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THE UKRAINIAN OSTARBEITERS REPATRIATION: ORGANIZATIONAL AND STRUCTURAL REVIEW OF THE PROCESS (1944–1945 YY.)

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РЕПАТРИАЦІЯ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОСТАРБАЙТЕРІВ: ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙНО-СТРУКТУРНИЙ ОГЛЯД ПРОЦЕСУ (1944–1945 РР.)

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Annotation. The work deals with the process of formation, main activities and results of the repatriation institutions of various levels; their defects have been stated. The work presents the number of returnees who came back to Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic (USSR) and Rivne region.

Key words: repatriation, Repatriation Office, Reception and Distribution Center, filtration, Rivne region.

Анотація. В роботі розглянуто процес утворення, основні напрями та результати діяльності репатріаційних органів різних рівнів, вказано на недоліки у їх роботі. Наведено кількісні показники репатріантів, які повернулися в УРСР та у Рівненську область.

Ключові слова: репатріація, Відділ у справах репатріації, приймально-розподільний пункт, фільтрація, Рівненська область.

Under the conditions of the end of the 2nd World War the USSR, besides the other problems, faced the problem of the repatriation of the displaced ostarbeiters to the Third Reich for forced labor. The returning of the displaced persons to the USSR pursued several goals, first of all to compensate the demographical losses of the war, to use the human resources in the post-war processes, to complete the army, to prevent the emigration of different types that in perspective might lead to the anti-Soviet policy, unprofitable for the state etc.

For the repatriation success the state governors accepted documents of high importance regulating the process of citizens returning, the whole complex of external and internal assisting institutions was created as well.

In August 24, 1944, the State Committee of Defense adopted a regulation № 6457 “On the organization of the soviet citizens reception taken by the Germans by force, and also placed behind the border line between the USSR and Poland” that pursued the creation of the filtration camps system nearby the West border of the USSR [2, p. 175–176].

In the filtration camps the returnees underwent a checkout and metering, after what they were divided into categories and sent to the Red Army or to the place of residence. If any suspicious information occurred, they were transmitted to the bodies of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affaires (NKVD), the People’s Commissariat of State Security (NKGB), “SMERSH” for the further inspection.



One part of the returnees due to the results of the commission of the filtration camp inspection was sent to live and work to the places remote from their families, for hard physical work, not taking into the account the will of the returnees themselves, the other part was sent to the soviet labor camps and they were missing persons for their relatives for a long time [4, p. 64].

In August 31, 1944, the Repatriation Office affiliated to the government of the USSR was created, headed by M. Zozulenko. The new department consisted of 4 sectors: on nutrition and material supply; on repatriated population moving; employment and housing provision of the returning population; the returnees accounting [6, p. 8].

From the beginning of January, 1945, the same departments affiliated to the executive committees of the regional councils were organized. Moreover, special returnees reception centers were organized in each region [4, p. 90]. But a lot of difficulties of organizational character were revealed in the given area, concerning to some extent the material supply, the absence of proper accommodation for the returnees, qualified medical service in particular and so on.

The formation of the filtration camps network pursuing the returnees accumulation in the specified locations had to prevent their spreading in the result thus the stated tasks were not fulfilled.

On the republic level special authorized officers and assistant chiefs of the republic Councils of People's Commissars (CPC) were responsible for the repatriation (in Ukraine such obligations were put on the assistant chief of Council of People's Commissars I. Senin). The process was controlled by the assistant chiefs of the regional executive committees and the repatriation affairs department chiefs, also by the local council chiefs.

The Repatriation Affairs Department affiliated to the Rivne executive office was formed in the middle of 1945 that dealt with the reception and provision of the persons returning to the region. The reception camp for 300 people was situated in Dubno [6, p. 75–76]. But due to the fact that the returnees mainly arrived to the station in Zdolbuniv (that is 12 km away from Dubno) the Rivne region executive office accepted a regulation on the reception camp organization in the town of Zdolbuniv whilst the Dubno camp assumed international significance [7, p. 55].

In October 23, 1944, the Authorized Office Department of the Repatriation Affairs of the Councils of People's Commissars of the USSR was formed headed by P. Golikov (the chief of the main intelligence department of the Red Army General Staff in the past), the functions of assistants were executed by I. Smorodinov and D. Golubev, and V. Gragun and A. Smirnov. The Office's goal was to regulate all the organizational moments that occurred during the repatriation [2, c. 178]. At the same time the soviet overseas representational offices on repatriation affairs were formed.

Thus, far from everyone due to famous reasons (one of the main ones was lack of trust in the returnees) agreed to come back home. Regarding this the main part of work dealing with the repatriation was executed by the Head Department of Counterintelligence abroad, and by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD) inside the state. They traced the information dealing with the persons who



had no will to come back home, with people mood in camps, they detected individuals who were trying to conceal their citizenship and so on [1, p. 209].

The important activity direction of the local repatriation institution was free material assistance for the returnees on their way home (free nutrition supply, free ride to the place of residence [8, p. 88]) and after they get to the place of their residence (full supply), the employment of the returnees.

Returning home people underwent so-called filtration, during which the authorized members of commissions filled the registration applications and forms of the removed to Germany where they stated when and how an individual got to the territory of fighting with the USSR countries or to the country occupied by Germany.

We get to know about the content of conversations at the reception camps from numerous materials of so-called “filtration cases”. The ones who came back from German captivity were taken into the questionnaire lists which besides general life records fixed the information about removing conditions and circumstances, living and labor conditions abroad, violence facts etc.

After the process of filtration the certificates were issued that had to be given to the local body of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs in order to receive the residence permit. Instead, the returnees were often issued temporary certificates that imposed them to undergo this check every month or every 6 months.

On the basis of the material of the Central Governmental Archive of Executive Bodies of Ukraine we trace the trace the information that as of the 1st of July in 1945 127 126 people returned to the USSR removed for forced labor during the German occupation. In particular, 3 045 people returned to Rivne region [9, p. 2]. As for 01.01.1946 the number of the returnees in USSR was 732 855, and 7 257 in Rivne region [3, p. 280]. The repatriation process lasted till 1950s.

So, in spite the taken by the Government measurements, the repatriation of the Ukrainian ostarbeiters went along with some downsides: the returnees registration was not accurate, significant part of people returned not in the right order but in small groups which did not undergo the proper control, the reception camps conditions did not meet the stated standards, the proper supply of the returnees was absent and so on. The significant moment that was an obstacle in the process of repatriation was the lack of trust of government entities to the returnees. As a result, the repatriation became an extremely difficult process that was regarded as a possibility to return home from one hand and as a fear of sustaining a conviction for imaginary violations from the other hand.

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**ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКИЙ ВЕКТОР ЗОВНІШНЬОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ
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Анотація. З огляду на багатовекторний характер зовнішньої політики України на початку XXI ст. та її курс на європейську інтеграцію звернення до історичного минулого сприяє особливій гармонізації міжнародних стосунків на сучасному етапі. Детальне вивчення зовнішньої політики Галицько-Волинської держави допоможе вирішувати деякі аспекти міждержавних відносин України та європейських країн, що зародились ще в XIII ст. і в прихованій формі мають місце сьогодні.

У статті на основі узагальнення опублікованих праць розкривається сутність і основні напрямки зовнішньої політики галицьких князів Володимирка та Ярослава Осмомисла. Автори здійснюють комплексний аналіз європейського вектора зовнішньої політики Галицько-Волинської держави через призму дипломатичних успіхів галицько-волинських князів Романа, Данила та їх спадкоємців.

Ключові слова: Галицьке князівство, Галицько-Волинське князівство(держави), зовнішня політика, дипломатичні відносини, Ярослав Осмомисл, Данило Галицький, Золота Орда, країни Європи.

Abstract. Considering the multi-vector nature of foreign policy of Ukraine at the beginning of the 21st century and its course toward European integration, the research into the historical past contributes to the definite harmonization of current international relations. A detailed study of the foreign policy of Halytsko-Volynsk state may help to resolve some aspects of interstate relations between Ukraine and European countries, which originated in the thirteenth century and in the innermost shape occur today.

On the basis of generalizing the published works, the article reveals the essence and the main directions of foreign policy of Halician princes Volodymyrko and Jaroslav Osmomysl. The authors carried out a comprehensive analysis of the European vector of foreign policy of Halytsko-Volynsk state in the light of the diplomatic achievements of Halytsko-Volynsk princes Roman, Danylo and their heirs.

Key words: Halytsk Principality, Halytsko-Volynsk Principality(state), foreign policy, diplomatic relations, Yaroslav Osmomysl, Danylo Halytskyi, Golden Horde, European countries.



Introduction.

The historical development of the Ukrainian people marked by the struggle for proclamation and preservation of their own statehood is accompanied by the search for their place in the geopolitical scope and constant change of foreign policy guidelines. Traditionally, being surrounded by powerful states, Ukrainian lands were subject to systematic expansion and partition. Continued fragmentation and belonging to different civilizations caused deep changes in social consciousness, one of the essential characteristics of which was simultaneous equipollent orientation on East and West, i.e. Russia and Europe. Taking this into consideration, it is important to study the experience in formation of foreign policy strategy and implementation of foreign policy adequate to national interests in the present dynamic and interconnected world of globalization.

While building modern cathedral independent Ukraine on the principles of equality and partnership with other countries it is essential to take into consideration the historical experience of its relations with the nations that have had long lasting and close diplomatic, military, political, social, economic and cultural relations with Ukrainians. Therefore, elucidation and comprehensive unbiased coverage of the content and character of diplomatic relations of Halytsk and Halytsko-Volynsk Principalities with Byzantium, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania shall present important scientific-theoretical and practical importance.

Relevance of the research into the diplomacy of Halytsko-Volynsk state is indeed proved by the current need to develop diplomatic relations with other countries. Having studied the origins of the diplomatic relations of Ukraine we can conclude that European vector of foreign policy is a priority for our country today.

Review of the literature.

The first studies on the history of Halicia and Volyn appeared in the late 18th century - the work of Austrian historians L.A Hebbardt, R.A Hoppe and Y.X.Engel. The first historian who wrote a scientific work "History of ancient Halychsko- Rus Principality" in three parts (1852-1855) was D. Zubrytskyi. In 1863, professor of Lviv University I. Sharanevych for the first time on the basis of historical, archaeological and toponymic sources published in Lviv "History of Halicia-Volyn Rus from the earliest of time to the year 1453". His work was continued by historians S. Smirnov, A. Bieliovskyi and A. Levytskyi.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the history of Volyn and Kholm region was studied by S. Russov, M. Maksymovych, V. Komashko, L. Perlshtein, M. Verbytskyi et al. Their works were a kind of popular overview.

Most of the works in the nineteenth century mainly covered political history of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality, not touching the socio-economic and foreign policy issues. Moreover, the history of Halicia and Volyn was considered in the light of the political life of Austria-Hungary and Russia, legalizing the rights and claims of these empires in the above mentioned territories. The main focus of the twentieth-century historians was on socio-economic problems. New approaches to interpreting the history of the principality were presented in the works of B. Grekov, V. Picheta, V. Pashuto. In 1984, the first fundamental monograph on the history of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality by I. Krypiakievych was published.



Significant findings in the study of certain aspects that directly or indirectly concern the theme of this work have been published by Ukrainian historians in recent years. The works by M. Kotliar, O. Holovko, L. Voitovych, Ya. Dashkevych, A. Zinchenko, I. Ovsii, report on a number of problematic issues on this topic. In particular, the above mentioned scientists believe that through close contacts with European countries, the rulers of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality were actively involved in European international relations. Some aspects of the history of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality are the subject matter of PhD theses of M. Voloshchuk, A. Petryk, R. Sheretiuk et al.

However, despite highlighting certain aspects of diplomatic relations of Halytsk and Halytsko-Volynsk Principality with Byzantium, Poland, Hungary at the end of the 12th – 13th centuries, the whole topic had fragmented character and was not covered enough. Similarly to Ukrainian scientists, foreign historians did not set out a comprehensive study of the subject, which is why the research theme needs more detailed coverage.

Input data and methods.

Research methods are a set of special methods of historical knowledge, namely: problem-chronological, comparative historical, systematic, comprehensiveness.

The purpose of the study – on the basis of comprehensive analysis and synthesis of published works to examine major diplomatic achievements of princes of Halytsko-Volynsk state, with special attention to the European vector of its foreign policy.

Results. Discussion and analysis.

According to its geopolitical position and political features Halytsko-Volynsk Principality was a kind of bridge connecting the East Slavic world with the countries of West and South. Already in the second half of the 11th - beginning of the 12th century its princes were involved in diplomatic relationships with traditional partners of Kyivan Rus: Byzantium, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria [2, p.12]. The Rostyslavoviches managed to consolidate Galicia's prominent position among Ukrainian principalities and European countries.

The independent foreign policy of Halytsk principality presumably set out during the rule of Prince Volodymyrko (1123-1153). In fact, he was the first who separated from Kyivan state and then actively opposed to all attempts of the Kyivan princes to influence development in Halicia. In the fight against the Hungarian King Geza, he relied on the alliance with the Byzantine Emperor Emmanuel Comnenus (Volodymyrko's sister was married to a Greek prince), but in the fight against the Grand Prince of Kyiv - on the alliance with its enemy, Yurii Dovhorukiy, Prince of Suzdal. The latter alliance was sealed by marriage of Volodymyrko's son Yaroslav to the daughter of Yurii Dovgorukiy [8].

Yaroslav Osmomysl, his heir, (1153-1187) had extensive diplomatic ties with the Byzantine emperor, the Hungarian king and German Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa. He even hired recruits in the Polish army. There was also noticeable cultural influence of Europe on the principality. The courtiers of Yaroslav Osmomysl already wore clothes of western style.



Establishing political relations between Halytsk principality and the Byzantine Empire had a positive impact on the economic development of the region thanks to active trade with the Greeks. From Byzantium to Galicia merchants brought: silk, spices, wine, textiles, jewelry, household implements. For exports, Halytsk principality offered grain, honey, wax, furs, and leather. B. Rybakov noted that the lower reaches of the Dniester and the Danube linked the principality with Europe through trade and economic relations [10, p.508]. This view is consistent with the findings of V. Pashuto, who wrote that the lower reaches until the Mongol invasion served as a transit area through which the goods passed from Byzantium to Bohemia, Hungary and Germany [9, p.170-172].

These achievements were preserved when the principalities of Halicia and Volyn allied in 1199 thanks to Prince Roman. He created a strong Halytsko-Volynsk Principality, and the beginning of diplomatic relations was laid in 1204 by the triple union agreement with the Polish prince Leszek and Andrew, King of Hungary. Prince Roman was on good terms with Byzantium and Hungary, especially significant was his contact with Pope Innocent III. Prince Roman Mstyslavovych enjoyed great prestige. The Byzantine emperor Alexis III the Angel sought his protection after the Crusaders conquered Constantinople. Roman Mstyslavovych made an interesting proposal to establish the federation of principalities, which was a novelty at that time.

Roman managed to organize importing various goods: from Lithuania - forestry products; from Byzantium - silk, wine, spices; from Western Europe - cloth, linen, herring. Exports were furs, wax, and salt. The terms of trade were established through diplomatic negotiations.

The chronicler named Roman: "Grand Duke", "Autocrat of the whole Rus" [5, p.245]. After his death in 1228, his grown-up son Danylo began fighting for the return of Galician heritage of the father.

When Danylo came into ruling, Poland (Cracow throne), and Hungary constantly interfered in the internal affairs of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality. This contributed to worsening of the complex relationship between Danylo and the Polish princes. When Leszek was killed, Poland was engaged in intestine wars, in which Danylo received the support of Konrad Mazowiecki and his sons. These wars enabled the brothers Danylo and Vasylo get hold of Lublin. Good relations with Krakow and Mazowiecki line of the Polish princes were established only after Konrad's death. They were even strengthened by the wedlock of Danylo's daughter - Predslava with Zemovyt Mazowiecki.

There were continuing attacks on Volyn region by Lithuanian tribes during Danylo's rule, though earlier they were "tamed" by Roman. Since 1230, Prince Mindaugas started looking for friendship with Danylo. Having this in mind, he helped Danylo fight with the Yatvingian tribes. In 1252, those relations were sealed by Danylo's marriage with Mindaugas's niece. But the growth of Mindaugas's power worried the Romanovychis, and led to the beginning of the war, after which Mindaugas had to pass Volkovyisk, Chorna Russ, Slonym, and Novogrudok to Danylo's son - Roman, who remarried to the daughter of Prince Gleb. Soon Mindaugas contributed to the marriage of his daughter with Danylo's younger son - Shvarno. After Mindaugas's death his son Voishelk gave the Lithuanian throne to



Shvarno. Therefore, Lithuania joined Danylo's possessions. The Lithuanian policy was called the most successful of all political strategies of Danylo Romanovych [6, p.12].

Most efforts of Danylo Halytskyi were aimed at combating Tatar invasion, looking for alliances in Western Europe. A striking example of the latter is Prince Danylo's participation in European competition for the Austrian Succession – the Crown of Austria in 1252-1253. The internal and external policies of Danylo Halytskyi helped increase his popularity among the international community. Courtiers of European countries considered it an honor to be associated with Halytsko-Volynsk prince.

At that time Danylo developed relationships not only with immediate neighbours. As an example of broader international ties we can consider Danylo Halytskyi's coronation in Dorohochyn by Pope Innocent IV in 1253. Interested in spreading Catholicism and its political and ideological influence in Eastern Europe the Curia initiated imposing the royal title to Halytsko-Volynsk prince, hoping to get a lot of benefit from it. The constant threat from the Golden Horde led prince Danylo to negotiate with the pope - in the hope for his help in the fight against Mongol-Tatars. In subsequent years, the two sides fail to comply with the contract. Pope declared a crusade against the Tatars where Christians from Poland, Bohemia, Moravia, Serbia and Pomerania were to participate. However, it failed. These countries were too weak to stand up to fight the Tartars. For his part, Danylo Halytskyi did not let in the Catholic missionaries and monks, and did not even fulfill the minimum of his promises regarding the confessional issue [7, p.17]. However, this act confirmed the recognition of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality as a subject of international law and a part of Europe. Western European Chronicles called Halytsko-Volynsk Principality a kingdom long before Danylo's coronation in Dorohochyn. That is why when Pope sent a crown as a gift to Danylo Halytskyi, he simply recognized the existing realities. The character of Danylo Halytskyi relations with Rome was mostly political [11, p.26].

In 1264, after years of political activity, Danylo Halytskyi died. In Ukrainian historiography he is considered to be the most outstanding ruler that the two western principalities ever produced. In view of the difficult circumstances under which he had to function, his achievements were remarkable. While rebuilding and expanding his father's domains, Danylo controlled Polish and Hungarian expansion. Breaking the power of the boyars, he raised the social, cultural and economic level of his land until it was among the highest in Eastern Europe. However, not all his plans succeeded. Danylo failed to hold on to Kyiv and he did not attain his major objective - to rid himself of the Mongol yoke. Still, he managed to keep Mongol influence to a minimum [4, p.60]. In this regard, historian L. Voitovych is right to note that "King Danylo did not die as a Horde vassal but as an independent ruler, to the very end remaining loyal to his policy of revival of independent Rus" [1, p.395]. In his attempt to stave off the East, Danylo turned to the West, thereby providing West Ukrainians with an example that they would follow for centuries.

Descendants of Danylo Halytskyi, recognizing the formal dependence on the Golden Horde, in fact pursued independent foreign policy. A special place in this



policy was given to Poland, the Teutonic Order and Lithuania, which could provide support for independence from the Golden Horde.

Danylo Halytskyi's policy was continued by his son Lev I (1264 - 1301). In 1280 and 1289, Lev took great campaigns against Poland and joined Lublin lands to his principality. Lev got on well with the king of Bohemia Vaclav. He managed to annex some of the Transcarpathia lands. It was during the reign of Lev that Halytsko-Volynsk state had the vastest borders. Many Western chronicles also mention the name Leo regarding the conflict between Hungary and Bohemia, where Leo was the ally of Hungary (1271). Lev protected the northern borders from the attacks of Yatvingians and after Lithuanian prince Traidenis seized Dorohochyn, Lev organized the great Lithuanian campaign which resulted in annexation Novhorodok. Lev recognized the ascendancy of Golden Horde, but his flexible policy made it possible to reduce this dependence to a minimum: providing military assistance in Tatar campaigns [6, p.22]. At the beginning of the 14th century, Volynsk and Halytsk Principalities were reunited by Prince Yurii I – Lev's son. Taking advantage of the internal rebellions in Golden Horde, Halytsko-Volynsk principality was able to move their southern borders down to the lower reaches of the Dniester and the Southern Bug. The evidence of Yurii's might was the fact that he, like Danylo, "by the grace of God" accepted the royal title, calling himself King of Rus (i.e. Halician land) and Prince of Volodymyr (Volyn land). According to the European concepts of that time the use of the formula "by the grace of God" was an essential aspect of the then diplomatic protocol [3, p.245]. Yurii I was a peaceful ruler, his policy avoiding major armed conflict. Historians suggest that such policy resulted in the loss of Lublin (1302). During Yuri's rule, the capital was the town of Volodymyr, which received a marked superiority in the state. Yurii's principality was considered flourishing, peaceful and economically beneficial. He persuaded the Patriarch of Constantinople to install Halytsk metropolitanate, which fact contributed to the development of traditional culture and helped to protect the political independence of the united principality. Yurii was held in respect by neighboring countries. Marriage connected him with Yefymia, sister of Wladyslaw Lokietek, Prince Kujawski. Essential in the fight against the dangerous neighbor - Lithuania - was Yurii's alliance with the Teutonic Order.

In 1308-1323, Halytsko-Volynsk principality was ruled by the two sons of Yurii - Lev II and Andrew. The foreign policy of the Principality in times of duumvirate relied on an alliance with the Teutonic Order, which was useful both for trade with the Baltic states, as well as in the situation when Lithuanian pressure became more and more tangible on the northern outskirts of the principality. There is an extant Andrew and Lev's charter of 1316 confirming the union with the Teutonic Order. In the charter, Halytsko-Volynsk princes promised to protect the Order against the Golden Horde. Thus, while Halytsko-Volynsk principality had to recognize formal dependence on the Horde, in fact it pursued independent foreign policy. Polish King Wladyslaw Lokietek called his eastern neighbors - Princes Andrew and Lev – "invincible shield against the brutal tribe of Tatars" [11, p.27]. However, blocking the Horde from moving to the lands of its western neighbors, Halytsko-Volynsk principality suffered from devastating campaigns of the Horde. Andrew and Lev II



strengthened political relations with Lithuania by the dynastic marriage of Andrew's daughter and Lubart, the son of Gediminas, the Grand Prince of Lithuania (1316-1341). However, the marriage turned out to be one of the preconditions for Lithuanian rule on the Ukrainian lands.

Prince Yurii II, the heir of Andrew and Lev II, brought up in the traditions of Western European culture, pursued pro-Western policy. He facilitated resettlement of Germans and Poles on the Ukrainian lands; he was loyal to Catholicism and contributed to its spreading in Ukraine, patronized cities. Despite the fact that Yurii II was elected by the boyars themselves, the Boyar opposition was against him. He was accused of patronizing strangers, promoting German colonization, intending to impose Catholicism on the Ukrainian lands. In 1340 Prince Yurii II was poisoned. The death of Yurii II put an end to independence of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality. It was the beginning of many years' struggle for Halicia and Volyn which ended with annexation of the Ukrainian land by the neighboring countries.

After the death of Yurii II, the boyars started looking for a noble decent ruler. Lubart, the son of the Lithuanian Grand Prince Gediminas, was invited to be the ruler in Halytsko-Volynsk Rus. His rule in Halicia ended in defeat and led to the attacks on Halytsko-Volynsk land by the neighboring countries. Thus, in 1349, Kazimir the Great received from Tatars the right to Halicia, and finally conquered it by attacking Halician land again. The Polish and Ugrians soon seized Volodymyr. Halicia and Kholm remained in the hands of Poland. In these fights Halytsko-Volynsk state collapsed completely.

Conclusion.

Thus, Halytsko-Volynsk state not only maintained unity of the united territory for quite a long time, but also according to Western models applied the traditions of forming government bodies. Indeed, the influence of Western law on the development of Halician government bodies and institutions is noticeable. In foreign policy, the state rulers relied on an alliance with the Teutonic Order and Lithuania, at the same time maintaining friendly relations with Poland, Hungary, the Byzantine Empire and even Rome, thus reinforcing its political importance. The princes conducted diplomatic negotiations in person or through their ambassadors. Ambassadors were great boyars or the clergy, sometimes the princes' sons. There were frequent princely assemblies where the princes of both sides negotiated in person. The venue for these assemblies ("snems") were often border areas, e.g. Sianok in Halician-Hungarian border area or Ternava on the border with Poland. At the conventions they dealt with treaties of peace, settled disputes etc.

In the course of international relations the princes consolidated some diplomatic practices that were considered inviolable: diplomatic immunity; when a prince was riding through the territory of another prince, he had to delegate his ambassador with a message; it was considered unacceptable to do honors to the ambassadors on somebody else's land; princes sent valuable gifts to the rulers they negotiated with, or presented the ambassadors-negotiators with the gifts.

Halytsko-Volynsk land played a prominent role in the pan-European trading system. It was a significant segment of one of the two ways "from the Vikings to the Greeks." Trade was conducted with Poland, Lithuania, the Teutonic Order, Danubian



cities, Byzantium, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony, Flanders. The extensive system of bridges, neighborhoods of Italian, German and Northern Rus merchants in the towns serve as a weighty evidence of the intensity of trade in the principality. Regarding the organizational and technical aspects, the economy of Halytsko-Volynsk Principality developed on a par with other neighboring European countries.

Therefore, it is worthy foreign policy and skills in establishing diplomatic ties by the princes contributed to the fact that Halytsko-Volynsk state was the main political center of the entire Ukraine. This state overcame the periods of partition and succeeded in preserving its territorial unity. It used the Western patterns in the organization of the state. Halytsko-Volynsk Principality fought against its neighbors who repeatedly encroached on its land, defended its freedom and independence for decades and was a real pillar of Ukrainian statehood.

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