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THE MAIN CONDITIONS OF FORMING UKRAINIAN DIASPORA IN THE USA

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Abstract. The historical and political aspects of the Ukrainian Diaspora forming are depicted in the article. The main attention is paid to the four waves of the Ukrainian immigration. The author analyzes the reasons of Ukrainian migration and shows the historical and political conditions of its formation.

Keywords: Ukrainian Diaspora, immigration.

The Ukrainian Diaspora is a global community with unique culture phenomena. That's why the research of the Ukrainian Diaspora history and place and in social, economic and political meanings has strategic importance for the independent Ukraine.

According to the relations with the Ukrainian immigrant communities the state immigration policy is based on such regulatory and legal statements as Ukrainian constitution, the decree of the president of Ukraine "Ukrainians abroad" from 24 September 2001; the law of Ukraine "Ukrainian foreign status" adopted by Verkhovna Rada on 4 March 2004. Besides the law of Ukraine "The conception of national politics as for the Ukrainians" and "The conception of state national politics" is completed.

The base analysis showed that in the end of the nineteenth century the mass emigration of the people from Ukraine abroad started. There are four emigration waves.

The first of fourth phases of the mass immigration began in the past decade of the nineteenth century and lasted until the World War First. The massive labour migration to the USA in 1877, to Brazil – in 1880, to Canada – from 1891, to Siberia – after the revolution 1905–1907 and also to Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands started. This emigration has been caused by the influence of a government policy of populating unsettled territories, agricultural resettlement, the economic and political oppressions under Dual and Russian Monarchy⁸.

Mainly emigrants were illiterate and they didn't know how to read. Hence they were national consciousness and religious people.

So, in response to the growing size of the immigration the question about preparing Ukrainian teachers expedience in the new settlements arose. This problem was very essential because the homeland has faced with the shortages of qualified teachers who could have taught the children in Ukrainian language and literature, the Ukrainian history.

Namely the revival of the connections with people who moved abroad was the first immigration wave. Longing after home was very deep. And immigrants were interested in the information about Ukraine and Ukrainians.

The vast majority in Ukrainian connections development with the Ukrainians abroad belongs to the church. The life of Ukrainian community was influenced by the different religious trends such as Orthodox believers and members of Uniats.

There was the lack of priests and the metropolitan Andrii Sheptytskyi sent to Canada three Ukrainian clergymen who were honored with the Order of St. Basil the Great. In 1910 he went for two months trip by himself to Canada and the promise was given to the followers to improve the divine service⁵.

Immigrants struggled to keep their national originality, cultural and life features. There are scientific evidences that Ukrainian names for the lands such as Kyiv, Galych, Karpaty, Kolomyia, Sirko, Khmelnytskyi, Prut, Sich, Kozak and so on were used by immigrants⁴.

There were a lot of Ukrainian schools called after T. Shevchenko, M.Lysenko, I.Franko in Canadian provinces. In 1907 the first Ukrainian-language newspaper "Red Flag" was soon found in Canada. Since 1910 Ukrainian teachers have been publishing periodical newspaper "Ukrainian voice" in Winnipeg. The Orthodox and Greek-Catholic churches, the reading halls were created everywhere. Many different organizations and languages schools were formed at that time.

Rather much Ukrainian Diaspora cultural and educational workers became famous at that time. The Ukrainian and bilingual schools were formed by them and they took care of immigrants' children education. Canadian authority has supported our immigrants there and the Ukrainian-Canadian schools were formed and had worked till 1914.

The World war first broke out in 1914 and Ukrainian immigrants have lost their ties with homeland. The immigration process was ceased.

Thus the first Ukrainian settlers became the founder of the numerous Ukrainian Diaspora abroad. They showed the waves and possibilities of going abroad and surviving on the foreign land. They proved the power of Ukrainian people national originality and became the basis on which the Ukrainian Diaspora new waves rushed afterwards.

The second wave immigration occurred between the Second World War and First World War in twentieth century. This immigration wave took place for political and socio-economical reasons. In general the majority of Ukrainians migrated who fought against the Soviet Power and supported the Central Rada, Directory, the Getmanat. It was small and large landowners, sellers, officers, clergymen, intelligentsia, soldiers and kozaks. The people migrated to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Germany, France, the USA and Canada³.

Europe hosted the largest number of immigrants approximately 80 000 people, the rest migrated to the USA, Canada, and the less part of them to the North America and Australia. In general it was the young well-educated people who belonged to intelligentsia. Altogether it caused the formation very dynamic structure in the Diaspora from the sportive life to the literary society and publishing. Partially active Ukrainian community covered the previous new immigrant generation. Ukrainian Orthodox and Greek Catholic churches with their metropolitans, eparchies, archbishops, seminaries had a great influence there too.

Ukrainian immigration filled up with new arrivals. Nevertheless in the end of twentieth till the beginning of thirties of the twentieth century the immigration flow almost ceased. Stalinist policy made immigration more difficult. It was very hard to find out any information about Ukrainians abroad and it was impossible to know about real situation in Ukraine.

At the same time from Western Ukraine, especially after joining to Poland in 1921, the immigration stream became stronger. The real source of supply of workers to the international market was not only Eastern Galicina and Northern Bukovina but Volyn, which was joined to Russian Empire before.

On the Ukrainian lands which were controlled by Poland living standards have decreased and tough and social and economic situations have forced some Ukrainians to find money for living. Due to it had become difficult to find work. National and religious oppression joined socio-economical one. People were forced to learn polish language, and at the same time Ukrainian language felled in decay. The polonization effect started⁷.

I would like to emphasize such phenomenon as reimmigration in the second immigration wave. The thing was that the big hope came to the immigrants and they believed that the Soviet Power can build honest and social society. So, at the beginning of twenties of the twentieth century the reimmigration started to Ukraine. Especially we could notice it from France to the USA. However, the Soviet Power fulminated the communities and Ukrainians were subject to repression.

Many second-wave immigrants were educated and had participated in well-educated people. It was the main help to adjust themselves for the new living and working conditions and also for taking part in active public life. In interwar period Ukrainians moved abroad mostly because of the politic reason. Staying there they wanted to help for their native state. But the Second World War broke their dreams¹.

The third wave of immigration has been caused by political reasons and lasted from 1947 till 1953. During that time more than 37000 people migrated from Ukraine to Canada and 180000 – to the USA. The Ukrainian upper classes were, moreover, anxious to bring themselves in line politically, socially, culturally and religiously from Ukraine to Diaspora.

The idea about independent Ukraine and establishing of Ukrainian sovereign state joined those immigrants. They was opposed to making Russian as a state language, consolidating the Ukrainian language and culture, and also protesting against imprisonment and physical destruction of the Ukrainian dissidents.

Thus, Ukrainian political immigration wave joined well-educated and conscious people who even today have been helping for their native country⁵.

The fourth wave or so-called “zarotitchanska” began in 1980. Streams of immigrants took their leave of Ukraine as a result the economic developments.

The scientists accent that unemployment was made intentionally, especially in western Ukraine. As a result approximately seven-eight million people left to Europe, the USA and Russia for temporary work. It is very important to notice that immigration flow from Ukraine to some countries (especially to Canada and the USA) is changed qualitatively: the main number is a high-educated intelligentsia and it helps them to find a good job abroad easily².

The analysis results showed that the fourth immigration wave is much more different from the previous third ones. The new immigrant trying to be integrated in foreign society couldn't find the common language with old immigration representatives. Many of them still had soviet point of view and their spoken language was Russian. The fourth immigration wave stressed old Ukrainian Diaspora because they didn't expect so indifferent attitude to Ukrainian language, culture and traditions.

Besides, current reasons of Ukrainian people immigration differ from the reasons that used to be. Previous generation left their motherland which stayed under the rule of foreigners, now Ukrainian people have their own state. The state is very interested in qualified, hard-working, patriotic stuff, but It can not find the appropriate application. So Ukrainian immigration fourth wave mostly repeats the first “zarobitchanska” wave. However, unlike the first wave, sometimes 90 per cent of the Ukrainian women are eager to support their family.

The main purpose of immigration is to make a start-up capital for running their own business in Ukraine and to provide their children with good and modern education. Being limited in everything there they bring up a new educated generation in Ukraine. So, not thinking about fourth massive immigration wave, after coming back these people build a modern society.

Recently, we can watch so called multiplied effect (the whole families and even settlements are leaving their own country). But not everyone wants to stay abroad. According to the research 25 per cent of any labour immigration is unreturned.

The intellectual category immigrants are distinguished among the Diaspora. They are contractually employed in the universities, scientific laboratories, research centres and so on. Having the great opportunities for intellectual development, they usually hide the interesting and potential ideas in order to realize it in Ukraine. After some years abroad they bring a new intellectual product, a new knowledge and technology and also a new working morality which objects the slovenly and idleness to Ukraine.

The students stream migration is one of the main components of Ukrainian migration. These are young people who in future will bring prestige to their country. Also they have opportunities to compare their life abroad and in their own country, to evaluate objectively the actual advantages and disadvantages of Ukraine. They have already won grants and earned money for studying. This generation doesn't fear the unknown and advance greatly in their knowledge.

The Ministry of Labour has issued the decrees facilitating the immigrant's right to work abroad. The work placement agreement was signed with many countries among them Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and also Greece and Portugal.

The fourth wave immigration it was objective process not only because of economical conditions, but also because of the moving from one country to another was the standards of civilized life. In spite of all misunderstanding between generations, there was the beginning of what has come to be known as a new public and social life belongs to the new wave representatives. A lot of new immigrants work in the branches of education, culture, religion, sport and business. Their contribution not only makes stronger Ukrainians Diaspora but guarantees the future in twentieth century¹.

According to the research of the director of the Ukrainian Diaspora institute, from 16 till 20 millions Ukrainians make the history of our foreign Ukrainian formation.

According to the 2000 census, 900 000 residents of the USA considers themselves to be Ukrainian ancestry. However, some American demographers consider that the real number of Ukrainians in the USA is from one and a half till two million people.

Comparing with another world Diaspora, Ukrainian communities have the largest quantity of public associations. The Ukrainian World Congress is the international Ukrainian organization, which consists of 50 big organizations and their members from more than 30 states. All associations include 20-30 per cent from all Ukrainian communities.

Ukrainian Diaspora in America is organized pretty much. Since 1893 the oldest weekly newspaper „Svoboda” has been publishing. Nowadays numerous the Ukrainian mass medias, the publishing houses, museums, the archives, the churches, Ukrainian schools are working in the USA.

In 1915 the Ukrainian federation in America was formed which was received by the American president in 1916. There are some famous Ukrainian organizations there such as “the Ukrainian National Association”, “the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America”, “the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee”, “the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America”, “the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences” and also youth, veterans, professional organizations.

In 1962 Shevchenko's monument was opened in the capital of the USA in the city Washington. The president D. Eisenhower unveiled the monument. Such universities as Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, University of California, University of Illinois have Ukrainian departments and 20 colleges. There is Ukrainian Language Association in Chicago.

So, immigration history shows that formation of Ukrainian Diaspora has been formed for a long time and has been caused by economical and political conditions. But, in spite of difficult living conditions, staying in countries with well-developed economic, Diaspora could save the national culture, language and traditions.

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