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POLITICAL AND LEGAL VIEWS OF R.M. MEDIEV

Research Area 5.1.1. Theoretical and legal sciences

Ph.D. (Law) Thesis Abstract

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Relevance of the Research. The reintegration of Crimea into the Russian state has created new opportunities for socio-economic revival. The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 268 of April 21, 2014, «On Measures for the Rehabilitation of the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Crimean Tatar and German Peoples and State Support for Their Revival and Development»¹ provides for the national, cultural and spiritual revival of the peoples of Crimea. During a meeting with representatives of the Crimean Tatar people on May 16, 2014, President of Russia V.V. Putin emphasized that the interests of the Crimean Tatars are closely connected with Russia and stated that the decree on the rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar people would serve as the foundation for systematic measures aimed at cultural and political rehabilitation, as well as at creating conditions for the sustainable development of the Crimean Tatar people in their historical homeland².

In this regard, the study of the political and legal views of the early twentieth-century statesman and public figure R.M. Mediev becomes particularly relevant. His ideological positions, developed within the framework of Muslim legal doctrine, are of considerable scholarly interest and practical significance. R.M. Mediev's views, aimed at integrating the Crimean Tatar people into the legal, political, educational and cultural discourse of the Russian state while preserving their national and religious identity, remain highly relevant under contemporary conditions.

Throughout the history of legal scholarship, the issue of the role and place of state institutions and local self-government in ensuring social justice within society has remained a matter of enduring relevance and close academic attention.

At the present stage of development of the Russian state, theoretical jurisprudence provides an opportunity to examine the distinctive features and

¹ Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 268 of 21 April 2014 «On Measures for the Rehabilitation of the Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Crimean Tatar, and German Peoples and State Support for Their Revival and Development» // ConsultantPlus: website: non-commercial online version. Available URL: <https://www.consultant.ru> (accessed: 25 January 2025).

² Meeting with Representatives of the Crimean Tatars // President of Russia. (accessed: <http://special.kremlin.ru> 25 January 2025).

specific character of the evolution of Russian political and legal thought in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intellectual legacy of R.M. Mediev, which synthesized elements of law, political science and pedagogy, characterizes him as a prominent statesman and public figure, as well as a proponent of progressive ideas.

The relevance of addressing the political and legal legacy of R.M. Mediev is determined by the following factors:

– first, the beginning of the twentieth century constituted an important stage in the development of Muslim political and legal thought within the Russian state, of which R.M. Mediev was a prominent representative;

– second, an examination of the theoretical heritage of R.M. Mediev makes it possible to expand the understanding of the distinctive features of the development of political and legal thought in the Russian state at the beginning of the twentieth century;

– third, the relevance of the study is driven by the existing of the scholarly gap indicating that the personality of R.M. Mediev and his political and legal views have not previously been the subject of comprehensive academic research;

– fourth, the study of the law-making practice of municipal self-government under the leadership of R.M. Mediev, acting in the capacity of deputy mayor, provides contemporary opportunities for improving the activities of local self-government bodies, fostering the sustainable development of civil society and preserving spiritual and moral heritage;

– fifth, the scholarly interpretation of the distinctive ideological and political-legal views of R.M. Mediev from the standpoint of legal science opens new perspectives for understanding the role of the state and local self-government in ensuring social equality and legal justice based on the rule of law and equal opportunities for all members of society;

– sixth, the conceptual doctrine underlying the theoretical legacy of R.M. Mediev is grounded in the ideas of the responsibility of state institutions and local self-government to society, the principles of freedom and equality of citizens before

the law regardless of national or confessional affiliation and the right of peoples to autonomous self-government in the spiritual, educational and cultural spheres.

Thus, the significance of the present study lies in the scholarly interpretation of the ideological, political and legal legacy of R.M. Mediev as a prominent representative of national revival.

Degree of elaboration of the research problem. Due to various historical and political factors, the life and activities of R.M. Mediev, as well as his political and legal views, have not been the subject of comprehensive academic research.

The works of A. Arsharuni³ and A.K. Bochagov⁴, written during the first decades of the formation of Soviet historical scholarship, were devoted to socio-political processes during the revolutions and the Civil War of the early twentieth century, as well as to the establishment of Soviet power in Crimea. However, the role of R.M. Mediev in the socio-political life of Crimea was not examined in these studies.

The political and legal transformations of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries created new opportunities for studying the history of Crimea and the role of prominent statesmen of the early twentieth century. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to the works of V.Yu. Gankevich⁵, R.G. Landa⁶, O.

³ Arsharuni, A., Gabidullin, G. Essays on Pan-Islamism and Pan-Turkism in Russia // A. Arsharuni, G Gabidullin. - M: Bezbozhnik, 1931. - 141 p.

⁴ Bochagov, A.K. Milli Firka: National Counter-Revolution in Crimea. / A.K. Bochagov. - Simferopol: Crimean State Publishing House, 1930. - 117 p.

⁵ Gankevich, V.Yu. Essays on the History of Crimean Tatar Public Education (Reform of Ethno-Confessional Educational Institutions of the Taurida Governorate in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries) / V.Yu. Gankevich, - Simferopol: Tavria, 1998. - 162 p.; Gankevich, V.Yu. The Jadidist Reform of Crimean Tatar Education (Turn of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries): specialty 07.00.02 - World History. Dissertation for the Degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences. Simferopol, 2000. - 476 p.

⁶ Landa, R.G. Islam in the History of Russia / R.G. Landa - M.: Eastern Literature Publishing Firm of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 1995. - 312 p.

Timoshchuk, P. Taran⁷, D.P. Ursu⁸ and D.M. Usmanova⁹, which explore socio-political, cultural and educational processes within the milieu of Russian and Crimean Muslims. Nevertheless, the role and political activities of R.M. Mediev are considered only fragmentarily and primarily within the broader context of the issues under discussion.

A review of the scholarly literature leads to the conclusion that researchers have addressed only selected aspects of R.M. Mediev's socio-political activities. These studies did not aim to examine his ideological views in a comprehensive manner. The study of R.M. Mediev's law-making activities and theoretical legacy from the perspective of legal scholarship makes it possible to reconstruct his progressive political and legal views.

Problem Statement. The purpose of the dissertation research is to identify the principal provisions of the theoretical and legal legacy of R.M. Mediev, as reflected in his scholarly works and law-making activities, to determine the significance of his political and legal views and to generate new knowledge relevant to contemporary legal science.

In accordance with the stated purpose, the following research **objectives** have been formulated:

- to identify the socio-economic and socio-political foundations underlying the formation of R.M. Mediev's ideological and political-legal views;
- to examine the influence of R.M. Mediev's socio-political activities on the

⁷ Tymoshchuk, O. Crimean Tatar Political and Legal Thought of the Late Eighteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: Peculiarities of Genesis and Autonomist Processes of Evolution. / O. Tymoshchuk, P. Taran, Kharkiv: Publisher SPD FO Vapniarchuk N.M., 2004. - 176 p.

⁸ Ursu, D.P. Bekir Choban-zade: Life. Fate. Epoch. / D.P. Ursu - Simferopol: Crimean Educational and Pedagogical State Publishing House, 2004. - 276 p.

⁹ Usmanova, D.M. The Muslim Fraction and the Problems of "Freedom of Conscience" in the State Duma of Russia (1906–1917) / D.M. Usmanova - Kazan: Master Line Publ., 1999. 164 p.; Usmanova, D.M. "Muslim Law in the Russian Empire at the Turn of the XIX-XX Centuries: Study, Application, and Eradication" / D.M. Usmanova // *History: Electronic Scientific and Educational Journal*. 2014. No. 4 (27). Pp. 170–182. Available at: [History Journal Article](#); Usmanova, D.M. The Muslim Fraction of the State Duma and the Socio-Political Activities of Gabderashit Ibragimov in 1905–1907 / D.M. Usmanova // *From the History and Culture of the Peoples of the Middle Volga Region*. - 2017. - No. 7. - Pp. 201–215.

development of his political and legal ideas;

- to determine the principal directions of R.M. Mediev's work in the Second State Duma and to define the specific features of his political and legal views regarding the activities of the Muslim faction;

- to reveal the influence of the political-legal views and ideological convictions of R.M. Mediev, acting as deputy mayor of the city of Karasubazar in the Taurida Governorate, on the law-making activities of municipal self-government in the areas of urban improvement and the resolution of socio-economic, cultural and educational needs of the population;

- to identify the distinctive features of R.M. Mediev's views concerning the essence of the state and local self-government in ensuring social justice within society;

- to characterize R.M. Mediev's views on the legal regulation of the agrarian question;

- to systematize R.M. Mediev's legal beliefs concerning the right to education within the system of fundamental human rights and freedoms;

- to determine the significance of R.M. Mediev's political and legal views on social and state development for contemporary legal science.

Research Object. The focus of this study is political and legal doctrines concerning the state and legal system of the Russian state at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The subject of the research comprises the political and legal views of R.M. Mediev regarding the role of the state and local self-government in ensuring social justice, the legal resolution of the agrarian question and the right to education within the system of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Backgrounds. The theoretical foundation of the research is based on scholarly works devoted to the study of political and legal thought concerning the state and

law (I.F. Machin¹⁰, O.E. Leist¹¹ and V.S. Nersesyants¹²), the study of state institutions and local self-government (A.A. Dorskaya¹³, V.I. Bystrenko¹⁴, V.G. Grafsky¹⁵, I.A. Isaev¹⁶ and V.M. Syrykh¹⁷), as well as theoretical and historical studies (V.Yu. Gankevich¹⁸, R.G. Landa¹⁹, L.R. Syukiyainen²⁰, O. Tymoshchuk, P. Taran²¹ and D.M. Usmanova²²).

The methodological foundation of the dissertation is based on the application of a System of scientific approaches and methods that made it possible to examine the object and subject of the study comprehensively.

The study is based on a synthetic formational-civilizational approach. Historical regularities and objective laws ensure the progress of socio-economic relations, within the framework of which the political and legal views of an

¹⁰ Machin, I.F. History of Political and Legal Doctrines of Russia: Textbook for Higher Educational Institutions: for Students of Law Specialties and Programs: [Basic Course]. I.F. Machin. - 2nd ed., revised and enlarged. Moscow: Yurait Publ., 2016. - 458 p.

¹¹ Leist, O.E. (ed.). History of Political and Legal Doctrines: Textbook / O.E. Leist, Moscow: Legal literature, 1997. - 576 p.

¹² Nersesyants, V.S. History of Political and Legal Doctrines: Textbook for Higher Educational Institutions / ed. by V.S. Nersesyants, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Law, Professor. 4th ed., revised and enlarged. Moscow: NORMA Publ., 2004. - 944 p.

¹³ Dorskaya, A.A. History of Russian State Institutions before 1917 / A.A. Dorskaya; A.I. Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University. Saint Petersburg: Herzen State Pedagogical University Publishing House, 1998. - 111 p.

¹⁴ Bystrenko, V.I. History of State Administration and Local Self-Government in Russia / V.I. Bystrenko. – Novosibirsk. – M.: NSAE&M, 1997. - 92 p.

¹⁵ Grafsky, V.G. General History of Law and State: Textbook for Higher Educational Institutions / V.G. Grafsky - 2nd ed., revised and enlarged -M.: Norma Publ., 2007. - 752 p.

¹⁶ Isaev, I.A. History of the State and Law of Russia: Textbook / I.A. Isaev. - 3rd ed., revised and enlarged. M.: Yurist Publ., 2004. - 797 p.

¹⁷ Syrykh, V.M. History of the State and Law of Russia: Textbook / V.M. Syrykh, - 2nd ed., corrected and enlarged. M.: Eksmo Publ., 2007. - 462 p.

¹⁸ Gankevich, V.Yu. Essays on the History of Crimean Tatar Public Education (Reform of Ethno-Confessional Educational Institutions of the Taurida Governorate in the XIX - Early XX Centuries)/ V.Yu. Gankevich. - Simferopol: Tavria Publ., 1998. - 162 p.

¹⁹ Landa, R.G. Islam in the History of Russia / R.G. Landa. – M.: Eastern Literature Publishing Firm of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 1995. - 312 p.

²⁰ Syukiyainen, L.R. Islamic Law and the Dialogue of Cultures in the Contemporary World / L.R. Syukiyainen. – M.: Higher School of Economics Publishing House, 2021. - 688 p.

²¹ Tymoshchuk, O. Crimean Tatar Political and Legal Thought of the Late Eighteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: Peculiarities of Genesis and Autonomist Processes of Evolution. / O. Tymoshchuk, P. Taran, Kharkiv: Publisher SPD FO Vapniarchuk N.M., 2004. - 176 p.

²² Usmanova, D.M. The Muslim Fraction and the Problems of Freedom of Conscience in the State Duma of Russia (1906–1917) / D.M. Usmanova. - Kazan: Master Line Publ., 1999. - 164 p.

individual are formed. At the same time, the civilizational component incorporates spiritual and cultural values that influence social relations and the process of legal development. Taking into account the subjective factors associated with the role of the individual in the historical progress of society, the author employs an anthropocentric approach, which makes it possible to examine social relations in the context of the development of legal culture. The anthropological approach allows for the analysis of the role of the individual within the legal reality in which he exists and practically implements his ideas and views.

The research is grounded in the principles of systematicity, development, historicism and objectivity. The study of political doctrines in the context of social development and the role of the individual is based on general scientific methods, including the dialectical, systemic and logical methods, as well as the methods of synthesis and analysis, deduction and induction. In particular, the dialectical method made it possible to examine the objective patterns that determined the nature and evolution of R.M. Mediev's political and legal views.

The dissertation also relies on the application of special methods, including the formal-legal, comparative-legal, historical-legal, functional, concrete-sociological and institutional methods, as well as the methods of systemic analysis and legal hermeneutics.

The application of the formal-legal method to the study of legal issues has made it possible to classify the principal features and concepts, as well as to systematize legal phenomena. The historical-legal method has enabled an examination of the factors that influenced the formation and evolution of the political and legal views of R.M. Mediev. The comparative-legal method has provided an opportunity to identify both commonalities and distinctive features in R.M. Mediev's political and legal perspectives on the role of the state, local self-government and civil society.

On the basis of the functional method, state-legal phenomena have been characterized in their dynamic development, revealing their impact on the evolution of law and legal consciousness. The concrete sociological method has facilitated the

collection and processing of key documents illuminating the legal practice of R.M. Mediev in his capacity as acting mayor and as a deputy of the State Duma. The application of the institutional method has enabled an analysis of legislation, legal norms governing institutions of state authority, local self-government and electoral procedures.

The method of systemic analysis of legal sources and personal documents has provided a comprehensive understanding of the influence of socio-economic and political processes within society on the formation of R.M. Mediev's political and legal views. Finally, the method of legal hermeneutics has allowed for the processing and interpretation of documents reflecting his political and legal perspectives.

Research Dataset is constituted by published normative legal documents of state authorities, as well as archival materials, a substantial portion of which is being introduced into scholarly circulation for the first time. The theoretical legacy of R.M. Mediev is multifaceted and comprises publications in periodical press, manuscripts preserved in his personal archive, speeches delivered in the State Duma and archival documents elucidating his ideological perspectives, as well as materials reflecting the functioning of the local self-government bodies of the city of Karasubazar in the Taurida Governorate under his leadership.

As scholars note, when analyzing the texts of normative legal acts of the Russian Empire period, the researcher is confronted with the fact that the fundamental ideas embedded therein can be identified only through interpretation of the substantive content of the normative act²³.

The first group of sources is represented by normative legal acts of the state institutions of the Russian Empire, including the Complete Collection of the Laws of the Russian Empire and the Digest of Laws of the Russian Empire, as well as subordinate legislation regulating the activities of state authorities, local self-

²³ Ilyukhina, V. A. Evolution of the Legal Technique for Enshrining Principles of Law in Russian Legislation, / V. A. Ilyukhina // Journal of Legal Anthropology and Conflictology. 2023 no. 1. – p. 46.

government bodies, the educational system for Muslim populations and aspects of their religious and cultural life.

The second group of sources consists of archival documents preserved in the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA) and the State Archive of the Republic of Crimea (GARK), which elucidate his biographical data, political views and publishing activities²⁴, as well as characterize R.M. Mediev's work in his capacity as acting mayor²⁵. More than fifty documents signed by R.M. Mediev for consideration by the city дума have been introduced into scholarly circulation.

The third group of sources comprises documents of personal provenance deposited in the R.M. Mediev collection of the Central Museum of Taurida²⁶. The materials of this collection include manuscripts, correspondence, telegrams, petitions submitted by the population to state authorities, draft legislative proposals, minutes of meetings and appeals, all of which reveal R.M. Mediev's political and legal views on socio-political development and the resolution of social issues through legal mechanisms.

The collection contains valuable information regarding R.M. Mediev's biography, his initiatives in organizing and publishing periodicals, his participation in educational commissions, as well as his broader public and political activities and legislative initiatives. In addition, materials have been processed that characterize the condition of the Muslim population, including petitions of the Crimean Tatars to local self-government bodies of the Taurida Governorate and to the authorities of the

²⁴ Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA). F. 776 — "Office of the Main Directorate for Press Affairs Collection"; F. 1278 — "State Duma of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Convocations Collection."

²⁵ State Archive of the Republic of Crimea (GARK). F. 26 — "Office of the Taurida Governor Collection"; F. 27 — "Taurida Provincial Administration Collection"; F. 40 — "District Commissions for Elections to the State Duma. Simferopol District Commission Collection"; F. 42 — "Taurida Provincial Zemstvo and Municipal Affairs Board Collection"; F. 100 — "Directorate of Public Schools of the Taurida Governorate Collection"; F. 111 — "Teachers' Seminaries. Simferopol Tatar Teachers' Seminary Collection"; F. 354 — "State Women's Gymnasiums. Karasubazar Gymnasium Collection"; F. 706 — "Taurida Provincial Gendarmerie Administration Collection"; F. 736 — "Society for Assistance to Poor Muslims of the City of Yevpatoria and Yevpatoria District Collection"; F. P-150 — "Crimean Regional Party Committee Collection."

²⁶ Central Museum of Taurida (Simferopol). Archival Collection of R.M. Mediev.

Russian state, manuscripts of R.M. Mediev's draft notes on social, political and religious issues and minutes of meetings of representatives of the Crimean Tatars from municipal self-government institutions.

Of particular scholarly interest is the «Draft Fundamental Law on Land» which proposes a resolution to the agrarian question in the national peripheries through the complete abolition of private land ownership and its transfer to the jurisdiction of local self-government bodies. A prominent place is also occupied by the «Draft Regulations on the Administration of endowed Property and Capital in Crimea».

Significant academic value is attached to the petition of the Muslims of the Crimean Peninsula, prepared by the Congress of representatives of the Crimean Tatars in Simferopol for submission to the Council of Ministers, which contains proposals aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of Muslims within the Russian state. Particular attention should be given to documents addressing the modernization of national education. Of exceptional importance is the manuscript entitled «What Should Primary Education for Crimean Tatars Be? » which provides an analytical assessment of the state of Muslim schooling in Crimea.

A substantial body of materials reflecting R.M. Mediev's activities within the Second State Duma is likewise of considerable interest. Among these, particular scholarly attention is warranted by the manuscript of his speech in the State Duma concerning resettlement policy, as well as the minutes of meetings of the Muslim faction devoted to the elaboration and adoption of a unified political platform and to the participation of its deputies in various parliamentary commissions.

The archives of the Central Museum of Taurida (Simferopol) contain sources attesting to R.M. Mediev's publishing activities. In particular, it is necessary to note the certificates issued in his name granting him the right to publish the newspapers «The Voice of the Muslim» and «Our Voice». The manuscript of R.M. Mediev's address delivered at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the newspaper «Tercüman» reveals his political and legal views on social processes within the milieu of Russian Muslims.

The fourth group of sources is represented by publications in the periodical press (notably the newspapers «Caspiy» and «Vatan Hadimi»), in which R.M. Mediev articulated his views on the necessity of advancing constitutional processes in the Russian state, implementing agrarian reform and expanding civil rights in the spiritual, educational and cultural spheres.

The totality of the sources employed has made it possible to examine and elucidate the distinctive features of R.M. Mediev's political and legal views and to accomplish the objectives of the dissertation research.

The chronological framework of the dissertation encompasses the period from 1880 to 1912, characterized by the formation of R.M. Mediev's intellectual and political-legal outlook, his active socio-political engagement, his participation in the Muslim faction of the Second State Duma in 1907 and his lawmaking activities within the bodies of local self-government of the city of Karasubazar in the Taurida Governorate.

The validity and reliability of the research findings are ensured by the fact that the conclusions are grounded in the application of well-established and tested methods and methodologies, adherence to rigorous scientific and methodological standards and a comprehensive analysis of both published and unpublished sources, normative legal acts and scholarly literature relevant to the research problem.

Academic Novelty.

1. An original interpretation of the theoretical and legal views of R.M. Mediev is introduced into scholarly circulation, based on an analysis of previously unexamined archival materials. These views are characterized as a synthesis of Islamic worldview values with the ideas of Russian liberalism and socialist doctrines of social development. It is substantiated that R.M. Mediev's worldview positions were formed under the influence of national and religious upbringing, as well as secular education obtained in state educational institutions (RTMU and STUSh) and the modernist Jadid movement aimed at reforming the Muslim system of education and society. It is further demonstrated that his political and legal views were shaped by the specific socio-economic and socio-political conditions of the Taurida

Governorate, with determining factors including peasant landlessness in general and the emigration of Crimean Tatars in particular, the activities of the All-Russian Muslim Party («Ittifaq al-Muslimin») and a confessional system of education that did not meet contemporary requirements (corresponds to clause 43 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

2. It is established that in the Second State Duma, R.M. Mediev defended the principle of equality of citizens regardless of religion or nationality, advocated for the rights of workers and upheld peasants' right to land. He participated in the work of the Muslim faction as secretary of the temporary bureau, whose responsibilities included the implementation of all resolutions adopted by the faction, as well as decisions on complaints submitted to deputies. It is revealed that Mediev's work within the faction and in commissions on legislative drafting was guided by voters' mandates, the programmatic documents of the «Butyunrussie Ittifaq al-Muslimin» («All-Russian Muslim Union») and his doctrinal convictions regarding social equality and the harmonious development of a multinational state (corresponds to clause 43 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

3. It is established that the multifaceted activities of the municipal self-government of the city of Karasubazar in the Taurida Governorate under the leadership of R.M. Mediev were aimed at meeting the socio-economic and cultural-educational needs of the urban population. These activities were socially oriented, took into account the cultural specificities of civil society and contributed to the development of urban infrastructure and the improvement of citizens' quality of life (corresponds to clause 43 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

4. It is demonstrated that the law-making activities of the City Duma under the leadership of R.M. Mediev grounded in the principles of social justice, addressed the pressing issues of urban life and the needs of the population and proceeded from national and confessional considerations. The legislative initiatives of the municipal self-government adopted under Mediev's leadership reflected his political and legal convictions, while the functioning of the self-government bodies evidenced a significant increase in the effectiveness of local governance in addressing the socio-

economic and cultural challenges of the city (corresponds to clause 43 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

5. It is proven that, within the framework of Muslim legal doctrine, R.M. Mediev substantiated democratic ideas of harmonious relations between the constitutional state, local self-government and the people, including the equality of citizens before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and the extension of rights to women. It is established that social justice, as well as the role of the state and local administration in ensuring it, constitutes the conceptual foundation of Mediev's political and legal views. At the same time, the category of "legal justice" prevails over religious, moral, ethical and political justice, while nonetheless incorporating religious norms, national traditions and socially established moral standards (corresponds to clause 66 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

6. It is substantiated that the reform of the education system proposed by R.M. Mediev was grounded in the individual's right to education as a guarantee of personal development. The existing ethno-confessional system of education of the Crimean Tatars in the Taurida Governorate, as well as the "new-method" schools that emerged as a result of the educational activities of I. Gasprinsky, along with the state system of education comprising zemstvo schools, RTMU and STUSh, based on the "Regulations on Measures for the Education of Non-Russian Peoples of Russia" approved on March 26, 1870, required reform.

It is revealed that the progressive views of this statesman and public figure regarding the reform of both ethno-confessional and state education systems for Muslims were aimed at establishing a model of schooling that would integrate secular and religious disciplines. He maintained that school education should rely on the support of the state and local self-government bodies. The program for the modernization of school education developed by him was designed to ensure the maximum involvement of the younger generation in educational processes. He also advocated the inalienable right of women to education, which, in his view, should be enshrined in legislation and guaranteed by a constitutional state. R.M. Mediev's political and legal doctrine concerning the reform of the education system was

progressive in nature and opened new opportunities for the active inclusion of Crimean Tatars in the political and social life of Russian society (corresponds to clause 66 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

7. It is established that the significance of R.M. Mediev's political and legal views on social and state development for contemporary legal scholarship lies in their emphasis on the solidarity of the state, society and the individual, the subordination of public authorities to the rule of law and the participation of citizens in addressing socio-economic issues through local self-government institutions (corresponds to clause 66 of the specialty passport 5.1.1).

Theoretical and Practical Value of the Research.

The findings of the study deepen scholarly understanding of the development of Russian political and legal thought in the early twentieth century, revealing the distinctive features and specificity of theoretical concepts grounded in a synthesis of national-religious views, Jadidism, liberal ideology and socialist-oriented party doctrines. The research substantially expands existing perspectives on the evolution of political and legal thought in ensuring national and cultural autonomy in the spiritual and educational spheres. It examines the particularities of conceptualizing the role of the state and local self-government in securing social justice within society, as well as the legal mechanisms for resolving the agrarian question in Russia, taking into account the application of Muslim law in land relations. The study also analyzes the specific features of the concept of the right to education within the system of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Overall, the results of the dissertation significantly enrich the understanding of the development of political and legal thought in the Russian state.

The practical significance of the research lies in the applicability of its findings in several domains: 1. in the educational process within higher education programs, including «History of Political and Legal Doctrines», «Theoretical and Historical Legal Studies», «Theory and History of State and Law», «Contemporary Issues in the Theory of State and Law», «History of the State and Law of Russia»; 2. in substantially broadening the scope of scholarly inquiry and providing a

theoretical foundation for prospective studies on the history of political and legal thought in the Russian state; 3. in offering conclusions that may be recommended and applied to the improvement of ethno-confessional and interethnic relations at the present stage of societal development; 4. in facilitating the application of positive historical experience to the development of civil society and the preservation of spiritual and moral heritage.

Dissemination of Research Results. The principal provisions of the dissertation were discussed at a meeting of the Department of History and Theory of State and Law of the Nizhny Novgorod Institute of Management, a branch of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. The results of the study are reflected in published scholarly articles and were presented in reports at national and international scientific and practical conferences, including: the VIII All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference «Theory and Practice of Modern Legal Science» at Pushkin Leningrad State University (April 15, 2021, St. Petersburg); the international conference «State and Law: Problems and Prospects for Improvement» at South-West State University (November 19, 2021, Kursk); the XI All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation «Law and the State, Society and the Individual: History, Theory, Practice» (May 20, 2022, Kolomna); the All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding statesman, reformer and scholar M.M. Speransky, «Current Issues of State and Legal Transformations in Russia: History and Modernity» (2022, Belgorod); the VII All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation «Current Issues of Jurisprudence: Research, Innovation, Practice» (2022, Simferopol); the XII All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference «Law and the State, Society and the Individual: History, Theory, Practice» (2023, Kolomna); the VIII All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation «Current Issues of Jurisprudence: Public Law Aspects» (2023, Simferopol); the All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the 55th anniversary of the North-West

Institute (branch) of the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (December 7, 2023, Vologda); the VII All-Russian National Scientific Conference of Young Scholars (April 8–12, 2024, Komsomolsk-on-Amur); the XIII All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation of the State Social and Humanitarian University «Law and the State, Society and the Individual: History, Theory, Practice» (May 17, 2024, Kolomna); and the memorial readings dedicated to Professor Evgeny Petrovich Sychevsky (2025, Blagoveshchensk).

The results of the dissertation research are implemented in the educational process at the Crimean Law Institute (a branch of the University of the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation) and the Law Institute of Sevastopol State University.

The thesis's structure is determined by the objectives of the research problem and is oriented toward achieving the stated goals. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters, eight sections, conclusions and recommendations, a list of principal abbreviations, a bibliography and eight appendices.