

Advantages of muon tomography are high penetration ability, no additional radiation exposure of stuff and detailed control of goods and vehicles. The possibility of creating a three-dimensional image of the object under control makes it a promising method of introscopy in customs control of large-sized cargo.

Computerized customs scanning has also found application in the customs affairs. Scanning helps to quickly carry out a detailed inspection of shipments. During the scanning process, images of the cargo in two projections are displayed on a monitor. A customs officer analyzes the images. If suspicious content is found, goods are scanned for a detailed inspection. If the customs officer finds no suspicious content, the vehicle is released.

The rapid introduction and usage of the above mentioned technical devices increases the efficiency of customs affairs on the customs border of the EAEU, reduces the time for customs control, and promptly detects illegal movements of goods. The implementation and modernization of technical means of customs control allows customs authorities to perform their functions efficiently, accurately, and promptly. At the same time it should be noted that technologies based on artificial intelligence are able to perform human-like actions but it is still not possible for AI to replace human intelligence. Technical means greatly simplify the work of a customs officer, but the key role is played by people.

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CUSTOMS: FROM PAST TO PRESENT

Research Field:

The History of Customs and its Present Times – lessons from the past for the present and future

Customs has a long history full of events. It goes thousand years back when ancient civilizations imposed various duties on goods. Customs has played an important role in collecting revenues and in implementing trade policy.

Customs activities and customs relations originated in ancient times – at an early stage of the economy commodity and trade exchange – and are inseparably linked with the emergence, development, and regulation of trade. Representing a complex network of mutual obligations and dependencies, trade relations which ensure the security of the population and government, required a well-thought-out organization of social relations and logical thinking. The first

materials on the regulation of trade date back to Herodotus who lived between 490 and 425 BC. He described trade processes in Libya, Persia, and Scythia.

Customs in Great Russia appeared in the 10th century. By this time there had been traces of trade duties imposed on goods from Great Russia which were exported by land and by water. The most ancient duty, called “myt” is mentioned in “Russkaya Pravda” by Yaroslav the Wise in the 11th century. “Myt” collectors – “mytniki” can be considered as the forerunners of customs officers.¹

In ancient times customs duties were often levied on such goods as wax, salt, spices, and precious metals. The Varangians and Slavs brought furs to the South (sable, beaver, fox, martens, etc.), honey, wax, resin, ambergris, silver, and iron (possibly), bone, weapons, various art objects (including jewelry), bread, slaves . These duties helped to replenish the state treasury and were used to support the growth and development of ancient states. Perhaps, thanks to the trade routes, cities and principalities in the ancient Belarusian and Russian lands gained power: Polotsk, Novgorod, Kyiv. Customs duties at that time played more of a fiscal role.

During the Middle Ages customs duties became even more important when Europe had become one of the main centers of trade. Merchants traveling throughout Europe were subject to various customs regulations including tariffs, quotas, and embargoes. These regulations were used to protect local industry and to limit competition with overseas traders. At that time with the help of duties there were attempts to regulate foreign trade.

The customs era began in the 19th century with industrialization and the growth of global trade. Governments began to create centralized customs offices to regulate trade and collect revenue. The introduction of new technologies such as steamships, railroads, and telegraphs made it easier to transport goods over long distances; and customs officials had to adapt to new methods of tracking and monitoring trade flows. Since that time customs duties have become one of the main instruments for regulating foreign economic activity.

Nowadays customs continues to play an important role in regulating international trade. Customs services were responsible for implementing trade policy, preventing smuggling and fraud, and collecting revenues for government budgets. Customs plays an important role in border security and national security by controlling the movement of weapons, drugs and other dangerous goods².

¹ History of Customs Affairs and Customs Policy, V. A. Ostroga, Belarusian State University – Minsk, Belarusian State University, 2019

² The website of the Eurasian Economic Commission [Electronic resource] – Access mode: <https://eec.eaeunion.org/>. – Access date: 26.04.2023.

However, like any area of state activity, customs activity was not always free from corruption and abuse. In the past customs officers used their positions to obtain bribes and other personal gains. Some states used customs as a tool to crush opposition and restrict the freedom of movement of people and goods.

Customs today face new challenges and threats such as cybercrime and terrorism which can use international trade as a conduit to move illegal goods and finance their activities. Customs administrations must adapt to these changing conditions and use the latest technology to ensure security and efficiency.

In conclusion, the history of customs shows that it remains a key tool for regulating international trade and collecting revenues for states. However, customs administrations face new challenges and threats which require constant adaptation and improvement. At the same time, due to the regular growth of illegal movements of goods across the border, countermeasures to combat such movements as well as methods to protect economic interests with the help of tariff and non-tariff and other measures have not lost their relevance. The lessons from the past can help us meet the challenges of the present and prepare for the difficulties in the future.

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THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERACTION BETWEEN BORDER AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

Research Field:

Interaction of border and customs authorities

Customs authorities and border service bodies are State administration bodies charged with ensuring national security at the State border and in the border area. First of all, economic and border security directly depends on their proper joint activities to fulfill the tasks and responsibilities assigned by the state.

Border service bodies – state bodies and organizations involved in the implementation of the state border policy, ensuring border security of the Republic of Belarus and performing law enforcement functions, are an integral part of the national security system of the Republic of Belarus.

The customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus are state bodies representing a single centralized system and regulating legal relations arising, changing and terminating in the field of