

## **Academician V. I. Vernadsky: from Local Government to Federation**

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**Abstract:** The paper describes public and government work of Academician V. I. Vernadsky, who was a member of the town council of the Morshansky district and Tambov provincial zemstvo assemblies for 20 years, and was in charge of the construction and organization of elementary schools. V. I. Vernadsky was an active supporter of the transformation of zemstvos from purely economic bodies into centers of civil society. Together with other delegates of the 2nd All-Russian Zemstvo Congress on November 6–9, 1904, V. Vernadsky promoted the introduction of civil and political freedoms. Under the pressure of Zemstvo leaders, the Basic Laws of 1906 were introduced in the country and the State Duma was established. V. I. Vernadsky believed that the principles of Zemstvo's self-government were a direct path to the federal structure of Russia. His political activity ended in 1917.