

PRINCE YAREMA VYSHNEVETSKY: HISTORIC INSIGHT

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Introduction. Probably, few Ukrainian historical figures may be compared to paradoxical personality of Prince Yarema Vyshnevetsky. Despite numerous studies of this historical figure by various historians (both Polish and Ukrainian), some aspects of his biography still remain unclear. Research literature almost turned blind eye to his colonization efforts associated with development of the territory Lubenshchyna. We also know practically nothing about Yarema's relations with Polish King Vladislav and Bohdan Khmelnytsky. National historiography typically focuses on his adoption of Catholicism and it is hardly ever mentioned just how much support he granted to the Orthodox Church. It is those paradoxical phases in Yarema Vishnevetsky's activities, "white spots" of his biography, and common stereotypes that used to make and still make him a subject of major controversy in the works of historians and the public eye.

Aim. Unbiased assessment of Prince Yarema Vyshnevetsky based on the study of documentary sources and factual evidence. Expanding existing hypotheses about his origins, find out details about his education, exploring his economic activities, his hardships and his uncompromising position during the National Liberation War.

Materials and methods: systematic, historic, cognitive methods, heuristic search, historical and typological comparisons.

Conclusions. Recently, there is a tendency in Ukraine of reevaluating a personality of Yarema Vyshnevetsky. It is high time to stop assessing him as a hero or anti-hero based on narrow national vision of the past. Vyshnevetsky belongs to a few individuals who were able to influence the course of historical events. History would have been very different without him. Therefore, the activities of this individual (with all his strength and weaknesses) deserves a comprehensive study.