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Summary of doctoral dissertation: The Ukrainian people's movement in Eastern Galicia (1897 - 1914)

(Work written under the supervision of: Prof. dr hab. Jarosław Moklak)

The Polish-Ukrainian borderland in the 19th century was located in Eastern Galicia. At that time, both nations built their national identity on the lower social class. Due to this fact, national relations in Eastern Galicia became clearer. In historiography, researchers have paid a lot of attention to political issues. In the following doctoral dissertation, the author, while presenting national relations in Eastern Galicia, drew attention to the social aspect of the problem. The subject of the author's research concerns the Ukrainian peasantry during the time of turbulent agricultural strikes, election campaigns and repercussions following the assassination of Count Andrzej Potocki. The author has placed the Ukrainian peasantry within a specific timeframe: 1897 - 1914.

In describing the Ukrainian people's movement in more detail, the attention was directed to religious and economic relations. The exploitation of peasants by owners of huge court areas was then presented. The author advanced the thesis that despite a formal abolition of serfdom, the economic condition of peasants did not improve. During the timeframe described in the doctoral thesis, the peasants received the right to free emigration. Ukrainians, opening themselves to the outside world, acquired more and more national consciousness. Another imperative affecting the nature of the Ukrainian peasantry was the activity of agitators. Agitators were active in the villages of Eastern Galicia, where they raised the national and economic needs of the peasantry. These agitators were Greek Catholic priests, students from the University of Lviv and Lviv Polytechnic, teachers of folk schools and universities, as well as heads of communes and other rural officials and authorities.

The Ukrainian national consciousness was not the only one in East Galicia. Polish national awareness was also strong. It was caused by the building of a new nation based on all social classes. The Polish nobility, striving to calm the moods, favored other peasants, granting them economic privileges. In this doctoral dissertation, that other national relations were also presented: Ukrainian-Jewish, 'Ukrainian-Moskalophiles'.

The author of the doctoral dissertation, striving to present social phenomena occurring in Eastern Galicia, shifted attention to local events. For this purpose, he used documents found in Krakow, Warsaw, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Ternopil. Striving to fully illustrate the Polish-Ukrainian relations, he made every effort to reach the Ukrainian and Polish press. He used the following titles: "Swoboda", "Naprzód", "Hromadskyj Hołos", "Hajdamaky", "Wola", "Prawo Ludu". Willing to be objective, he set the achieved results in the Polish and Ukrainian historiography of the subject. The author failed to reach all documents, though. During the conducted search queries, he obtained information about the existence of surveys that the Ukrainian students of the 1902-1903 period prepared and sent out to farm owners and strikers. These documents were not found in either Lviv or Wroclaw. In the department of manuscripts found at the Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine, named after Vasyl Stefanyk, the employees of the facility confessed to having lost the aforementioned documents. What is more, in the period described, it was impossible to determine the scale of migration of Polish peasants from Western to Eastern Galicia. Numerous accounts of researchers and archival documents prove that the phenomenon occurred. The doctoral dissertation is original in its form. The author drew attention to issues that until now had been overlooked by numerous researchers of the past. The also author drew attention to the attempts to 'Polonize' "Eastern Galicia". What is more he described the sale and purchase of land in Eastern Galicia. The author also focused on the fact that peasants were brought to the Eastern Galicia to perform work on the farms. Another goal of the author of the dissertation was to shed light on the role of the Greek Catholic clergy in the Ukrainian national movement. The paper presents numerous profiles of Greek Catholic priests. The author formulated the thesis according to which national and class divisions overlapped and immediately became intermingled. Numerous scenes of Polish-Ukrainian or Ukrainian-Jewish hatred were mentioned, and at the same time, Polish-Ukrainian or Jewish-Ukrainian struggles against power or nobility were described.