

Northeast Asian Study Series 2

Russia and Japan : A Historical Survey

Joint Symposium of the SB RAS and the CNEAS TU

Edited by

KYOSUKE TERAYAMA

Center for Northeast Asian Studies

Tohoku University

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RUSSIA AND JAPAN : A HISTORICAL SURVEY

Ed. by Kyosuke Terayama

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PREFACE

On the Occasion of the Publication of the Collection of Symposium Reports

In June 1997, the first joint symposium between the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SB RAS) and the Center for Northeast Asian Studies , Tohoku University (CNEAS TU) was held at Academy Town in Novosibirsk in Russia. The theme was "Meetings Between Japan and Russia as seen in History".

The Tohoku University Northeast Asia Research Center was inaugurated in May 1996 and it is a regional research facility which focuses on the East Asian region of Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia, the Far east and Russian Siberia. The facility promotes extensive joint research between researchers and research facilities both domestically and internationally in the areas of cultural sciences such as economics, literature, linguistics and history and natural sciences such as urban engineering, biology, volcanology and the exploration of natural resources and the facility was established for the purpose of deepening regional studies. In line with this purpose, our research center is pursuing at present the work of constructing a research network with various regions and countries in the Northeast Asian region. What is particularly of great importance is the strengthening of the systems of joint scholarship between ourselves and the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Therefore, in June 1998, our center has decided to establish a contact office in Novosibirsk which is also the home of the Siberian Branch and to establish a permanent staff to work there. This decision was made so as to enable us to coordinate joint research with the Siberian Branch and to speeden the exchange of scholarship.

Prior to the establishment of the contact office, historians in our center visited the Siberian Branch and held a joint symposium with staff from both offices in areas of economics and history. The exchange of scholarship between Russia and Japan through the accumulation of joint research and symposiums can be said to assist in increasing both the quantity and quality of research. It has brought forth new meetings and the arrival of an age which is building up a new cooperative relationship between Russia and Japan. This collection of reports is a result which should be commemorated as that first great step.

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ARATA HIRAKAWA