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## East European Historical Society (2015–2025): A Review of Its Work

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### Abstract

This paper commemorates the 10th anniversary of the East European Historical Society. It goes over the key areas of the Society's work, including its publication activity, its own mass media, its projects designed to popularize academic knowledge, and its contests for the best research work.

The work leans on four groups of sources – (1) collections of published documents, (2) materials from the Society's official website, (3) materials from the citation database Web of Science, and (4) commemorative and other publications.

The study's findings reveal that in the 10-year period of its existence the East European Historical Society has achieved a number of significant outcomes. Its members have published nearly 70 articles, with at least 40 of those appearing in journals indexed by Web of Science. The most significant of the publications is the 850-page 'The Circassian Slave Narratives (A Documentary Collection)', a work which would doubtless be a credit to any modern academic institution.

The Society has produced mass media of its own. Specifically, it published the journal *East European History* from 2015 to 2020 and has produced the journal *Recorder* since 2025. In addition, since 2018 the Society has stewarded a news-focused academic project known as the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency.

The Society has given serious attention to organizational work as well. From 2015 to 2019, the Society was among the organizers of six contests for the best research work – an anniversary commemorative contest (2015) and five 'Slavery in the Past and Present' annual events (2015–2019).

**Keywords:** East European Historical Society (2015–2025), history, foundation, key areas of development.

### 1. Introduction

On September 6, 2025, the East European Historical Society turned 10. Virtually right from the moment of its establishment, besides publication and other organizational activity, the Society has also engaged in the activity of reviewing scholarly works for the American historical journal *Bylye Gody*. And in this respect, there exists an inseparable bond between the Society and the journal. The present work summarizes the evolvement and development of the Society, in the light of its 10th anniversary.

### 2. Materials and methods

The work leans on the following four groups of sources:

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1) Collections of published documents. Central here is 'Cherkas Global University 1992–2022: Collection of Documents' ([Cherkas Global University..., 2022](#)), which offers valuable insight into the establishment and operation of the East European Historical Society.

2) Materials from the official website of the East European Historical Society ([www.easteuropeanhistory.org](http://www.easteuropeanhistory.org)). These materials serve as a source of information regarding the organizational structure and management of the Society.

3) Materials from the citation database Web of Science. These materials give one an idea of the Society's publication activity.

4) Commemorative and other publications. This category incorporates the article 'East European Historical Society (2015–2020): Foundation and Development', produced in conjunction with the Society's fifth anniversary ([Natolochnaya et al., 2020b](#)). The other work to mention here is 'INCFAR: Characteristics and Challenges (A Fifth Anniversary Tribute)' ([Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019](#)).

In working on this paper, use was made of the descriptive, statistical, and problem-historical methods. Doing so helped put together a comprehensive picture of the relevant events in their historical sequence.

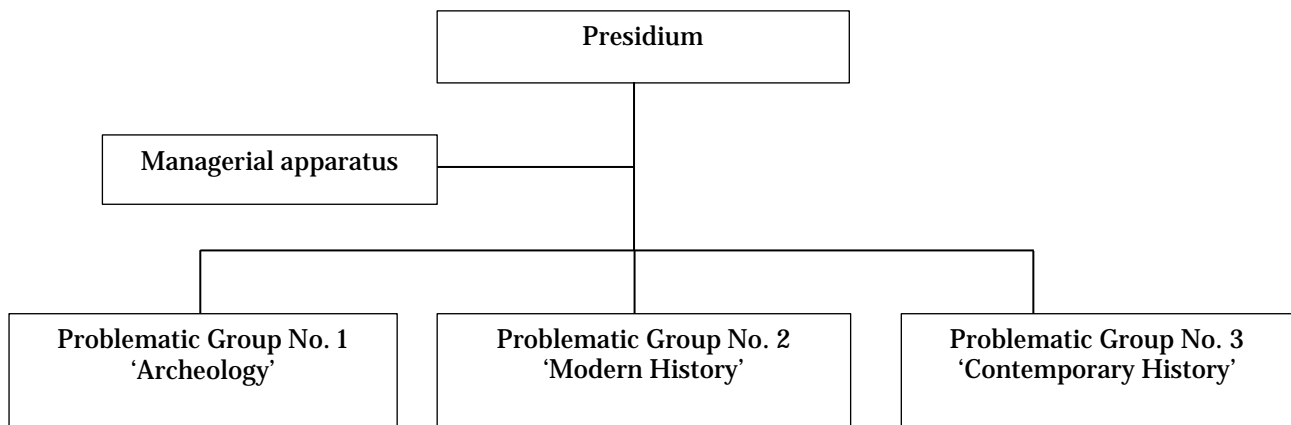
### 3. Results

#### 3.1. General information

**History and mission of the East European Historical Society.** The East European Historical Society was founded on September 6, 2015. Its official website is [www.easteuropeanhistory.org](http://www.easteuropeanhistory.org). Its mission is to promote the comprehensive study of the histories of the nations of Eastern Europe, including Russia, and to foster effective collaboration among scholars specializing in the study of the region.

The initiator behind the creation of the East European Historical Society was the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research (INCFAR)<sup>1</sup> ([Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 49](#)).

**Structure and symbols of the East European Historical Society.** The Society is managed by a relatively small staff, with the core roles being Chairman, General Editor, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee Members.



**Fig. 1.** Structure of the East European Historical Society

The Presidium of the East European Historical Society consists of its President and Vice-President<sup>2</sup>, and its managerial apparatus is represented by its Treasurer and Secretariat. The Society is divided into three problematic groups – (1) Problematic Group No. 1 (Archeology), (2) Problematic Group No. 2 (Modern History), and (3) Problematic Group No. 3 (Contemporary History). A researcher joins a particular problematic group based on their specialization.

Members of the Society currently include researchers from the US, Slovakia, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Great Britain.

The Society's logo and banner are shown in [Figure 2](#).

<sup>1</sup> On February 19, 2021, the INCFAR was renamed to Cherkas Global University. On that day, the corporation Cherkas Global University was registered in Washington, DC ([Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 65](#)).

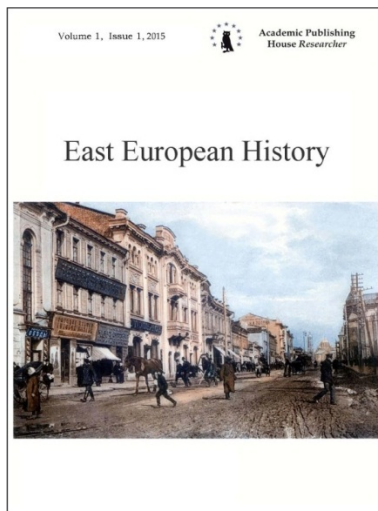
<sup>2</sup> The post of Vice-President was introduced in 2021. Prior to that, the position was referred to as 'General Editor'.



**Fig. 2.** Symbols of the East European Historical Society (left – its logo, right – its banner) (Natolochnaya et al., 2020b: 1409-1412)

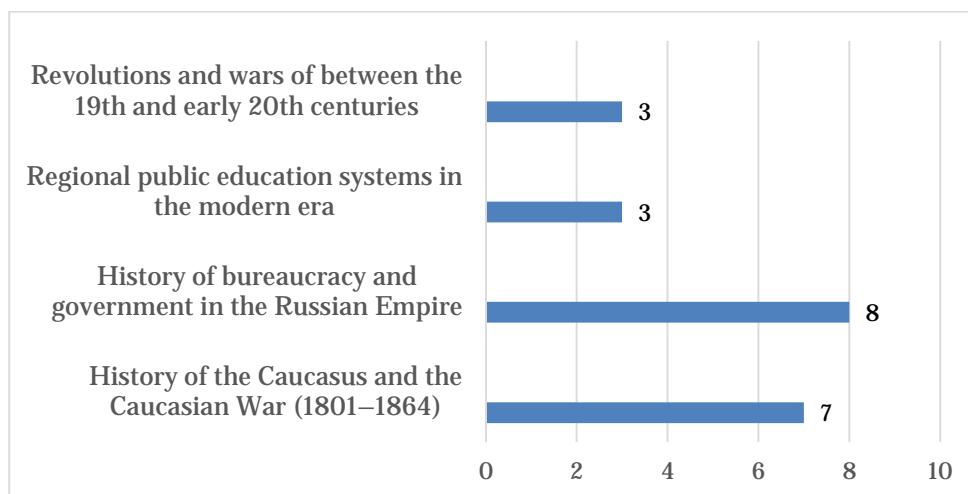
### 3.2. Activity in 2015–2020

In 2015–2020, the Society published the journal *East European History* (Figure 3). In all, eight issues were produced, with over 30 articles published in them combined.



**Fig. 3.** Cover of the journal *East European History*

**Publication activity of the East European Historical Society.** Although the Society was created in the fall of 2015, its first papers appeared in Web of Science-indexed journals only in 2016. Figure 4 illustrates the publication activity of its members in the period from 2016 to 2019.



**Fig. 4.** Publication activity of the East European Historical Society across a set of subject matter areas in 2016–2019 (Cherkasov et al., 2016; Natolochnaya, 2017; Cherkasov et al., 2017; Peretyatko, 2019; Cherkasov et al., 2017a; Karataev et al., 2017; Vodyasov, Zaitceva, 2018; Peretyatko, 2017; Peretyatko, 2017a; Degtyarev

et al., 2018; Degtyarev et al., 2018a; Degtyarev, Polyakova, 2019; Degtyarev et al., 2019; Degtyarev et al., 2019a; Degtyarev et al., 2019b; Magsumov, Nizamova, 2016; Natolochnaya et al., 2018; Zavhorodnia et al., 2019; Taran et al., 2017; Trut et al., 2017; Cherkasov et al., 2017)

In all, around 35 articles were published in the period from 2016 to 2019, with at least 21 of those appearing in journals indexed by Web of Science.

Essentially, during the first 5 years of its existence the East European Historical Society was undergoing its process of making as an organization. During that period, the Society undertook to produce a journal of its own (*East European History*), established the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency in an effort to help popularize academic knowledge about Eastern Europe, and actively engaged in publication work.

### 3.3. Activity in 2020–2025

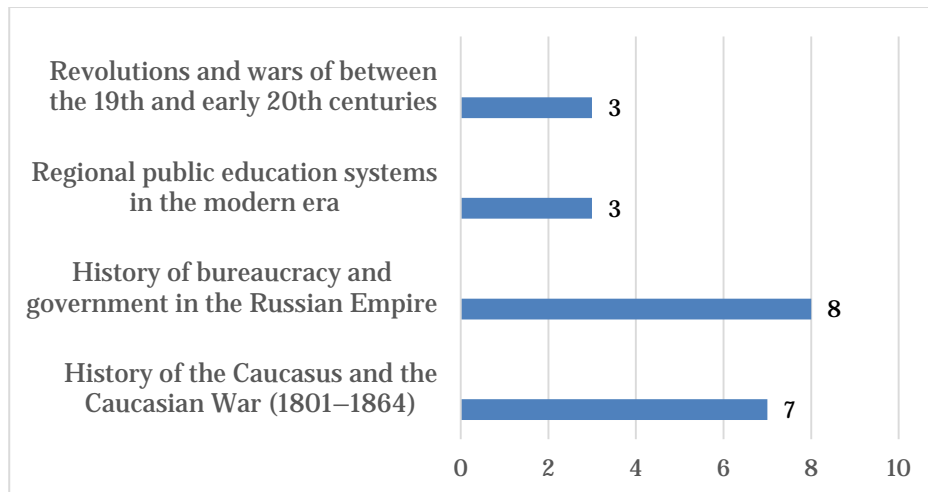
During the following 5-year period, beginning in 2020, the Society has actively engaged in the conduct of contests for the best research work.

In 2020, two contests were held. The first contest was associated with the Society's fifth anniversary celebration (Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 59), and the second, 'Slavery in the Past and Present', was focused on research on classical slavery (Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 164-166). The works of the first contest's winners would be published in the journal *Bylye Gody*, and the second contest's best entries would be recognized with cash prizes. (The contest's prize purse would be divided among the five best contestants.) The classical slavery contest became an annual event and was held in 2020–2024, with five such events staged in total.

In the 2020–2024 period, the second contest's organizers, the East European Historical Society and Cherkas Global University, paid out nearly \$11,000 in prize money.

Work on the project designed to popularize academic knowledge about Eastern Europe, the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency, has continued. Currently, the Agency's website contains nearly 1,000 pages worth of news.

In 2020–2025, the Society has continued to actively engage in publication work. Figure 5 illustrates some of the outcomes of that work based on Web of Science data. However, it is to be taken into account that the Society's members have published in less prestigious journals, i.e. journals not indexed by Web of Science, too.

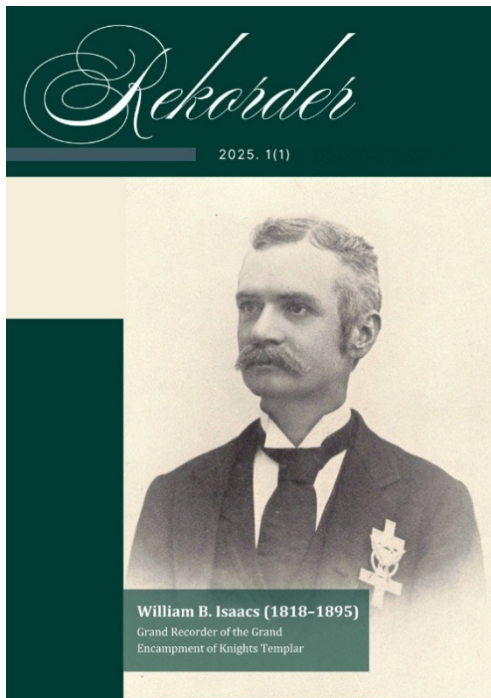


**Fig. 5.** Publication activity of the East European Historical Society across a set of subject matter areas in 2020–2025 (Degtyarev et al., 2020; Shaidurov et al., 2020; Tkachenko et al., 2020; Degtyarev et al., 2020a; Cherkasov, 2020; Degtyarev et al., 2021; Shaidurov, 2021; Mamadaliev, 2025; Degtyarev et al., 2020b; Degtyarev, Polyakova, 2020; Degtyarev et al., 2020c; Natolochnaya et al., 2020; Natolochnaya et al., 2020a; Cherkasov et al., 2020; Degtyarev et al., 2021; Degtyarev et al., 2021a)

In 2020–2025, the total publication output of the East European Historical Society incorporated at least 16 articles published in Web of Science-indexed journals.

The Society's largest-ever project is the collection of documents 'The Circassian Slave Narratives (A Documentary Collection)' (Cherkasov, 2020: 1415-2266). The project was launched in 2015, i.e. the year the Society was established, and was completed in 2020 with the publication of said collection in the journal *Bylye Gody*. The collection focuses on slavery in Circassia in the period between the late 18th and mid-19th centuries. In all, it contains 1,200 documents, which makes it one of the 21st century's more valuable works on the history of slavery.

In 2025, the East European Historical Society teamed up with Cherkas Global University to produce a quarterly popular science electronic journal – *Recorder*. The journal focuses on the history of Freemasonry in the United States (York Rite) and is produced as part of the implementation, in association with Cherkas Global University, of a program on preparations for America's 250th anniversary celebration. *Recorder* is housed on the website of the East European Historical Society. When its first issue came out in September 2025 (Figure 6), the Chief Editor column carried the following message: “A reader may wonder why our magazine is called ‘Recorder’. The answer is simple: within the Knights Templar Commanderies, the officer known as the Recorder – or the Secretary in Masonic lodges – has traditionally been responsible for maintaining all documentation: from records of membership to official correspondence. In many cases, Recorders also authored historical or scholarly works about their Commanderies. Thus, the Recorder was not only an administrative officer but also a kind of chronicler and historian, preserving the institutional memory of the Order. In this same spirit, our *Recorder* serves as a modern chronicler dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Freemasonry and the Knights Templar” (Editor's Note, 2025: 3).



**Fig. 6.** Cover of the first issue of the journal *Recorder*

The first issue of the journal carried a variety of material, including commemorative pieces, obituaries, research articles and commentaries, and materials covering the activity of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar. It also had a section named ‘Leafing Through Antique Books’.

To conclude this review of the Society’s work over its second 5-year period of operation (2020–2025), it must be noted that its publication activity has decreased a little. Meanwhile, its news-focused project designed to popularize academic knowledge about Eastern Europe, the Eastern European Scientific Information Agency, has carried on. Virtually throughout the 5-year period, the Society has engaged in the staging of contests for the best research work, and in 2025 it also revived the idea of producing mass media of its own, moving ahead with the publication of the journal *Recorder*.

#### 4. Conclusion

In the 10-year period of its existence, the East European Historical Society has achieved a number of significant outcomes. Its members have published nearly 70 articles, with at least 40 of those appearing in journals indexed by Web of Science. The most significant of the publications is the 850-page ‘The Circassian Slave Narratives (A Documentary Collection)’, a work which would doubtless be a credit to any modern academic institution.

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The Society has given serious attention to organizational work as well. From 2015 to 2019, the Society was among the organizers of six contests for the best research work – an anniversary commemorative contest (2015) and five ‘Slavery in the Past and Present’ annual events (2015–2019).



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