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## **THE CHARTER ON COLONIES OF FOREIGNERS IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE OF 1857: HISTORICAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

The article is devoted to consideration and the analysis of a legal status of the German colonists according to the charter on colonies of foreigners in the Russian Empire of 1857. The charter on colonies of foreigners in the Russian Empire was adopted in 1857 and consisted of 9 sections, 30 chapters, 529 articles.

Section 1 "Division of colonies and establishment of their administration" (Art. 1-108) specified classification of the German colonies existing by 1857, their governing bodies and self-government, as well as functions, structure and ways of formation of these bodies. Section 2 "On the civil status of colonists" (Art. 109-140) specified general characteristics of the status of colonists as special kind of peasants in their social status. Section 3 considered issues "On the civil rights of colonists" (Art. 142-186). Section 4 "On duties and taxes of colonists" (Art. 187-301) was devoted to settlement of a set of

the questions connected with the taxation of colonists. Section 5 "On provision of amenities for colonies" (Art. 302-380) regulated various questions connected with economic activity of colonists. Section 6 was called "On deanery in colonies" (Art. 381-435). Section 7 "On charges and fines" (Art. 436-481) listed charges for violation of various provisions. Section 8 "On judicature and punishment" (Art. 482-503) specified procedure of consideration of various lawsuits with participation of colonists. The charter about colonies completed section 9 "On the colonists settled on their own lands and on lands of private owners" (Art. 504-529). The charter on colonies of foreigners in the Russian Empire legislatively provided the right of colonists for self-government in colonies, their certain independence. The national policy of the state was directed on support of colonists, assisting them in their economic activity.