

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

THE ISSUE OF ANTITRINITARIANISM IN THE FIFTEENTH-CENTURY NOVGOROD-MOSCOW MOVEMENT: ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

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This study attempts to examine the trinitarian beliefs of the fifteenth-century Novgorod-Moscow movement, analyzing both their own writings and the polemical writings of those who considered their teaching antitrinitarian.

The main objective of the present research is to restore the authentic theological identity of this movement. Chapter 1 defines the problem, which has already been raised by some nineteenth-century scholars who have pointed out that the allegedly antitrinitarian character of the Subbotniks's movement must be open for further discussion. It also shows that no systematic research on the Subbotniks's theology has ever been produced.

The second chapter of this historical-theological study surveys the historical background of the Novgorod-Moscow movement and briefly analyzes the religious, political, and cultural context of fifteenth-century Russia. It demonstrates that the struggle surrounding this movement was motivated not only theologically, but also politically and culturally.

Chapter 3 analyzes the polemic documents, giving priority to the primary sources, contemporary to the Novgorod-Moscow movement, such as Gonosov's letters and Volotsky's *Instructor*. In general, the documents presented in this chapter differ in their charges of antitrinitarianism against the Subbotniks.

Chapter 4 analyzes the Subbotniks's sources, which include all the passages directly or indirectly dealing with their trinitarian views. The writings of Subbotniks in general represent the trends common for European reform movements of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The study of the Subbotniks's literature shows that the antitrinitarian character of this movement cannot be confirmed by the writings of Subbotniks themselves.

Chapter 5 presents a systematic-analytical and historical evaluation of the question of the trinitarian status of the Novgorod-Moscow movement. The present research found no traces of antitrinitarianism in the Subbotniks's movement.