

The war of 1773-1775 fought between the Romanovs and Pougachev as the last war fought against the Horde.

The division of the remaining territories between the Romanovs and the nascent United States of America

1.

MAP OF THE WORLD AS ENVISIONED BY THE AUTHORS OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA IN THE LATE XVIII CENTURY

1.1. The map of Europe as drawn in a copy of the Encyclopaedia Britannica dating from 1771

The first section of the present chapter is primarily comprised of the materials and observations of Garry Kasparov, the World Chess Champion, which are explained well by our reconstruction.

Let us turn to the fundamental edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica that dates from the end of the XVIII century ([1118]). It was published in 1771, consists of three large volumes and represents the most complete compilation of data from various scientific fields to that date. We must emphasise that the publication in question can be regarded as the summit of scientific knowledge in the XVIII century. Let us look into the geography section of the encyclopaedia. Among other things, it contains five geographical maps (of Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America, qv in figs. 12.1-12.5). These maps were compiled with the utmost care, accurately depicting continents, rivers, seas etc. We see a great

many towns and cities – the authors of the Britannica had possessed detailed knowledge of the rather esoteric South American geography (see fig. 12.5). We see River Amazon, for instance, which runs through the wild jungle; getting there must have taken considerable efforts from the part of the cartographers. One has every reason to expect the authors of the encyclopaedia to be familiar with the map of Europe even better.

What do we see on the map of Europe? First and foremost, let us take a look at the location of Novgorod on the map of Russia. It turns out that there is no such city anywhere on River Volkhov, which is where learned historians locate Novgorod the Great nowadays. We can see the neighbouring city of Pskov, Lake Ladoga and River Volkhov. We can also see St. Petersburg. However, Novgorod the Great is nowhere to be found. It is reckoned that Novgorod the Great had stood upon the banks of Lake Ilmen. The lake is there, but we see no city. One might suggest that the map had not been large enough for the name “Novgorod the Great” to be written thereupon – however, there is more than enough space, as one sees from the close-ins in figs. 12.6 and 12.7. Moreover, even the circle that could represent a city on the bank of Lake Ilmen is missing. The cartographers of the Britannica

Plate LXXXVIII.



Fig. 12.1. A map of Europe from the Encyclopaedia Britannica (an XVIII century edition). Taken from [1118], Volume 2, pages 682-683. Plate LXXXVIII.

were therefore unaware of any significant towns in these parts as recently as in the late XVIII century.

However, the substantially less famous town of Novgorod-Severskiy is accurately represented on the map as Novgorod, right where one should expect it to be – to the south from Smolensk (see figs. 12.6 and 12.7). This town exists until the present day, under the very same place. We can therefore see that the cartographers of the Encyclopaedia Britannica had been well aware of the Russian geography. However, they could not locate any city called Novgorod the Great on River Volkhov.

We are of the opinion that the above can imply one thing, and one thing only. There had still been nothing remotely resembling a large city anywhere near

Lake Ilmen, even at the end of the XVIII century – nothing save a few faraway monasteries and villages. A more or less conspicuous town must have been founded in the late XVIII – early XIX century; later it became known as “the very same Novgorod the Great as mentioned in the chronicles”.

Let us now study the Holy Land, or the environs of Jerusalem, as drawn on this map. The actual words “Holy Land” can be found where one would expect them to be nowadays – the East coast of the Mediterranean, qv in fig. 12.1. However, the city of Jerusalem is not indicated in any way at all, unlike other, less famous, towns and cities, such as Gaza and Aleppo, as well as the “ancient” Tyre and Sydon. However, Jerusalem is strangely absent; moreover, we can nei-



Fig. 12.2. A map of Asia from the Encyclopaedia Britannica (an XVIII century edition). Taken from [1118], Volume 2, pages 682-683. Plate LXXXIX.

ther find River Jordan, nor the famous Dead Sea (see the close-in in fig. 12.8). Once again, the “lack of space” cannot serve as a valid argument here; there is plenty of space on the map.

All of the above is very odd from the point of view of the Scaligerian history. Our reconstruction makes it perfectly obvious. The Encyclopaedia Britannica of 1771 came out before the Egyptian campaign of Napoleon, whereas the Biblical names postdate this expedition (they were introduced in the early XIX century). Western Europeans of the early XIX century had simply been unfamiliar with the locale. However, this should be very odd from the Scaligerian viewpoint, since we are told that these parts had been the destination of the numerous crusades in the XI-XIV

century, and that the European crusaders had visited them many a time, likewise a great many educated European visitors. There must be detailed descriptions of these parts in the numerous diaries and chronicles written by the European travellers. The environs of “Jerusalem in the Middle East” had presumably been known to the Westerners, complete with their geographical characteristics etc. The locations of the towns and the cities in the Holy Land – Jerusalem in particular – should be known perfectly well; this is perfectly self-explanatory. However, we witness nothing of the kind to have been the case even as recently as at the end of the XVIII century. The authors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica know little about the Holy Land on the Eastern coast of the Mediterranean. This is easy