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Author's Subject: Rybalko on bureaucracy during Smuta

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<<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-earlyslavic&month=1112&week=a&msg=Z96hTf1iImLgWyu4yk3yYw&user=&pw=>>

I recall (I hope accurately) comments by Ned Keenan way back in the age of Enlightenment regarding the continuity in the Muscovite prikaz staffing from the late 16th century down through the Smuta and into the time of the first Romanov.

I have just received a very interesting looking monograph which documents this *in extenso* (covering from the reign of Fedor Ivanovich through to the end of the Smuta, but not the reign of Mikhail Fedorovich) in a depth that, I believe, has not previously been achieved.

It is:

Nataliia Vladimirovna Rybalko. *Rossiiskaia prikaznaia biurokratiia v Smutnoe vremia nachala XVII v. M.: Kvadriga; MBA, 2011. 656 pp. ISBN 978-5-91791-8.*

As the author explains, even recent previous work (notably by Liseitsev) has not really gotten into the various lower levels of prikaz administration and thus not succeeded in showing how departments really functioned. Moreover, in the process, important details about service appointments and mobility have not been studied that can help us flesh out biographies of the more than 700 individuals in the ranks of the d'iaki and pod'iachie. Apart from its evidence about whether we can speak here of a genuine bureaucracy (in Weberian terms), the book will be invaluable as a reference for its abundant detail and the apparatus. The latter includes tabulations showing which officials served across more than one regime, the staffing of the separate departments under more than one regime, etc. The personal name index occupies more than 50 pp; there is an index of geographic names. A wide range of archival files were consulted. The extensive bibliography is mostly Russian works, with only token citation of scholarship in other languages. Most of what might be deemed relevant in the latter is not mentioned.