The 1863 Polish Uprising and the Russian Public Sphere

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Abstract

During the 1863 Polish Uprising, Russian intellectual circles were split into two camps: the “Herzenists” on one side, who sympathized with the rebellious Poles and criticized the tsarist government’s repression, and the “Katkovists” on the other, who supported St. Petersburg’s actions. This article is the first concurrent analysis of Alexander Herzen’s and Mikhail Katkov’s articles on the Uprising, which aims to uncover how the latter successfully swayed Russian public opinion. It argues that the views on history, state and nation expressed by their articles on the Polish Question recall the philosophical issues that had shaped Russian intellectual life in the 1830s and 1840s, mainly Left Hegelian historiosophy and the Westernizer–Slavophile debate. Finally, modern theories on the rise of nationalism reveal that Russian understanding of the “nation” in 1863 was already moving towards a modern form of ethnic nationalism.

References

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Refbacks

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WALERJAN KRASI S KI'S PANSLAVISM AND GERMANISM(1848): POLISH GOALS IN A PAN-SLAV CONTEXT, marsh ore, summing up these examples, attracts the center of forces.

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