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**SOCIAL ANOMALIES IN VOLYN
IN THE PERIOD OF NEP AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM**

Abstract. *The purpose of the study is a comprehensive analysis of the actions taken by the relevant Soviet authorities in Volyn in the period of the new economic policy (NEP), in order to eliminate the manifestations of different types of social anomalies. Objectives of the study: to determine the main forms of deviant behavior of certain categories of the population of Soviet Volyn and their manifestations during NEP; explore the ways and methods of the Soviet power's fight against them. The methodological basis of the study is general scientific (logical and comparative) and special historical methods (problem-chronological). They allowed us to determine the period in which social anomalies were investigated specifically, in chronological and logical sequence. Comparative analysis was used to study individual phenomena. The research is also based on the principles of science, historicism and objectivity. The Scientific Novelty. A comprehensive analysis of the problem of manifestations of social anomalies in the region in the period of NEP and ways of fighting them was made for the first time. New archival documents on this problem and materials of the periodicals*

of those years were put into scientific circulation. The study reflects an attempt to give an objective, impartial assessment of these phenomena and actions of the Soviet authorities in the defined period. **The Conclusions.** During the 1920s the new economic policy of the Soviet state was implemented in terms of increasing of the manifestations of various social anomalies. The struggle against them was performed in difficult socio-economic situation, where society found itself after the civil war. According to the analysis of archival sources, the Soviet authorities gave these processes ideological coloring and responded rigidly to open or hidden forms of struggle against it. These problems were caused by various factors, but first and foremost by the destructive processes in society itself and the Bolsheviks' struggle for the assertion of their power. In order to overcome certain negative social phenomena (drunkenness, hooch-making, prostitution), the authorities used both repressive methods of punishment and preventive-propaganda instruments. An in-depth study of social anomalies on the territory of Volyn province, such as child crime and begging, is relevant for further research on this issue.

Key words: social anomalies, Volyn, new economic policy, Soviet power.

СОЦІАЛЬНІ АНОМАЛІЇ НА ВОЛИНІ У ДОБУ НЕПУ ТА БОРОТЬБА З НИМИ

Анотація. Метою дослідження є комплексний аналіз заходів, здійснюваних відповідними органами радянської влади на Волині періоду нової економічної політики (НЕП) з метою ліквідації проявів різних видів соціальних аномалій. Завдання дослідження: визначити основні форми девіантної поведінки окремих категорій населення радянської Волині та їхні прояви в умовах НЕПу; дослідити способи і методи боротьби радянської влади з ними. **Методологічною основою** дослідження є загальнонаукові (логічний, порівняльний), спеціальні історичні методи (проблемно-хронологічний). Вони дозволили визначитися з даним періодом, у якому соціальні аномалії досліджувалися конкретно, у хронологічній та логічній послідовності. Щодо вивчення окремих явищ застосовувався порівняльний аналіз. Дослідження базується також на принципах науковості, історизму та об'єктивності. **Наукова новизна** дослідження полягає у тому, що вперше здійснено комплексний аналіз проблеми проявів соціальних аномалій у цьому регіоні у добу НЕПу та способів боротьби з ними. Введено у науковий обіг нові архівні документи з даної проблеми і матеріали періодики тих років. Зроблено спробу дати об'єктивну, неупереджену оцінку цих держави впродовж 1920-х рр. реалізовувалася на фоні посилення проявів різного роду соціальних аномалій. Боротьба з ними відбувалася на тлі важкого соціально-економічного становища, у якому опинилося суспільство після громадянської війни. Як показує аналіз архівних джерел, радянська влада надавала цим заходам ідеологічного забарвлення, жорстко реагувала на відкриті або приховані форми боротьби проти неї. Проблеми ці були викликані різними чинниками, однак в першу чергу – руйнівними процесами у самому суспільстві і боротьбою більшовиків за утвердження своєї влади. З метою подолання окремих негативних соціальних явищ (пияцтво, самогеноваріння, проституція) влада використовувала як репресивні методи покарання, так і засоби превентивно-пропагандистського характеру. Актуальним для подальших досліджень цієї проблеми є поглиблене вивчення таких соціальних аномалій на території Волинської губернії, як дитяча злочинність та жебракування.

Ключові слова: соціальні аномалії, Волинь, нова економічна політика, радянська влада.

The Problem Statement. The change of periods of the stability and crisis is the main characteristic feature of the process of the state establishment. Over the past century, from time to time Ukraine has fallen into the so-called “turbulence” zone, which was reflected in the deep political and socio-economic crisis, the deployment of armed conflicts in its territory and the demarcation of society into antagonistic ideological poles. As a rule, such a situation indirectly results in weakening and even the destruction of the mechanism of regulation of public morality and the widespread deepening of social anomalies, such as: banditry, bullying, homelessness, prostitution, alcoholism and drug addiction, corruption, etc.

The permanent crisis of the modern Ukrainian state and the war in the East of Ukraine determine the profound transformations at the level of public consciousness, the reassessment of the established system of moral and ethical values and change of the behavioral model of both individuals and entire social groups of Ukrainian society. During the last five years we are witnessing another wave of the spread of social anomalies both in eastern regions of Ukraine and in the whole country. Therefore, there is a need to study the historical experience of overcoming them following the example of Volyn in the period of the new economic policy (NEP) of Soviet power in 1921 – 1928.

The Analysis of Recent Researches and Publications. There is still no comprehensive historical study of the specifics of the spread and struggle of Soviet authorities against social anomalies in Volyn in the period we have defined. However, in modern scientific literature, this problem is highlighted in terms of studying its separate components, such as: “the main factors for the spread of begging and vagrancy” (Ishchenko, 2001), “the fight against banditry, prostitution, drug addiction, alcoholism” (Lebina, 1999; Pashin, 2006; Ivanenko, 2006; Babiuk, 2017), “child homelessness” (Bukreev, 2016; Zinchenko, 2017), felonies across the USSR (Kamalov, 2012) and the Ukrainian SSR (Mikheeva, 2011), etc. We partially analyzed some manifestations of social anomalies in the Volyn region basing on research of the social status of certain categories of population in our previous studies. In particular, it was related to the problem of child homelessness and help to children during NEP (Vlasyuk, 2014 – 2015; Vlasyuk, 2018), peculiarities of arising of one of the marginal groups of Soviet society, the so-called deprived persons (Ukrainian “pozbavlentsi”) (Starodubets, 2018). I. Komar (Komar, 2015) in his dissertation presents some statistics of social anomalies in the Volyn province in the period we defined in current study.

The Purpose of the Article is a comprehensive analysis of the actions taken by the relevant bodies of Soviet power in Volyn during the NEP period in order to eliminate all manifestations of various types of social anomalies. Concerning the content of the concept “social anomalies”, we use the general definitions of modern historical science: “deviation, pathology, deviance” (Lebina, 2015, p. 16), “constituted manifestations of deviant behavior, acquiring forms of criminality, alcoholism, prostitution, drug addiction, suicide, homosexuality, homelessness, etc.” (Komar, 2015, p. 41). On this background, our task is, on the one hand, to determine the main forms of deviant behavior of certain categories of the Soviet Volyn population and their manifestations in the circumstances of NEP; on the other hand, to explore the ways and methods of the Soviet power's fight against them.

The Statement of the Basic Material. In the early 1920s, the criminally dangerous situation in the Volyn province was extremely difficult. Banditry became widespread, “interpreted by Soviet legislation as “counter-revolutionary crimes”. They were qualified as “crimes directed against the conquests of the revolution” (Kamalova, 2012, p. 12). In 1922 in Volyn there “12 bandits formations were registered, almost all of them of a punitive nature, up to 180 people in total. Bandits attacked 41 times, including 5 times on the population in general, 2 times on Soviet institutions, 7 times on warehouses and enterprises, 27 times on individual citizens and families. Bandits killed 3 Communists, 4 Soviet Workers, 6 Policemen and Red Soldiers, 10 other citizens... They inflicted bodily injuries... 15 times in total. They inflicted property damage... 90 times in total” (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 503, p. 4).

The spread of banditry was primarily driven by the difficult economic situation caused by the effects of war communism. The difficulties of everyday life of the local population were strengthened by the military-political tensions, since in 1921 the territory of the province

became the trajectory of movement of the participants of the Second Winter Campaign. Moreover, the border of Volyn completely covered with forests, attracted bandits formations from abroad. They were also replenished by the local criminal elements.

Both government institutions and individuals and their private entities were the target for attacks of bandits' formations. Thus, "in April 1922, the Mastolarchuk gang, operating in Zhytomyr county launched an assault and robbery of enterprises, peasants of the southeastern part of the county and visiting citizens". In the Korosten county (near the village Bilokorovychi) there was an armed "gang of Grim numbering 13 people, criminal offenders ... It was active mostly at night by raids ... during the day it hid in the marshes". It was abolished by the police, "with the assistance of the DPU and the population" (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 503, p. 4 flip-5). To fight the banditry, local authorities directed "32 combat police units, which resulted in the killing 28 bandits, wounding 3 bandits, capturing 35 bandits. 2 bandits surrendered voluntarily. 21 rifles, 3 revolvers, 1 checker, etc. were withdrawn" (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 503, p. 4).

During the period under current research the process of establishing of a law enforcement system of the Soviet power took place. Its legislative field was constantly changing and was too ideologically colored, given the totalitarian political system of the Bolshevik state. That is why, in some police reports the special attention is paid to the presence of political and ideological gangs in the region. "There was a rebel detachment led by Ievgen Rukhnytsky near Olevsk of Korostens county which tried to capture Olevsk. Certain gangs were pursued by the Soviet authorities until they escaped to Poland (SAZR, f. P. 2567, d. 1, c. 208, p. 126). Among the most active were the Solomynskyi gang (15–20 people), the "followed Petliura in political direction, which operated in Polonskyi and Novograd-Volynskyi counties and was mainly concerned with disruption of the work of Soviet bodies, terror among Soviet workers, police and Red Soldiers ... the destruction of food authorities" (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 503, p. 4). As we can see, the author of the document emphasizes that the targets of the gang attacks are, first of all, Soviet institutions, Bolshevik activists and party-Soviet officials. In this way, the people were asserted that the criminals were mostly descended from the "bourgeois and transitional classes" who did not accept the revolution and tried to damage the establishment of a new country (Hertsenzon, 1953, p. 58–59). The authorities purposefully formed the image of a criminal who is associated with a representative of the "old world" in the consciousness of society. It can also be considered as one of the methods of struggle against social anomalies, in particular, organized banditry.

In the early 1920s, there was a tendency for the spread of banditry throughout Ukraine. "With the end of the civil war and the cessation of hostilities, the remnants of enemy groups instead of fighting for power under political slogans chose a course of criminal action against the population; under the pressure of military units and police detachments they became small gangs of robbers" (Semykopnyi, 2011, p. 61). Volyn province was no exception. "In Starokostiantyniv county, on the border with Podilska province, in 1921 a gang (50 sabers) appeared, heading towards Kyiv region. In the Korosten district, in the same year in the forest near Ushomir, the unknown criminals killed the police chief Balenko and a police officer Datsiuk (SAZR, f. P. 2567, d. 1, c. 208, p. 72). In the area of the villages Fedorivka and Malynivka of Bezhevska parish of Zhytomyr county, at the same time there was a "gang of 40 people, equestrian, armed with spears, revolvers and rifles". In the village Mezhylyska of Bazar parish of Ovruch county the gang captured "a detachment of the Red Soldiers, put their clothes off and mocked them". In the northwestern lane of this county it is noted that

the population is assisting gangs. In the Yurov parish of the same county there was a “gang of 500 people, with 60 sabers, armed with machine guns and bombs” (SAZR, f. P. 2567, d. 1, c. 208, p. 126).

Police reports on locations and criminal activities of bandits’ formations are replete with information about the number of weapons available to criminals. After the civil war, the Soviet authorities took permanent measures to seize weapons from the local population. In particular, in 1923 an appropriate secret instruction was adopted “for the heads of departments and sub-departments of the Committees of poor peasants to carry out a broad agitation campaign for seizure of weapons from the population in the form of leaflets, calls, etc.; this issue was to be considered at all meetings and councils of the Committees of Poor Peasants; it was an order to keep a record of all people who illegally stored the weapons” (SAZR, f. P. 12, d. 1, c. 2, p. 108). The demilitarization activities of such kind helped to mitigate the criminal situation in the region, although slowly.

The political and economic experiments of the Bolshevik authorities led to the destruction of the traditional way of life of the inhabitants of the region and the increase of social tension in the villages. In 1921, the representatives of the Zhytomyr county government recorded such phenomena as: “hostile attitude of the peasants to communist power; speculation of essential products by former traders; the spread of desertion” (SAZR, f. P. 2567, d. 1, c. 208, pp. 32–33). “The peasants hid in the period of mobilization, tried to avoid it in different ways. During July 1921 after checking of the documents of suspected people the province police detained 352 militaries and 37 labor deserters” (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 280, p. 102 flip). The Bolsheviks emphasized that the reasons for desertion were “the unconsciousness of people; shortage of workers in agriculture, etc.” (SAZR, f. P. 2567, d. 1, c. 208, pp. 32–33). Such passive resistance of the local population indirectly threatened the existence of Soviet power on site and discredited it. However, Party-Soviet officials tried in every possible way to marginalize the phenomenon of desertion, focusing on its allegedly local manifestations.

In the early 1920s, a number of important documents were adopted at the level of the government of the USSR and party leadership, which outlined activities aimed at mitigating the criminal situation. In particular, on October 16th, 1922 Ukrainian Central Executive Committee (Ukrainian: ВЦІК) issued a decision “to grant the State Political Directorate (Ukrainian: ДПУ) the right to use extra-judicial repression, excluding executions, against people detained at the scene of gang violence and armed robbery in case of presence of material evidence which testified to their involvement in criminal acts” (Semykopnyi, 2011 p. 9). Volyn provincial Emergency Commission in only two of its meetings on December 17th and 20th, 1921 sentenced 21 people to death (19 were shot, 2 received 5 years in prison at the concentration camp instead of the death penalty) (Volyn Proletarian, 1922, No. 151, January 1st, p. 2). It should be noted that the most severe punishment was sentenced mainly by those who openly or covertly fought against the Soviet authorities: “Mozharivskiy Yukhym Kostiantynovych, a 33-year resident of the village. Mozhary of the Slovechanska parish of Ovruch county, was punished for active participation in the gang of “Derkach” for openly speaking out against the Soviet authorities with the gun in his hands, in order to “undermine the welfare of workers and peasants”; Ponik Stefan Antonovych, 27 years old, former officer of the tsarist army – for falsifying documents in order to evade military service in the Red Army; Suprunovych Vladyslav Stanislavovych, 32 years old, a gendarme of the Polish guards – for espionage. Individual people were members of Petliura units” (Volyn Proletarian, 1922, No. 151, January 1st, p. 2).

In the early 1920s, “banditry was divided by the authorities into political and criminal; and those who fought against the Soviet power for their statehood suffered more severe repression than the criminal element” (Sabluk, 2017, p. 104). There were many cases when the subjective factor of the political reliability of the accused had a final influence on the relevant commission to decide on the form of the sentence. Often, the highest penalty involved those who could receive a less severe sentence. For example, “in July 1921, a citizen of Zhytomyr, Isaac Loiter, 55 years old, was sentenced to death and was accused of “hiding iron and the large amount of tools (including joiner's) from authority’s accounting at the time when they were urgently needed in terms of economy restoration” (Volyn Proletarian, 1921, No. 16, July 22nd, p. 4).

In addition to organized bandits’ formations, thefts and robberies were quite common types of crimes in the period we defined. The extent of the spread of this phenomenon in the region we study is illustrated by the fact that “in November 1923 only, there were 193 requests of theft and 81 requests of robberies of citizens filed to the Criminal Investigation Department” (Sabluk, 2017, p. 107). In July 1924, “in Zhytomyr and outskirts there was an increase of criminal offense, especially in the form of systematic robbery of citizens in crowded places” (SAZR, f. P. 28, d. 6, c. 50, p. 11). In terms of the fight against these crimes, the police were advised to identify the suspects, in particular by checking the registration of the residents of the city.

Horse theft remained a serious problem in Volyn during this period, same as in the pre-Soviet period. In the secret circulars to executive committees of the province the spread of this negative phenomenon in the USSR was reported. It caused significant damage and losses to agriculture. Thus, “in the Volyn province, 527 horses were stolen in the first 5 months of 1924, 643 – in Kyiv region, 1000 – in Podillia (4786 in the USSR)”. The Presidium of the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee (Ukrainian: ВУЦІК) suggested that the provincial executive committees should take the following measures to overcome this negative social phenomenon: “1) all people who were twice and more convicted of horse theft should be put on the record for 2 months and carry out the administrative deportation; 2) the people should be urgently registered, especially those who live in rural areas, do not work, do not have permanent residence; horse thefts should be identified among them; 3) Provincial executive committees should increase assignation from local budgets to the secret search fund to fight against horse theft; 4) judicial authorities should accelerate the consideration of cases on horse theft and arrange demonstrative processes in these cases” (SAZR, f. P. 28, d. 6, c. 50, p. 1). In the resolution of the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee as of August 20th, 1923, “On Acceleration of Measures to Fight Against Horse Theft”, the provincial executive committees and courts were ordered to consider the sentences for such cases within one week and to establish a sentence of 2 or more years of imprisonment, taking into account the offender and the circumstances of the case. (SAZR, f. P. 154, d. 2, c. 1, p. 1000).

As we can see, the authorities drew special attention to the problem of horse theft, since it concerned not only the sphere of criminal law but also, to a certain extent, had elements of a strategic and security meaning. After all, the loss of horses in agricultural region meant the disruption of agricultural work: plowing, sowing campaign, harvesting, etc. Peasants composed the vast majority of the population in Volyn province. Therefore, the fight against horse theft was one of the ways for the authorities to win the acknowledgement among local population and provide social support in the village.

Immediately after the October revolution, Bolshevik authorities declared a series of legislation resolutions reflecting its negative attitude to alcoholism as a social phenomenon.

The policy of sobriety was actively promoted. However, according to the researchers of this problem, after the “end of the civil war, the Soviet authorities faced an increase of drinking and alcoholism in the country. These social defects are considered as a relic of autocracy based on social injustice” (Hapeeva & Khablieva, 2018, p. 311). Therefore, the fight against it was performed, on the one hand, through the implementation of various forms of punishment, such as: fines, compulsory labor, imprisonment, etc.; on the other hand, there was an explanatory work conducted to the public, with an emphasis on the inadmissibility of drinking as a negative relic of “the tsarist regime”. In terms of the fight against hooch-making, in 1921 the police of Volyn province received an official order from the local authorities “to bring the people involved in this activities to compulsory labor for up to 5 years and confiscate their property” (SAZR, f. P. 1657, d. 1, c. 280, p. 43 flip).

In the circular to the district executive committees of the Zhytomyr district as of September 18th, 1923, “On fighting against hooch-making” it was stated that they should take the following measures regarding this case: 1) to distribute in the villages a mandatory resolution of the district executive committee as of July 19th, 1923 on fighting against drinking and hooch-making; 2) to impose personal responsibility for hooch-making on the heads of village councils and committees of poor peasants and village guards; 3) to organize the demonstrative processes in villages on such cases; 4) to strengthen the supervision of the police on alcohol shops, fairs; 5) to take photos of hooch-makers during the process by the equipment for hooch-making; 6) to report on fighting against these phenomena at the meetings of district executive committees; 7) to reward the heads of village councils, committees of poor peasants, village guardians and police officers for actively fight against this evil; 8) to establish strict reporting on this work (SAZR, f. P. 154, d. 2, c. 1, p. 1039).

As already mentioned, the fight against drunkenness was conducted not only by repressive methods of criminal punishment, but also by educational and propaganda methods. In particular, the articles on this topic have occasionally appeared in local newspapers. In 1924, the newspaper “Soviet Volyn” published the information “on the fight of party cells and trade union bodies of the village Bilokorovychi of the Korostenska district against drinking, which was widespread among transport workers. The police found that wealthy peasants from the surrounding areas were giving them the drinks. Those wealthy peasants were brought to court and their equipment for hooch-making and vodka were confiscated” (Soviet Volyn, 1924, No. 9, August 12th, p. 4).

In the second half of the 1920s, the fight against hooch-making became even more intensive. It was caused by the introduction of a state monopoly on the production and sale of alcoholic beverages in 1925. According to Decree No. 13 of the Volyn district executive committee as of February 1st 1928 “On Fight Against Hooch-Making and Drunkenness” citizens were prohibited: to appear in crowded places being drunk (this was punishable by a fine of up to 2 rubles, or compulsory labor for 1 day); to produce and hide hooch for their own use or sale and appropriate equipment for its making; to buy and resell vodka of state enterprises (fine at the level of district administrative departments – up to 25 rubles, or compulsory labor for 7 days; at the level of district administrative departments – up to 100 rubles, or 2 weeks of compulsory labor) (SAZR, f. P. 326, d. 1, c. 100, p. 302 flip–303). In one of the reports on this topic the speaker suggested that to set an example for others, several persistent hooch-makers should be urgently prosecuted in each district of the Volyn province.

The Resolution No. 35 of the Volyn district executive committee as of June 12th, 1928 categorically prohibited the lotteries of alcoholic beverages arranged for charitable purposes.

Individuals guilty of violating this resolution were liable to a fine of up to 100 rubles, or to imprisonment for up to 2 weeks, or to compulsory labor for a term of one month; government officials were subject to disciplinary responsibility (SAZR, f. P. 326, d. 1, c. 100, pp. 431 flip, 432 flip). On another hand, people who worked in the police were awarded at the rate of 100% of their monthly salary for active part in the fight against drunkenness (SAZR, f. P. 28, d. 1, c. 27, p. 524).

In general, the situation of alcohol drinking in Ukraine during this period was complicated and had a steadily increasing tendency: in 1924 it was 1.5 million liters; in 1928 it was already 89.5 million liters (Golovko, 2015, p. 22).

The implementation of NEP has become an indirect determinant of the growth of prostitution. Contemporary researchers of this phenomenon emphasize “the connection between the economic policy of the Bolsheviks and galloping prostitution” (Panin, 2005, p. 82). Scientists see the cause of the activation of this social anomaly in “the development of commodity-money relations, private property in the sphere of services, small and medium businesses; the emergence of a new layer of the population – nepmans, etc. (Komar, 2015, p. 162), “neglecting of Christian morality as a result of the Bolshevik anti-religious offensive” (Babiuk, 2017, p. 53).

According to the analysis of documents, the fight against this phenomenon in Ukraine in general and in the Volyn province, in particular, during NEP was significantly different from the previous period. During the years of “war communism” the prostitutes were subjected to short-term arrests; they were forced to labor compulsion; the most persistent women were held in concentration camps. The surge of prostitution in the first half of the 1920s forced the authorities to take more decisive measures to fight against it.

Order No. 147 of the police and criminal investigation department of the USSR “On the Activities to Fight Against Prostitution and Organizational Forms of this Fight” (November, 1923) suggested provincial executive committees, trade unions and health departments: to be careful when reducing staff in enterprises, institutions, and organizations terminating of disadvantaged and economically unstable women (single women and homeless girls, pregnant women and women with children); the departments of labor protection and trade unions to protect the interests of these groups of women in the first place; to organize industrial production articles for absorption of certain groups of unemployed women of under-qualification, as well as to involve them in public works, to promote their professional training and development; to combat women's homelessness by creating dormitories and temporary homes for such women; to expand sanitation and propaganda work among adults and young people in their places of work and study. Along with these activities, it was ordered to strengthen the administrative supervision of cafes, restaurants, cabarets, hotels. However, the prostitutes shouldn't have been pursued (as it was in the pre-Soviet period). Only mediators and those who promoted the development of prostitution were pursued. (SAZR, f. P. 1, d. 1, c. 4, pp. 2–2 flip).

Prostitution is always accompanied by the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Therefore, the organization of clinics and dispensaries of sexually transmitted diseases for the accessible and free treatment of such patients was of great importance in the republic. To implement all these initiatives successfully, it was “recommended to involve local public organizations in addition to state bodies”. The Regulations about provincial councils for the fight against sexually transmitted diseases and prostitution have been developed for health departments (SAZR, f. P. 1, d. 1, c. 4, p. 3). Quite often, the problem was not only to cure the

body of a sick person, but also to maintain his/her moral and psychological condition. For example, in one of the issues of the “Volynsky Proletary” newspaper in 1922 it was reported that “the case of the suicide of a Red Army soldier Stoliarchuk due to infection with a sexually transmitted disease from prostitute” (Volynskyy Proletary, 1922, No. 151, January 1st, p. 3). In general, the problem of prostitution in the Volyn province during the period under study was quite sharp. However, the scale of its spread was smaller than in industrialized regions. The peasants of a vast majority of population of the region, despite all the ideological experiments of the Bolsheviks, kept the traditions of patriarchal domestic culture for a long time. Accordingly, adultery and prostitution (even more) were condemned publicly, sometimes even ostracized.

The Conclusions. Thus, during the 1920s the new economic policy of the Soviet state was implemented in terms of increasing of manifestations of various social anomalies. The spread of banditry here in the form of organized armed groups, which carried out predatory attacks on private households of local residents and public institutions from time to time, worsened the criminally dangerous situation in Volyn province. They also carried out terrorist actions against ordinary citizens and Soviet activists.

The spread of such crimes as horse theft, robbery was also the painful problem the population and local authorities faced during the period we defined. The main burden of responsibility for the state of criminally dangerous situation in the province was assigned to the local police. The vector of its activity was determined by the normative documents which were adopted at the state, republic or local level.

Changes in the traditional way of life of the local population, anti-religious policy which destroyed and eroded peasant age-old moral ethics, permanent economic crisis and political instability caused the spread of such negative social phenomena as drunkenness, hooch-making and prostitution. In order to overcome them the authorities used both, repressive methods of punishment and instruments of preventive propaganda.

The ideological character of the Bolshevik policy which aimed at overcoming social anomalies within Volyn province was its special feature. The Soviet authorities tried to impose the society that the subjects of deviant behavior were, as a rule, ideological adherents of the “tsarist regime”, the kulaks and the bourgeoisie, so the enemies of the “working people”. Often, the severity of criminal penalties depended on the political loyalty of the accused.

Finally, it should be noted that an in-depth study of such social anomalies in the Volyn province as child crime and begging would be relevant for further research of the problem we identified.

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