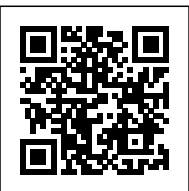


LAZAREV FAMILY

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When Napoleon was in Venice (1808) he did not permit the requisition of the properties of the Mekhitarist Order on St. Lazzaro Island. Well disposed towards the Armenians, he issued decrees for the Mekhitarists which were charters of immunity. In 1812 Napoleon also made contacts with representatives of the famous Lazarev (Lazarian) family in Russia. During conversations in Kremlin, Napoleon gave high marks to Armenians and called on them to follow him to create "great history" together. He even offered to help the Lazarevs rule Armenia. The Lazarevs, who didn't want to hurt relations between Russia and France, remained loyal Russian citizens.

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