Factors for the victorious outcome of strikes in pre-revolutionary Russia (1895-1917)

Despite the fact that a large number of publications were devoted to the topic of the workers' protest movement in Russia at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries both in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods, there are still many questions that have not yet been answered. One of these issues is related to the identification of factors that influenced the outcome of strikes. Why did some strikes end with the victory of the workers and the satisfaction of the demands put forward, while others did not? Did a collision with the police or the summoned troops always mean a denial of satisfaction? How did the intervention of the factory inspector and representatives of local authorities influence the result of the strike? Will the characteristics of strikes and their performance at different phases of the business cycle be different? How did the First World War affect the basic characteristics of strikes, including the share of conflicts that ended in the victory of the workers? And the list of such issues can be continued.

The purpose of this study, the results of which will be presented in the report, is to identify the dynamics and structure of the strike movement in Russia in 1895-1917, and determining the factors that influenced the outcome of the conflict, using database technology and statistical analysis methods. Tasks: 1) to identify the dynamics of the main characteristics of strikes in the specified chronological period (statistical analysis of the causes; requirements of workers; duration; number of participants; actions of strikers and representatives of the enterprise administration, local authorities, factory inspectors; conflict results); 2) a statistical analysis of factors that influenced the positive outcome of the conflict for workers; 3) a comparison of the results obtained for various industries and regions of the Russian Empire; for various phases of the business cycle (periods of economic recovery and depression).

A number of issues were considered earlier in relation to the period 1895-1904, and World War I. However, statistical analysis based on data for more than a twenty-year period (1895-1917) was not carried out due to the lack of a source where all the necessary information for strikes would be presented for statistical analysis.

The analysis of the main characteristics of the workers' protest movement in 1895-1917, proposed in the report, is based on chronicles of the labor movement published in the Soviet and post-Soviet
period. Based on them, a single database was created (previously there were separate databases for the periods 1895-1904 and 1914-1917, that is, a ten-year “gap” remained), covering the designated chronological period, where the data are presented in chronological order in the format of “strike by strike”. As the most convenient option for presenting information about each strike, the relational data model implemented in the Access DBMS was chosen. Thus, an information resource was created for the first time, which includes the characterization of strikes in Russia in 1895-1917.

To conduct statistical analysis on the basis of the database, aggregated time series were constructed for each indicator of strike activity (causes of conflicts, workers' demands, results of strikes, the number of participants in the conflict, etc.) in the industry and regional dimension, as well as in the country's industry as a whole. The use of correlation analysis allows you to identify the degree of interconnection of various characteristics of strikes, and regression analysis - to assess the degree of influence of various factors on the outcome of the conflict.

In addition, the report will also include the results of the analysis of data on strikes at the micro level (i.e., when considering individual strikes). The source for such a microanalysis was materials from archival funds. Such microanalysis allows us to consider the main characteristics of strikes, taking into account the historical context, the results of a statistical analysis.