

Yuriy ALEKSIEIEV

HISTORY OF UKRAINE

Textbook

Recommended

by Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Third edition

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Reviewers:

Prof. **V.Naulko**, Ph. D. in History,
Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.
Prof. **I.Vynokur**, Ph. D. in History,
Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School of Ukraine.

Yuriy Aleksieiev

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Ця книга – спроба висвітлити політичні, соціально-економічні й культурні процеси в Україні в хронологічному порядку від стародавніх часів до сучасності. Посібник висуває на перший план головні віхи історії українського народу та ключові події його розвитку.

Посібник призначений для студентів вищих навчальних закладів та всіх, хто цікавиться історією України.

This book is an attempt to highlight socio-political, socio-economic and cultural processes in Ukraine in chronological order from ancient times till the present. The textbook aims at highlighting the main landmarks in the history of the Ukrainian nation as well as crucial events in its evolution.

This textbook is aimed at the students of higher educational establishments as well as everybody who is interested in the history of Ukraine.

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FOREWORD

The Ukrainian nation, one of the largest among Slavic nations, gained its independence at the end of the 20th century. At the beginning of the 3rd millennium it showed the world its will and aspiration to develop democratically.

Over the years of Ukraine's independence Ukrainian historians have advanced in researching Ukrainian history on the basis of new sources and historiography. It has been promoted by the rejection of former ideological postulates. Now that worldwide interest in Ukraine has significantly grown, historians strive to define the role and position of Ukraine in European and world history as well as the impact of civilization processes in the neighbouring states and the whole world on Ukrainian history.

Of special importance for the history of Ukraine was its struggle for independent development. A significant role was also played by the empires which once incorporated Ukrainian lands. It is our hope that modern historians will be able to define everything that matters in the history of the Ukrainian nation irrespective of time-serving considerations.

The book does not aspire to be a comprehensive survey of Ukrainian history. This textbook is aimed at the students of higher educational establishments of Ukraine. It can also be used by foreign students enrolled in Ukrainian higher educational establishments both on a full time and off-campus (distant) basis. The publication may also be useful for the Ukrainian diaspora as well as everybody who is interested in the history of Ukraine.

We hope that *History of Ukraine* will help to understand the periods in the evolution of Ukraine, a long-lasting struggle of its people for independence, such a unique phenomenon as the Ukrainian Cossacks,

a number of vital factors, including the role of Orthodoxy and other religions.

Centuries-old links with Russia and other countries have undoubtedly left their imprint on the historical development of Ukraine. Its periodization is based on a combined chronological / territorial principle with due regard for the problems of social and political development.

While doing this course in history, it is worth getting acquainted with Ukrainian classical literature, including the works by Taras Shevchenko, Nikolay Gogol, Lesia Ukrainka, Ivan Franko, Oles Honchar, Volodymyr Sosiura, Borys Oliynyk, Pavlo Zahrebelny, Dmytro Pavlychko, Ivan Drach. Visiting museums of history, local lore, arts, ethnography may also enrich experience with various historically relevant facts.

The textbook aims at highlighting the main landmarks in the history of the Ukrainian nation as well as crucial events in its evolution. The book includes a chronology of key events in the Ukrainian history and a list of recommended literature.

The edition is the translation of History of Ukraine by Prof. Yuriy Aleksieiev published in 2005. The author expresses his gratitude to Inna Milchuk, Tetyana Sovsimova, Olga Ischenko, Olga Verkhovtsova, Valentyna Marusyak, Kyiv Slavonic University teachers, for the translation. The author also expresses his special gratitude to Associate Professor Vadim Aleksieiev for his significant contribution to the translation and Vasyly Lyapin, Kyiv Slavonic University teacher, for the general editing and proofreading of the English version of the book.

The author and the editing staff will appreciate any recommendations on how to improve the book's contents and structure which can be sent to: caravela@ukr.net.