

КОНСТИТУЦІЙНА СПАДЩИНА ПИЛИПА ОРЛИКА
(за матеріалами однойменного
міжнародного наукового семінару,
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WELCOMING SPEECH

Your Excellency and dear guests, Welcome to this seminar about the constitutional legacy of hetman Filip Orlik. It is with my outmost pleasure I have the opportunity to host you in the City Hall in Kristianstad this morning. We are truly honoured to have in our midst His Excellency Mr Igor Sagach.

I would also like to take the opportunity to especially thank Mr Bertil Häggman, who some time ago approached me with the idea of organizing this seminar. Mr Häggman has been instrumental in organizing today's seminar, so thank you very much Bertil!

We are here this morning because of one very influential man – one who has interlinked Kristianstad with Ukraine – Filip Orlik. As we have some experts, here I will not be talking about him, I am looking forward to learning more about the Bender constitution and hetman Orlik later on, but instead as an introduction to today's seminar, I would like to give you a brief history of Kristianstad.

Kristianstad is a city born out of war. The city was founded as a defence fortress when this part of Sweden belonged to Denmark, and the area was plagued by regular border and civil wars. It was first until the beginning of the 18th century that the people here got to experience a real, and lingering, peace. The history of Kristianstad and Scania is a prime example that war and conflict do not have last forever – but that a war zone can transition to a peaceful place.

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405 years ago, in 1614, the Danish king Christian 4th founded this city. The location was strategic as the city is surrounded by wetlands, making it more difficult for enemies to attack. In 1658 the peace treaty in Roskilde was signed, and Kristianstad and rest of Scania was handed over to the Swedes. With the exception of a short two years when Scania once again becoming Danish.

The remnants from Denmark is not only noticeable in our cities name Christian's town, Kristianstad, but the main architectural achievement from this time towers over the city – the most beautiful renaissance church in all of the Nordic countries – The Holy Trinity Church. When peace came in the beginning of the XVII century, Kristianstad became a city harbouring exiles, both the Polish king and his family as well as the Ukrainian government, under the protection of the king Charles (or Karl) XII stayed here for some time.

Throughout the centuries, the city has grown and developed. In the mid XVIII century, the old mounds were replaced by boulevards, and the city got its nick name Little Paris. Kristianstad became an important garrison town, but the era as a military town ended at the end of the XX century. Today we take pride in being a city hosting many different types of events and attracting tourists from all over the world to Vattenriket – the Unesco designated biosphere reserve since 2005. The wetlands – once a defence mechanism to keep people outside – are today our biggest tourist attraction, with around 150 000 people every year visiting the biosphere area.

Christian IV had big plans for this city, which he named after himself. It might not have turned out quite as he had imagined, but upon his idea, new generations have with their hopes and dreams built upon the history of this town, resulting in the ever-growing Kristianstad we have today.