

РЕЦЕНЗІЇ / REVIEWS

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FEATURES OF SOCIO-STRUCTURAL INTERACTIONS OF A MAN, A CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE IN HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE.

Review of the monograph: "Man, Society, Power in Ancient and Early Modern Ukraine: Contexts of Historical Presentation". Kyiv: Institute of History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2020. 616 pp., ill.

ОСОБЛИВОСТІ СОЦІОСТРУКТУРНИХ ВЗАЄМОДІЙ ЛЮДИНИ, ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА І ДЕРЖАВИ В ІСТОРИЧНІЙ РЕТРОПЕРСПЕКТИВІ. Рецензія на монографію: Людина, суспільство, влада в давній та ранньомодерній Україні: контексти історичної презентації. Київ: Інститут історії України НАН України, 2020. 616 с., іл.

Historical researches, the object of which is a man, society, power in ancient and early modern Ukraine are extremely important and topical for the national history.

Nowadays, the priority of a man in a modern society is gaining more and more importance. The human factor, nowadays, essentially becomes a key impetus for major social upheavals

that can change the entire existing system of society, and the consequences of this change may be unpredictable.

The study of the problem of power, society and man interconnectedness in their historical retrospect is important not only in the context of academic interest, but also in the prognostic and pragmatic dimension. Solving the dilemma, in which the civic interests of the whole society will be synchronized with the needs of each person, as well as ensuring his or her daily spiritual and material needs, is extremely important.

The authors of the monograph try to find the answers to many important questions that arise in this area. The peer-reviewed monograph has its own holistic concept, which is aimed at forming the vision – how the socio-political processes in Ukraine took place in the context of the realities of antiquity, the Middle Ages and early modern period. The structure of the monograph is logical and thought out carefully, it consists of separate blocks on various topics, the selection of which was based on the most objective and diverse coverage of complex and far from unambiguous issues.

We agree with V. Smoliy's point of view that the whole course, all the complex turns of the historical process depend on the coherence, balance of "personal, public and state interest", determined by the development level of interrelated relations between the state and society.

In Chapter I "Methodological Reflections" the state of scientific development of the problem and its methodology are analyzed. We share Valentyna Matiakha's point of view, that in Ukraine modern historical science demonstrates significant progress in terms of integration into the world methodological space. This integration is observed not only in the context of specific historical knowledge, but also in the processes of modeling the historical process in Ukraine at its various stages and periods. The introduction of research practices of modern Ukrainian historians into the field of interdisciplinarity, which "in modern philosophy of science" was interpreted "as a system of interactions" contribute to this intergration. However, our point of view is the following: the answers to the challenges facing the Ukrainian society against the background of changes in the so-called socio-historical, socio-cultural, linguistic, narratological, cognitive, postmodern factors are not entirely adequate.

According to Valentyna Matiakh, a considerable heuristic potential is hidden in the possibilities of modern historiography. It is not just about the prospects of finding new models and approaches to improving the conceptual apparatus in the context of early modern studies. It is also about a more detailed and dense filling of various sections of historical knowledge and showing what opportunities there are for a further integration of the global civilization project. It is also important to abandon the linear schematization of the historical process and to strengthen its theoretical component.

We share the author's point of view that the concept of "interdisciplinarity" does not have its own unambiguous reading. Modern researchers mostly agree that it is primarily a kind of "methodological design of the real synthesis of scientific achievements of various disciplines in large-scale scientific projects and researches".

The author proves the fact that the Ukrainian modern subdisciplinary construct is completely formed nowadays. We disagree to it totally. Our point of view is that the Ukrainian modern subdisciplinary construct needs improvements in many areas, including conceptual, problem, institutional, personalized, and etc.

Positively should be noted Valentyna Matiakh's comprehensive approach to the choice of theoretical and methodological principles of the study, set out in Chapter I of the monograph.

This comprehensive approach, no doubt, will help in the reception of many difficult issues discussed in the monograph.

Chapter II of the monograph is represented by several works in which the authors explore the political and socio-economic practices of the interdependence of society and government variously and thoroughly. In the section “Slave Relations in Olbia Society in the VIth – IIIth centuries BC” Olexander Odrin tries to do a research on certain aspects of slavery, the main of which is the problem of the slave labour importance in the ancient economy in general. The Olbia polis is known to have existed in the northern Black Sea coast, the modern borders of Ukraine, and had a great influence on the development of the region and beyond its territories.

We consider this study to be especially important because there is no single clear position in assessing the importance of slave labour in the ancient society, actually very often diametrically opposed views are expressed. Some researchers speak of the determinism of slave labour in the majority of industries development, while the others deny it. Understanding of the very nature of the ancient society also depends on the answer to this question largely.

In his research “Vytautas’ Horde Rubicon in the Context of Political Law and the Influences of the Geographical Factor” Borys Cherkas raises the issue of the legal basis of Vytautas’ power over the Ukrainian lands, as well as the study of those events, which took place at the end of the XIVth – the beginning of the XVth centuries. This research is quite important, because the policy of Vytautas Keistutovych, the ruler of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, had a huge impact directly on the Ukrainian realities of the XIVth – the XVth centuries. After the events of the Civil war between Vytautas and Jagiello, the treaty was signed, which included the redistribution of the Ukrainian lands between the Lithuanian princes. The author also tries to answer the question: “What were the pitfalls of the treaty, and what role was given to Ukraine in it?”

Of a particular importance is the event that took place in the spring and summer of 1397, when Khan Toktamish arrived in Kyiv and asked Vytautas for protection and assistance in regaining the throne at the Al-Jadid Palace located on the banks of the Volga river. We share the author’s point of view that this event was extremely important for Lithuania, and the decision made by Vytautas changed the historical path not only of the Lithuanian Duchy, but also of Central and Eastern Europe. After the signing of the alliance and aid treaty, a fierce confrontation broke out between the Lithuanian state and the Mongol-Tatar horde over the right to own the Ukrainian lands at the territory from the Dnieper region to the Black Sea-Azov steppes, Gedyminovychi or Dzhuchydy.

According to the author, the expansion policy of Vytautas, was not planned, it was more forced by circumstances. We don’t share the author’s point of view. The seizure of the Ruski lands by Lithuania was not in the nature of conquest or enslavement, but of accession. The Lithuanian princes considered themselves the heirs of Kyiv state, and they considered their duty to return the Ruski lands to their possession. They realized well that without the unification of the Ruski lands, the greatness of the state to which they aspired would not be achieved.

This period is also analyzed by Andriy Blanutsa in the section “Ukrainian princely and noble families in the socio-economic and political life of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania”. The author does the research on the role of political elites in the political and socio-economic life of Ukraine during the period of its belonging to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. A particular attention is paid to the way in which the central government of the Dutcy formed a system of local government at the newly possessed territories.

The accession of the Ukrainian lands to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania did not make significant changes in their socio-political system. The Lithuanian authorities retained all

the rights of local feudal lords to land ownership, as well as the main social and political institutions – the principalities. One of the changes, Andriy Blanutsa says, was the involvement into a military service of a large number of people representing not only the nobility, but also other strata. In return, land with the right of ownership was allocated. The main resource, from which the management staff was formed, was the representatives stratum of the princely families and the nobility. The Lithuanian voivodes sought support from the local elite.

In their charters the Lithuanian princes proclaimed that they “do not move away the antiquities, they do not introduce the new”. Rus’ principalities received a fairly broad autonomy. In practice, this gave good results and support not only among the local nobility, but also among the common people.

In the research “For his Faithful Service at our Court. Service at the Tsar’s Court as Permit to Sotnytstvo in the Hetmanate” Viktor Horobets analyzes the influence of the Russian factor on personnel appointments in the hundreds of the Hetmanate. Moscow authorities and their representatives constantly interfered in the electoral processes which took place in Ukraine. This became a kind of trend in the Russian politics until nowadays. According to the author, due to the lack of relevant information, the mechanisms by which this interference took place remain hidden. In addition, some of the remaining archival material may shed light on the nature of the Hetman’s communication with the Russian ruling elite. These are mostly some testimonies, the analysis of which can help lift the veil of secrecy. However, the influence exerted by Moscow was not always accepted unconditionally. The dependence factor was well realized by the Ukrainian officers. This state of affairs also follows from the correspondence between the daughter of Peter I, the future Empress Elizabeth and Hetman the Apostle. Elizabeth lobbied the interests of Olexiy Yablonovsky, who served at her court, and after resigning he claimed the sotnytstvo in the Hetmanate. From the very beginning of his tenure as the Hetman, Danylo the Apostle proved to be a fighter for the restoration of the free election principles in obtaining positions in the Hetmanate. On his initiative, on October 11, 1727 (the tenth day of his tenure) the universals were sent to all regiments, the main message of which was a call for fair and democratic elections of starshyn. A commission was also formed to review staff decisions made with electoral irregularities. It is worth noting that the work of the commission was met with a considerable resistance at local places.

The second restoration of the Hetmanate and the election of Kyryl Rozumovsky as Hetman were also initially marked by the attempts to return the principles of free election. At least in the archival sources, we find information that indicates this fact. We agree with the author of the article that, despite the Hetman’s declared commitment to “previous military customs” during the election of starshyna, there were often deviations that were previously considered unacceptable.

In the work “Socio-political Relations in the Crimea after its Annexation by Russia (the last quarter of the XVIIIth century)” Olexander Hurzhiy describes the socio-political situation in the Crimea and abroad after the annexation of the peninsula by Moscow. One of the important issues raised by the author is the propaganda, which was used by the Russian Empire actively to justify the invasion of the peninsula. Very clear parallels can be traced with the situation of Russia’s annexation of the Crimea nowadays. The same as nowadays, the Russian historians characterized this act unequivocally – as historical justice. The same tendency concerns ousting of the Tatars from the Crimea. The same as nowadays, the Western press covered everything differently, in particular, it was claimed that Russia by its actions turns the invaded peninsula into “hungry steppes”. There were even calls for a concerted effort to counter the Russian aggression and help the Ottoman Port regain its territorial integrity.

An exemplary measure of the Russian propaganda was the organization in 1787 of “Catherine II’s Trip to the South of the Country”, i.e., the trip to the annexed Crimea. To legalize the annexation, the Austrian Emperor Joseph II was officially invited to travel, as well as high-ranking government officials from many European countries. With this invitation, the Muscovites wanted to somehow legalize the peninsula as a part of Russia and show the appearance of prosperity. And, according to the author, they wanted to declare that the Russian state will not give up its “legal rights to the Crimea” under any circumstances.

In Chapter II of the monograph the authors analyze the spiritual and cultural vectors of a social space. In the paragraph “Adoptionism, Filioque and Kyiv Metropolis” Valery Zema aims at considering the emergence and spread of the doctrine of filioque, the assertion of which occurred in the context of the struggle against the “Spanish heresy” – adoptionism. The researcher also analyzes the disputes between the East and the West, including the discussion of the pentarchy and the place of various Christian capitals in it. Despite the defining position of Rome as the apostolic capital, Constantinople tried to gain more significance in the Christian world, and opposed itself to Rome. Analyzing the works of the Ruski metropolitans, as well as ancient manuscript sources of ancient Kyiv, we may find much unknown till nowadays in the context of this discussion.

According to the author, among the main reasons for the division of the Christian world were the claims of Constantinople over Rome’s control over Bulgaria, which stemmed from the belief that it belonged to ancient Illyricum, i.e., the legacy of Rome.

In the study “Subculture of the Ukrainian Cossacks in the Context of the of Basic Archetypes Formation of the Ukrainians” Andriy Hurbyk analyzes the historical heritage of the Cossacks as an important archetypal component of the Ukrainian people formation. This issue is constantly in the field of view of a wide range of scholars (historians, ethnologists, archaeologists, literary critics, etc.), and therefore requires a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach. According to Andriy Hurbyk, the Ukrainian Cossacks went through a difficult path of development during their historical period, from spontaneous social and military forms to the main leadership of the national liberation and social movement. Becoming the driving force of the all-Ukrainian tendencies of development of our people, the Cossacks revived the state-building perspectives and raised the spiritual potential of the Ukrainians. The goal of the study was to identify the broadest possible, comprehensive approach to the problem and elements coverage of the Ukrainian Cossacks subculture in the context of the basic archetypes formation of the Ukrainians. The need for a generalized interdisciplinary approach to the study of the basic principles of the Cossack system, a customary law culture in the Cossack environment, as well as in the Ukrainian society in general remains topical in the research.

We agree with Andriy Hurbyk that the practices of legal and judicial institutions that were formed and functioned in the Zaporozhian Sich were a reflection not only of the Cossack customary law and worldview and religious attitudes, but also became genetic and mental followers of the sacred and military traditions of the times of the Kyivan Rus and the Galicia-Volyn principality. According to the author, in the context of historical perspective, this was important. Despite the fact that from the second half of the XVth century, after the liquidation of the Ukrainian principalities, the annexation of the Ukrainian lands by neighboring states (the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Kingdom of Poland, the Russian Empire) its own customary culture developed and functioned in Ukraine. Its main foundations were the principles of military democracy and religious traditions and customs. Mentally, they persist to this day.

In Chapter IV “Biographical Connotations” the authors analyze the Ukrainian personalities, whose activities influenced the course of certain historical events and processes significantly:

“a prosopographic portrait of the participants of the Viennese military campaign of 1683 from the Ukrainian side” Taras Chukhlib examines the biographies of leaders and soldiers of magnate, noble and Cossack units who took part in the Vienna campaign of 1683, and till nowadays, with some exceptions, remains terraiacognita not only for the Ukrainian and the Polish, but also for world historiography. The research methodology is based on prosopographic and diachronic biographical methods of reproducing the life of an individual, as well as the collective biography of people united by one historical event and life during one historical period.

Taras Chukhlib found and analyzed a large number of documents and archival sources, which allowed to characterize everything in its entirety. The above mentioned material proves that many Ukrainian servicemen who took part in the Vienna campaign of 1683 were of a noble origin or were nobilitated to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth nobility. Among them we may find the representatives of the ancient princely families of Rusy, the Cossacks, whose family “from great-great-grandfather” was Cossack, and the petty gentry of Ukraine. These historical figures, whom Taras Chukhlib calls the “people of the sword,” were distinguished not only in the Vienna campaign, but also in many other military campaigns of that time. These are the battles near the Parkany, the storming of the Hungarian fortresses of Ostergom and Szczecin, the campaigns to Ishmael and Iasi, and etc. We can state confidently that the studied personalities created history, they were the authorities of their time and set the vector in which society moved.

Finally, it should be noted that the monograph is a holistic, relevant, innovative in its concept work. The authors are good at a high level of technique of scientific and analytical cognition. The presentation style is clear and concise. Its reading opens the curtain on a number of poorly studied issues of ancient and early modern Ukraine. The monograph will be useful definitely, not only for scientists, teachers, students, but also for all who are interested in the historical past of Ukraine.

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