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### THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE IN RUSSIA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE XVIII CENTURY

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**Summary.** The article examines the peculiarities of the development of science in Russia in the second quarter of the XVIII century, traces the continuity of state policy in this area. The significance of this period for the further development of national culture is determined.

**Keywords**: Russian science; the Russian Academy of Sciences in the second quarter of the XVIII century.

The XVIII century was a time of breaking the usual way of life, developing new values, life-meaning guidelines, which entailed, among other things, a completely different attitude of the state to the field of science. Peter I's reforms aimed at modernizing and Europeanizing Russian society gave a powerful impetus to this. Peter's beginnings have continued in the subsequent period of Russian history. The Academy of Sciences, founded by Peter I's decree, became the center of scientific thought in the second quarter of the XVIII century; geographical and geological studies of various regions of Russia initiated by Peter continue. Of great scientific importance were the first (1725-1730) and second (1733-1743) Kamchatka expeditions under the command of V. Bering and A. I. Chirikov, which provided extensive material on North Asia, Kamchatka and Siberia. The second Kamchatka expedition, which in turn consisted of three expeditions, proved to be particularly fruitful. The first had the task of opening a sea route from Northeast Asia to North America. In July 1741, the goal was achieved – V. Bering and A. Chirikov managed to reach the northwestern shores of America. The name of Bering bears the strait separating two continents, the sea, as well as one of the islands belonging to the Commander group. The purpose of the second expedition was to study the northern sea route from Arkhangelsk to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition received a great international response, in honor of its participants (S. I. Chelyuskin, S. G. Malygin, D. Ya. and X. I. Laptev, etc.) many territories in the north of Asia, their seas, straits were named. The third expedition was devoted to the study of geology, flora, fauna, history and ethnography of Siberia. It included the botanist I.G. Gmelin, the astronomer Zh. Delil, ethnographer S.P. Krasheninnikov, historian G. Miller and others.

The research and discoveries of these and other expeditions made it possible for the Academy of Sciences to publish the Russian Atlas on 19 large maps in 1745. Of the European countries, only France had such an atlas at that time.

In the 1740s, M. V. Lomonosov's scientific activity began. In 1745 he became the first Russian professor, a member of the Academy of Sciences. M. V. Lomonosov's scientific interests were distinguished by an extraordinary breadth: they covered virtually all significant branches of knowledge: physics, chemistry, geography, geology, history, etc. Among his most famous discoveries is the one formulated by him almost 30 years earlier than the French chemist A. Lavoisier's law of conservation of matter and motion, the study of the nature of atmospheric electricity and the conclusion about the possibility of obtaining and using electricity, the doctrine of heat as molecular motion. M. V. Lomonosov first introduced physical research methods in chemistry and became the founder of physical chemistry. He is the author of many practical tips and recommendations on metallurgy and ore mining. Lomonosov designed a number of instruments and instruments – a periscope, a night vision tube, self-recording meteorological instruments. He introduced into the scientific lexicon many concepts widely used up to the present time (atmosphere, mountain range, specific gravity, chernozem and many others).

The activity of the encyclopedic scientist in the field of humanities was no less diverse and fruitful. M. V. Lomonosov has an outstanding role in the reform of the Russian language. His odes are considered one of the best achievements of Russian classicism. M. V. Lomonosov left numerous notes on socio-political, economic topics. As a historian, M. V. Lomonosov is known for his work "Ancient Russian History", where he acts as a fierce opponent of the Norman theory of the origin of the Russian state.

Lomonosov's name is associated with a short - term rise in interest in mosaic art in Russia in the XVIII century. In order to create domestic smalts that are not inferior in quality to Italian ones, a chemical laboratory was opened on the initiative of the scientist, and in 1750 the first Russian samples of the material were obtained. Lomonosov personally conducted more than 3 thousand experiments. The result of his labors was the opening in the early 50s of the XVIII century. "factory making colored glasses" in D. Ust-Ruditsa near St. Petersburg and the creation of the first mosaic panels from the conceived M. V. Lomonosov's grandiose series (it was planned to create at least twenty huge mosaic panels for the Peter and Paul Cathedral; the mosaic "Poltava Battle", 1762–1764, RAS, St. Petersburg, has reached us). Lomonosov saw in the

art of mosaic, among other things, a powerful means of promoting high patriotic and other ideas useful to the Fatherland.

M. V. Lomonosov brought up a whole galaxy of Russian scientists. Among the most famous of them are astronomers S. Y. Rumovsky and P. B. Inokhodtsev, botanist I. I. Lepekhin, chemist N. P. Sokolov, mathematician S. K. Kotelnikov.

During these decades, science has been actively developing outside the Academy. A vivid example of this is the activity of the remarkable representative of the Russian enlightenment V. N. Tatishchev. He wrote the five-volume work "Russian History from the most ancient times". V. N. Tatishchev was one of the first in Russian historiography to abandon the prevailing theological doctrine at that time and tried to create his own periodization of Russian history. He sees three main periods in the history of Russia: the domination of autocracy (862–1132), the violation of autocracy (1132–1462), the restoration of autocracy (since 1462). The question of the origin of serfdom in Russia is connected with the name of Tatishchev.

V. N. Tatishchev also made the first attempt to compile a Russian encyclopedic dictionary ("Lexicon of Russian, historical, geographical, political and civil", brought to the letter "k").

In general, the period under review was a time of consolidation of new phenomena in culture, when Russia mastered and processed the experience of Western Europe in all spheres of activity. This applies, among other things, to state policy in the field of science and education. The consistent development by the successors of Peter I of the principles laid down by him made it possible to expand the layer of literate people and form the environment necessary for the further movement of the country along the path of progress.

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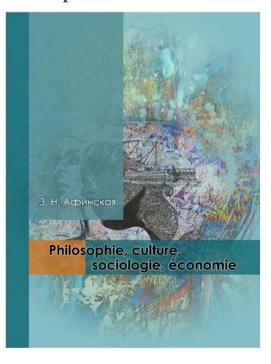
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