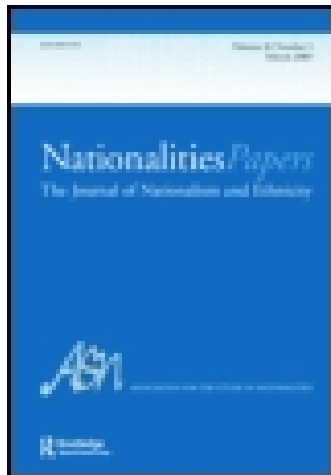


This article was downloaded by: [University of Otago]

On: 02 October 2014, At: 05:03

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cnap20>

Comments on periodization and terminology in Byeloruthenian and Ukrainian histories

Lubomyr R. Wynar^a

^a Professor of Library Science, Kent State University

Published online: 19 Oct 2007.

To cite this article: Lubomyr R. Wynar (1975) Comments on periodization and terminology in Byeloruthenian and Ukrainian histories, *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, 3:2, 50-59, DOI: [10.1080/00905997508407775](https://doi.org/10.1080/00905997508407775)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00905997508407775>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

COMMENTS ON PERIODIZATION AND TERMINOLOGY IN BYELORUTHENIAN
AND UKRAINIAN HISTORIES

Lubomyr R. Wynar

It is a truism that without clear cut historical terminology and determination of historical periodization, which reflect the multi-dimensional development of individual nations and states, no effective and objective historical research is possible. Therefore, historians should welcome this session which, in my opinion, can serve as a starting point in the discussion dealing with controversial problems of East European historical terminology and periodization.

Dr. Zaprudnik's paper elucidates several important issues concerning such basic terms as Bielarus, Belorussia, Litovskaia Rus, Litva, and many other important terms. The latter part of his paper very briefly outlines the various schemes concerning the periodization of Byeloruthenian history. Although Dr. Zaprudnik states that he has restricted himself "to most basic aspects and most recent developments" in regard to his topic, nevertheless, his presentation touches on older secondary sources and historical literature. In view of this, one can question his methodological approach, especially in regard to the omission of basic medieval primary sources dealing with Byeloruthenian history and of some important works by contemporary historians. For instance, there is no analysis of the views of Polish historians on Byeloruthenian terminology (as put forth in major works by

Halecky and others, for example), nor of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's scheme of East European history, including Byeloruthenian. One would hope, therefore, that in the final version of his paper Dr. Zaprudnik will fill this important gap.

With regard to the content of the paper, the following comments are in order. In general, I agree with Dr. Zaprudnik's contention that the historical terminology on Byeloruthenia or Byelorussia is confusing and, in many instances, misleading. He correctly quotes historian J. Jucho that after the "unification of all Byelorussian territories within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the inhabitants of Byelorussia were called...Lithuanians and the Byelorussian land - Lithuania." At this point, I wish to add that, in Ukrainian and Russian sources of the 16th and 17th centuries, Byeloruthenians were also called "litovskii ludy" (Lithuanian people).

It is rather disturbing to note that Prof. Zaprudnik accepts uncritically the views presented by Fedor P. Filin concerning the origin of Slavic languages; namely, that the "origin of the Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian languages, the linguistic differentiation among the Eastern Slavs and the emergence of the three nationalities, Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian, took place between the 13th and 14th centuries" (F.P. Filin, Proiskhozdenie Russkogo, Ukrainskogo i Belorusskogo iazykov, Leningrad, 1972, p.3). One finds the

same conclusions in Filin's earlier monograph, Obrazovanie iazyka vostochnykh slovian (Moskva, 1962). His reflection of the official Soviet version regarding the ethnogenesis of East Slavic peoples is not shared by many noted scholars (e.g., Shevelov, Chyzhevsky, and many others). Furthermore, it directly contradicts current non-Soviet Ukrainian historiography (Hrushevsky, Chubatyi, Ohloblyn, Andrusiak, and others). In the light of recent archeological excavations in Ukraine, and on the basis of primary medieval Ukrainian sources, it is impossible to accept Filin's hypothesis.

In discussing Prof. Horak's paper, Dr. Zaprudnik correctly indicates that the Byeloruthenian history is not at all marginal to the history of the Lithuanian state, and then rests his statement on the fact the "Lithuanian public documents" were written in Byelorussian language from the 14th through the 17th century (e.g., Litovskaia Metrika, Statut Veliko Knihzestva Litovskoho, and others). However, Dr. Zaprudnik should consider not only the formal aspect (language) of the document, but also its content. It is rather well known that in its content the Statut is directly related to Rus'ka Pravda, which reflects, to a great extent, Old Ukrainian (Ruthenian) law. He presents an interesting hypothesis concerning the "byeloruskoe pysmo," which could mean not only the language but also the graphic script used in the documents. In my opinion, the so-called "byeloruskoe

pysmo" of the 16th and 17th centuries is directly related to the Old Ukrainian language and was shared by two peoples.

For example, in the third edition of the Statut (1588) one finds the following clear statement--"A pysar zemsky maet po rusku literamy i slovy Ruskymy use lysty...pysaty" (p.27). Thus, the requirement of the Ruthenian language is stressed. Andrusiak comments that the "Language differences did not influence the separation of Byelorussian from Ukrainian because to the end of the XVIII century there was one mutual, so-called Rus' book language for Ukrainians and Byelorussians based on church Slavonic..." This "Rus' book language was influenced in literary works by words and idioms which entered from popular Ukrainian and Byelorussian" (N. Andrusiak, "Genesis and Development of East Slavic States," East European Review, Vol. 1, 1956). Additional detailed, comparative linguistic analysis of Byeloruthenian documents of the 16th and 17th centuries document is needed in order to solve this problem.

On the other hand, Prof. Zaprudnik fails to discuss the English historical terminology related to Byeloruthenian history (e.g., White Ruthenia, White Russia, and other terms). I use the term "Byeloruthenian," and he uses the term Byelorussian, which gives rise to the following question: Which term is correct in English historical terminology? I wish to point out that the Byeloruthenian Academy of Liberal Arts and Sciences used the term "Byeloruthenia" in foreign

translations. One also finds that there is no discussion of such terms as "Kryvia," "Kryvichchyna," "Kryvichi," or "Kryvichane"--terms that were favored by a number of Byeloruthenian intellectuals and scholars, who proposed to replace the term "Byelorussia" with "Kryvia" or "Krivichchyna" (Vlas Lastovsky, J. Liosik, Zarecky and others). Therefore, it becomes important to comment on this terminological problem, especially since it is apparent that Byeloruthenian scholars outside Byeloruthenia disagree on this question.

The second section of Dr. Zaprudnik's paper presents an analysis of the various periodization schemes regarding Byeloruthenian history. It is interesting to note at this point that in 1922 the leading Byeloruthenian historian, U. I. Picheta, recommended to Byeloruthenian historians Hrushevsky's scheme of East European history by accepting the view that the "early history of Ukraine is the history of so-called Rus'" (Uvialenia u. Russkuiu istoriu, Moskov, 1922). It would be interesting to analyze in the future Picheta's and Hrushevsky's conceptions of Byeloruthenian history, especially during the medieval period. The time limit and the scope of Dr. Zaprudnik's paper do not allow for an analysis of some of the problems mentioned above.

In general, Prof. Zaprudnik's paper raises a number of very important questions pertaining to Byeloruthenia; it will serve as a basis for the future discussion of periodization and terminology in Byeloruthenian history.

Regarding Dr. Horak's presentation, one finds that a major portion of his paper concentrates on Hrushevsky's periodization scheme of Ukrainian, Byeloruthenian, and Russian histories. From a methodological viewpoint, I feel that the paper's content is far broader than its title, which deals with periodization and terminology in Ukrainian historiography. In his paper, Dr. Horak has failed to discuss some outstanding Ukrainian historians who also dealt with the terminological and periodization problem in Ukrainian history (e.g., Borys Krupnytsky, Osnovni problemy istorii Ukrainy, 1965; or Dmytro Doroshenko, "Was ist die Osteuropäische Geschichte," 1936, and others). Another critical note concerning the methodological aspect of the paper relates to Dr. Horak's "own oral survey"; because it is not scientific, its validity may be questioned. In order to use the survey method as a tool in scientific inquiry, one must follow its methodological requirements.

Regardless of these comments about methodology, Dr. Horak does raise several important issues, emphasizing the "inconsistencies and distortions affecting the histories of all three nationalities--namely Russians, Ukrainians, and Byeloruthenians." I agree with his statement that Hrushevsky's scheme of East European history is still a "terra incognita" among American historians, who still prefer to follow the traditional Russian or Soviet explanation of the historical

periodization and who therefore are rather biased in their view of East European history. Horak's comments on primary sources and on the results of recent archeological excavations provide his paper with a broader source basis than Dr. Zaprudnik's presentation.

Dr. Horak accepts Hrushevsky's ethnic division of the medieval Eastern European Slavs into three peoples--namely, Ukrainians (Ruthenians), Byeloruthenians, and Russians (Muscovites)--which existed prior to the 13th century. Consequently, their histories should be studied separately, in spite of the fact that the historical process of these nations was interrelated during certain historical periods. Prof. Horak also accepts, with slight modification, the recent historical periodization advocated by Natalia Polonska-Vasylenko in her Istoria Ukrainy (München, 1972). In regard to this periodization scheme of Ukrainian history, I propose to make the following substitutions for the term "first state of the 9th - 19th centuries, Kiev Rus'-Ukraine," I substitute "Ukraine in Medieval Ages: a) Kievan Rus' State; b) Halych-Volynian State"; instead of the proposed "Lithuanian-Rus' Grand Duchy," I suggest "Lithuanian-Ruthenian Grand Duchy"; and finally, in place of Prof. Horak's "Cossack Ukraine" I propose "Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanite State." These nomenclatures, as well as other challenging views presented by Prof. Horak on East European historical terminology, should

be exposed to further discussion. In conclusion I wish to emphasize that both papers (Zaprudnik's and Horak's) should serve as a basis for further analysis of the present terminological chaos pertaining to Byeloruthenian, Ukrainian, and Russian histories in Western historiography.

It seems that American historians may raise important questions in regard to the major causes of this terminological inconsistency and distortion in the reconstruction of East European history in American historiography. In my opinion, a number of factors influenced this phenomenon. First, a majority of American historians adopted the traditional scheme of Russian history, because of the direct influence exerted by pre-Soviet and émigré Russian historians. Some of them consider Byeloruthenian and Ukrainian history (especially in medieval ages) as part of Russian history and, in extreme cases, some even question the national identity of Ukrainians and Byeloruthenians. For instance, Samuel Cross has stated that Russians, Ukrainians, and Byeloruthenians "are nonetheless parts of the same nation, so that either a White Russian or a Ukrainian is precisely as Russian as the purest Great Russian born in the shadow of the Kremlin" (S.H. Cross, Slavic Civilization Through the Ages, p. 51).

Some historians consider Hrushevsky and other Ukrainian and Byeloruthenian historians, for instance, to be "nationalists" and thus "biased." It is evident that such historians

are following the current Soviet terminology and have confused the concept of "nationalist" with "national." Finally, American historians who have a reading knowledge of Russian are not familiar with Ukrainian and Byeloruthenian languages, so they tend to ignore significant historical works in these languages. This parochial approach to East European historiography is unacceptable. It should be stressed that, by uncritically adopting the Russian conception and terminology of East European history, many American historians are directly contributing to historical distortions and misconceptions of Byeloruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian histories.

At this point, few basic recommendations are in order regarding this terminological confusion, which affects serious historical scholarship as well as the teaching of historical courses in our universities. I do wish to add that this topic was seriously debated on the forum of the Ukrainian Historical Association and my recommendations reflect, to a certain extent, the position of UHA. I urgently recommend that a special committee on East European historical terminology be established. This question had already been raised in 1954 by Henryk Paszkevicz in his monograph "The Origin of Russia," in which he correctly states that "historical research would be facilitated if the relevant terminology were internationally regulated." The major objective of this proposed committee would be to clarify the terminological chaos in regard to

various periods of Byeloruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian histories. The results and the recommendations of the committee's work should be published in a separate volume and be submitted to historians involved in the study of East European history. I further recommend that this committee should consist of historians, geographers, anthropologists, and linguists as well as representatives of the American Historical Association, AAASS, ASN, Ukrainian Historical Association, White Ruthenian Institute of Arts and Sciences, The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, the Polish Institute of Art and Science, and other scholarly organizations interested in terminological problems. It is imperative that such a committee be organized as soon as possible. Otherwise, the terminological confusion and these misconceptions of East European history will continue in Western, and especially American, historiography.