused on his army. Works by Yu N. Krizhanich, S. Spafariy and Remezov from late 17th century were more complex and loaded pieces compared to previous ones. The socioeconomic matters of the city Tobol at that time, for instance, can be found in Yu. Krizhanich's work named *Politics* (Sobraniye Sochineniy, 1891: 10).

In Tsardom period Russian historiography, the most significant driving force behind the annexation of 17th century Siberia is proposed to be Christianity. As an ongoing story, this medieval ideology is very well reflected in YU. Krizhanich and S.U. Remezov's works as the central theme (Sibirskiye Letopisi, 1907; Kratkaya Sibirskaya, 1880). Among the initial sources, written in late 17th century by the order of Peter the Great, *The Atlas of Siberia* and *The History of Siberia* were two important examples consisting of valuable historical, geographical and ethnographic data (Andreyev, 1960: 116-117). *The History of Siberia* mentions about the importance of the education of Christianity for the well-being of the state in autocratic Russia and defend this argument by giving information about local mythology (İstoriya Sibiri, 1968: 7). Again it can be said that N. Wilsen's *Northern and Eastern Tartary* have had an important role in teaching about Siberia to westerners.

Systematical scientific studies on Siberia began in early 18th century, in Peter the Great's rule (1672-1725). These studies, mainly exploratory campaigns, helped create an enormous amount of data for foreign policy and public domain on Siberian history, geography and

ethnography. Throughout 18th century, there were more studies on Siberia than other regions of Russian Empire. Geographical studies focused towards north ranging from the Arctic Sea to the Pacific. From there, these explorations were aimed to reach Irtysh River basin in India. The most important data of these explorations, the one by Kirilov the First (1734), was published in 1745 by the Academy of Sciences (Krylov, 1948). The first scientific exploration was followed by first (1725-1743) and second (1768-1774) campaigns to Kamchatka. Scientist from Moscow State University, P. Pallas, J. Falk and Lepekhin, organized an enormous expedition which had a huge global impact especially on history of culture in North-western Siberia and published their findings afterwards (İstoriya Sibiri, 1968: 17;).

The history of the vast area between the Pacific, Mongolia and the North Sea, so to say the history of Siberia, has long been the attraction of the western and Russian scientists. The main reason for this interest is most probably the natural sources and riches of the area. Even after the Cossack leader, Yermak, merchant noble families of Russia competed in their exploratory expeditions in the area, which in return help the leading families gain prominence by the Tsar. The guardians of these exploration and invasion campaigns were the Cossaks, who basically enabled the turning point in Russian history in the east. According to Bakhrushin (1937), the first expedition by Mueller provided the firsthand data for those who study in this area.

Gerhard Frederick Mueller's "The Conquest of Siberia and The History of the Transactions, Wars, Commerce, &C. & C. Carried on Between Russia and China, From The Earliest Period" provided undoubtedly the most valuable data and contribution for those scientists who studied 17th and 18th centuries. The first edition of the book was published in 1842 in Cambridge. According to the viewpoint of the period, Siberia, due to its gold reserves, had extraordinary natural resources. This state. For Russian Tsars and rulers, Siberia was considered an area where small primitive tribes were settled. Thus this area was also considered very easy to invade and control in order to maintain the financial development of Russia. This view compromises the viewpoint of other western researchers and explorers. Historians like S. P. Krasheninnikov, M. V. Lomonosov, A. N. Radishchev did their research on the purpose of exploiting the over- and underground riches of Siberia.