

THE ITALIAN MATTERHORN AND THE HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION FOR ITS ASCENT

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Abstract This article analyzes the history of the competition between Italian and Swiss expeditions in the 19th century to conquer one of Europe's most famous and challenging peaks — the Matterhorn (4,478 m). Based on historical sources, travelers' accounts, and geographical analysis, the study highlights the unique natural features of the Matterhorn, its role in the development of mountaineering, and its cultural and scientific significance.

Keywords: Matterhorn, history of mountaineering, Italian expedition, Swiss expedition, mountain training, mountain culture.

Аннотация В данной статье анализируется история соперничества между итальянскими и швейцарскими экспедициями в XIX веке за покорение одной из самых знаменитых и труднодоступных вершин Европы — Маттерхорна (4 478 м). На основе исторических источников, записей путешественников и географического анализа раскрываются уникальные природные особенности Маттерхорна, его роль в развитии альпинизма и культурно-научное значение.

Ключевые слова: Маттерхорн, история альпинизма, итальянская экспедиция, швейцарская экспедиция, горная подготовка, горная культура

Аннотация Ушбу мақолада Европанинг энг машҳур ва машаққатли чўққиларидан бири – Маттерхорнни (4 478 м) забт этиш учун XIX асрда Италия ва Швейцария экспедициялари ўртасида кечган рақобат тарихи таҳлил қилинган. Тарихий манбалар, саёҳатчилар ёзувлари ва географик таҳлиллар асосида Маттерхорннинг ўзига хос табиий хусусиятлари,

альпинизм тараққиётидаги ўрни ва унинг маданий-илмий аҳамияти ёритилган.

Калит сўзлар: Маттерхорн, альпинизм тарихи, Италия экспедицияси, Швейцария экспедицияси, тоғ тайёргарлиги, тоғ маданияти.

Introduction

The 19th century was a period of rapid development of science, geography, and mountaineering in Europe. Mountaineering was perceived not only as a sport but also as an important aspect of cultural progress and geographical research. The Matterhorn occupied a central place in this process.

Geographical and Natural Features of the Matterhorn

The Matterhorn is located in the Pennine Alps and rises 4,478 meters above sea level. Its pyramid-like shape with four steep faces made it one of the greatest challenges for climbers of the 19th century. The Swiss town of Zermatt and the Italian town of Cervinia became the main bases for expeditions.

Competition between Italy and Switzerland

The conquest of the Matterhorn became a matter of national prestige for both Italy and Switzerland. In 1865, an expedition led by Edward Whymper successfully reached the summit from the Swiss side. However, a tragic accident on the descent claimed the lives of four climbers. Soon after, the Italian team under Carrel achieved success by ascending from the southern side.

Scientific and Cultural Significance

The Matterhorn expeditions were not only about sporting achievements but also about scientific exploration. Researchers studied the dynamics of glaciers, climate changes at altitude, and the processes of human acclimatization. The Matterhorn also became a cultural icon, represented in art, literature, and tourism.

Conclusion

The competition between Italian and Swiss expeditions for the Matterhorn became an important milestone in the history of the 19th century. It greatly

contributed to the development of mountaineering as both a scientific and cultural pursuit.

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