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Linguistic Russification of Ukraine: Languages, Imperial Modes, and Policies

The proposed book project aims to explore the Russian imperial policy of linguistic russification in Ukraine from the mid-17th c. to 1914. The book outlines major stages in the implementation of nationality policy in Russian Ukraine, starting with first bans on books printed in Ukrainian Church Slavonic in the 17th c. via the decrees and edicts issued by Peter I together with the Holy Synod to the punitive measures taken by the tsarist regime against Ukrainian in the last decades of the Russian Empire. The book provides the necessary context for understanding the language rationalization strategies in the USSR and post-Soviet Russia which actively supports the Russian speaking population along the fringes of the former Russian/Soviet Empire to achieve territorial expansion under the guise of minority protection. The book will be important reading for students of the Russian Empire and of nationality/ language policy in multiethnic states.