

**Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education
higher education
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
AND PUBLIC SERVICE
UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
CENTRAL RUSSIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT - BRANCH**

On the rights of the manuscript



SOKOLOV Mikhail Vladimirovich

**Interaction of State Security Bodies with the State and Society of the
Orel Region in 1918-1934.**

ANNOTATION

Dissertation

For the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences.

Scientific supervisor:

**A.YU. Saran, Doctor of Historical Sciences,
Associate Professor**

Orel 2025

Relevance of the research topic. From the moment of its formation, the national security services have fulfilled an important, and in some aspects, and decisive role in ensuring the security of the Soviet state. In the period of 1917-1934 the organs of VChK-GPU-OGPU took a direct part in the process of formation of the political system of RSFSR and USSR, they carried out operational service of the most important economic objects, collected, analysed and delivered information about the moods in society, which influenced the development of the political course to the party-state governing bodies. The relevance of the thesis topic is determined by the importance of studying global processes on regional materials. These circumstances allow us to consider that among the topical problems of Russian history are studies on the activities of the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies in the Orel region in the period 1918-1934.

The years 1917-1922 saw the formation of the Soviet state security agencies. The departmental values established in that period became the basis for the work of new generations of Chekists. The experience of activity not only of the central, but also of the regional divisions of the All-Union Cheka-GPU-OGPU needs both a comprehensive analysis of historical sources and the writing of new works on the history of the Soviet state and its special services of a generalising nature. Employees of modern Russian special services also need an objective historical assessment of the activities of their predecessors in order to form an adequate worldview. The VChK-GPU-OGPU employees who worked in the period of 1918-1934 had to deal with similar problems, and their experience of solving them, both positive and negative, should certainly be in demand in modern conditions.

The choice of the research topic is also conditioned by the need to rethink the main problems of the historical experience of domestic state security agencies from the point of view of modern historical science.

The aim of the study was set as follows: to investigate the activities of the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies in the Orel region in 1918-1934 in the system of socio-political life on the basis of the analysis of archival materials.

For this purpose it was necessary to fulfil the following tasks:

- 1) to determine the dynamics of formation and development of regional and interregional bodies of the VChK on the territory of Orel province in 1918-1922, to identify and analyse the contradictory trends in these processes;
- 2) to analyse the peculiarities of the legal status of the VChK against the background of legal relations in the period of 1918-1922 and their influence on the changes in the structure of regional bodies of state security in Orel province;
- 3) to identify the place of state security bodies in the system of regional authorities in the 1920-1930s on the example of the Orel region;
- 4) to determine the degree of participation of the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies in the fight against political and religious opposition in the Orel region in 1918-1934.
- 5) to determine the forms and methods of interaction between the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies and the state and society of the Orel region in 1918-1934.

The object of the study is the bodies of VChK-GPU-OGPU in the Orel region, **the subject** is the processes of interaction of the bodies of VChK-GPU-OGPU with the state and society of the Orel region in 1918-1934.

Chronological framework of the work. The upper chronological framework is marked by 1934, when the situation of the state security bodies, which were included in the internal affairs bodies in the course of the abolition of the OGPU and the introduction of its subdivisions into the structure of the NKVD of the USSR, changed dramatically.

The geographical boundaries of the study are defined by the administrative-territorial boundaries of the Orel region, in accordance with which the structure of regional state security bodies was determined. Until 1928 there was the Orel province, the boundaries of which underwent significant changes - in 1920, 4 of its 12 counties were transferred to the newly created Orel province. 4 of its 12 counties were transferred to the Bryansk province, which was being created for the first time, which significantly narrowed the administrative and political boundaries and seriously reduced the economic and social potential of the region. Novosilsky district from Tula province in 1925 was transferred to Orel province, which partially compensated for the lost western counties. But new trials for the region soon followed - in 1928 the Orel

province was completely abolished by the central authorities of the country, and parts of its territory as the Orel and Yeletsky districts were included in the boundaries of the newly created Central Black Earth Oblast (CDE). According to the administrative-territorial reform, the structure of the local bodies of the OGPU was also changed: a district department was created in place of the provincial department, and after the abolition of the districts in 1930 the Oryol district department was renamed the Oryol district department. The Oryol okrotdel was renamed an operational sector. In 1934, the Central Black Earth Region was disbanded, which coincided with a radical reform of the state security agencies.

The methodology of the dissertation work is based on such principles of scientific knowledge as objectivity, systematicity, integrity, determinism, specificity, as well as on the idea of multidimensionality, complexity and contradictory nature of the historical process. This allowed us to consider the problems in the activities of the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies and the peculiarities of their influence on the socio-political and economic life in the Orel region in the historical context.

During the research the author used the following general scientific (universal) methods of scientific cognition: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, analogy, formalisation, generalisation, abstraction.

When working on the thesis, special methods of historical research were used. The historical-genetic method allows us to study the activity of state security bodies in the Orel region from the time of their creation in 1918 to 1934 as a single process, each stage of which was connected with the previous one. Comparative-historical and problem-historical methods, the latter of which goes back to the historical-genetic method proposed by academician I.D. Kovalchenko, were used in the course of interpreting the content of historical sources in combination with the analysis of cause-and-effect relations between individual events and phenomena.

Together with the above-mentioned tools of scientific work, the present study used both generally accepted general scientific (classification, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction) and special-historical (systemic, comparative-typological, historical-genetic, generalising), and, in addition, sociological methods.

The scientific novelty of the study lies in the fact that for the first time in the Russian historiography a scientific task was solved, which is important for the development of historical science, namely: a comprehensive analysis of the activities of regional bodies of the VChK-GPU-OGPU in the Orel region in the period 1918-1934. In the study of the topic the previously unpublished material from Russian federal and regional archival repositories was attracted. This allowed to introduce a wide range of previously unused factual data into the scientific turnover. The author introduced his own periodisation of the activity of the VChK-GPU-OGPU bodies in the period 1918-1934. Changes in the structure of regional state security bodies of the Oryol region in the period of 1918-1934 are revealed. The role of regional and local state security bodies in the social and political life of the Oryol region in 1918-1934 has been comprehensively analysed and defined. The importance of regional state security bodies in the implementation of economic policy is revealed. The work of state security agencies in relation to religious organisations in the Orel region in the period 1918-1934 is studied.

Provisions put forward for defence:

1. The formation of the regional structures of the All-Russian Emergency Commission in 1918-1922 took place in two directions: from below the Soviet authorities created provincial and district emergency commissions by their decisions, from above the leadership of the All-Russian Emergency Commission gradually took under its control the personnel and organisational issues of the regional state security bodies of the Orel province.

2. The periodisation of the history of the state security bodies of the Oryol region is somewhat different from the periodisation of the history of the nationwide organisation of the All-Russian Emergency Commission-GPU-OGPU, because in the course of reforming the administrative-territorial boundaries the status of the Oryol region changed from provincial to district, and then to district. As a result, the following periods were formed: the Orel provincial Cheka (1918-1922), the Orel provincial department of the GPU-OGPU (1922-1928), the Orel district department of the OGPU

(1928-1930), the Orel operational sector of the Permanent Representation of the OGPU for the Central Black Earth Region (1930-1934).

3. State security bodies of the Orel province in the period of 1918-1922 were one of the key regional centres of the country's defence system during the Civil War.

4. The organs of the VChK-GPU-OGPU in the period 1918-1934 were connected with the Orel regional and central party-state apparatus by a system of relations that included subordination, certain interdependence and complementarity.

5. The state security organs of the Oryol region in relations with the Red Army, on the one hand, performed control and counterintelligence functions, on the other hand, co-operated in the fight against insurgency.

6. In the sphere of social and political life the organs of the All-Union Cheka-GPU-OGPU of the Orel region in the period of 1918-1934 were its participant, at the same time they were involved in the processes of formation of politically and ideologically homogeneous society, which would be controlled and managed by the authorities.

7. In the economic field, the regional state security bodies of the Oryol region participated in the implementation of state policy at all its stages in 1918-1934.

Theoretical and practical significance of the work. The results of the research allowed to systematise and comprehend significant empirical and historiographical material, it allowed to analyse the processes of formation and development of the territorial body of state security in the period 1918-1934, its participation in the socio-political, economic, social and cultural life of the Oryol region on the example of the activities of the Oryol regional subdivision of the VChK-GPU-OGPU comprehensively. Information, conclusions and generalisations, which are introduced into the scientific turnover by the present study, can be applied in teaching and research work. The results of the dissertation research can be used by historians in the preparation of educational, generalising and research works on the course of national history, regional history of the Oryol province/region, history of state security bodies, in the process of creating curricula for various elective courses, which include material related to the patriotic education of young people.

Degree of reliability and approbation of the research results.

Credibility is due to the involvement of a wide range of sources (a detailed review of the sources used is described in the relevant section of the thesis), critical understanding of the material contained in primary sources and scientific literature on the topic of the thesis.

Within the framework of the research the sources stored in federal archives were analysed: the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA), as well as in the fonds of regional archives of three regions: the State Archive of the Orel Region (GAOO), the State Archive of the Bryansk Region (GABO)), the Centre for Documentation on the Modern History of the Voronezh Region (CDNI VO). The author analysed four groups of historical sources: 1) normative-legal acts of activity of the state security bodies; 2) case files and materials presented by court-investigation cases of citizens rehabilitated in different periods; 3) sources of personal origin, in particular, memoirs of Oryol Chekists; 4) central, regional and local periodicals of the period under study.

Approbation of the research results. The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation research are reflected in 6 scientific publications with a total volume of 3.7 p.l. (including 5 articles in the journals recommended by VAK of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for the publication of the main results of dissertations for the degree of candidate and doctor of sciences).

A number of provisions of the research were presented in reports at:

International Scientific and Practical Conference 'West - East: Russia and Europe, Religion and Peace' (Oryol, 28 February 2020).

Structure of the thesis. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters with six paragraphs, a conclusion and a bibliography.