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# **Statesman's Handbook for Russia, Volume 1**

**Kantseliariia Russia**

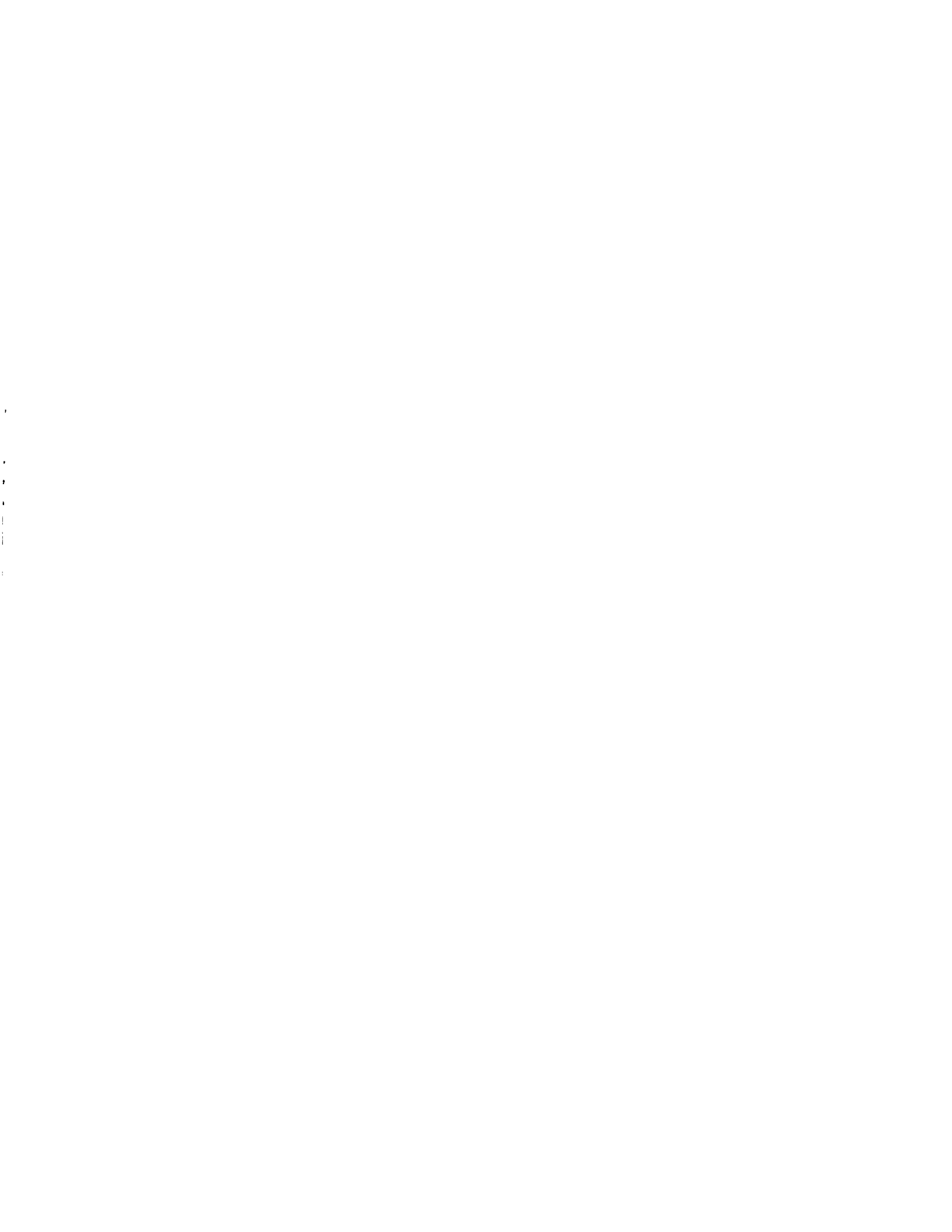
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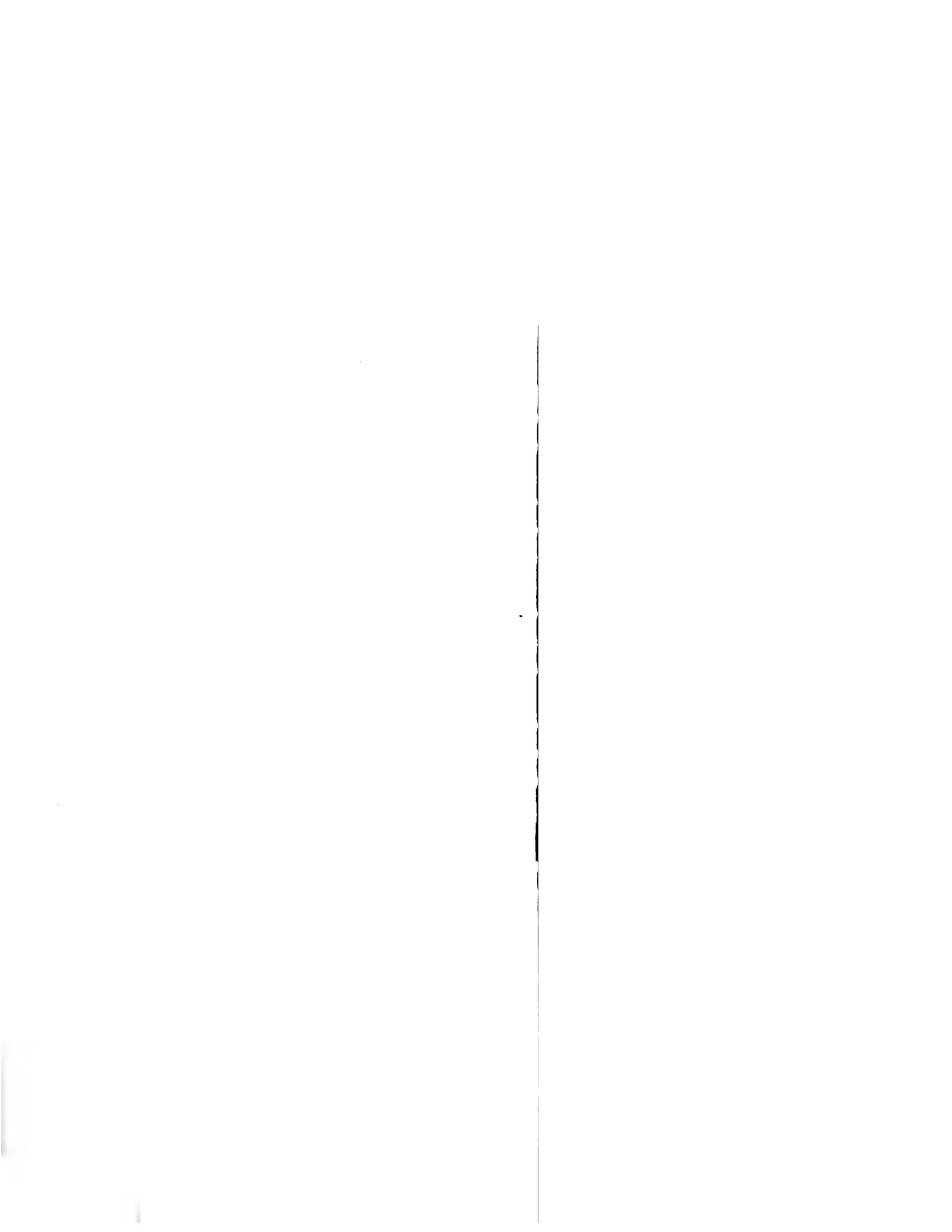
**Title: Statesman's Handbook for Russia, Volume 1**

**Author: Kantseliariia Russia**

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STATESMAN'S HANDBOOK

for

RUSSIA.

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Edited by the Chancery  
of the Committee of Ministers.

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Vol. I.

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St. Petersburg.  
Eugen Thiele, Success. 5, Blagovestchensky Square.

1896.

Дозволено цензурою, С.-Петербургъ, 28 Февраля 1895 г.

Эбтг Jerome B. Sandfield.



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## P R E F A C E.

Midway between Western Europe and Asia stretches a vast State, occupying more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Europe and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Asia, or  $\frac{1}{6}$  part of all the land of the globe (about 19,000,000 square versts). This State, having in the 13 and 14 centuries screened European civilization from the frequent incursions of Huns and other barbarous Asiatics, and having accepted that same civilisation for its own 120 million inhabitants, is now planting European culture among the denizens of Asia itself, and uniting in one compact mass a large number of races and peoples from the shores of the Baltic and Black Seas to those of the Pacific Ocean.

With all its variety of inhabitants, (over 140 different races), this State is the inheritance of the Russian people, who have gradually but persistently spread to the West, South, and East, and who comprise more than 70% of the total population. This is no artificial unification of separate and distinctive regions, but the Russian Empire, strong in unity and disinterested devotion to its Emperors.

Its importance from the civilizing, national, and political points of view stamps the Russian Empire as a first class power, and attracts the attention of foreigners to everything taking place in the political, social, and economical life of our country. Therefore foreign governments, statesmen, scientific men, and publicists now possess pretty accurate, and even detailed, information on

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everything which concerns Russia; but among the majority of intelligent people in Europe and America this information has not yet taken any definite shape, owing to the want of a book in foreign languages, which would give a general and more or less popular picture of our organization as a State.

The present work is intended, to a certain extent, to supply that general picture. Here the reader will find an exposition of the principles underlying the organization of the State, and the rules which regulate the separate departments of government. This book, however, does not profess to give all the details of government business, nor the fullest statistical data on every question: the facts, historical details and figures which it affords are simply by way of supporting and illustrating the narrative.

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The first volume contains an account of the principles of Russian State organization; a description of the higher institutions of State and those attached to the person of the Emperor, and likewise the branches of administration: international relations, State Defence, Finances and Agriculture.

The second volume contains a sketch of industry and trade; ways of communication; church administration and popular education; different branches of the police of security (public charity, national food supplies, preservation of public health, etc.); justice, and finally, the organization of local administration and local self-government.

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