Summary

Subject matter: The Russian Orthodox Church in the Patriotic War of 1812.

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Topicality of the research: Religion is central to the society and the relationship of religion and authorities at different times in history has always been an indicator of socio-political and spiritual levels in a state. The relationship of supreme authority and religious institutions, first of all, those belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church, has always been important for the Russian consciousness. Without the correct presentation of the system of church-state relationship it is impossible to understand objectively both the past and future prospects of the Russian society. A lengthy period of formation of church-state relationship of the pre-Peter epoch resulted in creation of the Holy Synod. The synodal system founded at that time developed along with the government institutions of the empire, took its final form in the second quarter of the XIXth century and existed till 1917. In the XIXth century the Church became an important part of the state ideology and it influenced the role of Orthodoxy in the life of the society.

Objective of the research: the attitude of the Russian Orthodox Church to hostilities and the contribution of the Russian Orthodox Church and the laity to the victory over Napoleon in the Patriotic War of 1812.

Tasks:

- to establish the position of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Russian Empire of the beginning of the XIXth century (its relationship
with authorities and the degree of its influence over the life of the society);

- to study the direct involvement of the clergy in the “people’s war”; 
- to study all aspects of formation of the opinion of the Church about the war;
- to study the opinions of different authors.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research:** theoretical significance of the research is in the fact that the methodological approaches to the study of the events of the Patriotic War of 1812 used in the research will help the further advance of the research in this direction.

The results of the research can be used in the study of the history of the Russian Orthodox Church, in religious studies, in research, in writing training aids and lecture courses on the history of the Russian Orthodox Church.

**Results of the research:** The major achievement of Orthodoxy in the problems of war is the suggestion to look at hostilities from the perspective of spirituality and morality. The soldier, who defends his Fatherland, should know why he will have to fight. The justification should include not only the requirements of the military regulations but also moral reasons. It especially concerns orthodox soldiers. It not only helps enforce military discipline, responsibility of soldiers, but also makes military service a moral service.

**Recommendations:** Nowadays the Church and the state, while they form their socio-political model, inevitably feel the influence of the past social and administrative systems, which include synodal principle of management of the Orthodox Church. But this is not the main thing. It is important to understand and study the opinion of the Church on different aspects of life. In particular on war that is destructive and brings grief and sufferings.