

UNITING THE WORLD (TWENTY ISSUES OF THE SCIENTIFIC YEARBOOK DIPLOMATIC UKRAINE)

The decisive hallmark of every country is its foreign policy and culture of diplomatic relations. Upon achieving independence, contemporary Ukrainian diplomacy was faced with a need to develop its foreign policy service and training system. Given the inextricable link between diplomacy and centuries-old history of the country, the first step on that path was studying Ukrainian diplomatic history. Implied herewith are, first of all, the vicissitudes of the eras of Rus-Ukraine, the Cossack state of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi and his successors, and the emergence of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR). Meanwhile, due to the loss of Ukrainian statehood, these historical episodes retained their status of obscure blind spots. Even despite the existence of the international department at Kyiv State University providing capacity-training for the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1944, this issue was not included into educational programmes, thus largely remaining an uncharted territory in historical literature about Ukraine.

With the proclamation of the 1991 Independence Act by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, in December of the same year Ukraine was recognized by 66 countries, namely Poland, Canada, Hungary, Bulgaria, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Georgia, Turkey, the USA, India, Germany, Belarus, China, Moldova, France, Italy, Japan, Great Britain, etc.

As of 1994, 78 ambassadors of foreign countries had been accredited to Ukraine, 55 of which were resident in Kyiv. At the end of the same year, as many as 54 foreign diplomatic missions of Ukraine had started to function in 43 countries all around the world. As of 31 December 2013, Ukraine had established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with more than 170 countries.

Notwithstanding such an increasingly extensive network of interstate contacts, the establishment and development of Ukrainian diplomacy is the specific sphere of social life, which was not publicly disclosed in the past. Nor was it commonly known after gaining independence, the only available source being official documents. The same idea also holds true in the case of projecting a positive image of Ukraine in the international community. Having defined cultural diplomacy as one of its principal pillars, the Directorate-General for Rendering Services to Diplomatic Missions has taken on the task of publishing



На презентації 19 випуску наукового щорічника «Україна дипломатична» зі студентами Національного університету «Острозька академія», листопад 2018 року
At the presentation of the 19th issue of the scientific yearbook *Diplomatic Ukraine* with the students of the National University of Ostroh Academy, November 2018

a range of scientific and popular science-oriented editions, such as, inter alia, the annual *Historical Calendar*, the scientific journal *The Memory of Centuries*, as well as co-founding the scientific civil society organization *Planet Historical Club*. It was in 2000 that the collective effort resulted in initiating and publishing the first issue of the yearbook *Diplomatic Ukraine*.

Ensuring intergenerational continuity of diplomatic activities in such a crucial sphere for Ukraine is an extremely valuable cause, a meaningful contribution to accelerating the development of the national diplomatic tradition. Hence, this is the aim of the scientific yearbook *Diplomatic Ukraine*. From the very outset, the editorial staff was committed to making the research findings useful for further scientific quest for the ways of enhancing the professional background of the new generation of Ukrainian diplomats and ensuring their high performance.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that nowadays the 20th issue of the scientific yearbook *Diplomatic Ukraine* is a landmark event for Ukrainian society. Every edition of the yearbook requires a great deal of creativity masterfully delivered by the best and brightest from the Institute of International Relation of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the National University of Ostroh Academy, the National Institute for Strategic Studies, humanitarian institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and professors of top universities.

Highly appreciated by the international scientific and diplomatic community, twenty editions of the yearbook make a strong case for stating that the publication has taken its rightful place in our historical literature. It is therefore incumbent upon the editorial staff and board to further improve and vigorously search for new riveting topics, unconventional presentation of materials, and expanding the author team.

Our yearbook is aggressively involved in exploring the labyrinthine topic of foreign policy, which compelled us to pursue new ways for presenting the materials gathered. This route has led us to the idea of *Library of the Scientific Yearbook Diplomatic Ukraine*. Among the contributors to the first edition of the series *The UPR Extraordinary Diplomatic Mission in Hungary* there were Iryna Matiash and Yurii Mushka. November 2011 saw the publication of two consecutive vividly illustrated biographical essays *Permanent Representative Ivan Hryshchenko* and *The Man of the Planet*, authored by Anatolii Denysenko and Vasyl Turkevych. They were soon followed by *The International Legal Status of the Budapest Memorandum* by Ihor Lossovskyyi, whose research findings can serve as a significant element of the evidence base required for considering lawsuits of Ukraine against Russia on violating international legal norms in international judicial bodies; *The Pages of My Life* by Mykola Makarevych, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine; the popular scientific essay *The Legacy of Peace* shedding light on life and activities of Sun Myung Moon, a Korean religious and public figure; *The Leader of Two Epochs* about Heydar Aliiev, who had been President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 10 years; the documentary feature publication *Diplomatic Cuisine* by Oleksandr Slipchenko, a Ukrainian diplomat; popular scientific essay *Discovering Ukraine* on the activities of the Directorate-General for Rendering Services to Diplomatic Missions. Among other publications issued in English there were also books about Hennadii Udovenko and the memoirs of such luminaries of Ukrainian diplomacy as Mykhailo Dashkevych, *The Long Way to Diplomatic Olympus*, and Volodymyr Chornyi, *The Siege. From Pereiaslav to the Present* and *Serhii Pyrozhkov: the Life Path of a Scientist and Diplomat*, etc.

Diplomacy has become an inalienable attribute of the modern civilized world, and our yearbook has had a major hand in this process thanks to the intensive efforts of the “Mediacenter” Directorate, whose staff prepares the yearbook and other publications of the Directorate-General for printing.

Availing ourselves of this historic opportunity, we commend the authors of the yearbook for their commitment and the consistently high quality of each edition.