

## THE PROBLEM OF SOURCES OF COSSACKS AS A SOCIOCULTURAL PHENOMENON

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Aim: to consider the problems of sources of Cossacks as a sociocultural phenomenon. Cossacks are unique phenomenon in world history and culture, about which much has been written and said. However, for several centuries, there has been discussion about its origins. The oldest records in the world written sources word Cossack (concerning Ukraine) is a note in the Greek "Synaxarion" of XII century. (found in Sudak) about the death of young man named Almalchu who was "killed with the sword of Cossacks." This is one of the oldest documents in which attested created troops of free soldiers, Cossacks "guard" in the southern plains, which consisted of entire families (parents, children, women) who fought for independence rather bravely and ferociously against all others that bore captivity. In ancient handwritten source "Secret History of the Mongols" (1240) mentions "Cossack" as the name of a lightly armed guard warrior. Originally Cossacks served truly guards in the southern plains, where any moment could be Mongolian or Tartar hordes. The military tradition, peculiar chivalry, which was to protect people and their faith, was born in the days of Kievan Rus. In XII-XIII centuries. Between rivers the Southern Bug and Teterev was a small Ukrainian principality (Bolohivske), customs, public order of which are very similar to cossack, zaporizhian life. Researcher M. Dashkevich believes that the customs of chivalry that it developed, created Cossacks and Cossack Host liberties. M. Kostomarov, M. Maksimovich also call the time point of Cossacks XII-XIII centuries. However, it should be emphasized that knightage of prince's army most influenced the formation of Cossack, especially after the fall of Kyiv (1240r.). This is seen in the customs, in the organization of the social system, maintenance of similar appearance, clothes, means of warfare. Byzantine historian L.Diakon in its history of wars described the portrait of Prince Svyatoslav of Kiev during the conversation with the Byzantine emperor in 900, the "beard shaved on the upper lip thick and long hair (mustache), head completely shaved, on one side hanging forelock", i.e. "herring." With prince's warriors this habit to wear herring moved to the Cossacks and became a feature of their appearance, like a natural "uniform." Time and place of birth of the Ukrainian Cossacks various authors call differently and differently motivate this: the roots of this phenomenon sometimes look back in Scythian times of Ovid, who during his exile on the Black Sea coast (early AD) in his poem about the Scythians described Cossacks, soldiers who were in the days of Rome; and some Cossack chroniclers believed their ancestors' "Ratens'kiy" tribe of the IV century BC. The spirit of chivalry and content of aspirations were associated with the aspirations of medieval chivalry of Europe, drew roots of the Cossacks from brodnkyiv, "berladnykiv" – population of Bolohivskoho principality. Most realistic, in our view, are attempts to link the emergence of Cossacks with anti-mongol movement of the Ukrainian people after the fall of Kyiv in 1240, who defended not only Ukrainian, but also the culture of all the peoples of Europe.