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**BIOGRAPHY OF ANTON OLIYNYK THROUGH THE PRISM
OF DOCUMENTS OF THE SOVIET SPECIAL SERVICES**

(Review of the monograph: Zhyviuk Andriy. Anton Oliynyk: Unconquered Dream. Scientific and Documentary Edition. Rivne: Diatlyk M., 2019. 312 p.

**ЖИТТЄПИС АНТОНА ОЛІЙНИКА
ЧЕРЕЗ ПРИЗМУ ДОКУМЕНТІВ РАДЯНСЬКИХ СПЕЦСЛУЖБ**

**Рецензія на: Жив'юк А. Антон Олійник: Нескорена мрія.
Науково-документальне видання. Рівне: Дятлик М., 2019. 312 с.**

The changes associated with the fall of the communist regime influenced methodological approaches to the study of the historical past. The civilizational approach, which focuses on the personification in general, and personification of the historical process, acquired a new

understanding and development. At the same time, it remains topical to involve new sources into the scientific circulation, which would clarify the course of the national liberation struggle of the Ukrainians by the return of forgotten figures. In this context, it is important for modern Ukrainian historiography publishing a scientific and documentary monograph authored by Andriy Zhyviuk “Anton Oliynyk: An Unconquered Dream”.

In the book there is depicted the life story of the Ukrainian insurgent Anton Oliynyk, a native of the hamlet of Berezyn, which belonged to the village of Drukhiv, Liudwypil gmina, Kostopil povit (*powiat* in Polish), Volyn voivodeship. The formation of the worldview of a little Anton, who worked on the soil from an early age, was decisively influenced by the “Prosvita” society literature, which was distributed in Western Ukraine, although he was educated under the Polish, the Soviet and the Nazi rule. In fact, the policy of these regimes, aimed at levelling the Ukrainian national identity, gave impact to him to join the ranks of the Ukrainian resistance in 1943. As the head of the district leadership of the youth network, he received the pseudonym “Dream”. After completing the OUN’s propaganda “training”, he headed the youth regional leadership under the pseudonym “Hindu”.

Referring to a wide source base, the author of the book traces the struggle of A. Oliynyk in the ranks of the UPA, the first arrest in 1947, and the sentence – 25 years in prison camps and 5 years of deprivation of political rights, without confiscation of property because of the absence of such. Since then, his “prison history” began, which lasted for almost 20 years. He was imprisoned in Volgolag, Minlag, Dubravlag, two prisons (in Kirov, Vladimir), changed a large number of replacements and penalty isolators. The imprisonment did not break Anton Oliynyk’s spirit, but on the contrary, he intensified his thirst for struggle and strengthened his desire to oppose totalitarianism.

The reconstruction of the insurgent’s struggle against the Stalinist system is based on the 15-volume archival criminal case (ACC) of Anton Oliynyk taken from the Sectoral State Archives of the Security Service of Ukraine, for the first time introduced into scientific circulation. In addition, the author added to the monograph and critically analyzed the scientific and memoir literature, periodicals. During the Soviet period of time, tens of thousands of the ACCs were kept top secret and stored in the KGB archives. In the 1990s, the ACCs were partially transferred to the state archives in accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of September 9, 1991. “On the Transfer of Archival Documents of the State Security Committee of Ukraine to the State Archives of the Republic”. More than 1.5 million cases were transferred to implement this decision, of which about 169 000 are the ACCs for rehabilitated persons.

Analysis of the ACCs of the so-called “Basic” Fund for persons who were not rehabilitated, became possible only after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine of April 9, 2015 “On Access to the Archives of the Repressive Bodies of the Communist Totalitarian Regime of 1917 – 1991”, therefore, the return of the true story of many people will continue.

The ACCs documents are a specific historical source that requires obligatory verification with other materials, a careful examination, comparison, a detailed analysis, consideration through the prism of the historical circumstances in which the ACCs documents were made. The author coped with it quite well, after all he managed to compare A. Oliynyk’s records, investigative, judicial documentation, operative materials of the KGB and look at the events of that time through the eyes of their participants. Extensive author’s comments, notes with thorough explanations, detailed information about the people whose names are mentioned in the monograph, illustrate an extremely meticulous, careful reading of all documents found in the archives.

The materials of the criminal case against the insurgent Anton Oliynyk prove that the KGB made every effort to present him to the public, first of all to his compatriots, as a “bandit and villain”, a “bloody murderer”. For this purpose, publications of various levels were used, including the central ones (Moscow), which published incriminating articles; dozens of meetings and rallies were organized; reburials of the remains of people who allegedly became victims of A. Oliynyk were arranged. At the same time, from the pages of the book we see that there was alternative information, published by the Ukrainian diaspora about the trial of A. Oliynyk, but for ordinary Soviet people they were unknown and inaccessible.

The issues – a man against the system; a person against totalitarianism – more than one year are actively discussed in historical science. Andriy Zhyviuk managed to see how under the conditions of strict regulation and subordination to totalitarian structures not only of a human behavior, but also of his inner world, an individual could resist the state machine. On the pages of the book we see an example of a rebel who could not be broken by the system, a man who sought freedom and even in prison he was seriously engaged in self-education. Having deprived him of his physical freedom, the system could not make him renounce his own national and state convictions, as evidenced by numerous cases of a camp life. It seems no coincidence that Anton Oliynyk had the pseudonym “Dream”, the dream of being a free man in a free state. But this dream was given to our people at a too high price.

The book consists of an introductory article by the author, archival materials containing 73 documents, photo appendices, nominal and geographical indexes, as well as lists of abbreviations and acronyms. The analytical introductory article “And Who Is a Fighter, Gets the World” is divided into separate thematic blocks: *Family and School; Underground; The First Arrest and Sentence; Man and the Totalitarian System; The First Escape; The Second Escape; Change of Strategy and Tactics; Reading and Ideas; Grimaces of “Camp Democracy”; The Third Escape; Secret and National Historical Routes; Detention; the KGB Know-how: Investigation of “Scientific Patterns”; “Universal Witnesses”; Textbook on Methodology and Awards; Demonization; Echoes*. A unique addition to the documentary block of the monograph is the unique photographs collected by the author, which describe the story of Anton Oliynyk.

Thus, the opportunity to “see a person” against the background of socio-political phenomena of Ukraine’s postwar development is, first of all, an opportunity to look differently at the difficult, dramatic period of the national liberation struggle of the Ukrainians. We believe that Andriy Zhyviuk’s scientific and documentary monograph “Anton Oliynyk: An Unconquered Dream” will be useful for researchers of the Ukrainian national liberation movement, local historians, teachers, students, and anyone interested in history.

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