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SPECIAL COURTS' JURISDICTION IN THE SYSTEM OF THE CITY MANAGEMENT IN RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN THE LATE XVIII

At the end of the XVIII century the Russian Supreme power authorized group amenability of the population in the cities for the purpose of strengthening of law-enforcement system and development of peripheral territories of the empire.

Efforts of the Russian Supreme power in the first half of the XVIII century of keeping peripheral territories as a part of the empire, of developing trade and economic relations and strengthening political links with neighboring nations caused emergence of isolated groups of the population in some cities. These population groups were vested with the rights of self-government and electoral administration, including special amenability. Multiethnic communities of citizens and visitors in Nezhin, Orenburg and Astrakhan enjoyed exclusive status. In the last third of the XVIII century the absolute monarchy developed a system of bodies of class governing and justice in the process of administrative, judicial and class reforms, promoting the empowerment of imperial law-enforcement system. The government also supported the principle of legal pluralism sought in the course of state development, allowing to effectively regulate the public relations, to provide social and political stabili-

ty and conditions for demographic and economic development of territories. The legislator formalized the right to self-organization and special amenability for inhabitants of the cities counting over 500 families, with dedicated administration of small estates of weapon-smith Tula, Tatar traders in Kazan and Seitovsky posad, and also the diasporas in the southern provinces of the Russian Empire and dedicated into social classes of «Armenians», «Greeks», «Tatars». Activity of the courts of ethnic classes was under the supervision of provincial administration and the courts of law guaranteeing observance of norms of imperial, foreign and common law, protection of «lawful» interests of citizens, immigrants and temporary visitors to the empire. Pavel I recognized the rights and privileges of ethnic classes, weakening the integration of immigrants. While the Tula armorers were locked in the military organization in 1797, the multiethnic communities in Astrakhan received their new bodies of electoral management – the Armenian court and the Tatar council. The monarch founded another magistrate with the exclusive status for Balkan immigrants in Odessa, having included the Russian merchants and commoners, inferior in number to immigrants.