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**“TO WRITE ABOUT THE FATE OF THE UKRAINIAN PEASANTRY WOULD  
MEAN WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE”:  
SOURCE STUDY REFLECTIONS ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE EVERYDAY LIFE  
OF THE WESTERN UKRAINIAN PEASANTRY, 1939–1953**

**Summary.** Social transformations in modern Ukraine, the rejection of the totalitarian ideas of the political system have refined a qualitatively new situation in everyday life of the Ukrainian people. The expediency of studying various aspects of the proposed topic, evidenced by the social zeal for the problem being studied. The expediency of studying various aspects of the proposed topic is dictated by the social zeal for the problem being studied.

The reproduction of the everyday life of the Western Ukrainian peasantry requires researchers to work in the most precise manner with interpretation of the source complex.

In contrast to traditional history, the study of life, involves the involvement of a wide range of sources of related fields of science: political science, sociology, ethnology, psychology, etc.

Source materials, of studying the history of everyday life are the official documents of the authorities, personal documents (memoirs, diaries), folk materials (anecdotes, sayings, songs, rumors), as well as elements of the material culture (photographs, posters, household things, farm equipment).

Processing of the indicated source complex allows historians of routine trace the impact of certain events on the daily lives of people, unlock the mechanism of adaptation of citizens to new sociopolitical and socioeconomic realities, eventually to describe the peculiarities of everyday life, peasant mentality, certain behavioral stereotypes, privacy, etc.

**Keywords:** Western Ukrainian peasantry, everyday life, archive sources, press, personal documents.

**“ПИСАТИ ПРО ДОЛЮ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СЕЛЯНСТВА... ОЗНАЧАЛО Б  
ПИСАТИ ІСТОРІЮ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ”:  
ДЖЕРЕЛОЗНАВЧІ РЕФЛЕКЦІЇ НАД ПРОБЛЕМАТИКОЮ ПОВСЯКДЕННОСТІ  
ЗАХІДНОУКРАЇНСЬКОГО СЕЛЯНСТВА, 1939–1953**

**Анотація.** Суспільні перетворення у сучасній Україні, відмова від тоталітарних ідей політичного устрою обумовили якісно нову ситуацію в повсякденному житті українського народу. Доцільність вивчення різноманітних аспектів запропонованої тематики продиктована суспільною значущістю досліджуваної проблеми.

Відтворення повсякдення західноукраїнського селянства вимагає від дослідників скрупульозної роботи з інтерпретацією джерельного комплексу.

На відміну від традиційної історії, вивчення побуту передбачає залучення широкого спектру джерел суміжних галузей науки: політології, соціології, етнології, психології, тощо.

Першоджерелами вивчення історії повсякдення виступають офіційні документи органів влади, документи особового походження (спогади, щоденники), фольклорні матеріали (анекдоти, приказки, пісні, чутки), а також елементи побутової матеріальної культури (світлини, плакати, домашні речі, сільськогосподарський реманент).

Опрацювання зазначеного джерельного комплексу дає змогу історикам повсякденності простежити вплив тих чи інших подій на щоденне життя людей, розкрити механізми адаптації громадян до нових суспільно-політичних чи соціально-економічних реалій, зрештою описати особливості побуту, селянської ментальності, певних поведінкових стереотипів, приватного життя тощо.

**Ключові слова:** західноукраїнське селянство, повсякденне життя, архівні джерела, преса, джерела особового походження.

**The problem statement.** Social transformations in modern Ukraine, started with the achievement of state independence, the abandonment of the totalitarian ideas of the political system, have led to a qualitatively new situation in the everyday life of the Ukrainian people. Events of Ukraine's revolutions "revolution on granite", "orange revolution", "revolution of dignity" have created a fundamentally new atmosphere which contributes to the interest of a wide range of scientists and the public to the historical past.

An important role in preserving national-state traditions belongs to the Ukrainian peasantry. As V. Kuk pointed out in his work "collective farm's slavery": "To write about the fate of the Ukrainian peasantry would mean writing the history of the Ukrainian people, because exactly the Ukrainian peasantry, which is quite different from the peasants from many other countries, was the core of the Ukrainian nation, was the creator of Ukrainian history (Kyk, 2005: 9).

The expediency of studying the various aspects of suggested subject, dictated not only by social significance of investigated issue, which is that provides opportunity to generalize the past experience, deepen theoretical conceptions, suggest practical recommendations, which have to be put into today's practice, but also by enrichment of scientific knowledge with significant factual material, the possibility of unprejudiced account of events, reconstruction of the processes and more clear image of objective regularity of investigated subject.

By all variability of the historical destiny, western Ukrainian peasantry has become a peculiar indicator of socio-cultural, socio-economic, cultural and religious situation in Ukraine, influencing the political events and processes directly or indirectly.

**The publication's purpose.** Despite a significant number of scientific works on history of western Ukrainian region, unfortunately, the synthesis work devoted to everyday life history of peasantry is absent in ukrainian historiography. Considering the scope of publication does not let reveal the whole array of sources of the problem, we will review some Source Study aspects.

**The analysis of the sources and recent researches.** The methodology of work with original sources during the investigation of history of the Ukrainian people's everyday life is suggested in series of monographic publications titled "From the history of everyday life in Ukraine" established by scholars from Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kulchytskyi, 2009; Danvlenko, 2010). The specifics of processing of sources of personal origins are revealed in scientific publication by O. Kolyastruk (Kolyastruk, 2008).

Reproduction of peasantry everyday life is an extremely difficult and laborious process. The researcher O. Kolyastruk says: "Only with the reproduction of people's lifestyle, their labour and way of life, joys and sorrows, a significant gap between the way how society is reflected in scholars' works and how human is represented here, may be overcome" (Kolyastruk, 2007: 175).

**The presentation of the basic material.** Working in the sphere of transdisciplinary history of everyday life, scholars rely on various in their origins sources. Conditionally, they can be divided into few big units. As in "traditional" history, an important part of sources consists of the documents of official origins (laws, resolutions, instructions, local government reports etc). The majority of such sources are now stored in public archive funds and scientific libraries. Materials on the subject mentioned in this publication's title are widely represented in documents, kept in the Central State historical archive storages in Lviv city (CSHAL), Ivano-Frankivsk state archives (IFRSA), Lviv (LRSA) and Tenopil regions (TRSA).

In particular, the documents of the fund 859 "People's Assembly of Western Ukraine" of the CSHAL allow researchers to recreate the process of formation of Soviet power bodies in a Western Ukrainian village (CSHAL F. 859. Op. 1. Act. 1, 3, 5). The picture of the annexation of Western Ukrainian lands by the Soviet Union is

supplemented with a unique collection of documents “Party and political work in a warlike situation” with the stamp “For internal use Ex. № 3596”, which is stored in the fund of the rare book of Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv National Scientific Library of Ukraine. Among the documents of the publication, it is worth paying attention to the orders of the commander of the Ukrainian Front, Tymoshenko, in which, among other things, it was noted: “we go to Western Ukraine... not as conquerors, but as saviors of our Ukrainian and Belorussian fellows from the oppression of landlords and capitalists “(Party-political, 1940: 8–9)”. In another document, soldiers and officers were ordered: “during the stops and rest, to keep order and discipline, without the commander’s permission not to remain in the places of crowds, not to gather the crowd around yourself, not to let themselves to provoke you with unprepared and unreasoned answers to questions” (Party- Political, 1940: 10). The directive of the political management of the Red Army signed by Mehlis demanded from the rear units: “to organize the work of military trading, not to allow the officers do shopping and not to let them to buy in large quantities. When the impression is created that the serviceman is going to sell himself and that nothing can be bought in the USSR” (Party-political, 1940: 20). Actually, the materials of the collection confirm by the directive of the Red Army Chief Commissar of the I rank Mehlis the total military custody over the organization and holding of the National Assembly of Western Ukraine. Thus, the document stresses: “to all commissars, political bodies of the units to take the most active part in the preparation and holding of elections” (Party-political, 1940: 23).

The majority of collections of documents in connected with definite problems, that came out during the Soviet period were supposed to form the reader’s illusion that the West Ukrainian population, including peasants, “with great joy” met and supported actions of the Soviet government (National Holiday, 1950; The Struggle, 1979; Socialist Transformation, 1980).

Instead, the documents and memories of the eyewitnesses of those events, which are given on the pages of the historic and memorial collections, published by the Ukrainian diaspora beyond the USSR show completely different image of the perception of Soviet reality by the peasantry. For example, the Galician villagers were struck by the miserable appearance of The Red Army soldiers: “blackened from need, shaken like pumpkin, without vitality, barely kicked” (Rudnitskaya, 1958: 18; Berezhany land, 1998: 501).

A broad palette of economic ,cultural and educational life of the Western Ukrainian peasantry reflects the documentary materials of 221 Fund “Executive committee of the Lviv Regional Council of Worker” Representatives (LRSA, F.221). Soviet documents, that reflect the legal basis of reforming agricultural production in the Western Ukrainian ,were published in many thematic compendium: “USSR collection of laws and degrees of the Presidium of Verkhovna Rada” (Collection of laws 1944); “Collection of prior laws, degrees of the Presidium of Verkhovna Rada and resolutions and regulations of the USSR Government” (Collection of the prior 1946). “Prior decisions on agriculture for the years 1938–1940” (Prior decisions, 1940). “The history of collective farm law. USSR and RSFSR collection of legislative materials 1957–1959” (Collection, 1959). The value of these documents is that they reflect the legal norms of the time, and they are presented without bills and later edits.

The Fund documents give you The idea of paying a tax and the realization of various obligations Western Ukrainian peasants R. 1. “Financial Department of the Stanislav Religious Council Executive Committee of Worker’s Deputies. Department of State Profit” (IFRSA. F. R.1833. Op.1. Act 818, 833; Des. 4. Act. 1). Researches can receive the information about the peculiarities of socio-economic life of peasants of Western Ukraine from the documents of Fund R. 1833. “Executive Committee of Ternopil Regional Council” (TRSA. F. R. 1833. Des.6. Act. 2, 4, 5, 6, 11).

You can read the regional specificity of Soviet government provision campaign in Western Ukrainian villages in the Fund 5001 documents. “Drohobych Oblast Committee of the Communist Group” (LRSA. F. 5001. Op. 1. Act. 127); 5030 “Khodorovsky Office of the KP(b)U in the Drohobych region” (LRSA. F. 5030. Op. 1. Act. 188, 190).

You can read about rural way of life, housing arrangement and their influence on frequent fires in Western Ukrainian villages in Fund R-8 documents “Ternopil Regional Prosecutor’s Office of the Ukrainian RSR” (TRSA. F. R-8. Des.1. Act. 453).

The mood of Eastern Halychyna rural population was monitored by the NKVD officers, who found important information in old documents of this department. These documents were not available for many researchers and the public in Soviet Union. A part of the documents from special service storehouses were published on the thematic collections pages at a time when Ukraine became independent. In particular, you can read an information about the reaction of ordinary citizens to the consumer goods and foodstuffs prize in documents collection “Soviet State Security Institutions in september 1939 – iune 1941: State Archives Ukrainian Security Service documents” (Danilenko, Kokin, 2009: 284–285). Information about the Carpathian region rural population life in conditions of the Soviet and German totalitarian regimes you can read on the pages of Kogutyak documents collection (Kogutyak, 2009).

Peasant Healthcare data, apart about epidemic infections we can find in fond documents of “Stanislav oblast department of national education executive committee of working politicians in oblast council” (IFRSA. F. R. 3. Des. 2. Act. 1). Statistics about village hospitals and physician payment we can see in “Stanislav oblast department of healthcare executive committee of working politicians in oblast council” (IFRSA. F. R. 3. Des. 1. Act. 4).

Spiritual life of peasantry in period between 1939–1941, that was called “While first coviets” we find in documental inheritance of Ukrainian Orthodox-Catholic church that reserved in fonds 201 “Metropolitan of Galician Orthodox-Catholic church archbishop in Lviv” (CSHAL. F. 201. Des 1. Act. 31, 32, 33, 104); F. 358 “Andrey Sheptytskii (1895-1944), duke, bishop in Kamyanets-Podilskii, cultural and religion leader, philanthropist, actual member of Shevchenko Scientific Society (CSHAL. F. 358. Des. 1. Act. 7).

In period of nazis occupation 1941–1944, territories of Lviv, Drohobych, Stanislav, Ternopil regions a parts of District Galicia, that was found in August 1941, and was itself a part of General Gubernatoria. Documentation of occupation fonds in state archives of mentioned regions, can show separated aspects of lifestyle sphere only fragmentaly. This situation occured because part of documentation was destroyed by retreating nazis in 1944.

Circulars and orders of local german occupation organs can show social-economic life of galician peasantry. In particular we can discover tax size and duties amount. Letters and applications of citizens to official government appear information about possible discounts in tax paying. In german occupation documents we find out that purchase of first necessity industry products could be done only bu special talons, that approve implementation of norms of supplying rural dad products for German state needs. Such documents we can find in fonds R-35 “Governorship of district Galicia in Lviv. City Lviv”; R-266 “Cooperative farmers union Centrosouz in lviv”; R-1956 “Khyriv sity administration”; R-1986 “Zhuravno district administration”; R-175 “Ternopil financial inspection of district Galicia”; R-188 “Scalat region tax administration” (LRSA. F. R-35. Des. 2. Act. 202, 253; LRSA. F. R-266. Des. 1. Act. 6; LRSA. F. R-1956. Des. 1. Act. 14; LRSA. F. R-1986. Des. 1. Act. 16–25; TRSA. F. R-175. Des. 1. Act. 34, 71, 77, 104; TRSA. F. R-188. Des. 1. Act. 1, 2, 3).

If there are the failure of the supplies norms of the agricultural products, non-payment in full tax, non-implementation of German administration orders, food

speculations or other illegal actions, then the offenders were imposed different fines. It's important to say that the materials of German courts has the very interesting stuff. The part of the acts about fines payment has yellow detachable counterfoil, but the other part doesn't have it. If the counterfoil is on the act, then the fined citizen paid his fine in time, but if there isn't the counterfoil, then we can be sure that the bigger fine or other kind of administrative or criminal liability were used for this citizen (LRSA. F. R-8. Des. 1. Act. 40; LRSA. F. 1952. Des. 1. Act. 69).

The researchers can get the information about the development of a network of the schools, the payments for teachers, etc in the documents of such funds as R-8 "The schools of Galicia district"; R-204 "Kremenets Encyclical School Inspectorate" (LRSA. F. R-8. Des. 1. Act. 1-8; DATO. F. R-204. Des. 1. Act. 118).

The rules of transaction of marital status acts, in particular the acceptance that church marriages is valid are shown in the documents of such funds as R-36 "Stanislav Encyclical Administration" (IFRSA. F. R-36. Des. 1. Act. 2); F. R-176. "Ternopil Encyclical Court of Galicia district" (TRSA. F. R-176. Des. 1. Act. 98). The documents of the last fund also give the opportunity for researchers to trace which religious holidays were allowed to celebrate for local peasants and when by German occupation administration (TRSA. F. R-176. Des. 1. Act. 7).

German authority tried to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases among the soldiers, the officers of the German army that were on the territory of Eastern Galicia, and, of course, among local peasants too. Besides, the fines 60-200 zl. had waited for people who avoided vaccination or hid the infectious diseases. This is evidenced by the documents kept in the such funds as R-174 "Ternopil Encyclical Border Guard of Galicia district"; R-175 "Ternopil Encyclical Financial Inspectorate of Galicia district"; R-35 "The Governorship of Galicia district in Lviv" (TRSA. F. R-174. Des. 1. Act. 19.; TRSA. F. R-175. Des. 1. Act. 958, 988; LRSA. F. R-35. Des. 9. Act. 284, 320).

Particular attention deserves the documents of the Ukrainian national liberation movement, which reflect the reaction of the Western Ukrainian peasantry to the actions of Soviet power r of socio-political, socio-economic, educational and cultural character.

In the funds "Materials of the UIA were found in 2003 in the village of Rogoznina, Yavoriv district" of the Scientific Library of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, keeps propaganda materials of the Ukrainian national liberation movement. Among the traditional leaflets, which called on the Galician peasants not to support the actions of the Soviet authorities, to sabotage election campaigns, not to join kolkhozes, etc., there are also few quite original, who urged parents and mothers not to give their children vodka: "Parents and mothers, it's a crime to give vodka to your children, and even more a crime to encourage them to drink vodka, you destroying health and the soul of your children and helping the enemy lay our youth" (SLLNU. Ф. RK 357. Des. 1. Act. 17).

In post-war time, by the efforts of the Ukrainian emigration a number of documents, about national liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people (OUN, 1955; UPA, 1957; Chronicle of the UPA, 1985, 1989). In the conditions of the Ukrainian independence publishing house Chronicles of the UPA, start up a new series of publications under the general title "Chronicle of UPA. New Series" (Chronicles, 2001; Chronicles, 2012, Chronicles, 2013; Chronicles, 2014). Among the documents of the mentioned publications, the life of the rebels and the local population, the mechanisms of material support of the participants of the national movement Reliance , the type of support reveal the reports of the stationary OUN.

The source-studying research "Booths: money documents of OUN and URA" deserves the special attention. The authors-compilers analyzed financial and economic activity of Ukrainian national liberation movement (Klymenko, 2008). The press of the

researched period is the unique source of investigation of the everyday life history. On the pages of the newspaper professional journalists-propagandists or correspondents-amateurs fixed the facts, events, phenomena that, in their opinion, expressed the spirit of time. Even Soviet regional press sometimes published the information which expressed the real state of affairs in economics and showed the live reaction of citizens. The newspapers and magazines give the researchers the opportunity to trace the features of cultural and sport life by constant headings. The rubric of personal ads is a clondike of the information about what peasants bought and sold, in what they invested money, how the leisure time was, how they equipped their houses, etc.

Detailed analysis of the press in Eastern Galicia in the period of Nazi occupation contained in the source study publication of Lviv historian Kurilyshyn K. (Kurilyshyn, 2007). A comprehensive picture of OUN's publishing activities in the west part of Ukraine is reproduced on the pages of scientific research of O. Stasyuk (Stasyuk, 2006).

All this is supplemented by documents of personal origin: memories, diaries, etc. Documents of this type have a clear imprint of the author's perception of the surrounding world. The view of an ordinary person, a person from the crowd, which often casts off such facts, that official positions have not been noticed and not taken into account. In this context, an individual person is free to choose the object of observation and the angle of his assessment (Post-war history, 2010: 55).

In the fund P. 1576. "Memories of the former Bolsheviks, former members of KPWU and other citizens of the history of the local region are preserved" holds more than 300 testimonies from eyewitnesses, from which researchers can learn about the reaction of Western Ukrainian peasants to the arrival of Soviet power, the crimes of the Nazi occupants.

The same information can be found in the fund F. R-319 "Ternopil regional communist committee of the parties of Ukraine" ( TRSA. F. R-319. Des. 2. Act. 27, 110).

The author of the article, co-authored with P. Korinenko and V. Broslavsky, compiled a collection of memoirs of Western Ukrainian peasants on the historical events of the 1930s – 1950s (Starka, 2017).

Among the materials of personal origin special place belongs to rural folklore. Often in folk forms peasants expressed their mood and positions, that they do not dare to speak openly. Among such folk sources we can emphasize songs, proverbs and sayings, anecdotes, rumors (Senko, 1947: 2).

For example, the realities of rural life of the period of the "Great Blockade" 1946–1947 years are transmitted by the carol "Sad Solemn Eve". The rebellious songs reflect the uncompromising struggle of the Western Ukrainian peasantry with the Soviet and Nazi totalitarian regimes (Spivanyk, 1950).

The researcher of everyday life rural humor, he or she can obtain information of the peculiarities of life, political, spiritual, and other beliefs. In the conditions totalitarian regime, the political anecdote reflect the attitude of society towards important events and occurrences. At the same time, it outlined the ruling mood of the expectations of the nation:

*There naked on the road  
Praises life in Soviet UNION:  
There are no pants, there is no guni  
To live nicely in commune.*

\*\*\*

*On the roof sickle and a hammer,  
And in the house death and hunger.  
The Jews wonder near house  
To sign the advance in an hour.*

\*\*\*

*Cursed taxes have gone up,  
There is nothing to take up*

\*\*\*

*Daddy in the Soviet UNION, mother does the same  
Children cry on the sole  
There is no bread, no salo  
Only movie and spectacle*

\*\*\*

*Where did the butter go?  
It melted under the sun of the Stalinist constitution  
(Ukrainian news, 1942: 7)*

In some event anecdote were a warning to a lover of a sharp word “when for three words gives five years of arrest” (Lviv news, 1943: 3).

Another contradictory source of research of everyday is rumor. Rumors it’s specific kind of communication in the course of which a plot that reflects some of fiction events become known to a wide audience. With a described event rumors reflect public opinion general stereotypes as well as the information situation in region. (Dictionary, 2001: 745). Researchers should to remember that rumors usually are the source of corrupt information. But because of rumors peasants could to prepare for military actions and mass deportations.

Extra source reconstruction of everyday are subject-matter and image documents of researched period: photos, letters, house cloth and household things.

**Conclusions.** Summing we can stat about reproduction of Western Ukraine the reproduction of the everyday life of the rural population of Western Ukraine requires the involvement of a gorgeous range of sources of diverse origin and conservation. On the basis of this analysis, historians of everyday life trace the impact of events on the daily lives of people, reveal the mechanisms of adaptation of the community to new socio-political or socio-economic realities in the end describe the peculiarities and everyday life, peasant mentality, certain behavioral stereotypes, private life, etc.

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TsDIAL – Tsentralnyi derzhavnyi istorichnyi arkhiv Ukrainy u m. Lviv [Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine].

DAIFO – Derzhavnyi arkhiv Ivano-Frankivskoi oblasti [Ivano-Frankivsk Region State Archive].

DALO – Derzhavnyi arkhiv Lvivskoi oblasti [Lviv Region State Archive].

DATO – Derzhavnyi arkhiv Ternopilskoi oblasti [Ternopil Region State Archive].

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