The article is devoted to an analysis of the ideological content of Russian regionalism in the 1990s. The formation by the provincial power elites of conceptual frameworks within which economic and political institutions were created is described as exemplified by specific regions, namely Tatarstan, Kalmykia and Saratov. Two broad issues, that of the political elite and that of political ideology, are also taken into consideration with the same purpose in mind. The author demonstrates that the political mission of the elites includes the creation of an ideology.

This paper offers an ideological outlook on Russian regionalism. The author examines the underlying ideological features of regional processes in post-Soviet Russia. He draws on four concrete regions, Tatarstan, the Kalmykia republics, Nizhni Novgorod and the Saratov oblasts, in order to illustrate how the regional politicians in each formulate their region’s special mission and thereby create what he calls “cognitive maps of reality” for their territories.