

## EDITORIAL

*Borodaev V.\**

### Message to the reader

The Ibero-American Week has passed at the Faculty of History of Lomonosov Moscow State University from March 27 to April 20, 2018. It has already become traditional since 2015 and is usually timed to coincide with a number of memorable dates in the history of Latin America and Russian-Latin American relations. It was organized by the efforts of the Scientific Society - the [«José Martí Department»](#), the Faculty of History of Lomonosov MSU with the active support and assistance of the Dean's office and the International Department. Every year the “week” attracts the attention of an increasing number of participants, interest in it grows both in the country and abroad. Scientific and public events organized within its framework are multiplying and it is becoming more and more widespread. In 2018 the Ibero-American Week lasted for almost a month, so we take the word “week” in quotes and have to call it big.

One of the key events of the "week" was the [«IV Martian Proceedings»](#) – a scientific conference of Ibero-Americanists held on March 27, 2018.

The plenary session of the conference was devoted to the twentieth anniversary of the beginning of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela. The former Dean of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University, Doctor of Science in History of Art, professor [Tuchkov I.I.](#) opened the proceedings with a welcoming speech.

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Russian Federation Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa presented a keynote address on the current situation of Venezuela. He analyzed the situation in the country, showed the role of external intervention. The economic blockade, the massive and diversified support of the domestic opposition by the transnational financial capital of the collective West largely determined the severity and duration of the socio-economic and political crisis in Venezuela, the need for the president and the government to take decisive measures to reform the legislative bodies. The ideas of the struggle for the consolidation of national sovereignty and social justice expressed by Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa received a logical continuation in the report of José Grigorio Escalona, the Venezuelan diplomat and famous author of the historical biography of Francisco Miranda - a fighter for the independence of Latin America. During his speech J.G. Escalona made a presentation of the site "Francisco Miranda in Russia".

---

\* *Borodaev Vladimir* – Sc.D. in History, Professor of the Department of Modern and Contemporary History, the Faculty of History, Lomonosov MSU, Chairman of the Scientific Society - the «José Martí Department» (e-mail: vladimir.a.borodaev@gmail.com)

Barbara Sarabia Martínez, Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in the Russian Federation, devoted her speech to the solidarity of Liberty Island with Venezuela in building socialism and opposing this Latin American country to imperialistic pressure from the ruling circles of the United States and its allies as well as international economic and political structures controlled by them. She stressed the vital need to unite the efforts of all countries defending their national sovereignty in the face of tightening the political line of the United States and its close allies aimed at asserting their imperial hegemony and ignoring the principles of international law.

The report of Metropolitan of Russian Orthodox Church in Argentine and South America, Vladyka Ignatius (Pologrudov) was listened to with great interest. He spoke about the ascetic activities of the Orthodox Church and the current situation of the ROC in South America, about the complex interaction of the metropolis that he leads with the Catholic and Protestant churches at the current stage. The basis of the ROC flock in the region is the Russian diaspora which was formed during several migration waves in the 19th and 20th centuries. According to official data for the last two centuries, more than half a million people have moved to South America from "Historical Russia". Due to demographic dynamics the number of South Americans with Russian roots has increased significantly. Simultaneously the process of assimilation did not pass without a trace for immigrants from Russia. Nevertheless many people even having lost the knowledge of Russian as a native language continue to identify themselves as Orthodox Russian and are members of the Russian Orthodox Church. Thousands of them attend Russian schools at churches and language courses at cultural centers and embassies of the Russian Federation to restore the knowledge of the language of their ancestors. Nowadays the ROC is quite influential and an attractive force not only for Orthodox Christians but also for many Catholics and Protestants who are dissatisfied with the departure of the hierarchy of recent denominations from traditional Christian canons. It is in the bosom of the ROC that many neophytes of Orthodoxy find the unclouded foundations of morality and the original spirit of Christianity which turned out to be in many ways lost by their pastors.

At the end of the plenary session the grand opening of a representative exhibition dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Bolivarian Revolution took place in the Library of the Shuvalovsky building. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Russian Federation Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa, representatives of the diplomatic corps of Venezuela and Cuba, Head of the Library Department of the Shuvalovsky building V.A. Tsybryaeva, lecturers, graduate students and students of Lomonosov Moscow State University and other universities and research institutes in Moscow.

Then the work of the «IV Martian Proceedings» was continued in four sections: "The contemporary political processes in Latin America"; "Ibero-America and the world: contacts and interaction in the past and present"; "The ideological and communication space of Ibero-America"; "Ibero-American civilization. Identity. Culture. Languages".

During the «IV Martian Proceedings» meetings and discussions on the prospects for the scientific collaboration of the history department with Latin American universities and research centers were held. These meetings were attended by the former Dean of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University, Doctor of Science in History of Art, professor Tuchkov I.I., Chairman of the Scientific Society - the «José Martí Department» V.A. Borodayev; Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela in the Russian Federation Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa and Metropolitan of Russian Orthodox Church in Argentine and South America Vladyka Ignatius (Pologrudov).

In total about a hundred of researchers already well-known and those who are only taking the first steps in science took part in various forms of scientific work of the «IV Martian Proceedings». They were able to share the results of their scientific researches and participate in fruitful scientific discussion. This issue of the journal of the Faculty of History of Lomonosov Moscow State University presents the texts of most speeches. Anyone who is interested in the problems of the Ibero-American world will be able to find answers to many questions in these materials.