

Wolodymyr Fisanow

## **The Evolution of Mental Attitudes in the Austro-Hungarian and the Russian Empire in World War I**

In my paper I examine the causes of war euphoria of two opposed and antagonistic empires in the early stages of the First World War and the fact that political attitudes of the upper classes of multinational states and representatives of various political groups between 1916 and 1917 have changed gradually. I will clarify the hostile propaganda role in activation of anti-war and revolutionary sentiment on the front and behind enemy lines. The materials will be analyzed as psychological causes of uncertainty and despair even in the political elites of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires, which ultimately led to the actual collapse of the Habsburg Empire and to the overthrow of the Romanov dynasty in Russia. Sources that will be used: primarily archival documents from the repositories of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and Austria-Hungary of World War era, memoirs of politicians and diplomats, the press materials of the Entente powers and the USA, promotional materials, and diary witnesses. Among contemporary sources I used monographs and scientific works of authors who are studying social and political attitudes during the war at the front and behind the lines.