

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS OF QUALITATIVE STRATEGY OF COMPARISON: A CASE STUDY OF THE PERESTROIKA PERIOD'S REPRESENTATION IN RUSSIAN TEXTBOOKS ON HISTORY

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The paper gives the results of a comparative study of the perestroika period representation in Russian textbooks on history. Three discourses on the perestroika are distinguished. Research design and research results are discussed in the framework of distinction between qualitative and quantitative strategies of comparison. The basic advantages and limitations of qualitative strategy are illustrated by the research materials.

Keywords: comparative sociology, comparative study, case-oriented (qualitative) strategy of comparison, textbook research, post-Soviet nation-building, “domino principle”, “feudal Machiavelism”, perestroika.