

Title: Ritualizing Empire: Spectacles of Travel in the Periphery
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As Richard Wortman has so convincingly shown, the Russian Empire employed numerous visual methods and cues to assert its legitimacy and prestige, including the enactment of public events, rituals and commemorations, the construction of architecture and statuary, and the celebration of particular institutions such as branches of the military. This paper examines spectacles and rituals created in a minor key, but which were crucial in constructing a narrative of Russian empire in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This paper will examine rituals that attended the travel of officials representing the empire by train and boat, receptions and rituals held by imperial officials in contested, occupied or newly-acquired parts of the empire, and displays of music, art and the products of empire in various venues, analyzing how they contributed to the creation and reception of Russian national and imperial narratives.