

**REVIEWS / РЕЦЕНЗІЇ**

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**REBELLION. REGIONAL DIMENSION.  
REVIEW OF YURIY KOTLYAR'S MONOGRAPH "PEASANT REBELLION IN THE  
MYKOLAIV REGION (1918-1921)"**

*Monograph review: Kotlyar Yu. Peasant Rebellion in the Mykolaiv region (1918-1921). Mykolayiv, 2021. 124 p. (MSGU Historical Library)*

**Abstract.** *On the basis of archival documents, the monograph that is included to the series of books "Historical Library of MSHU" examines the peasant insurgent movement in the Mykolaiv region in 1918–1921. Anti-Hetman, anti-Bolshevik, anti-Denikin and anti-Communist uprisings are analyzed; peasant formations of the state type are studied (the Husbandry Republic of Vradiivka, the People's Republic of Vysunsk and the Bashtanka Republic); activities of atamans Lykho and Yu. Tiutiunnyk on the territory of the Mykolaiv region is highlighted. The book is written for scientists, teachers, local historians, students and anyone interested in the history of the native land.*

**Keywords:** *peasantry, insurgent movement, Mykolayiv region, peasant republics, atamans.*

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**ПОВСТАННЯ. РЕГІОНАЛЬНИЙ ВИМІР. ОГЛЯД МОНОГРАФІЇ ЮРІЯ КОТЛЯРА  
"СЕЛЯНСЬКЕ ПОВСТАНСТВО НА МИКОЛАЇВЩИНІ (1918–1921 РР.)"**

*Огляд монографії: Котляр Ю. Селянське повстанство на Миколаївщині (1918–1921 рр.): монографія. Миколаїв: Вид-во ЧНУ ім. Петра Могили, 2021. 124 с. (Історична бібліотека МДГУ).*

**Анотація.** *У монографії, яка входить до серії книг "Історична бібліотека МДГУ", на основі архівних документів досліджується селянський повстанський рух на Миколаївщині у 1918–1921 рр. Проаналізовано антигетьманські, антибільшовицькі, антиденікінські та антикомуністичні виступи; показано селянські формування державного типу (Врадіївська Хліборобська республіка, Висунська та Баштанська республіки); виділено діяльність отаманів Лихо і Ю. Тютюнника на території Миколаївщини. Книга написана для науковців, викладачів, краєзнавців, студентів та всіх, хто цікавиться історією рідного краю.*

**Ключові слова:** *селянство, повстанський рух, Миколаївщина, селянські республіки, отамани.*

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In the year of the 100th anniversary of the end of the Ukrainian national-democratic Revolution (1917–1921) the monograph of the well-known Ukrainian historian, Head of the Department of History of Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Yu. Kotlyar “Peasant Rebellion in the Mykolaiv region (1918-1921)”, in which the author makes a successful attempt to analyse the peasant insurgent movement at the regional level in terms of modern research approaches.

According to the author, insurrection and Atamanism, as historical phenomena, can serve as an illustration of the basic tenets of M. Hrushevsky’s historiosophy: the priority of the masses, “national self-defence” and the growth of political and state system on the national basis.

The peasant rebellion was a pre-political phenomenon and was not determined by any particular ideology, although it was subject to various political and ideological influences. The hero-leader, the legends surrounding him and his “personal attractiveness” could largely replace ideology and organization as unifying factors. Peasant uprisings were a constant, a kind of “domestic phenomenon”, the general background of the era. They covered almost the entire territory of Ukraine in the form of individual actions and short-term clashes with the authorities, which did not differ in organization and scope, and in the form of fairly broad and organized movements, such as those organized by Grigoriev (Grigorievshchyna) or Makhno (Makhnovshchyna).

The peasantry entered the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921 with considerable behaviour experience as an active subject of history. Thus, the subjective aspect of the agrarian issue became one of the priority preconditions for the events of 1917–1921 in Ukraine. No wonder almost all political forces and regimes (except the Bolsheviks) that fought for power during the revolution, considered the peasantry a basic stratum of their proposed models of statehood.

In the modern Ukrainian historical science, the Mykolaiv region or Mykolaivshchyna is known for the publication in 2017–2020 of a series of books “Mykolaiv Region. 100th Anniversary of the Events of the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921”, where Yuriy Kotlyar is a co-author and deputy editor-in-chief. The series includes the collective monograph “Mykolaiv Region: Essays on the History of the Revolution of 1917–1921” and such collections of documents as “Mykolaiv Region in the Maelstrom of Revolutionary Events: March 1917–April 1918”, “Mykolaiv Region in the Maelstrom of Revolutionary Events: May 1918–April 1919: Documents and materials” (Mykolayivshchyna, 2017; Mykolayivshchyna, 2019; Mykolayivshchyna, 2020) that examine the state-building processes in the Mykolaiv region during the Ukrainian Revolution. Despite the fact that the problem of the insurgent movement at the regional level (Mykolaiv region) is actively studied in the context of the events of the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921, there has been no generalizing monograph to study the peasant insurrection.

Focusing only on the territory of Mykolaiv region, the author was able to trace the events of 1917–1921, based on local realities. Despite the regional nature of the material, the book is written on a significant source base of research, which includes materials of the Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine, the Sectoral State Archive of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, the Central State Archives of Supreme Bodies of Power and Government of Ukraine, the Central State Archives of Public Organizations of Ukraine, as well as the State Archives of Odessa, Mykolaiv and Kherson Regions. The use of such a documentary basis allowed to expand significantly the idea of the peasant uprising history in the Mykolaiv region and to cover such a page of history at the monographic level.

The monograph has a clear structure of four sections. The first one is devoted to the periodization of the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921 in the Mykolaiv region. By the way, this is one of the first attempts in Ukrainian historiography to form an author’s periodization of the events of 1917–1921 at the regional level and to show their specificity. The periodization of 1917–1921 in the Mykolaiv region consists of ten stages and two periods, namely the Revolution and the Insurgent Movement. Moreover, the role of the insurgent (uprising) factor is decisive. Since the

elements of the insurgent movement manifested themselves in the process of Ukrainian state formation in the Mykolaiv region, as well as after its completion, the events of the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921 in the Mykolaiv region should be viewed through the prism of the insurgent struggle against various authorities. It is established that creation of periodization demands to taken into account not only such classical factors as national state-building, struggle against the Bolsheviks and White Guards, German-Austrian occupation, but also the following specific factors which are characteristic of Mykolaivshchyna: the presence of Entente troops, mass insurgent movement and creation of peasant republics.

The second section characterizes the directions of peasant uprisings in 1918–1921 on the territory of Mykolaiv region: spring–winter 1918 – anti-Hetman; spring–summer 1919 – anti-Bolshevik; autumn 1919 – winter 1920 – anti-Denikin; and 1920–1921 – anti-Communist uprisings. In addition to these directions, there were insurgent units based on the principles of “peasant freedom” [“selyanska volnytsya”]. Such units were often local in nature, and were directed against any of the existing authorities. Peasant ideology negatively perceived strong power: “German-Austrian”, “Bolshevik” or “White Guard”, because each of them, from peasantry’s point of view, had significant disadvantage. There were also insurgent units, which gradually descended to looting, as well as those that were formed from the very beginning as criminal. Characterization of the directions of peasant uprisings in 1918–1921 is a kind of continuation of the author’s classification of the insurgent-guerrilla movement in Southern Ukraine.

In the third section, attention is paid to the peasant republics of Vradiivka, Vysunsk and Bashtanka. Peasant republics are the highest stage in the development of the insurgent movement, which was organized into state-type structures. The self-organization of the peasants in those days grew along with the strengthening of national consciousness. However, the peasant republics, despite the high level of organization, did not acquire their logical perfection. Even during the armed uprisings, the peasants preferred local rather than all-Ukrainian interests. Despite the state nature of the formations, the leaders of the peasant republics understood that the «republics» would never become separate states. There were no economic, financial or territorial conditions for that. The task of forming those formations was to unite the peasants to fight the Bolsheviks or the White Guards, but not to become separate states. Thus, the main significance of the insurgent movements in the Mykolaiv region was the organization of the peasant masses to fight various enemies.

The fourth section highlights activities of atamans Lykho and Yu. Tiutiunnyk on the territory of the Mykolaiv region. The study of insurgent atamans through the prism of the biographical method is current in terms of the development of world historical and theoretical thought, characterized by an emphasis on the humanization of all spheres of public life and determines a special interest in an individual. A man, a personality, and human activity are in the center of history, “therefore, in the study of socio-political development in all its manifestations, the focus should be on man”. The author examines the biographies of the atamans in the context of the historical epoch during which they acted. At the same time, man appears not only as a part of the world picture, but also acts as an active participant in historical and social processes.

The peer-reviewed monograph is part of the series of books “Historical Library of MSHU”, which includes the following monographs, written by Yu. Kotlyar: “Insurgent Movement of Ethnic Minorities in the South of Ukraine (1917–1931)”, “Holodomors of 1921–1923 and 1932–1933 in the South of Ukraine: Ethnic and International Aspects”, “Republics of Vysunsk and Bashtanka (to the 90th Anniversary of the Proclamation)” (Kotlyar, 2008; Kotlyar, Mironova, 2008; Kotlyar, 2010). Thus, it is a logical continuation of the author’s study of various aspects of the peasant insurgent movement.

However, the work has some drawbacks. It is not entirely clear that a separate section (fourth) is devoted to the activities of atamans Lykho and Tiutiunnyk in the Mykolaiv region, and such more

famous atamans as Grigoriev and Makhno are not given special attention, but only brief mentions in the context of other issues. Moreover, the text of monograph contains some inaccuracies in the names of settlements and stylistic flaws.

However, the mentioned shortcomings do not affect the overall positive impression of the monograph by Yu. V. Kotlyar “Peasant Rebellion in the Mykolaiv region (1918-1921)”, which is the important contribution to the study of the Ukrainian history and historical local lore. The monograph will be useful for scientists, teachers, local historians, students, and anyone interested in the history of the native land.

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