

ENGLAND IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES

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Annotation: Throughout the 20th century, there had been growing interest in Russian studies in the study of the phenomenon of an English town in the Middle Ages and early modern times, including the problems of communal services and landscaping. However, certain plots from urban history are still not sufficiently explored. The article analyses the sources that make it possible to study the main measures of the British government in the field of public utilities, the activities of municipal authorities in solving the issue of maintaining the sanitary state of significant urban objects, its improvement. The 14th to the 16th centuries are the period of the study. The authors examined various types of sources. These include documents of a national character, local municipal documents, a narrative source - "A Survey of London" by John Stow. A wide range of attracted local documents allow us to talk about general trends and patterns in the development of the communal sector in the capital and in the provincial cities of various regions of England, such as, for example, the southeast - Southampton; northwest - Manchester; West Midlands - Coventry; eastern region of England - Cambridge, Norwich. The analysis of local documents makes it possible to draw conclusions about regional features in the development of this sphere of town life. The statutes of the kingdom, acts of parliament, as well as annals and chronicles of cities testify to the implementation of the decisions of the central authorities of the kingdom on the ground. These sources are representative in reflecting the issue of the development of communal services in England in the 14th to the 16th centuries, maintaining its sanitary condition.

Keywords: sources, provincial towns, municipal infrastructure, maintenance of sanitary conditions.

The period of the European Middle Ages, in our opinion, is of particular importance for understanding the processes associated with the transformations of political systems and the problem of distribution of functions in the structures of state power. This is due to the economic, political and socio-cultural changes characteristic of medieval society, where the prerequisites for the political system of the New Age were formed within the framework of the Christian worldview. In particular, this applies to medieval England, in which in the period of the 13th-15th centuries the strongest institution of representative power, in comparison with other states, was created and operated - the English parliament. This, in the author's opinion, determined the special nature of the political and legal system, based on the delimitation of powers between various institutions of state power. The peak of the development of English medieval parliamentarism is the period from the 14th to the mid-15th centuries. and especially the time of the so-called "Lancaster constitutional experiment" (late 14th - first half of the 15th centuries) \ The distribution of powers in the English state system of this period is characterized by a special specificity: in the implementation of power functions, the monarch not only relied on parliament as a representative body, but also his royal prerogatives were largely limited by the powers of this body. In our opinion, during this period a special model of the political and legal system arose, based on the

division of state functions between royal and representative power. Therefore, it seems that the study of the prerequisites, as well as the process of formation and development of this model of the implementation of state power, which largely laid the foundations for future English constitutionalism, will make it possible to fill certain gaps in the study.

Recently, Russian historiography has been supplemented by a number of monographs, which are a general work of scientists on various problems of life in English cities. Individual chapters of these studies also touch upon the above-mentioned issues. Thus, in 2017, a monograph by T.V. Mosolkina was published, dedicated to the socio-economic and socio-political history of England in the 14th-17th centuries [Mosolkina]. The author also studied the issues of road quality in pre-industrial England, their maintenance, and modes of travel between cities. Municipal economics, management, socio-political and cultural life of Tudor cities were studied by V.A. Evseev [Evseev]. In this work, the most interesting for us are the sections devoted to the issues of forming a water supply system, street lighting, organizing garbage collection, and establishing a fire service. The above monographs include a broad historiographical review of both domestic and foreign medieval studies, they also touch upon individual issues of the functioning of the public utilities of England, maintaining the sanitary condition of socially significant objects [Evseyev: 20-48]. The dissertation of E.V. Bashmakova [Bashmakova] belongs to special studies on the problems of the development of public utilities of cities of the early modern period. In her work, the author raises issues of the improvement of English cities: paving and street lighting, water supply, the functioning of public places, fire safety.

As we can see, individual issues of the formation of public utilities infrastructure, maintaining the sanitary condition of socially significant objects of the medieval city have already received their coverage. It is relevant to consider this issue using a wider time period as an example - the 14th-16th centuries. It is also advisable to expand the regional composition of the cities studied. This will allow us to identify general trends and patterns in the development of public utilities, and determine regional specifics. For such research, it is important to determine the source base of the research, to identify the range of documents containing relevant information on the problems.

All the sources we are considering should be divided into several groups. These are documents of a national nature, represented by government decrees, letters and messages of the monarch, parliamentary acts; local documents of cities (municipal charters, publications of the magistrate's weather records (annals), chronicles, documents of manorial courts); narrative sources. To sum up all of the above, it should be noted that the reasons for the methods of military, economic and political interaction used by the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons, as well as the results related to the two stages of the Scandinavian invasion of England, are characterized not only by a fairly significant number of similarities, but also by a number of very significant differences, which were primarily, in our opinion, due to the fact that the two "waves" of Scandinavian invasions of England occurred against different historical backgrounds. For the first stage, this was the era of the formation of class society and statehood in Scandinavia and the beginning of the formation of a single early feudal state among the Anglo-Saxons, while for the second, it was the period of existence (and clashes) of already fairly developed centralized states with a relatively strong royal power. Accordingly, such a combination of similar and different features, in our opinion, once

again confirms the classical thesis about the spiral development of history, when each subsequent paw largely repeats the previous one, but at a qualitatively new level.

At the end of the 14th - first half of the 15th centuries, a kind of legal consensus was reached between the monarchical and representative authorities and a state-legal mechanism was created based on the division of functions between the various branches of government. Thus, a special political and legal model of the political system was formed, which was characterized by parliamentary sovereignty and can be designated as a "proto-parliamentary monarchy". It anticipated the future parliamentary monarchy, which was confirmed in the development of theoretical and legal thought, substantiating the sovereignty of the people as the bearer of power. The historical experience of English parliamentarism largely determined the trend in the development of European statehood, aimed at creating progressive, socially adequate forms of political and legal interaction between various institutions of state power.

So, we have considered the main types of documents that reflect various aspects of urban life in the 14th-16th centuries. They well present stories illustrating the issues of the formation and development of public utilities in England, maintaining the sanitary condition of significant city objects, and the activities of local authorities in the field of their improvement. These are documents of a national nature (statutes, acts of parliament, Privy Council Acts), local documents of cities (charters, chronicles, annals, records of manorial courts), a narrative source - "London Review" by J. Stow. All the documents considered are representative in reflecting the above-mentioned problems. In particular, the use of a wide range of local documents, the chronicle of J. Stow allows us to identify both general patterns and regional features in the development of public utilities, the organization of maintaining the sanitary condition of streets, local areas and water bodies of cities; to establish differences in solving these issues in the provincial cities of England and the capital. The analysis of municipal documents and statutes of the kingdom, parliamentary acts makes it possible to identify the degree of implementation of decisions of the highest authorities at the local level, to trace the subordination of officials responsible for issues of urban development, the functioning of public utilities.

List of used literature:

1. Bashmakova E.V. Development of public utility and road infrastructure in England during the Tudor era: diss. ... Cand. of History. Ivanovo: Ivanovo State University, 2014. 226 p.
2. Evseev V.A. "Urban civilization" of England from the Tudors to the Stuarts. Moscow, St. Petersburg: TsGI, 2019. 635 p.
3. Mosolkina T.V. Social history of England in the 14th-17th centuries. Moscow; St. Petersburg: TsGI, 2017. 416 p.
4. Statutes of the Realm of England, ed. by A. Luders, T. Tomlins. L., w. p. h., 1810-1828, vol. I-XI, 1816; vol. II, 561 p., 1817; vol. III, 578 p., 1819; vol. IV, part I, 583 p.; part II, 607 p.
5. The Coventry leet book; or mayor's register: 14201555, ed. by M.D. Harris. London, Kegan Paul and Co ltd., 1907-1913, part I-IV, 939 p.
6. The Court leet records the manor of Manchester, from the year 1552 to the year 1686, and from the year 1731 to the year 1846, ed. by Earwaker. Manchester, Henry Black and Co, 1884, vol. I, 332 p.; vol. II, 370 p.