

Electoral Gatherings as a Practice of Democracy in Kyiv General-Governorate during 1906-1912

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In the system of class-based and indirect elections to State Duma of Russian Empire, electoral gatherings played a crucial role. Composition of deputy corps from each gubernia wholly depended on whether the political majority in gubernial electoral gathering was created. While the elections to the first two State Dumas demonstrate attempts of establishing coalitions between voters of different class and ethnic backgrounds, the gubernial gatherings starting with elections to third Duma were dominated by bloc of Russian nationalists and right-wings. At the same time, electoral gatherings remained a legal and effective tool for oppositional agitation. Newspaper and police reports deliver bright examples of public speaking, political debate and critique of the rule. An attempt by administration to disallow electoral gatherings in Kyiv in 1912 caused a major political scandal in the region for the whole Duma period.