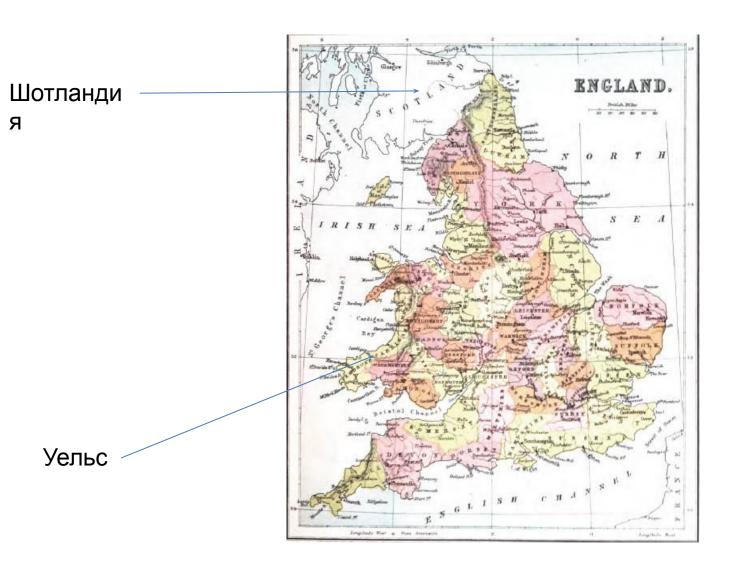
# Британская пресса об отмене крепостного права в России

### Великобритания в 1861ом году



# Реакции на отмену крепостного права в России в газетах Англии

February 23, 1861. THE SPE The modern system of serfage commenced in 1599 with a decree of the usurper Boris Godunoff. As he was a usurper, philosophical historians suppose he intended to conciliate the noblesse, but there is not the slightest evidence of any such intention. At that time the agricultural classes were marked by a spirit of restlessness which seemed a Russian statemen dangerous and ungreavement. to Russian statesmen dangerous and unreasonable. Villages were always on the move. Every fifth or sixth year the commune, which is, so to speak, the integer of Russian society, would migrate to some new locality, disappear perhaps in a night, without warning or signal, to be heard of only after a march of a hundred miles. They retained, in fact, say Western philosophers, the nomadic instincts of their ancestry. Nothing of the sort. They disliked unne-cessary work just as Western philosophers dislike it, and in a country where land is valueless it is easier to break up a virgin soil than to reinvigorate an old one. Exactly the same tendency at this moment puzzles British administrators in Burmah, and American politicians in the far South. The system, of course, is exceedingly unpleasant to any Government advanced beyond the stage of Tartar Khans. It very nearly destroys the possibility of conscription, and completely paralyzes the fiscal authorities. It is, moreover, injurious to civilization. A race which contemplates migration as an ordinary incident of life will neither fence, nor drain, nor build, and has a trick of preferring stock breeding to cultivation. Influenced by all these motives, the councillors of Boris Godunoff resolved to prevent locomotion, callors of Boris Godunoit resolved to prevent locomotion, and in the rough arbitrary way alone intelligible to Asiatics, they passed a Law of Settlement. In less civilized phrase, they bound the peasant to the soil, thus changing at once freemen into "ryots." As the soil, in their theory, belonged to the boyars, they ordered the peasant to pay three days' labour in the week for the privilege of working on the other three; and it is in the continued effort to realize this rental that the root of modern seriage must be sought. Gradually the class who held, though they did not own, the land, and who could directly influence the throne, drew all privileges to themselves. The right of selecting conscripts gave them one weapon, the right of enforcing obedience to orders necessary for cultivation, another; but to this hour the power of the Russian slaveholder is based rather on encroachment hardened into right than on any positive law.

**The Spectator** (23. 02.1861) – под заголовком «Русская революция»

"The House of Romanoff, with all its despotic principles, has been for ages in fair accord with its people…'God and the Czar' is the cry of the Russian peasant, and he does not always distinguish accurately between the two Beneficences."

"Несмотря на все их деспотические принципы, Романовы сейчас в ладу с русским народом... Бог и Царь – крик русского народа, и народ часто не отличает одного благодетеля от другого."

#### The Spectator (23. 02.1861)

"The mass of the aristocracy...they can be spared. They have added nothing to European society beyond a somewhat bizarre magnificence, and in Russia their absence will be felt only in a sense of relief from a dead weight on human energy...we believe the decree of emancipation will add, at once, forty millions to the list of European freemen, without a single serious disadvantage."

EUIAIUA. ith right. No proprietor in Russia claims a *right* to sell a children, or separate husband and wife, or breed slaves for to sale. He may perform isolated acts of tyranny, tending to vi- those results, but he performs them in the face of the law ral and public opinion, and not with their support. As to com-ed munities, he is powerless both in theory and practice. The Russian, like every other Asiatic, considers that the land the belongs to him and his commune. He may be compelled an to pay rent, or give service, but his right is wholly unimer- paired. Like other Asiatics, too, he will fight for this single of right with the most utter indifference to consequences. The in same man who will bear insult and blows and taxation withof out a murmur, is a freeman the instant his land is menaced. A real assault on his village rights produces an insurrection in as certainly as a cloud produces rain. His land has therea fore been respected, and it is this remnant of citizenship, the this last relic of property right, which has saved him from ors degradation, and which now forms the difficulty of emanci-The House of Romanoff, though the largest serf-holder in the empire, has almost from its accession been hostile to Russian serfage. There is no need to account for the fact in by supposing the Czars either enlightened beyond all other ion Russians, or moved by any very recondite policy. Absolute in, monarchs usually dislike the classes which can resist them, to and the nobles have been the resisting force of Russia. Ab-solute monarchs, on the other hand, are apt to regard all their on, subjects as equal, to care as much for the peasantry as the ics, middle class. The Cæsar alone among Romans tried to see, alleviate slavery. Oriental kings in their fits of good government always bang a few satraps, and secure a decent be- tenure for the cultivators. The Russian House, moreover, has thirsted for generations for a high place in Europe, the has keenly felt the loss of position involved in ruling over his serfs. Indeed, this latter feeling may have been the ht. strongest of all, for Nicholas, the only Czar who ever the attained a commanding position in Europe, was also the only all one who never attempted anything for the serfs. Other pts Emperors have not done much, but they have done enough to indicate their tendencies, and make themselves recognized our as the sole protectors of the peasantry. This feeling has ember their strength, and when on his accession to the throne aw the Emperor distinctly pledged himself to emancipation, it

"Большинство дворян после указа исчезнет – но Россия должна быть рада этому. Дворянство – ненужная обуза, оно ничего не дает обществу. Мы считаем, что отмена крепостного права рождает 40 миллионов свободных человек."

#### The Spectator, 30.03.1861

"The serfs of Russia are not a class subject to a dominant race of Russian people. They are the population of Russia."



"Русские крепостные – больше не слой, который служит русскому народу. Они сами – русский народ."

"The greatness of the deed just performed by the Emperor is by no means lessened by the personal risk he has incurred. That he should, under such circumstances, have held firm, is one more proof among a thousand that the Romanoffs have at least one great claim to rule— the ability to do it."

"Величие того, что Царь только что сделал, усиливается из-за угрозы, которой Он сейчас смотрит в лицо. То, что Он подписал указ,

несмотря на эту угрозу, свидетельствует о том, что Романовы умеют править страной."

### Резюме

- Вообще кажется, что современные английские СМИ приветствовали отмену крепостного права в России. В одном случае, журналист даже назвал ее «русская революция».
- Событие считалось настолько важным, что газета **The Times** полностью опубликовала манифест Александра II
- Большинство англичан считало, что отмена крепостного права это **шаг от Азии к Европе** для России
- Однако, более консервативные газеты отметили, что дворянству (и в России,
  и в отстальной части Европы) казалось такое мероприятие большой проблемой, и они предупредили о риске для Царя после принятия этого решения
- Позднее в 1861 году газеты немного разочаровались и стали обсуждать экономические аспекты отмены крепостного права
- В газете London Morning Herald, например, говорилось об утрате £67 кто «потерял» своих крепостных.

SERFDOM AND EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA.—There are amongst the Russian nobility some who possess from 70,000 to upwards of 100,000 serfs. Count Schermetyeff is considered the richest nobleman in Russia. He possesses some street of the richest nobleman in Russia. He possesses wealth amounts to millions. His annual that we want to the amounts of the richest was a series of the result of the richest to the amounts of the richest was a series of the result of the richest was a series of the richest was a serie