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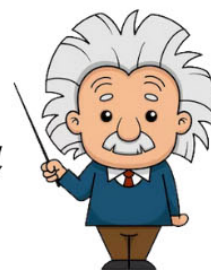
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ODDÍL 5. PRÁVNÍ VĚDY

§5.1 *THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND STATEHOOD IN THE UKRAINIAN FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC (Gumenyuk V., "University of Economics and Law "KROK")*

Introduction. The problem of national consciousness and state construction has invariably been a critical aspect of societal evolution. This is especially pronounced in environments marked by migration and the emergence of new ethnic collectivities. The Ukrainian diaspora in the Far East, notwithstanding its presence in a complex historical milieu, not only safeguarded its national identity but also actively participated in the formation and advancement of the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic.

The relevance of researching the contribution of the Ukrainian national liberation movement to the development of national consciousness and statehood in the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic is due to a number of factors.

Firstly, despite the importance of this topic for understanding the processes of nation-building and the formation of Ukrainian identity outside the ethnic Ukrainian lands, it remains understudied. This necessitates a comprehensive and objective study based on a broad source base and taking into account modern achievements in historical and legal science.

Secondly, referring to the historiographical experience of the Ukrainian national liberation movement in the Far East is important for the modern understanding of the problems of national and cultural development of the Ukrainian diaspora and its role in preserving and popularizing Ukrainian culture in



the world. The study of the experience of the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic can become a valuable source for developing effective strategies to support and develop the Ukrainian diaspora, promoting its consolidation and strengthening ties with its historical homeland.

Thirdly, the study of the contribution of the Ukrainian national liberation movement to the development of national consciousness and statehood in the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic is important for the modern development of Ukraine. It can contribute to a deeper understanding of the processes of nation-building, the formation of civic identity, and the consolidation of society. Studying the experience of the Ukrainian Far Eastern Republic can be useful for developing strategies to strengthen national unity, develop civic consciousness, and form a positive image of Ukraine on the international stage.

Presentation of the main material. The formation of national consciousness (in other words, identity) is a long, controversial, and sporadic process, determined by both the factors of socio-historical existence and the change in the self-identification of the elite, the role of which in the nation-building process should not be underestimated [1].

National consciousness is a holistic system of spiritual phenomena of a nation, which, formed in the process of its historical development, reflects the basic principles of the nation's existence [2].

National identity is the identification of oneself with a national community based on a strong emotional bond that arises from a system of shared ideas about traditions, culture, language, politics, and the acceptance of group norms and values. Its formation is a long and complex process influenced by many factors, both conscious and unconscious, and can change over time. As part of personal identity, it develops through various stages, starting in childhood under the influence of family and social environment, and continuing throughout life [3].



Therefore, national identity is a complex concept that encompasses an individual's sense of belonging to a particular nation, an awareness of shared community with other members of that nation, and an understanding of their differences from other peoples. It is not simply a collection of traits, but rather a process of constant self-definition and self-identification.

We argue that the formation of Ukrainian national identity in the Far East is a complex interplay of factors, including: shared historical experiences, cultural heritage, connection to the land, political aspirations, social dynamics, and economic realities.

The development of Ukrainian national identity in the Far East is shaped by a combination of factors, including early childhood experiences, socialization within the community, the impact of major historical events, and exposure to global influences.

Legitimization of the state (a nation that is aware of its identity is more likely to support its state); unification of people (a common identity creates the basis for unity and solidarity in society); promotion of the development of democracy (a strong national identity is the basis for the development of civil society and democratic institutions); protection from external threats (a common identity helps to mobilize society in times of crisis) are the results of the formation of national identity and the main goal in the process of state formation of the Ukrainian nation in the Far East.

Therefore, the formation of national identity is an ongoing process that requires respect for diversity, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

After the victory of the February Revolution of 1917, which abolished numerous national prohibitions and restrictions established by tsarism, the Ukrainian national movement, formed in 1917-1922 in the Far East, became part of the nationwide Ukrainian movement in the territory of the former Russian Empire, headed by the Ukrainian Central Rada, created in Kyiv.



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The revolutionary events in Ukraine and the flourishing of the Ukrainian national movement aroused great interest and solidarity among Ukrainians in the Far East, who enthusiastically supported the Ukrainian Central Rada [4].

The Ukrainian national movement in the Far East focused on achieving autonomy for Ukraine within a federal russia and fostering the free national and cultural development of Ukrainians. These were the core goals of the broader Ukrainian national liberation movement.

The inaugural issue of "The Ukrainian on the Green Wedge," Asia's first Ukrainian newspaper, published in Vladivostok on April 30, 1917, declared that the primary objective of the Ukrainian national liberation movement was to liberate itself from the oppressive moscow government, which stifled local cultures and liberties, and to be reborn as a modern, independent, prosperous, and nationally conscious Ukraine. This revitalized Ukraine, alongside russia and other free nations, would contribute to global peace, education, and economic well-being. The sole path to this vision was considered a revolutionary federation of Ukraine (including the Far East) with russia, founded on principles of equality [5].

The Ukrainian Central Rada was the sole representative of the national interests of Ukrainians in the former russian empire, enjoying the unanimous support of Ukrainian organizations. They envisioned the future of russia as a federal democratic state [6].

Ukrainian organizations in the Far East, realizing that the national and cultural interests and needs of Ukrainians, who made up the majority of the region's population, were ignored by the tsarist regime, aimed to provide conditions for their free development. Their program of activities also took into account the processes taking place in Ukraine, in particular, supporting the struggle of the Ukrainian Central Rada for autonomy. After the February Revolution of 1917, ensuring the national and cultural development of the Ukrainian population



became a priority direction of the activities of the newly created Ukrainian organizations in the Far East.

In March 1917, at their organizational meeting, the Ukrainians of Khabarovsk unanimously declared their support for the convocation of the Constituent Assembly, the establishment of a democratic republic, the autonomy of Ukraine, and the use of the Ukrainian language in education and justice. They decided to seek the immediate introduction of the Ukrainian language in schools and churches in Ukrainian villages in the Far East, as well as its dissemination among the population. In April 1917, the Ukrainian Community of Transbaikalia, established in Chita to protect the interests of Ukrainians and participate in elections to the Constituent Assembly, called for unification to achieve national goals, including the autonomy of Ukraine. The community also aimed to protect the legal interests of Ukrainians in Transbaikalia, to help the amnestied, displaced persons, and refugees, and to establish ties with Ukraine [7].

The Vladivostok Ukrainian Community's mission was to unite Ukrainians for independence, cultural development, and participation in the Constituent Assembly. Its core goals included promoting Ukrainian culture and a free society, and Ukrainizing education, religion, and government [8].

On March 19, 1917, Ukrainians in Harbin resolved that Ukraine had the right to independence as a democratic republic, citing Finland, Latvia, and other newly independent states within the Russian Federation as examples [9].

The Ukrainian language was to become mandatory for use in Ukrainian institutions, while Russian would remain the official language for relations with Russia. The "Ukraine for Ukrainians" concept envisioned the creation of a Ukrainian National Bank. The most pressing task for Ukraine at this stage was preparing for elections to the Constituent Assembly to ensure Ukrainian representation in state-building on equal footing with other nations.



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The Ukrainian Council in Harbin actively pursued financial means to augment its representation within governmental structures, the aim being the effective safeguarding of Ukrainian interests across the political and economic spectrum. Ukraine was in need of free transit for its goods, unrestricted maritime access, and the facilitated return and land allotment for vulnerable Ukrainians situated abroad.

In the wake of the February Revolution of 1917, Far Eastern Ukrainians hoped the Provisional Government would grant them autonomy. In March 1917, they pledged their support, including on the war issue. On April 4, 1917, the Blagoveshchensk community supported the war effort, seeing it as crucial for preserving freedoms. On April 23, 1917, they prioritized the Ukrainization of education and the achievement of autonomy [10].

The Ukrainian national liberation movement in the Far East also pushed for the immediate implementation of Ukrainian autonomy, driven by the negative view of Russian revolutionary democracy on the matter. In April and June 1917, the Blagovishchensk and Mikilsk-Usuriysk communities and the Far Eastern Teachers' Union sent telegrams to the Central Rada requesting autonomy and backing in its conflict with the Provisional Government [11, C. 159].

In May 1917, the Novokiyivsk Ukrainian Council, located in Novokiyivsk, Primorsky Krai, appealed to the Central Rada, expressing their collective identity as children of a united Mother-Ukraine. They also declared that the Green Wedge on the Amur, as an integral part of this great Ukraine, shared a common aspiration for the independence of Ukraine, a desire shared by all Ukrainians in the region. Accordingly, the Council's stated goal was to achieve this independence and sovereignty [11, C. 160].

Thus, the Ukrainian national movement in the Far East played a significant role in raising the national consciousness of Ukrainians, fostering their unity, and



driving their struggle for national rights. This movement marked a crucial stage in Ukraine's journey toward independence and the establishment of its own statehood [12].

At the same time, the Amur Ukrainians resolutely advocated for the declaration of Ukraine's autonomy through direct action, without waiting for the decision of the Constituent Assembly, which was only to recognize Ukraine's autonomy as an unchangeable event that had already occurred.

Conclusions. The formation of national identity is a complex, multifaceted, and ongoing process. It's not a static set of characteristics but rather a dynamic interplay of socio-historical factors, evolving elite self-perception, and individual experiences. National consciousness, as a holistic system of spiritual phenomena, reflects a nation's core principles and develops over time. National identity, specifically, involves a strong emotional connection to a national community, shaped by shared traditions, culture, language, politics, and values. This process begins in childhood, is influenced by socialization and significant historical events, and continues to evolve throughout life. In the specific context of the Ukrainian nation in the Far East, this formation is a complex interplay of historical experiences, cultural heritage, connection to the land, political aspirations, social dynamics, and economic realities, further complicated by global influences. Ultimately, the development of a strong national identity serves crucial purposes, including state legitimization, social unification, democratic development, and national security. Therefore, fostering national identity requires continuous effort, respect for diversity, open dialogue, and mutual understanding to be successful.

The formation of national identity is a complex, multifaceted, and dynamic process that encompasses various aspects of individual and collective existence. National consciousness, as a holistic system of spiritual values, reflects the deep foundations of a nation's existence, formed under the influence of historical



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development and socio-cultural factors. National identity, in turn, is a sense of unity with a national community, based on an emotional connection and shared ideas about traditions, culture, language, politics, and values. Its formation is a lengthy process that depends on many factors, including historical memory, cultural heritage, territorial affiliation, and political and socio-economic conditions. For the Ukrainian nation in the Far East, the formation of national identity was of particular importance. In the context of migration and the formation of a diaspora, the preservation and development of national identity were key to preserving their own culture, traditions, and identity. The process of forming national identity includes various stages and influences, from early childhood and socialization to the impact of significant historical events and globalization. An important role in this process is played by the elite, its self-awareness and activities aimed at forming national consciousness and identity. The results of the formation of national identity are the legitimization of the state, the unification of people, the promotion of democracy, and protection from external threats. A strong national identity is the basis for successful state-building and the development of civil society.

In conclusion, the formation of national identity is an ongoing process that necessitates respect for diversity, dialogue, and mutual understanding. It is crucial to recognize that national identity is a dynamic construct, constantly evolving and adapting under the influence of various factors.

Simultaneously, the Ukrainian national movement in the Far East, which emerged after the February Revolution of 1917, became an integral part of the nationwide Ukrainian liberation movement. Far Eastern Ukrainians enthusiastically supported the revolutionary changes in Ukraine and the activities of the Ukrainian Central Rada, seeing in them an opportunity for national revival and self-determination. The main goals of the Ukrainian national movement in the Far East were to achieve autonomy for Ukraine and to ensure conditions for the



free national and cultural development of the Ukrainian nation. These aspirations were reflected in the activities of numerous Ukrainian organizations that emerged in the region, and in the first Ukrainian-language newspaper "The Ukrainian on the Green Wedge." Ukrainians of the Far East, recognizing their national identity and striving for self-determination, actively joined the struggle for their rights. They demanded the introduction of the Ukrainian language in schools, churches, courts, and other institutions, as well as the expansion of opportunities for the development of national culture and education. An important aspect of the activities of Ukrainian organizations in the Far East was the support of the Ukrainian Central Rada, which was considered the sole legitimate representative of the national interests of the Ukrainian people. Far Eastern Ukrainians expressed their readiness to defend Ukraine's autonomy by all forces and means, even through unilateral actions, without waiting for the decisions of the Constituent Assembly.

Thus, the Ukrainian national movement in the Far East played a vital role in awakening the national consciousness of Ukrainians, their consolidation, and the struggle for national rights. This movement became an important stage on the path to Ukraine's independence and the development of its own statehood.

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