

# Aleksandr Mramornov

Alexander Igorevich Mramornov was born on March 14, 1984 in Saratov. He graduated at the Moscow State University 'Lomonosov', where in 2008 he obtained the degree of candidate of historical sciences, with a thesis on Bishop Hermogenes (Dolganov) in the ecclesiastical and political life of Russia between the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century. From 2009 to 2014 he was a consultant to the Department for External Relations of the Church of the Moscow Patriarchate. In 2011 the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill appointed him as a member of the Scientific Editorial Committee for the publication of the Local Council documents 1917-1918 at the Novospassky monastery; since 2012 he is the scientific supervisor of this project. In 2014 he obtained the qualification of University lecturer. Author of over a hundred scientific publications, including several monographs, he was awarded numerous prizes, including the Platonic Readings (2006), the international fund award 'Znanie' (2008), the second prize of the Centre of studies in ecclesiastical history 'V. V. Bolotov' (2008) and the first prize in the 'Theological Education in the 20th Century' competition (St. Petersburg Theological Academy, 2010). His research interests range from the history of the Russian Orthodox Church and church-state relations in Russia to canon law and political history in modern Russia.

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## **Discerning the Present Time. The Council of Moscow of 1917-1918**

### **ABSTRACT**

At the time of the convening of the Great Council of Moscow, in August 1917, its initiators and members acted in an absolutely free environment: there was no longer an autocratic monarchy and radical Bolsheviks had not yet come to power. This made it possible in the first month of work to think absolutely freely and to appeal to the canons of the church and the ancient wisdom of the Church. However, the radicalization of society and the coming to power of the Bolsheviks put the council members in a completely different situation: how should be interpreted the Bolsheviks take over? How could be developed church legislation in conditions of persecution? Should one submit to the indubitable signs of God's wrath or continue to fight stubbornly for the truth? The paper will attempt to answer these questions on the basis of the conciliar transcripts.

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