

The two-volume

«Neighbourly Asymmetry»

The first volume of this work will cover the period from 1814, when new Norway emerged as a separate political entity, distinct from Denmark, through the nineteenth century up to 1917, when Tsarist Russia crumbled. This book will be edited by Jens Petter Nielsen. The second volume, which will be edited by Sven G. Holtsmark, will deal with the period from the Russian Revolution, through the long Soviet epoch to the post-Soviet era, i.e. the entire time-span from 1917 until today. An editorial council with advisory and consultative functions, consisting of representatives from all collaborating institutions, will ensure high professional standards in the work. The books will be published in both Norwegian and Russian.

The editors have invited well-known and well-reputed researchers to collaborate in describing and analyzing the historical relations between the two countries - from both a Norwegian and a Russian point of view. In order to facilitate the scholarly dialogue and to increase the awareness about the importance of the different topics, the project organizes yearly conferences and workshops, where the contributors can meet and exchange ideas and expertise.

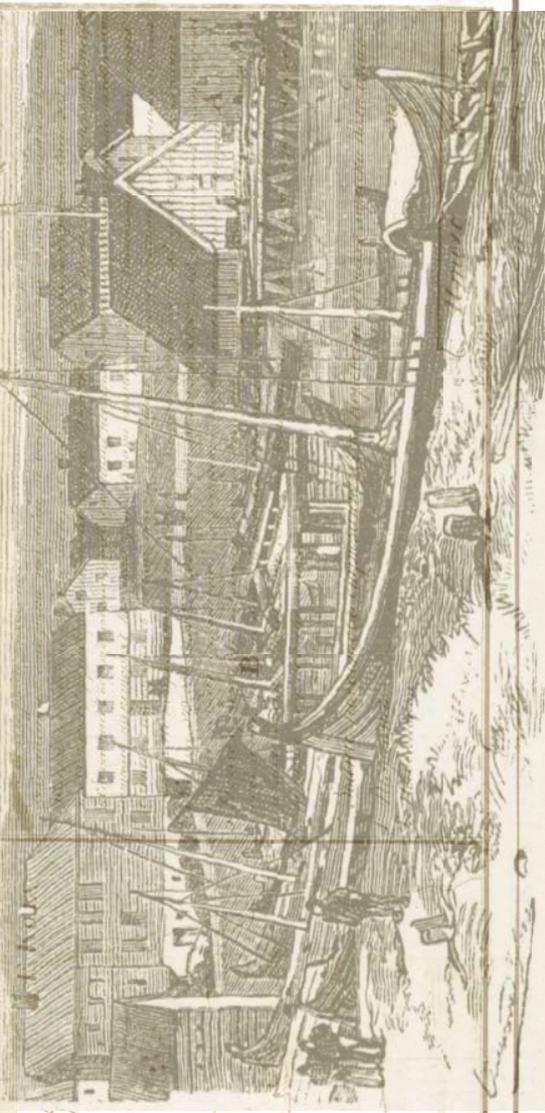
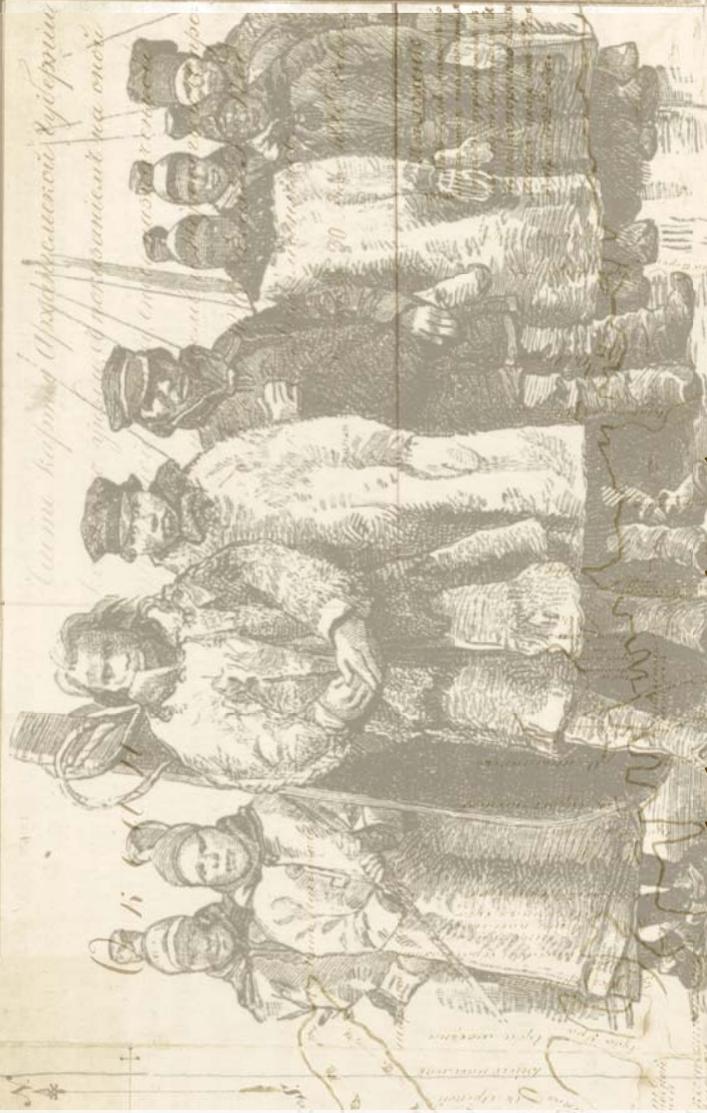
Editorial council:

Jens Petter Nielsen (editor of Volume I)
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Rolf Tamnes (Institute for Defence Studies)
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Neighbourly Asymmetry: Norway and Russia 1814- 2014



Neighbourly Asymmetry:

The project "Neighbourly Asymmetry: Norway and Russia 1814-2014" explores the historical relations between Norway and Russia / the Soviet Union from 1814, when Norway acquired its Constitution, to 2014, when the bicentenary of this event will be celebrated.

There are two complementary, overarching perspectives inherent in the concept of "neighbourly asymmetry". The first and most obvious is Russia's role as a Great Power, versus Norway's position as a small state, a fact that has been of crucial importance for the Norwegian security orientation. On the other hand, Norway is "a great power" (compared with Russia) when it comes to welfare, civil engagement and even distribution of social goods. The question is how to explain the relatively stable neighbourliness between Norway and Russia in the context of these asymmetries? Another governing idea is to study mutual perceptions of "the Other", and examine how the representations of Norway in Russia and representations of Russia in Norway have changed during the past 200 years. From a methodological point of view the most interesting thing about such representations is what people reveal about their own culture whilst telling about the other.

The project is initiated and led by the University of Tromsø. The main cooperative partners are, on the Russian side - the Pomor State University in Arkhangelsk and the Institute of General History, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, on the Norwegian side - the Institute for Defence Studies, Oslo.

Project aim

As a research project "Neighbourly Asymmetry: Norway and Russia 1814-2014" aims to increase our knowledge about the Norwegian-Russian relations, as well as to recruit new researchers to the field, both in Norway and Russia. So far the project has recruited four young researchers to work on problems and topics of crucial importance to our knowledge and understanding of the bilateral Norwegian Russian relations, especially in the North. The main outcome of "Neighbourly Asymmetry" and our tribute to the anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution, will be two richly illustrated volumes, adapted to a broad circle of readers.

Norway and Russia 1814-2014

Research projects

Besides the research conducted in relation to the book, the project has recruited four young researchers to work on problems and topics of crucial importance to our knowledge and understanding of the bilateral Norwegian Russian relations, especially in the North.

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

Throughout the project the scholars will collaborate and write together on the historical relations between Norway and Russia from both Norwegian and Russian point of view. In order to facilitate the scholarly dialogue as well as to increase the awareness about the importance of the historical relations between Norway and Russia, the project organizes yearly conferences and workshops, where the contributors can meet and exchange ideas and expertise.

Funders

The project is financed with the support of:

- The Research Council of Norway,
- Tromsø Research Foundation,
- Freedom of Expression Foundation (Fritt Ord),
- University of Tromsø
- Nansenfondet
- SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge Fondet

Project management

The project management is situated at the Department of history and religious studies, University of Tromsø. The project is led by professor Jens Petter Nielsen, Petia Mankova is picture editor and serves also as the project's editorial secretary.