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POLITOLOGICAL SCIENCE IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION AFTER THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

IHOR TSEPENDA

Abstract. The article dwells on the state, achievements and research perspectives of the political science school of the Carpathian region scholars. It analyses the whole complex of debatable issues under study that scientists have been working on lately relying on the social demand regarding Ukrainian political processes coverage. The research revolves around certain political aspects of the general topic "Western Ukraine in the national liberation movement and in the processes of state-building". It provides analysis of the historical participation of Western Ukrainian lands in national state-building processes and in national liberation movement, ways of establishing the unity of Ukraine in the historical and political context, as well as political aspects of state-building. Political scientists of the Carpathian region have worked out a scientifically valid position condemning Russia's imperial ambitions regarding the independent Ukrainian state.

Keywords: political science, statehood, national liberation struggle, national culture, patriotic education, state Ukrainian language, pro-European choice, counter-propaganda.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over a long period of their development Western Ukrainian lands happened to be in the epicenter of fate-changing geopolitical events, in various historical political and legal conditions that could not but social phenomena both in Ukraine and abroad. Even though, Galicia (Halychyna) has been under foreign rule of different states, its national identity, mentality, language, and traditional culture of the population allowed it to remain a Ukrainian ethnic entity.

Western Ukraine has often witnessed military confrontations and experienced national liberation struggles, these territories became the heart of growing resistance to the aggressive aspirations of foreign states trying to bring the territory in the center of Europe under their control, to get rid of the Ukrainian-centered inclinations of their people. Naturally, the scientists of the Carpathian region have focused their efforts on the study of political processes in the region and beyond, primarily paying attention to social and theoretical issues in general and local peculiarities of nationalization in particular.

The establishment of the Political Science School in the Ivano-Frankivsk region is connected primarily with the research of scientists of the former local pedagogical institute, that has turned into the nowadays Vasyl Stefanyk Prykarpathian National University ("Higher Pedagogical

Education and Science of Ukraine...”, 2010); at the same time in the region there have been numerous researchers working on the topics of national-patriotic struggle and state-building processes in Ukraine. In the scientific research papers of the older generation of teachers, namely O. Karpenko, V. Hrabovetsky, S. Vozniak, S. Kopchak, P. Fedorchak and others, there were outlined prospects for the development of socio-political, national-historical and traditional-cultural processes in the Carpathian region. Politically oriented studies of a rather powerful group of scholars (including S. Adamovych, V. Velykochy, S. Derevianko, O. Zhernokleiev, V. Klymonchuk, S. Kobuta, V. Komar, M. Kuhutiak, V. Maruschenko, V. Marchuk, S. Monolatii, M. Moskaliuk, M. Nahorniak, I. Raykivskyi, S. Svorak, O. Sych, I. Tsependa) focused on the issues of modern important problems of state formation, political processes, and national movement in our country during various historical stages. Consequently, there has been formed a scientific school, united by common scientific interests, they have been working on collective scientific works preparation and publishing, organizing scientific and theoretical conferences, they have been trying to engage new generations of young scientists into their research, yet, their most importantly they have shared a holistic socio-political position of patriotic teachers, nationally conscious personalities.

It is important to emphasize that in terms of theoretical and methodological principles, by focusing its scientific efforts on the most relevant problems of modern life, determined by the state policy, the political science school of the Carpathian region cooperates with the leading scientific institutions of Ukraine in many aspects, in particular there has been long-standing connection with scientists of the Institute of History of Ukraine of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic National Research of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine as well as other universities of Kyiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ternopil, and Lutsk, etc. The activity of these scientific centers today is coordinated and aimed at the solution of current national and scientific problems. The increasing activity of the political science research in recent decades, in particular in the Carpathian region, results from the processes of ongoing democratization of social and political life in Ukraine, civil society taking a more active stance, along with the growing demand of Russian aggression counteraction.

Such issues as the difficult political situation in Ukraine in the first years of independence, clash of party forces, processes of cooperation and confrontation between the authorities and the opposition have urged political scientists to stay unbiased, form a balanced, impartial vision, called for a clearly-cut state-building position. Keeping their national-patriotic views in mind, university scientists have been following political struggle processes, relying on an in-depth analysis of events and phenomena of public life, taking into account the socio-political atmosphere in society, in the moods and aspirations of different strata of the patriotically inclined population. At the same time, they have been keeping an eye on the political situation in Galicia, as it has long been characterized by the establishment of state independence with an unshakable national-patriotic orientation, the struggle against anti-Ukrainian forces and manifestations of pro-communist ideology.

The objective and unbiased analysis of complex political processes has found its proofs and realization in the scientific publications in the socio-political plane, speeches at public forums and in mass media, namely by S. Derevianko, S. Kobuta, M. Kuhutyak, V. Marchuk, S. Monolatii, I. Tsependa and other researchers. Their interest has been focused on the historical and political aspects stemming from the peculiarities of modern political parties activities, active participation in the Ukrainian society political processes, in particular during the events of the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity. The works of these Carpathian researchers include balanced and unbiased analyses of the socio-political life of independent Ukraine, certain

democratic processes, including the events in Ivano-Frankivsk region. The core research of this plane revolves around the issue of determining the main political priorities – maintenance and fuelling national-patriotic processes, strengthening the state economic independence, decentralization, establishment of national self-identification (namely in the works of V. Velykochyi, S. Derevianko, O. Zhernokleiev, S. Kobuta, etc.).

The research material on this topic has been structured and published in a series of monographs, collections of scientific articles, publications of documents and materials, thesis works, media speeches, and students' works, and the majority of them can be found in the university's scientific library. The teaching staff of the Department of Political Science, the Department of Political Institutes and Processes, and the Department of International Relations have been working for quite a long time on the following topics: Central and Eastern Europe in International Relations (registration number 0114U001590), Central and Eastern Europe: Ethno-political processes, social transformations, and international relations (registration number 0112U003030), Transformation of the modern political system of Ukraine: internal political challenges and external influences (registration number 0117U004396). The multitude of researches in this field also cover the multi-vector sphere of works marginally related to political science, they have been carried out by the humanities scholars – philosophers, historians, sociologists, ethnologists, psychologists, philologists, cultural scientists, demographers, and that provides basis for the coordination of a politically oriented issues. The cohort of researches paying attention to the political science aspects in their works includes the names of historians M. Voloschuk and I. Raikivskyi, psychologists L. Zahray and V. Moskalets, philologists V. Kononenko, R. Pikhmanets, and S. Pushik, demographer M. Romaniuk, philosopher D. Dzvinchuk and others.

2. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The scientific activity of the Carpathian scientists deals with a wide range of intricate issues revolving around the study of historical processes, namely political movements, national liberation struggle, state-building efforts in Western Ukraine during the late 19th century - 1939, the period of totalitarianism, and the years of the independent state building. One of the key areas of the political science research is the work on the understudied materials and data of the Ukrainian national liberation struggle, activity of the OUN-UPA (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists – Ukrainian Insurgent Army), patriotic parties and movements on the territories of Galicia in the middle of the 20th century that have not been mastered sufficiently. The Carpathian scholars are motivated to conduct research of in this field as they strive to accomplish certain tasks concerning national-patriotic education, primarily of the younger generation; they are driven by the desire to consolidate Ukrainian society, to strengthen the idea of the united state in the minds of the Ukrainian community, ideology and practice of national resistance. The works of V. Velykochyi, S. Derevianko, O. Zhernokleiev, V. Klymonchuk, M. Kuhutiak, I. Monolatii characterize the national liberation struggle as a phenomenon of tremendous political science significance, and this interpretation has acquired a fresh meaning in the face of aggression from imperial Russia, suggestion manifestations, and information warfare. The glorification of the national-patriotic movement heroics has become a practical source of the Ukrainian army's strength, the source of the Ukrainian community unity in their resistance to enemy forces.

Among the array of national-patriotic ideas under study relying on the national liberation movement research, there appears a discussion platform of political science orientation, namely, it concerns the ideology of nationalism, its correlation with the category of patriotism, and assessment and evaluation of the activities of OUN-UPA leadership in terms of political science. A

balanced and impartial scientific analysis of these phenomena of Ukrainian history has become more important than ever in the face of new trials.

At the same time, there arises the question of cooperation of the fighters for freedom and independence in the East and West of Ukraine. Our political scientists do not deny the possibility of mental differences existence comparing mindsets of Ukrainians from the eastern and western parts of the state, yet, they emphasize the need of singling out certain unifying criteria (namely, common origin, history, language, culture, spiritual values, the idea of unity). For instance, comparing peculiarities of the mental guidelines of the representatives of the western and eastern regions, we rely on certain conservatism regarding preservation and celebration of ethno-cultural traditions characteristic of the residents of the western region, and manifestations of the outdated views related to the Soviet past in the eastern regions, etc. (Klymonchuk, 2011, p. 423).

The Carpathian scientists have also devoted their attention to the activities of political parties and movements in the 19th and early 20th centuries. For instance, M. Kuhutiak's works dwell on the issue of giving an appraisal and sum up of state-political processes in Galicia in the first half of the 20th century (Kuhutiak, 2002; Kuhutiak, 2004); while studying the formation of the Western Ukrainian party system, O. Zhernokleiev (2000), has shown the place and role of Galicia in the national liberation movement, etc. There has taken place an ongoing study of the political struggle of party associations in independent Ukraine, which is only natural, since the parties influence on state-political processes becomes stronger, on the one hand, attesting to the development of democratic and political freedoms, and on the other hand, asserting the strengthening of public activity. These tendencies are particularly noticeable in terms of democratic forces' opposition to the Soviet totalitarianism in the recent past, as well as to Russian fascist doctrine nowadays.

The theoretical and methodological principles of ethno-political studies has found their practical embodiment in works that give way to the prospects and further study of the principles and methods of political analysis; they are political processes in Galicia that have served as the main material for the scientific observations. For instance, Klymonchuk (2011) considered theoretical basis of political freedoms in a broad sense as the driving force of Ukrainian national genesis. According to his ideas, "in general, in modern Ukraine, taking into account internal and geopolitical circumstances, there is a tendency to harmonize the functioning of the democracy institutions that have to guarantee rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen as well as different social strata, they are called to limit administrative interference of authorities into various spheres of private and public life of a person" (p. 437). Monolatiy (2011) has been studying intergroup interactions, in particular clarifying the inter-ethnic relations of representatives of different ethnic groups in pursuit of national priorities. As he puts it, "the significance of interactions under the ethnic differences impact is more obvious, as one has to take into account that ethno-nations participate in political processes as independent entities and they often advocate those solutions to intergroup conflicts and contradictions that would benefit them the most, serving their interests" (p. 175). Works of S. Derevianko offer the theory and practice of constitutionalism of state formation, legislative activity, implementation of various forms of democracy; his scientific interests include geopolitical influences, political history of Ukraine (see research articles in the all-Ukrainian publications "Pravo Ukrainy" ("Law of Ukraine"), "Visnyk Akademii pravovykh nauk Ukrainy" ("Bulletin of the Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine"), "Viche" ("Veche"), "Derzhava I pravo" ("State and Law") and others).

The history of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (1918-1923) as the prototype of independent Ukraine constitutes a special field of study for Galician researchers in terms of political science. It is famous historian O. Karpenko and his colleagues and students who have made their invaluable contribution to the development of the data base concerning numerous collections of unique materials on the emergence, social processes, public figures, domestic and

foreign policy of the WUPR (ZUNR) in the Carpathian region. This work, in its turn, has led to the creation of a scientific team headed by Professor Mykola Kuhutyak, that have granted the world a unique work – the Encyclopedia "Western Ukrainian People's Republic" in 4 volumes (2018-2021). Hundreds of scholars from Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kyiv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and other cities of Ukraine have been working on the encyclopedia. They paid their attention to every little detail, historical moment, or name that was the part of the events. The recurring motive of the encyclopedia is confirmation of the Galicians aspirations to unite with the Ukrainian People's Republic, which signified their desire to be reunited and recreate an independent state. There come to mind a comparison with the current situation: representatives of the WUPR strove to unification with the Ukrainian People's Republic the same way it is happening nowadays on the military battlefields against Russian aggression.

Another honorary mission our political scientists and historians have taken up is creation of socio-political portraits of outstanding personalities in the history of Galicia including ancient princes, state and political figures, active participants of national liberation struggle, and heroes who sacrificed their lives "for Ukraine, for its freedom, for honor, for fame, for the people", as well as famous writers, scientists, educators, priests, etc. The Encyclopedia of the WUPR (ZUNR) includes diligently drafted biographical data on numerous personalities from leaders to ordinary participants of the outstanding historical events. In general, the joint efforts of various scientists, whose names make an impressive list in itself (M. Kuhutiak, I. Monolatii, M. Voloschchuk, O. Zhernokleiev, V. Velykochyi, S. Kobuta, O. Maruschenko, I. Raikivskyi, R. Pikhmanets, Ye. Baran, etc.), resulted in creation of a kind of pantheon of personalities who had left their traces in the history of the region. What makes these editions special it the fact that besides offering biographical data and life-stories of famous personalities of Galicia, the encyclopedias define their national-political purpose, show their significant places and roles against the background of the national movement events.

There is a need to pay special attention to the accomplishments of the political scientists and historians in the field of Ukrainian historiography, in particular, regarding their works on the national-political situation in Galicia during the given historical period. The value of their efforts becomes even higher considering that, firstly, a large amount of archival materials and documents that was stored on the territories of then Austria-Hungary, Poland, and Romania, was not available for scientific study for a long time and public didn't have access to them, and secondly, for a long period of time there dominated anti-scientific views of Soviet and Russian counterfeiterers that distorted the perception and interpretation of the political struggle in Western Ukrainian lands. The monumental edition under the supervision of M. Kuhutiak has also included the generalized data and materials, that reproduce, describe, and explain the national liberation and political movement in Prykarpattia (the Carpathian region) in the 20th century, ("Ukrainian National Liberation Movement in the Carpathian Region in the XX century...", 2009). There is scientific depth of the source and historiographic analysis to be found in the work of V. Velykochyi on social and political development in Galicia in 1914-1919; the author re-evaluates the events historiography of this military-revolutionary era, and offers an objective approach to the public national-cultural movement (Velykochyi, 2002). The historiographic study by O. Maruschenko is devoted to military and historical topics, namely Galicians fighting in World War II on two different fronts, both against Bolshevik and German-fascist invaders. The works of S. Kobuta offer a critical analysis of a vast amount of documents on political processes of the former Communist Party bodies in the Ivano-Frankivsk region.

It is only natural that Galician scientists of the previous period as well as the modern ones consider the issue of the unity of all Ukrainian lands, the unification of Ukraine into an unbreakable monolith, to be of paramount importance. The significance of the tasks only strengthens in the view of the historical circumstances due to which Galicia was taken under the

foreign rule, as well as with regard to the conditions of the past limiting possibilities of the all-Ukrainian joint fight for the unity in an independent state. As it is stated in the monograph "Unity of Ukraine: history and modernity" (1999), "the idea of unity can be seen as a constituent part of a broader, all-inclusive Ukrainian national idea; it is determined by the idea of state-building and puts forward the tasks of state development " (p. 77). The Carpathian scientists argue that the role of Galicia in the national-patriotic movement towards unity that is seen as a defining feature of the Ukrainian mentality should be considered on the level of national priority.

Socio-political issues regarding the influence of church institutions on the national-cultural and spiritual life of Ukrainians attract attention of Carpathian scholars due to many factors. To put it briefly, the region had long been the place witnessing complicated processes of interaction between representatives of Orthodoxy, Greek Catholicism, and Roman Catholicism, resistance to atheistic propaganda during the period of totalitarianism, and that could not but affect the general state of ideological, political and social life. Thus, the political science works under the general topic "Church and the National and Spiritual Revival of Ukraine" cover a wide range of religious activities in the region.

The scientific heritage of V. Marchuk (2004), in particular, his monograph and numerous articles have brought light to the social involvement of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in solving spiritual, political, and cultural problems. Analyzing the stages of the Greek Catholicism development in Galicia, including the time of it being mercilessly persecuted by the totalitarian regime and attacked by atheistic propaganda of the Communist Party, the scholar emphasizes the Church's constant support for state-building ideals as a guarantee of the unity of Ukrainian Christians, the ecumenical movement. The author of the monograph states that in the 90s of the XX century, in fact, there existed "a generally acceptable scheme of relations between the Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian state: while offering mutual representative recognition, they would pursue fully independent activity" (p. 442-443).

In terms of the study of the church influence on national political processes in Galicia and Bukovyna, it is worth mentioning a fundamental 3-volume scientific edition "Skyt Maniavskyyi" (2013-2017) prepared by scientists of the University, which has caused quite a wide resonance; its significance is determined not only by concluding on the historical role and place of this spiritual life center in Western Ukraine, but also by outlining the important social consequences of its activity. The authors argue that both the Orthodox and the Greek-Catholic churches in Galicia have pursued a pro-Ukrainian position, this attitude has given them the common ground, therefore their clergymen have done their best to infuse the faith of people in God and Ukraine, promoted Christian values as a key to the development of national and cultural life.

The Carpathian scientists go back to the personalities of those priest who deserve people's trust, and who plant the seeds of spiritual self-improvement. For instance, University researcher have worked on the topic "The legacy of Archbishop Andrey Sheptytskyi in the National and Spiritual Revival of Ukraine" (2000); thus, they would instill the ideas of the progressive role of the church in the Ukrainian struggle for national self-identification, the right to preserve their faith, culture, traditions and rites. While stressing the importance of oriental principles observation in the church policy, Sheptytsky "contributed to the achievement of religious unity of eastern and western Ukrainians, and that, in his opinion, was one of the conditions for the formation of a Ukrainian united state" (p. 102).

The pursued political scientific approach to the study of internal Ukrainian issues that is relying on the Western Ukrainian prism calls for unwavering attention to historical, economic, ethnic, and cultural ties on the border, primarily with neighboring Poland. The complicated bilateral relations with Poles that root back for centuries pose a common challenge for scientists of both countries: not to silence problematic issues in the historical past, but instead to seek ways to

ensure friendly relations, which nowadays have manifested in the unprecedented Polish assistance to Ukraine against Russian aggressive invasion. One can easily trace a consistent line of work of the scientific society in terms of gathering new materials and documents, as well as works that provide comprehensive analysis of the events and data; and it gives grounds to assert the existence of political scientific approach to research being introduced by the Carpathian scholars in this field. The previous decade alone has witnessed publications of monographs and numerous studies both by the Ukrainian and Polish sides that make up a kind of joint scientific continuum on various issues of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation.

In particular, Komar (2011) has applied the historical and political aspect while studying the concept of prometheism in Polish politics of the 20-30s of the XX century. According to the author, this movement "grew out of the national aspirations of the Polish people, they found their fullest expression in the slogan of the Polish rebels "For freedom, yours and ours"(p. 29). The author determines the solution of the problem of Ukrainianism in Poland as one of the main levers of this struggle, although this movement never achieved the result desired for the population of Galicia. On the other hand, our fundamental monograph offers an ethno-political analysis of one of the most dramatic periods of Ukrainian-Polish relations – World War II and post-war relations (Tsependa, 2009). As it is stated in the research, that was the time when the policies of the two states – Poland and the USSR – relied on the totally opposite approaches to the division of territory; the study emphasizes that the OUN-UPA guides in Western Ukraine did not fully trust Polish proposals on autonomy, they were certain of the need to fight for Ukrainian statehood (Tsependa, 2009, p. 331-332).

The book of I.Tsependa addresses one of the most complicated topics and tragic events at the end of World War II – the forcible resettlement of Ukrainians from the Chełm Land (Kholmschyna), Podlachia (Podlasie) and the Lemko Region to the Ukrainian territory, while ethnical Polish population was resettled from the Ukrainian SSR to Poland. The author strongly condemns Soviet totalitarianism: "despite the declared voluntary nature of repatriation, in reality, starting from the spring of 1945, the Soviet leadership set in motion the deportation mechanism through arrests and provocations" (Tsependa, 2009, p. 333). However, the researcher comes to a conclusion that the prospects of us maintaining friendly relations with the closest Western neighbour are extremely promising: "modern relations between two neighboring peoples should develop as mutually beneficial and friendly"; "modern studies conducted by historians and political scientists are meant to lay the grounds for strengthening good-neighbour spirit, mutual understanding and cooperation" (Tsependa, 2009, p. 333); one should also take into account here the author's position on relations with the Baltic states: (Tsependa, 2019).

Ethno-political dimensions in studies of the Carpathian researchers representing different humanitarian areas require a separate analysis. For instance, the works on Ukrainian history prove the high level of scientific erudition, the scientific desire of to look deeper into the cause-and-consequence ties of historical events, as well as their national-patriotic direction. These aspects of the scientific research have become even more topical in the view of resistance to numerous falsifications of Russian imperial propaganda, attempts to historically separate Galicia from the all-Ukrainian cause. Over several previous decades, Carpathian scientists have been trying to show the truth and prove that the history of Galicia cannot and should not be separated from the history of the Ukrainian people from the standpoint of political science, they would use archival materials and documents as their source base. The Carpathian researchers have managed to find proof that being under the foreign rule, Galicia still used to maintain ethnic, social, cultural, and linguistic ties of the Western Ukrainian lands with the mainland Ukraine, they were not disrupted but on the contrary served as a driving force during the national liberation struggle. I. Tsependa, M. Voloschuk, I. Monolatii, I. Koval, I. Raikivskyi and other scholars have published their works on historical and political issues focusing on the necessity to picture Western Ukraine inalienable

from Eastern Ukraine in the years of the World War I and World War II, as Galicia should be recognized in the status of an integral part of the unified state. For example one can address a series of thorough scientific works published in the Carpathian region on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of Halych; among other things they emphasized the role of Galicia in protecting Ukraine from the Mongol-Tatar invasion of Kyivan Rus and in state-building processed of the time ("Halych and Halych Region in Ukrainian State-Building, 1999).

Works of the Carpathian scholars include well-thought and scientifically valid arguments when dealing with unveiling the falsifications and non-scientific nature of quasi-theories of the Russian imperial propaganda concerning the allegedly non-Slavic origin of Galicians, about the lack of connection between Red Ruthenia and the Ukrainian ethnicity, about the national liberation movement in Galicia allegedly opposing the all-Ukrainian revival, and about the allegedly insidious activity of Greek-Catholic church, etc. Unlike the falsifications and lies, our research in this area relies on real facts and evidence, the source base, the testimony of famous historical personalities, on the scientific research conducted by I. Krypiakevych, M. Hrushevskiy, N. Polonska-Vasylenko, scientists from Kyiv, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Lutsk, academic scientific institutions and universities, as well as works of diaspora scientists.

During the study the consequences of the sociologization and politicization of the Ukrainian community, political shifts and social cataclysms, all conducted by the Carpathians scientists, their attention has been drawn to the problems of mass consciousness, psycho-typical division, and mental processes at the level of socio-political groups. This brings weight to the research of political aspects of mental and psychological states, social and psychological provision of the needs of the population. In particular, works of L. Zagray consider mass behavior of large social groups, especially in the conditions of political stress or social obstacles. The author's research revolves around the ways and means of manipulation of consciousness prevention, informative reality creation, and introduction of an emotional atmosphere capable of overcoming the negative consequences of destructive forces influence on masses (Dzvinchuk et al., 2019, p. 149-151). According to V. Moskalets, understanding and realization of the ethnic and national independence of Ukrainians is closely connected with the authentic first-hand experiences of a person, while ethnic-national interests and concerns are the key source of such experience. In terms of political science, the conclusions of our psychologists gain particular importance as they help to overcome psychological changes in people's minds taking place under the influence of the aggressive actions of imperial Russia.

Researches conducted within the realm of political science and other social sciences include references to various factors of influence on the consciousness of the population: socio-political, cultural, educational, and media. The fact that data on the system of educational and psychological education are a part of the analysis serves as lever of deepening the level of politicization of different segments of the population, primarily young people. Sociological observations include extensive surveys with the help of questionnaires, and that contributes to the creation of a real picture of political consciousness (one should recall works of V. Moskalets, L. Romankova here). Romaniuk's (1999) study of migration processes in Ukraine and its regions in the context of social risks of mass overseas labor emigration and forced internal relocations in the post-war period makes it to the circle of political science oriented studies. Other issues connected with population migration, in particular from the eastern regions of Ukraine due to the Russian aggression, also become the subject of comprehensive analysis.

The political science aspect is also taken into account when University scientists deal with certain issues in the field of cultural studies since both national science and culture are important engines for the establishment of Ukrainian centrism. National and cultural studies of scholars prepare the public to understand and perceive the ancient origin of Ukrainian culture, its historical

identity that does not coincide with the culture of the northern neighbor, they emphasize on peculiarities of Ukrainian self-identification, mentality, lifestyle, customs and traditions. For instance, the University humanities researchers argue that the nature of Ukrainian history is self-sufficient, the mission of Ukrainian culture is to consolidate the nation, especially while resisting the hostile ideological pressure from Russia's aggressive policy and counterpropaganda.

The University linguists (V. Kononenko, V. Hreschuk, M. Holianych, V. Barchuk, M. Lesiuk and others) have contributed to the condemnation of linguistic genocide taking place during the totalitarian period, they have strengthened the position of the Ukrainian language as the state one, by means of defining its status as a national phenomenon, the guarantee of the unity of the Ukrainian community. There is a special social and political scientific role assigned to the 2-volume dictionary "Hutsul Dialect Vocabulary and Phraseology in the Ukrainian Literary Language" (2019-2020) that has been compiled by a group of university lecturers: it proves that the Ukrainian literary language has been enriched by local speech, and that has influences the norms of use; therefore, it concerns the orientation of scientific thought to national values.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The ideological, social, national-patriotic character of political research of the Carpathian scientists regarding socio-political situation in Ukraine in general and in its western region in particular both in the past and present show a way for further studies focused on the state – building and national development. Having been created as a scientific school, this group of political scientists and scholars, whose topics of research revolve around political science, views their scientific work in terms of the needs of Ukrainian society in order to obtain recommendations and proposals aimed at solving current problems of an ideological nature. Scientific and theoretical work of the Ivano-Frankivsk scientific school is a rather important constituent part of a solution to urgent state and political problems which have been under study of the scientific institutions of Kyiv, Lviv, and other university centers.

Regional political studies are of tremendous value as they concern the possibilities of studying local source material, relations with local political and public organizations, understanding peculiarities of mental and psychological, social and patriotic factors of the national and patriotic progress of the ethnic community. Being immersed in the processes of building Galicia as integral part of the national body, political scientists shoulder responsibility for young researchers' professional growth, public opinion formation, the Galician community establishing and maintaining close relationships with friendly neighbouring Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Moldova, in the Carpathian region in general, they also support the pro-European choice of Ukraine.

The socio-political situation in Ukraine caused by the aggression of Russian imperialism raises new challenges our political scientists have to face, in particular it requires a fresh approach to the processes of consolidation of Ukrainian society, the mobilization of its efforts in order to help the army, finding the right place for public, cultural, and educational organizations in the national-social movement. The new task is to determine the role of the scientific and cultural environment for the national-patriotic forces education and development, as well as consolidate socio-political interests of the community to ensure national unity. The new socio-political reality has brought light to certain issues and stressed the need of strengthening counteractions to the hostile information war, employing a harsher approach when dealing with collaborators' sentiments and twisting of the national history. Political scientists of the Carpathian region are determined to provide further scientific and theoretical support for the state-building and nation-building processes in Ukraine.

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Ihor Tsependa, Rector of Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Professor of the Department of International Relations, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2926-8935

Address: Ihor Tsependa, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, 57 Shevchenko St., Ivano-Frankivsk, 76025 Ukraine.

E-mail: igor.tsependa@pnu.edu.ua

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Цепенда Ігор. Політологічна наука на Прикарпатті після проголошення Незалежності. *Журнал Прикарпатського університету імені Василя Стефаника*, 9 (2) (2022), 7–17.

У статті розглянуто стан, досягнення та перспективи науково-дослідної діяльності політологічної школи прикарпатських учених. Проаналізовано комплекс проблемних питань, що їх упродовж останнього періоду опрацьовували науковці з опертям на суспільні вимоги щодо об'єктивного висвітлення суспільно-політичних процесів в Україні як у часи національно-визвольних змагань, так і в незалежній державі. В епіцентрі досліджень знаходяться політологічні аспекти загальної теми «Західна Україна в національно-визвольному русі і в процесах державотворення», що передбачало звернення до історико-політичного контексту, визначення участі західно-українських земель у націотворенні, в культурному русі, в партійному житті тощо. Прикарпатські вчені поставили за мету із залученням місцевого джерельного матеріалу дослідити шляхи утвердження соборності України, неподільності українського народу впродовж століть, дати рішучу відсіч ворожій російській пропаганді щодо начебто окремого походження, іншого способу життя, культури, мови галичан. Вчені-політологи рішуче відкинули ворожі твердження щодо начебто антинародної діяльності ОУН-УПА, неправомірні заперечення впливу національного руху в Галичині на національно-визвольні процеси в Україні.

У працях прикарпатських науковців визначено політологічні виміри таких сфер, як національна культура, національно-патріотичне виховання молоді, діяльність церкви в духовному відродженні. У коло наукових зацікавлень входить утвердження пріоритету української мови як державної, забезпечення зростання національної самоідентифікації, посилення ролі партійного будівництва задля зміцнення демократичних засад, підвищення функцій громадськості у державотворенні. В умовах агресивних дій Росії проти незалежної України політологи всебічно викривають ворожу ідеологічну діяльність імперських сил, беруть участь у контрпропагандивній боротьбі. Вивчення суспільно-політичних аспектів міжнародної діяльності України, зокрема у взаєминах із дружньою Польщею, підтримка європейського вибору нашої держави відбито в монографіях, статтях, в медійному просторі.

Ключові слова: політологія, державність, національно-визвольні змагання, національна культура, патріотичне виховання, державна українська мова, європейський вибір, контрпропаганда.