

CULTURAL BROKERAGE IN PERIODS OF TRANSFORMATION: TWO CASES FROM THE HISTORY OF THE OKHOTSK DISTRICT, Khabarovsk Krai

The article examines the activities of two cultural mediators between the indigenous and newcomer populations in the history of the Okhotsk District, Khabarovsk Krai, namely the school teacher Nikolai Prokop'evich Tkachik, who worked in the village of Arka, and the Orthodox priest Father Vikentii (Romanyuk), who served in the settlement of Okhotsk and ministered to the surrounding villages, including Arka. Both interacted with the local indigenous residents, predominantly Evens, during periods of radical historical upheaval: Tkachik during the years of early Sovietization, and Father Vikentii in the early 21st century against the backdrop of the post-Soviet religious revival. The article is based on fieldwork materials collected in Arka and Okhotsk in the spring of 2023, as well as on archival and literary data. It compares the forms and consequences of these individuals' cultural brokerage activities. It is shown that the effectiveness of their mediation was determined not so much by their formal position or status in society, but rather by their personal qualities and aspirations, particularly their ability to engage in dialogue with local residents, their respect for local specificity, and their involvement in the life of the community.

Keywords: cultural brokerage, periods of transformation, Evens, Indigenous peoples of the Russian Far East, kolkhoz establishment, Orthodox Christianity, education, enlightenment, administrative approach, role of the individual in local history

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