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**The development of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church
and the Church of England at the official level in the context of
Russian foreign policy (late 19th – early 21st centuries)**

ANNOTATION

Dissertation

For the degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences

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Relevance of the research topic. Based on the involvement of a significant body of sources, including archival ones, the dissertation is the first in historiography to comprehensively address the problem of the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and the Church of England at the official level in the context of Russian foreign policy in the late 19th and early 21st centuries. The study developed a periodization of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England, identified the causes and prerequisites for the development of relations between the Russian Church and the Anglicans, identified the nature, main content and results of the dialogue, as well as its impact on the interaction between Russia and the United Kingdom during the period indicated in the dissertation.

The choice of the research topic is also conditioned by the need to study the problems of the dissertation in order to develop theoretical provisions of the historical experience of interaction between such large church organizations as the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England, justifying the impact of their dialogue on the development of relations between Russia and the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the study is to study the mechanism, features and results of the relations of the Russian Church with the Church of England in the period of the late 19th – early 21st centuries at the official level in the context of the development of Russian foreign policy based on the involvement of materials from sources.

To do this, it was necessary to **solve the following tasks**

1) to carry out an analysis of historiography, as well as available sources on the research problem;

Russian Russian Orthodox Church in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; 3) to study the participation of representatives of Russian

Orthodoxy in the dialogue between Orthodox churches and Anglicans in the 20s and 40s of the 20th century;

4) to determine the role of Russian emigrants in the activities of the Fellowship of St. Albanus and St. Sergius in the 20s and 40s of the XX century. centuries in England;

5) to analyze the conditions and circumstances under which the resumption of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England took place in the first half of the 1940s;

6) to study the development of official relations between the Russian Orthodox Church in the USSR and the Church of England in the second half of the 40s - 80s of the XX century;

7) to study the specifics of building relations between the Russian Church and the Church In the context of the changed world order at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s;

8) identify the causes of the crisis in relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England at the turn of the XX-XXI centuries.;

9) to analyze the current conditions of building relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England in the context of the intensified confrontation between Russia and Great Britain.

The object of the study is the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England in the late 19th and early 21st centuries. **The subject** is the development, organization and characteristic features of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England in the context of the development of Russian foreign policy during this period.

The chronological framework of the study covers the time period from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century. The lower time limit is associated with the beginning of an active phase of official relations between the Russian Church and the Church of England at the turn of the 19th and early 20th centuries, when there was a period of rapprochement between the Russian Empire and Great Britain within the framework of the military-political alliance of the Entente. The upper limit is determined by 2022, when the confrontation between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom intensified since the beginning of the CBO, which led to the termination of contacts between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England.

Methodology of the dissertation work. Within the framework of this dissertation research, an emphasis was placed on understanding the historical process in accordance with the historiosophical concept of N.I. Kareev. This made it possible to analyze and

understand the complex nature of the church-diplomatic interaction between the Russian Church and the Church of England in the context of the development of Russian foreign policy during the period indicated in the dissertation.

These materials were subjected to a comprehensive systematic study. The theoretical basis of the dissertation is discussed in more detail in the first chapter of the dissertation.

Both general scientific and special historical methods have retained the methodology of the conducted research. General scientific methods – methods of deduction and induction, statistical method, content analysis allowed us to analyze the source base and historiography, to identify the necessary features of the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England.

The use of special historical methods of comparative historical, historical-genetic and a number of other methods of historical science made it possible to identify the features of the origin of the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England, analyze its course, and trace the relationship of this phenomenon with the diplomatic interaction between Russia and Great Britain during this period.

The preparation of the dissertation materials was based on key principles of historical science, such as historicism and objectivity.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that the dissertation, based on the use of new materials, including archival ones, presents the history of the relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England in the context of Russian foreign policy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

. The author identifies the prerequisites, causes, determines the course of development of the dialogue between the Russian Church and the Anglicans, and also notes the influence of inter-church interaction on the relations of the Russian Empire, the USSR and the Russian Federation with Great Britain.

The course of theological interaction between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England is considered, the results of the discussion of a possible unification of churches are analyzed, and the reasons why it was not possible to coordinate this process are presented. The paper presents the progress and results of the work of special commissions that were created to discuss cooperation between the

Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England, and presents agreed statements – the Dublin and Moscow ones.

The study provides the reasons for the temporary termination of relations between the Russian Church and the Church of England in the period 1917-1943. It is noted that the relationship was terminated due to the impossibility of external interaction due to the change in state power in Russia with the coming to power of the Bolshevik Party. At the same time, relations with the Church of England were being developed by Russian Orthodox emigrants who found themselves abroad after the revolutionary events and the Russian Civil War. In particular, on the initiative of Russian emigrants, the Fellowship of St. Albanus and St. Sergius was founded in England.

Based on the analysis of documents, the author of the study presented that relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England were restored in September 1943 after a change in the attitude of the Soviet government towards the Russian Church. This further affected the decision of the Western Allies to open a second front.

The paper presents the development of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England in the 1950s and 1970s. It is noted that during this period, relations between the two church organizations developed even during the period of aggravation of relations between Moscow and London. During this period, the nature of the relationship was based largely on the theological component.

The dissertation research shows that in the late 1980s, due to the spread of the trend of female priesthood, the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England moved to the level of social and educational interaction. This trend continued throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. However, later, during the period of aggravation of relations between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, at the initial stage of the Special Military Operation (SVO), relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England were terminated.

Provisions to be defended:

I. It is proved that relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England at the official level during the late 19th and early 21st centuries were an

integral part of Russian foreign policy. Inter-church interaction has influenced relations between Russia and Great Britain in different periods. The dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England helped to reduce confrontation during the period of aggravation of the confrontation between Russia and Great Britain.

II. The dissertation introduces a periodization of the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England at the official level in the context of Russian foreign policy in the period from the end of the XIX – beginning of the XXI centuries.:

1. The 19th century was the time of the development of an open dialogue between the Russian Church and the Church of England. Creation of the St. Petersburg Commission to study the dialogue between Orthodox Christians and Anglicans. The participation of Russian Orthodox hierarchs in the work of the Rotterdam Commission.

2. The beginning of the XX century. The strengthening of contacts between the Russian Church and the Church of England against the background of the rapprochement between the Russian Empire and Great Britain on the eve of the outbreak of the First World War.

3. 1920-1930s. The activity of the Russian Orthodox emigration abroad. He was educated in 1928 in St. Albans by the Community of St. Albanus and St. Sergius with the participation of Russian emigrants and the Church of England.

4. The 1940s The change in the policy of the Soviet state towards the Russian Church. In 1943, relations with the Anglicans were resumed. In the context of the outbreak of the Cold War and the growing rivalry with Great Britain and the United States, the Soviet government incorporated the mechanism of church diplomacy into the solution of foreign policy tasks.

5. The 1950s and 1960s. Intensification of relations between Orthodox Christians and Anglicans. A visit to Moscow by Anglican monks in 1955 Preparations for the resumption of the work of the Mixed Orthodox-Anglican Theological Commission.

6. 1970-early 1980s. Resumption of work of the Joint Anglican-Orthodox Theological Commission. Signing of the Moscow Agreement with the Anglicans in 1976 A decrease in the activity of the Russian Orthodox Church's relations with

Anglicans in connection with the trend towards the ordination of women in the Anglican Church community. The beginning of crisis phenomena.

7. The second half of the 1980s – 1990s. New attempts at rapprochement between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England. Reduced confrontation as a result of the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the USSR.

8. The beginning of the 2000s. Intensification of the dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England. Visit to the UK in 2003 Russian President Vladimir Putin and his meeting with Queen Elizabeth II and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

9. 2010s. modern period. Patriarch Kirill (Gundyaev) visited Great Britain in 2016 on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Diocese of Sourozh. The intensification of crisis phenomena in connection with the increased liberalization of the Church of England. Search for relationship options. The intensification of the confrontation between Russia and the United Kingdom against the background of its conduct in Ukraine.

III. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the St. Petersburg Commission was formed with the approval of the Russian Emperor to engage in dialogue with the Old Catholics who had separated from the Vatican in the 1870s. The commission's meetings discussed issues of possible communication between the Russian Church and Anglicans, including possible options for recognizing the legality of Anglican ordinations.

IV. In the first two decades, the relations of the Russian Church with the Anglicans continued to develop. At the same time, the dialogue with the Russian Church, which is genetically related to the Church of England of the American Episcopal Church, intensified. This process took place with the increasing desire of the Anglicans to get closer to the Russian Church. The processes of church interaction took place in parallel with the diplomatic relations between Russia and Great Britain. The active phase of the dialogue continued during the era of the First World War. According to the results of the Local Council of the Orthodox Russian Church in 1917-1918. It was decided to continue the dialogue with the Church of England. However, in the first two and a half

decades after the revolutionary events of 1917 in Russia, official relations between the Russian Church and the Anglicans were impossible.

V. Russian Russian Orthodox members of the Fellowship of St. Albanus and St. Sergius continued their dialogue with the Anglicans during the absence of official contacts between the Russian Church and the Church of England. Russians Russian Orthodox emigrants in England were supported by the organization through fundraising for the Russian Church Relief Fund.

VI. Russian Russian Church policy changed after Stalin's meeting with the hierarchs of the Russian Church on the night of September 4-5, 1943, taking into account the rise of the USSR's image in the international arena. This fact led to the resumption of relations between representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England.

VII. The end of World War II and then the beginning of the Cold War affected the development of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England. Taking advantage of the Anglicans' desire for communion with the Russian Church, the Soviet government counted on the transition of the Church of England to a position of countering the spread of Vatican influence. The activities of the Russian Orthodox Church began to be directed by the Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church towards reunification with the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Churches abroad. The goal was to establish close and friendly relations with the Orthodox Churches of Slavic countries. It was planned to further strengthen ties with the heads of other autocephalous Orthodox churches, as well as influence the resolution of international church issues.

VIII. Relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England had a positive impact on relations between the USSR and Great Britain in the context of the growing confrontation between Moscow and London in the late 1950s and early 1960s. For this purpose, mutual visits of representatives of the two churches were organized along the church line, conferences were held. In 1973, the Mixed Orthodox-Anglican Theological Commission began its work.

IX. In May 1979, Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of Great Britain. The period of her reign has become a time of aggravation of problematic points in diplomatic relations between Moscow and London. The ten-year work of the Joint Orthodox-Anglican Theological Commission resulted in the signing of the Dublin Consensus Statement in 1984, in which the parties to the dialogue agreed on three points of the theological dialogue.

X. In 1984, the General Synod of the Church of England adopted a resolution allowing women to serve as priests in the provinces of Canterbury and York. This action led to the termination of the work of the Mixed Orthodox-Anglican Theological Commission. The new commission was named the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue. In 1989, at the initiative of the Anglicans, a special cooperation body was created for cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church - the Joint Coordinating Commission for Cooperation between the Church of England and the Russian Orthodox Church.

XI. In the first two decades after the collapse of the USSR, relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England continued on an academic basis. Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom continued with the advent of President Vladimir Putin.

XII. In the period from 2010 to 2022, relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church of England continued to develop in terms of cooperation on the development of church education, consideration of social initiatives and projects. The programs of the Summer Institute at the Ecclesiastical Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies named after Saints Cyril and Methodius for students from Great Britain were practiced. During this period, a new phase of aggravation of relations began in relations between Moscow and London. This happened against the background of the return of Crimea and Sevastopol to Russia. After the start of the SVO in February 2022 Relations between Russia and the United Kingdom have sharply deteriorated due to British support for the Ukrainian side. Such actions have caused condemnation of the Russian government.

The theoretical and practical significance of the work. The materials of the dissertation can be used in the preparation of courses on the History of Russia, the history of the Russian Orthodox Church and the history of diplomacy. The generalizations and conclusions of the study can be used in the development of state policy in the field of diplomatic cooperation between Russia and the United Kingdom.

The degree of reliability and approbation of the research results is achieved by referring the author to documents stored in the collections of the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF), the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA), the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI), the Russian State Archive of Modern History (RGANI), the Archive of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (WUAS RF), Department of Manuscripts, Russian State Library (OR RSL). In the course of the research, a large amount of information from the memoirs of the leading participants in the relations between the Russian Church and the Church of England was included in the materials of the dissertation. Information from the official press organs of the Russian Church, the Church of England, as well as religious organizations was used.

Approbation of the research results. The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation research are reflected in 43 papers with a total volume of 43 author's sheets. Among them, 25 articles have been published in leading Russian scientific periodicals included in the list of the Higher Attestation Commission, as well as one monograph.

The research findings were presented in reports at scientific conferences:

1. I International Scientific and Practical Conference "West-East: Russia's Civilizational Choice" (Orel, Central Russian Institute of Management, RANEPa branch, December 09, 2015);

2. International Scientific and Practical Conference "The Image of Religion: Religious Education in the Diversity of Religious Cultures" (Orel, I.S. Turgenev Orel State University, November 30 – December 01, 2017);

3. Scientific and practical conference with international participation "The State, Society and the Church: Migration and Intercultural Diversity" (Novosibirsk, Siberian Institute of Management, RANEPa branch, May 29-30, 2018);

4. V International Scientific and Practical Conference within the framework of the XXVI International Christmas Educational Readings "Spiritual and Moral Culture in Higher Education: Moral values and the future of student youth" (Moscow, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), January 23, 2018);

5. II All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference "West-East: Turgenev - Russia and the World" (Orel, Central Russian Institute of Management, RANEPA branch, April 19, 2018);

6. III International Scientific and Practical Conference "West-East: Russia and Europe, Religion and Peace" (Orel, Central Russian Institute of Management, RANEPA branch, February 28, 2020);

7. VII International Scientific and Practical Conference within the framework of the XXVIII International Christmas Educational Readings "Spiritual and moral culture in higher education. The Battle for Victory: 75 Years Later" (Moscow, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), January 29, 2020);

8. I International Scientific and Practical Conference "The Battle of Oryol-Kursk in the History of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945" (Orel, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Central Russian Institute of Management (Oryol branch), April 20, 2023);

9. International Scientific and Practical Conference "World War II in the Mirror of History" (Orel, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Central Russian Institute of Management, December 08, 2023);

10. Conference "Actual Problems of State and Legal Construction" (Orel, Federal State-Funded Educational Institution higher professional education Oryol Law Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia named after V.V. Lukyanov, September 30 – November 26, 2024);

11. Central Russian International Academic Forum "Images and Models of the Future" (Orel, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Central Russian Institute of Management – branch, September 26-27, 2024);

12. Materials of the XI scientific and practical conference within the XXXIII International Educational Readings at RUDN University "Spiritual and Moral Culture in high school. The Image of the Future in the Context of Historical Memory" (Moscow, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), January 26, 2024);

13. II International Scientific and Practical Conference "World War II in the Mirror of History (On the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War)" (Orel, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Central Russian Institute of Management (Orel Branch), April 03-04, 2025);

14. Interregional Scientific Conference dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory "The Historical Code of Russia: Iron and Faith", (Orel, Central Russian Institute of Management – branch of the RANEPa, N.V. Parakhin Oryol State Agrarian University, Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Oryol State University I.S.Turgenev", State University of Management, Military Academy of Logistics named after Army General A.V. Khruleva", Omsk State Technical University, Pereslavl-Zalessky State Historical, Architectural and Art Museum-Reserve, April 17, 2025).

The structure of the dissertation. The dissertation research is based on the problem-chronological principle and includes an Introduction, 5 chapters, including 16 paragraphs, Conclusions, a list of sources and literature used.