

## **Vasyl Kononenko, *Political-administrative and territorial reform of the Hetmanate in the 18th century: causes, course, consequences***

Historians of independent Ukraine pay much attention to studying the Hetmanate history. However, during a quarter-century there have been no comprehensive works on the political-administrative and territorial reform in the Ukrainian autonomy. For this reason the appearance of the book by Olexander Gurzhii puts a special emphasis.

Olexandr Gurzhii is an experienced researcher of the Hetmanate in the 18th century. He published a number of books and dozens of articles on political, administrative, social and intellectual history of the Hetmanate. He investigated a lot of military, genealogical and economical themes of Ukrainian Early Modern history too. Consequently, Olexander Gurzhii's academic experience allowed him to write the work "Political-administrative and territorial reform of the Hetmanate in the 18th century".

The book consists of the introduction, three chapters and conclusions. The introduction tells about the significance of the research. The author pays attention to errors in the Soviet mapping when the regions which actually belonged to the Hetmanate were not mapped. In the Ukrainian academic historical-cartographic studies the map of the Hetmanate was created only in 2012 (sic!). These and other facts must convince the reader that the appearance of Olexandr Gurzhii's book is necessary (pp. 3-4).

The first chapter is dedicated to the Hetman's policy on preserving the territorial integrity of Ukraine during the reign of Peter I (1689-1725). The researcher briefly described the colonization of the wasteland between the Dnieper and the Southern Bug by Ukrainians and the phenomenon of Cossackization [*pokozachennia*] of this region in 1680-1690s. (pp. 10-11). Olexandr Gurzhii writes Ivan Mazepa's attempts to defend as much of the right-bank region under his rule as possible. The author tells that the right-bank territory and Soz region of

Starodubshchyna, controlled by hetman Ivan Mazepa, became small change in the Baltic politics of Peter I (pp. 12-18).

The scientist represents not only Cossack administration attempts to connect to the Hetmanate right-bank region, but notes the southern border between the Russian State (and Zaporozhzhia) and Ottoman Empire (and Crimean Khanate). The researcher emphasized the fact that according to the Treaty of Constantinople of 3 July 1700, the area between Zaporozhzhia and Ochakiv was not being populated (p.9).

The author characterizes the formation of Kievan governorate [*guberniia*] according to the edict [*ukaz*] of 18 December 1708 as the first territorial reform of the Hetmanate by the Russian State (pp. 18-19). However, the author reasoned his opinion insufficiently. Oleksandr Gurzhii also pays attention to the Hetmanate eastern boundary change in 1709. The Resolute Edict [*Reshytelnii ukaz*] of 17 July 1709 legalized the separation of the town Kotelva (Hadiach regiment) with its neighbourhood of the province from the Hetmanate and its merging to Sloboda Ukraine (Okhtyrka regiment) (pp. 22-21). The author concludes that the Resolute Edict [*Reshytelnii ukaz*] and “articles” [*statti*] to Andrei Izmailov of 18, 27, and 30 July 1709 transformed the Hetmanate into a typical outskirts of the Moscow State (p. 22).

Oleksandr Gurzhii describes political and administrative structure of the Hetmanate and its territory according to the “Treaties and Covenants” [*Dogovory i postanovlenia*] of April 5, 1710. The researcher pays special attention to the western border of the Cossack State in the text of the Bender Constitution: the border was to go along the river Sluch. The southern border of Ukraine was stretched up to Ochakiv. Kyiv became the capital of the State for the first time in the Cossack history. Traditional municipalities have been confirmed for the capital and other cities. Centesimal and regimental social structure was confirmed as the basis for territorial-administrative organization of the Hetmanate both on the left and on the right bank of the Dnipro. Zaporozhzhia was to be merged to the

Hetmanate as broad autonomy. Trakhtemyriv enclave was to belong the Zaporozhian Host (pp. 22-25).

The investigator writes that the possession of the prince Alexandr Menshikov in the Hetmanate can be considered as merging to the Russian State (pp. 27-28). Moreover, this part of the book contains a number of other themes. In particular it deals with mapping of the Hetmanate on the Soviet and Russian maps (pp. 6) as well as the Eastern European ones during the second half of the 17th – the early 18th century (pp. 7-8). The historian also mentions limitations by imperial administration in the autonomous system of Sloboda Ukraine (p. 29).

The second chapter of the book is devoted to the territorial limitation of Ukrainian autonomy from the death of Peter I to the reign of Peter III (pp. 31-42). Oleksandr Gurzhii emphasizes that after death of hetman Danylo Apostol Ukrainian autonomy was guided according to Anna Ioanovna's Chapter of 31 January, 1734, the Provisional Government [*Vremennoe pravlenie*] headed by prince Alexei Shakhovskoi. But in the instructions on January 31 this institution was called the Reign of Hetman Government [*Getmanskogo uriadu pravlenie*]. The Office of Little Russia Affairs [*Kanceliariia malorosiiskich del*] was created for record keeping (pp. 32-33). In this chapter, the author also describes the border between the Commonwealth and the Russian Empire (pp. 34-35). Oleksandr Gurzhii mentions archival material about the control of Bila Tserkva district [*Bialocerkiiewskie starostwo*] by forces of Russian Empire in 1734-1736 (p. 34). The researcher pays great attention to reforming during the reign of hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky. In particular, he writes that the edict on Sich subordination to the hetman was issued on July 24, 1751 (p. 38). According to this decree, the territory, controlled by hetman, actually doubled (sic!). Hetman Rosumovsky also took care to move Sich to a new location (pp. 41-42)

The final chapter is dedicated to destruction of the Hetmanate political-administrative structure by Catherine II (pp. 43-76). Oleksandr Gurzhii describes the beginning of Kyrylo Rozumovsky reign as follows: “[he] began the autonomous management of the Ukrainian State by own discretion, restored the

quantity of general officers [*generalna starshyna*] and the Court [*Generalnyi Viiskovyi Sud*], the functioning of social and political institutions, and slightly reformed trade and justice...” (p. 38). In particular, in 1750s - early 1760s hetman's administration attempted to differentiate lands between Poltava regiment and Zaporozhzhia (pp. 38-39). In the 1750s hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky wanted to have real control over Kyiv (p. 39). In 1753-1754 there was a clarification of the boundaries between the Hetmanate (Russian Empire) and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (p. 39).

Oleksandr Gurzhii gave a negative estimation to the administrative aspect of the Hetmanate's judicial reform in 1763–1764 and the base a new governorate on the territory of Southern Ukraine. He describes the creation of 20 counties according to the judicial reform. As a rule, each regiment had two counties (Poltava regiment had one county, but Nizhyn regiment had three) (p. 43). In 1764 New Russian governorate [*Novorossiiskaia gubernia*] was formed with its center in Kremenchuk. The governorate included 13 sotnias [*sotnia*] of Poltava regiment and 2 sotnias of Mirgorod regiment. This was the first major detachment of the territory from the Hetmanate in favor of administrative institution under complete imperial control (p. 44). The author also briefly describes the elimination of hetman government and creation of the second Collegium of Little Russia [*Malorossiiskaia kollegiia*] (pp. 45-46).

The author describes creation of vicegerencies [*namestnichestvo*] on the territory of the Hetmanate (pp. 47-50). He showed that creation of a new administrative system was burdensome on the Hetmanate population. According to the researcher's study, the newly vicegerencies included sotnias of 2 or even 4 regiments. In some cases, only 1 village from a regiment merged to a newly created district (p. 69). Therefore most residents of the liquidated Hetmanate used the old administrative division in their everyday life for decades.

Thus, the book by Oleksandr Gurzhii contains significant archival material about political-administrative reforms in Hetmanate. However, the author describes the reforms chiefly as limitation of Ukrainian autonomy by the imperial

government. Because of such approach to the interpretation of sources the researcher failed to pay adequate attention to political and administrative projects of Cossack administration. Nevertheless, Olexandr Gurzhii's book is useful for further studies of political and administrative reforms in the Hetmanate.