

UDC 323.272(477):94(031))(049.32)  
doi: 10.15330/jpnu.8.2.116-120

## Section: REVIEWS

### HISTORICAL MILESTONE OF THE UKRAINIAN REVOLUTION

*VOLODYMYR BARAN*

Review on the publication: Western Ukrainian People's Republic 1918-1923. Encyclopaedia Vol. 1: A-Ж. Ivano-Frankivsk : Manuscript-Lviv, 2018. 688 p.; West Ukrainian People's Republic 1918-1923. Encyclopaedia Vol. 2: 3-O. Ivano-Frankivsk : Manuscript-Lviv, 2019. 832 p.; West Ukrainian People's Republic 1918-1923. Encyclopaedia Vol. 3: P-C. Ivano-Frankivsk : Manuscript-Lviv, 2020. 576 p.; West-Ukrainian People's Republic 1918-1923. Encyclopaedia Vol. 4: T-Я. Ivano-Frankivsk : Manuscript-Lviv, 2021. 688 p. (Head of the Editorial Board I. Tsependa, Head of the Editorial Board M. Kuhutiak).

Modern Ukrainian historical science witnesses many important processes, in particular, the study of previously unknown, silenced, banned, heroic or at times tragic pages of the past of our people, the search for new research methods, the critical approach to the existing historical models as well as the chronological framework of various phenomena, etc. We mainly focus our attention on the two current historical science trends. On the one hand, national historians are striving to pay more attention to local regional history, while on the other hand, they are working with the accumulated material and, therefore, generalize works from the past, create new ways of the historical material presentation. In this way Ukrainian scientists determine the place of Ukraine in the pan-European and world historical context, it also helps finding answers to the challenges of the ongoing globalization. We can see the unique way global and local patterns combine and intertwine, and this is reflected in Ukrainian encyclopedias in particular.

We cannot but agree with the head of the encyclopedia publishing house "Entsyclopedychne vydavnytstvo" Prof. A. Kyrydon, who has analyzed the main directions of development of the Ukrainian encyclopedia publishing process and stated: "There is a certain pattern coming to the forefront: the stronger the process of globalization becomes, the more the local specificity finds itself in demand, the latter influences the process of globalization as it is, transforms it, and shapes the process of glocalization. It is about the mutual influence of the processes of globalization and glocalization. While glocalization is a combination of globalization and localization: incongruous and incompatible trends, at first glance" (Encyclopedias as Glocal Media: Collective Monograph. K.: DIA: 2020. p. 6).

The Ukrainian encyclopedia science and publishing has been experiencing a noticeable rise in recent decades. Thus, in 2006 there appeared the fourth edition of the "Ukrainian Encyclopedia Dictionary", in 2004-2010 there saw the world the 4-volume "Ternopil Encyclopedic Dictionary"; the ongoing encyclopedia publishing process includes both recent and upcoming volumes in the series of "Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine", "Encyclopedia of the History of Ukraine", "The Great Ukrainian Encyclopedia", etc. These publications are supposed to fill significant gaps in the Ukrainian biography studies and encyclopaedia studies, the gaps being the heritage of the Soviet past and the lengthy period

of statelessness. That is why it is especially relevant today to study the history of Ukrainian state-building along with the experience of national liberation struggle.

The period of 1991 – 2021 produced hundreds of new scientific works devoted to the Ukrainian Revolution; therefore, there appeared an objective need to consolidate a great amount of new information in a single publication of a referential or encyclopedic nature. Thus, the 4-volume edition "Western Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918-1923" should be considered in terms of restoration of the historical memory of our people about the relevant, a way of falling back on our primary and original sources. According to the authors of the preface, this volume is a belated act of historical justice, which gives the Ukrainian people their real heroes back, re-acquaint with their names. This encyclopedia testifies to the emergence of a new concept, a new understanding of the history of the Ukrainian national liberation struggle in the 20th century.

It has taken considerable time and effort to prepare the publication of "Western-Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 - 1923"; the very fact of this happening is closely linked with the existence and work of a relevant scientific school at Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University (Ivano-Frankivsk). Headed by Prof. O. Karpenko, the school has been working on the issue of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) for several decades and has brought together historians representing various educational and scientific institutions. The results of their scientific research have been published in numerous scientific articles, monographs, unique collections of documents and materials. It is actually the collective work of Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, and Ternopil scientists that has formed the basis of a peer-reviewed encyclopedic publication.

The prospective reader should perceive the 4-volume edition "Western-Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 – 1923" as a vivid manifestation of interdisciplinary collective research. In terms of methodology, the published work combines traditional historical methods with the ones inherent in the fields of source studies, historiography, biography studies, diplomacy and various other disciplines; it determines the features and stages of the the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) formation, its history, and provides readers with the biographies of active participants and creators of Ukrainian state-formation.

There has been over 240 scientists from 5 universities and 6 scientific institutes working on the encyclopedia, and from the very first pages, the impressive team of authors makes readers dive into the history of Ukrainian state-building, ideas of national independence, independence and unity along with their fresh interpretations. Surely, this approach is quite deliberate as the publication allows interpreting the origins of various state-building concepts and strategies in a new way, it also explains the reasons for various ideological strategies emergence, and, finally, it makes a highly informational reading not only for a professional scientist, but also for the average reader who is interested in the past.

The authors of the thematic encyclopedia use the alphabetical and problem principle to contents formation; therefore, all articles are arranged alphabetically. Accordingly, the 1<sup>st</sup> volume includes articles on letters in between А-Ж, the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume deals with the range letters З-О, the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume comprises material on the letters П-С, while the last one, the 4<sup>th</sup> volume, introduces material with the letters Т-Я. The last volume also contains over 40 pages of materials predominantly of biographical nature that have not been included in volumes 1-3 for various reasons. They appear after the last letter (Я) articles come to its end.

Each volume of the encyclopedia contains scientific articles, a list of authors and a list of all articles. In total, there are over 3,200 articles in the encyclopedia, and among them articles of a biographical nature prevail. In particular, the ones that attract special attention focus on detailed and thoroughly studied life writings of T. Voynarovskiy, S. Dobrianskyi, M. Diuk, B. Zahaikevych, O. Kovch, Ye. Konovalets, A. Krushelnytskyi, K. Levytskyi, O. Nazaruk, Ye. Petrushevych, I. Franko, L. Tsegelsky, A. Sheptytsky, as well as numerous statesmen of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR) and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR), senior officers of the Galician Army, and military chaplains, etc. Gradually, a page after a page, the publication introduces the events of the local history of Western Ukrainian lands in the context of the general Ukrainian revolution; the work also ties them to pan-European and world processes, shows Ukrainians fighting for their own statehood as a constituent

part of the global development of civilization, their struggle for the rights and freedom. It is no coincidence that the encyclopedia authors have included the articles on the international peace conferences of 1919 - 1923, biographies of famous foreign political figures who played an important role in the fate of the Ukrainian liberation competitions of 1917 - 1923. There are also research paper about the leaders of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, "red" and "white" Russia, Czechoslovakia, Romania, the rulers of Austria-Hungary and the German Empire, as well as Poland, which was a hostile country at that time. Each article emphasizes the attitude of a given historical figure to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. What is particularly positive is the fact that the many articles include significant clarifications and additional information not presented in other Ukrainian encyclopedic publications.

The encyclopedia also contains thematic articles on important issues concerning the history of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR), as well as on its state development prospects. We consider the article dedicated to "Unification Acts of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic" to be of a particular importance as it emphasizes the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for unity. The activities of ministries - state secretariats of the ZUNR are thoroughly and substantively described in the number of articles. Historical and archival aspects make materials about state, counties and city commissioners, as well as state, county and city councils of the ZUNR especially informative and interesting. These articles explain the system of government and local self-government. They complement and broaden the understanding of the article "Democratic Rights and Freedoms in the ZUNR". The reader cannot but react to the research materials concerning repressions of the Ukrainian population of Galicia carried out in 1918-1923 by the Polish punitive authorities, Polish camps for Ukrainian prisoners of war and internees, as well as the outbreaks of Spanish fever and typhoid epidemics on the Ukrainian lands in 1918-1919.

The encyclopedia includes a rather significant number of articles about the military memorials of the Ukrainian Galician Army and burials of the ZUNR statesmen, it singles out the history of commemorating of the Ukrainian heroes lost during the period of Polish domination, the restoration of monuments and cemeteries in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and the impact of these processes on the proclamation of Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991.

Readers will find it fascinating to learn about the UNR and ZUNR neighbors - Austria, the Belarusian People's Republic, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, as well as about the opponents of the Ukrainian statehood - the Polish Army, the Red Army, the Voluntary Army of the Armed Forces of the South of Russia; there are also various researches devoted to Ukrainian youth and women - active participants in the liberation struggle.

The primary principles of the study of the history of the ZUNR, documents of central and local authorities, the journal of the Ukrainian Galician Army, the system of record keeping of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic, archival affairs make up particularly significant materials. The articles about the territory, population, economy of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic look innovative, in particular, the one about the chronological framework of the Ukrainian Revolution: instead of traditional 1917 - 1921 proposed by conventional Ukrainian historiography, it is defined in between 1914 - 1923, and that allows to break Ukrainian history free from the Russian imperial information space and to study it the framework of the pan-European and world history.

"Western Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 - 1923" is well illustrated; it contains hundreds of photos, dozens of maps, diagrams, drawings, etc. Scientific and literary editors put in a lot of time and effort to make the work the way it is.

Yet, unfortunately, the published encyclopedia is not void of certain drawbacks and omissions. Thus, in our opinion, the editors failed to completely eradicate discrepancies in the terminology used. In particular, in Volume 1 the terms "Ukrainian Galician Army" (UGA) and "Galician Army" (GA) were used as full equivalents for some reason, while in Volumes 2-4, the term "Ukrainian Galician Army" prevails. There are some cases when individual articles contradict each other in terms of content or contain information that differs significantly. This can obviously be explained by Kyiv and Western Ukrainian authors having different ideas and evaluation of historical figures such as S. Petliura, and Ye.

Petrushevych; their view on the reasons of the defeat in the Ukrainian liberation struggle also differ to a certain extent. The lack of articles written jointly by scientists from different research centers can be certainly seen as a drawback; as such cooperation could have lessened or eradicated such contradictions.

We believe that certain individual articles of the encyclopedia contain somewhat questionable or debatable secondary facts in. However, this allowed to significantly expand the range of personalities involved in the processes of Ukrainian state-building by means of including, for example, members of the Ukrainian National Council of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic. One cannot but admit it is extremely useful to rely on a large variety of new sources that have rarely been used by scientists previously - annual reports of gymnasiums, metric books, personal cards, unpublished memoirs, press materials from the archives of Ukraine, Austria, the Vatican, Poland, the Czech Republic.

The peer-reviewed encyclopedia makes it possible to re-evaluate the historical heritage of the Ukrainian People's Republic, the Ukrainian State. It calls for answers on a number of questions: Why is there no ongoing state programme on the Ukrainian military burials restoration, those burials going back not only to the period of the Ukrainian Revolution of the beginning of the 20th century, but also to the Cossack era, Kyivan Rus' period, etc.? Why do we commemorate and honour historical political figures of predominantly leftist or pro-Russian views, while worthy representatives of the nation, such as M. Mikhnovsky, P. Bolbachan, P. Skoropadsky, V. Lypkivskyi are left out by the great majority? The unilateral interpretation of historical events of this kind leads to unjustified veneration of those historical figures, who denied the facts of the Holodomor in the 1930s or repeatedly expressed their willingness to "enforce the Soviet authority" in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic under the auspices of the USSR, for example. We cannot help but make the conclusion: historical personalities of the unifying type, the ones embodying all-Ukrainian values, lack recognition in the Ukrainian society. Therefore, it is truly gratifying that many of such personalities – representatives of culture, science, politics, as well as spiritual leaders – have received their just place in the encyclopedia.

The encyclopedia "Western Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 - 1923" does not provide answers to all the questions and issues concerning the history of Ukraine or even the ZUNR history, for that matter. Yet, it urges Ukrainian historians to look at the national history from a new angle, to intensify the search and identification of the still unknown historical sources concerning the history of Ukraine – both within the country and abroad. These searches and researches make it possible for the Ukrainian people to retrieve their historical sources.

In general, the encyclopedia "Western-Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 - 1923" proves that it took the efforts and actions of millions of Ukrainians, not just several individuals, to turn and change the Ukrainian history. The research work delivers from oblivion the names of hundreds of patriots, who sacrificed their lives to achieve the Ukrainian independence, and restores lost historical memory. Most importantly "Western Ukrainian People's Republic. Encyclopaedia. 1918 - 1923" shows the place of the local history of one of the Ukrainian regions in the national, pan-European and global contexts. Despite certain shortcomings the peer-reviewed encyclopaedia surely deserves to be noticed and appreciated by scientists as well as by the entire Ukrainian community. It might be a good idea to create an electronic version of the publication and upload it online.

**Address:** Volodymyr Baran, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, 13 Voly Ave., Lutsk, 43025 Ukraine.

**E-mail:** baranv@ukr.net

**Received:** April 19, 2021; **revised:** April 21, 2021.

Баран Володимир. Історична віха Української революції. *Журнал Прикарпатського університету імені Василя Стефаника*, 8 (2) (2021), 116–120.

Рецензія на видання: Західно-Українська Народна Республіка 1918-1923. Енциклопедія. Т. 1: А-Ж. Івано-Франківськ : Манускрипт-Львів, 2018. 688 с.; Західно-Українська Народна Республіка 1918-1923. Енциклопедія. Т. 2: З-О. Івано-Франківськ : Манускрипт-Львів, 2019. 832 с.; Західно-Українська Народна Республіка 1918-1923. Енциклопедія. Т. 3: П-С. Івано-Франківськ : Манускрипт-Львів, 2020. 576 с.; Західно-Українська Народна Республіка 1918-1923. Енциклопедія. Т. 4: Т-Я. Івано-Франківськ : Манускрипт-Львів, 2021. 688 с. (голова редакційної ради І. Цепенда, голова редакційної колегії М. Кугутяк).