

Autonomy of Bessarabia in Russian Imperial Context (1812-1828)

(Abstract)

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In the political context of East European and Russian imperial history, the emergence and gradual integration of the peripheries of the Russian Empire into the polity of the Romanovs continues to elicit the interest of scholars. The case of Bessarabia, a region that emerged on the map in 1812 as a result of inter-imperial rivalry during the Russian-Turkish War of 1806-1812, is particularly relevant for the developments in the region during the early 19th century. The article deals with the activity and ultimate failure of a special committee created by the imperial authorities with the aim of establishing a peculiar model of local government for the new Bessarabian province during the period following its annexation to the Empire. The author discusses the reasons of the committee's failure and the role of individual actors in the short-lived experiment of Bessarabian autonomy.