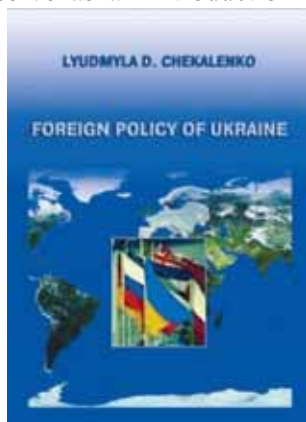


NOTA BENE: МОВОЮ ОРИГІНАЛУ

FROM THE BOOK BY LYUDMYLA CHEKALENKO. FOREIGN POLICY OF UKRAINE / ED. BY TSIVATYI V. G. – K: LAT&K, 2016. – 294 P., 8 P. PIC.

Introduction

The purpose of writing this book is to provide a self-contained primer on the foreign policy of Ukraine in its historic perspective – from ancient to contemporary times. The design of this work is twofold. In the first place, it is to render knowledge of the Ukrainian foreign policy accessible in the English language to students and professors of higher educational institutions. Secondly, it is to serve as an introduction on the subject matter to all those interested in Ukrainian political history outside of Ukraine.



This book is devoted to the analysis of the formation and development of the foreign policy of Ukraine. It examines the historic stages of this process, as well as the main directions and tasks of the modern Ukrainian state in the field of foreign policy, the mechanisms for the protection of its interests, modes for further development and economic growth.

The goal of Ukraine's foreign policy is to strengthen international peace and stability through the protection of its national interests and security. The basis for this are the principles of international law, such as respect of sovereignty and equality, non-intervention into internal affairs, recognition of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, development of cooperation, abstention from the use of force, as well as protection of human rights.

The foundational concept of the author's vision of the formation and development of the Ukrainian foreign policy paradigm is based on the historic origins of the Ukrainian state. These roots date back to the Trypillian culture present as early as the 6000–3500 BCE, the Scythian era spanning the 11th century BCE to the 2nd century CE, and the powerful Kyievan Rus that was flourishing in the 9th–12th centuries. Those were the times when the general concept of the place of Ukraine in the world, as well as its identity based on the principals of peaceful coexistence, humanism, tolerance and diplomacy were formed.

The next important historic period is the Ukrainian national renaissance – the Cossack State of the 16th–18th centuries. It laid the foundation for the Ukrainian state that continued to struggle for its independence for several centuries up to the turbulent period between 1917 and the early 1920s, which ended by a complete integration of Ukraine into the Soviet Union. During the Soviet period of 1922–1991, the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, deprived of independent foreign policy instruments, still managed to continue its international participation as a member of the United Nations.

Every historic period of the development of the Ukrainian state was marked by a specific position of Ukraine or its regions that existed either independently or within other states. Due to historic reasons, Ukraine was an object rather than a subject of the foreign policy in the above-mentioned time periods when the destiny of the Ukrainian lands depended on other more powerful nations.

On 24 August 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Act of Independence of Ukraine that opened a new chapter of the Ukrainian state history. Ukraine gained its

sovereignty and started to develop its independent foreign policy in order to assert its worthy place on the international arena.

Currently, Ukraine tries to provide for its state interests through the realization of strategic, political, economic, legal and ideological goals in the complex political and economic conditions of the globalized era. For the last two years, Ukraine has faced the difficult challenge of protecting its territorial integrity in the face of aggression from the neighboring Russian Federation and internal turmoil.

The book is based on a wide range of sources relevant to the political history of Ukraine, such as historic chronicles, archive documents, governmental decrees, as well as wide historiography sources developed by well-known Ukrainian historians, such as M. Hrushevskiy, V. Antonovych, O. Apanovych, M. Braychevskiy, V. Holobutskiy, D. Doroshenko, O. Yefymenko, M. Kotliar, I. Krypyakevych, N. Polonska-Vasylenko, O. Subtelnyi, O. Shulhin, D. Yavornytskyi and many others.