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## THE MIDDLE AGES IN THE UKRAINIAN-POLISH CONTEMPORARY DIALOGUE<sup>1</sup>

The article examines the role of medieval heritage in shaping the modern Ukrainian-Polish dialogue through the prism of historical science, education, museology, and media. Attention is drawn to the centuries-old relations between Rus' and Poland, which, despite conflicts, included numerous examples of cooperation: the observance of agreements, dynastic marriages, joint military campaigns, religious and cultural contacts. The author emphasizes the need to preserve the memory of these positive phenomena as a counterweight to the propaganda of hatred, which is an element of the hybrid warfare of the modern Kremlin regime.

The article analyses in detail the modern historiography of Ukrainian-Polish relations in the medieval period, focusing on the scientific achievements of both Ukrainian and Polish historians, in particular, the study of the Galicia-Volhynia (Volodymyr) Chronicle. The importance of rethinking stereotypes and updating the scientific paradigm in interpreting the relations between Rus' and the Kingdom of Poland is emphasized.

Particular attention is paid to the impact of scientific research on school textbooks, in the light of the concept of the New Ukrainian School (NUS), which is gradually moving from the concept of «conquest» of Rus' lands to the more neutral term «incorporation». The analysis of museum exhibitions showed the presence of Polish material heritage in the expositions of Ukrainian museums, despite the restrictions imposed by the war.

Thus, the comprehensive study demonstrated the importance of the historical context in shaping the cultural dialogue between Ukraine and Poland. The role of historical memory as a tool for mutual understanding, integration, and counteracting destructive narratives in difficult geopolitical conditions is emphasized. The peculiarities of the interpretation of Ukrainian-Polish relations in the Middle Ages in modern scientific, educational, museum and media

<sup>1</sup> Стаття підготовлена в межах проекту «Середньовіччя в українсько-польському діалозі сучасності: науково-освітні, музейно-культурні, медійні аспекти», реалізованого за підтримки стипендіальної програми «Досліджуйте в Україні» Центру діалогу ім. Юліуша Мершевського (Польща).

discourse are revealed, and the need to overcome historical stereotypes in the context of hybrid threats is emphasized.

**Key words:** Rus', Ukraine, Poland, dialog, education, influence, historiography.

The Ukrainian-Polish neighborhood has a long history that goes back to medieval times. The echoes of those events can be felt in the modern cultural sphere of the development of the two nations, and are periodically actualized in scientific research, the media, and individual events. First, it is customary to emphasize the problems of conflicts that also had their impact on the past, and for this reason it is impossible to ignore them. However, against the backdrop of wars, generally characteristic of the Middle Ages, there was also cooperation, which manifested itself in the observance of agreements (in 1229, Rus'ian Prince Daniel Romanovych and Polish princes agreed not to take free peasants prisoners (Mereniuk, Parshyn, 2024, p. 545), the conclusion of dynastic marriages (for example, the famous marriage of Casimir I and Dobronega Volodymyrivna in 1039), which at that time was tantamount to the approval of a political alliance, participation in joint campaigns and wars, and cultural and religious interaction (in 1302 Sviatoslava, daughter of Prince Lev Danylovych, a nun in the Clarissa Monastery in Stary Sonch, died). These facts are much less well known today than, for example, the capture of Lviv by King Casimir III in 1340 (although the significance of this event is also overestimated in historiography). Thus, it is important to determine to what extent the memory of such phenomena is actualized in the contemporary Ukrainian-Polish discourse, whether they are tied to material sources and exhibitions displayed in museums, discussed in journalistic works, media, Internet resources, at scientific conferences and roundtables. It is also important to determine how the history of Ukrainian-Polish relations are interpreted for educational use (primarily at school). It is no secret that one of the hybrid threats of the Russian regime is sowing hostility and distrust. Such an approach can be countered by establishing true historical circumstances, where cooperation and peaceful neighborhood are also mentioned alongside conflicts. Therefore, the manifestations of such coexistence (medieval times) will require additional attention.

The historiography of Rus'ian (old-Ukrainian)-Polish relations in the Middle Ages has its own traditions, but it is also quite variegated. In particular, Oleksandr Holovko, in one of his recent summarizing works, noted that the relations between the states and people of Central and Eastern Europe in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were in the field of view of authors of that time (chroniclers, chroniclers, and analysts) (Головко, 2021, c. 7–8). At the scientific level, researchers began to study the relationship between Western and Eastern Slavs around the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. At that time, the lands of Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine were part of three empires: Russian, German (Prussian), and Austrian. Therefore, local educational and research centers prepared scientific works on history. They had a certain specificity. The relations between Poland and its eastern neighbors were covered in general works on history, special studies devoted to specific topics from the past of Rus' and Poland, and in works that separately examined various aspects of the past eastern policy of Poland, the medieval Polish principalities, and the western policy of Rus', the old Rus'ian principalities, etc (Головко, 2021, c. 7–8). Among

the many entries in the bibliography, a prominent place is occupied by the works of medievalists who made the ethnic, socio-political, and economic history of the region, the formation and development of art, and religious relations the main object of their research. Highlighting the main positions will make it much easier to navigate the sea of names and titles and will make it easy to find the necessary information in the future, indicating the state of scholarly interest in this area.

The contribution of other specialists who worked on important issues of Rus' past (the Kyivan state, the Galicia-Volhynian state or principality, the process of incorporation of Rus' lands into the Polish kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania) is also significant. However, for eastern Ukrainian scholars, the history of Rus' and Kyivan heritage was of paramount importance, while the issue of Romanovid's possessions was on the margins of mainstream studies. However, the Rus'ian-Polish military and dynastic contacts played a prominent role in any case, indicating the relevance of this topic.

Mykola Kotlyar studied the stages of the emergence and development of Galician-Volhynian chronicles in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as well as controversial aspects of the foreign policy of the overlords of Galicia and Volhynia during this period (Котляр, 2015, c. 10–20). The already mentioned O. Holovko in his monumental monograph examined the history of relations between the two largest Slavic states of Rus' and Poland over two and a half centuries – from the late 10<sup>th</sup> to the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century (Головко, 2021). Oleksandr Holovko pointed to the foreign policy activities of the Rus'ian and Polish ruling elites in the events of the international life of the states and peoples of Europe in the early and classical Middle Ages. The researcher showed how the international situation around Rus' and Poland influenced the course of their interstate relations and domestic political development. His views can also be analyzed in numerous articles, where he thoroughly covered the political situation of the Rus'ian principalities, including the diplomacy of the united Galicia-Volhynian state during the reign of Prince Roman Mstyslavovich (Головко, 2018a; Головко, 2018b). The proposed research demonstrates that scientific understanding of the issue is actively developing, and the revision of established stereotypes allows for a new assessment of previously known phenomena.

One of the related scholarly works that reveals the contacts between the Rus'ian and Polish elites in the early Middle Ages is the study by Leontii Voitovych (Войтович, 2021). His monograph reveals the history of the formation and development of the Rus' Empire from the emergence of the Rus' Khaganate and the first mention of it in the Berthyn Annals to the death of Prince Yaroslav the Wise. This work is a kind of summary of the author's research over the past decade, which has been significantly supplemented and revised. The author paid special attention to complex and controversial issues, including ethnogenesis, the formation of the state and state institutions, and the Norman problem (however, also based on Polish history) (Войтович, 2021, c. 2). The author's writing style is rather journalistic, the work is intended for a wide range of readers, although it contains all the necessary bibliographic references. In general, important research on Ruthenian is also being conducted in Lviv (primarily at the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the revived Shevchenko Scientific Society, and the Ukrainian Catholic University). Since Ukraine's independence, medievalist essays have received a significant impetus for further development. In fact, the works of L. Voitovych

are a significant contribution to the identification of the genealogical connections of the Romanovids dynasty with other European ruling houses (including the Polish Piast). Some researchers argue for the continuation of state traditions in Galicia and Volhynia in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This contradicts the established Polish views on history, but L. Voitovych considers the Lithuanian prince Dmytro-Lubartas Gediminas the rightful heir to the Romanovids (Войтovich, 2021–2022, c. 165–172). Popular areas of research include cultural history, in particular the art of iconography and architecture of the princely era, religious views (Скочиляс, 2017, c. 30–38), reviews of social problems (the formation of elites (Волошук, 2023, c. 45–50), the coexistence of several ethnic groups in urban life (Parshyn, Mereniuk, 2022, p. 145–148), and the problems of concluding agreements), and military cooperation (Горбач, 2017). All this creates a broad picture for comparison with the contemporary views of Polish scholars. However, it is also important to highlight the most recent studies.

One example of the work on the formation of updated views on the history of Rus' is the collective work «The Path from Primitivism to Civilization. Ukrainian Dress of the Middle Ages», published in 2023 (Смолій, 2023). This thorough study includes reviews of the stages of formation of the historical and geographical landscape, socio-political forms, spiritual and cultural and social practices during the early, classical, late (or high) Middle Ages. The reference points are significant historical phenomena (Rus'ian statehood, Christianization of the Rus'ian space, the experience of contacts with neighboring medieval states, Ukrainian ethnogenesis, etc.) that accumulated or determined the evolutionary changes of these epochs, refracted in the Ukrainian specificity (Смолій, 2023, c. 4). An important aspect is that such a detailed work is intended not only for specialists but also for a wide audience of readers. The trend toward making historical research more flexible is also evident in other contemporary publications. Some Ukrainian historians emphasized the need to reassess certain trends in Ukrainian history. It was emphasized that the perception of the king as one of their own in the Ukrainian historical tradition is primarily associated with Danylo Romanovych and his coronation in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. However, Ukrainian ancestors from the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century also lived under the rule of kings. Mostly Polish, to a lesser extent Hungarian, but these kings were rulers for Rus' at a time when the states to which Ukrainian lands belonged were not national. An updated overview of royal biographies and histories of individual dynasties from the 1340<sup>s</sup> to the 1790<sup>s</sup> is offered. Emphasis is placed on the kings of the Piast, Angevine, and Jagiellonian dynasties. At the same time, the figures of the elected kings, who were elected by the nobility at the electoral «sejm» in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, are also important (Михайловський, 2023). Attempts to integrate Polish kings into Ukrainian history are still rare. However, such concepts may become additional vectors for the development of historiography in the current context.

Studies in heraldry also actualize Ukrainian-Polish issues. Among the most recent studies is the work of Oleh Odnorozhenko on the heraldry of the Rus'ian Kingdom (Однороженко, 2024). The author noted that the heraldry of the times of the Rus'ian Kingdom, along with the preservation of the traditions of early Rus' creation of heraldic figures, underwent dynamic transformations. Such changes are due to the complex circumstances of the political, social, and cultural development of the post-Mongol period. If in the state-dynastic coats of

arms significant transformations are not noticeable, neither in the content of the coat of arms nor in the practices of their use, then in the case of the analysis of the heraldry of nomadism there is a spread of the practice of using governmental coats of arms, which emerged as a system at this time under Byzantine influence (Однороженко, 2024, c. 2). Since the story is devoted primarily to the Galicia-Volhynian state, it is noted that the aspirations of the Romanovids are largely like those of Polish elites to restore the unity of the Polish kingdom at the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. This, however, did not in any way negate the claims of Polish kings, no matter which dynasty (Przemysl II, Czech Przemyslids, or Kuyavian Piasts), to all the lands of the old Polish Kingdom, which led to permanent conflicts with the Czech Kingdom over Silesia or with the Teutonic Order over Pomerania. The rulers of Krakow saw themselves as the rulers of the whole of Poland and used all possible means of presentation, including heraldic ones. The Romanovids positioned themselves and pursued their policy in a similar way, only more than fifty years earlier than their Polish neighbours (Однороженко, 2024, c. 14–15).

The history of Rus' is relevant for source studies. Given the proximity to the possessions of the Polish Piast dynasty, the problems they propose also touch on the topic of Rus'ian-Polish relations. For example, Tetyana Vilkul devoted her thorough monograph to the study of early Kyivan chronicles and Rus'ian chronographic works (Вілкул, 2015). She examined the Tale of Bygone Years, the Kyiv Chronicle of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Novgorod First Chronicle of the younger edition (or rather, the Kyiv component of this collection), as well as Old Slavic translations of the chronicles of George Amartol and John Malala, and the Alexandria Chronographica, the so-called «Chronograph in Large». The researcher argues that since two types of historical works of medieval Rus', chronicles and chronographs, served as «control texts» for each other, the comparison of quotations, plot parallels, the manner of borrowing, and ideological overlaps in the work allows us to solve problems that have long been discussed by experts, to revise some of the concepts that are now established and to clarify previously expressed judgments. She paid special attention to the evidence that would clarify the dating of chronicle and chronographic monuments. Finally, a few issues are described in her monograph for the first time, such as the origin of chronographic quotations in the Kyivan Chronicle and the origin of the initial part of the chronographs presenting Old Testament history (Вілкул, 2015, c. 3). Although the book is intended for specialists, it has also received positive reviews in terms of popularizing scientific knowledge and cross-disciplinary studies. Among the source studies, a collective study of the third part of the Hypatian Chronicle Codex, the Galicia-Volhynian Chronicle, also stands out (Толочко, 2020). This thorough study is the result of a multi-year project of textual examination of the outstanding monument of chronicling of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle. The methodical reading and fragmentary interpretive commentary of its text revealed and substantiated the main milestones in the history of the monument. Thus, such issues as the origin of the current structure of the text, the stages of its formation and their sequence, the chronology of «editorial episodes», the timing of various text fragments to certain «editorial episodes», the sources of the text, etc. were traced. This book contains research, a systematic commentary, word indexes to the text of the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle (according to the oldest Ipatiev list), and a

bibliographic index of works on the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle such a brief overview indicates that the problems of the medieval era occupy a prominent place in modern Ukrainian historiography. The appeal to the source heritage, attempts to attract new, less used sources on the history of Rus' indicate a scientific perspective. Updated interpretations of sources have demonstrated that Rus'ian-Polish medieval relations. This problem was discussed at round tables. For example, a well-known forum for young researchers was the Polish project *Colloquia Russica*, a series of conferences with panel discussions and open lectures by experts (Парпін, 2018, c. 224–226). Some meetings were also held as part of other debates, including during the Russian aggression against Ukraine. One of these discussions between Yeronim Hralia, Myroslav Voloshchuk, and Vitalii Nahirniy demonstrated the relevance of terminological contexts for understanding Rus', the early stages of its development, ethnic history, etc. (Grala et al., 2022, s. 10–22). Such discussions are essential for the further development of medieval studies and the understanding of Rus'ian-Polish contacts in the Middle Ages.

The history of Rus' and the Galicia-Volhynian state was studied by Polish scholars. Their interest is due to several reasons. Galicia and Volhynia bordered on the Piast domains, so the study of this contact zone is key to understanding the ethnopolitical, social, and religious development of the region, the matrimonial policy of local rulers, and the causes and course of armed conflicts. However, some experts understood the 14<sup>th</sup> century Galician land as an integral part of the Polish crown and actively argued for the fairness and inevitability of such incorporation. The heuristic achievements of Polish specialists are undeniable, but they also require some caution in their use. Modern specialists, building on the results of their predecessors, have focused on studying the past of Rus' through the prism of the policies of the rulers of Central and Eastern Europe at the time. Mariusz Bartnicki addressed the issue of analysing chronicle texts (Bartnicki, 2018, p. 315). Dariusz Dombrowski's monographs are important genealogical works. At the same time, he actively studied the diplomatic interactions of the ruling dynasties of medieval Rus', Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, and devoted a thorough study to the figure of King Danylo Romanovych and his family (Dąbrowski, 2016). The original analysis of the Galicia-Volhynian Chronicle (*Chronica Romanoviciana*) was carried out by Polish researcher Adrian Yusupovich (Jusupović, 2018). He drew attention to the capabilities of the editor of this chronicle text and suggested certain strategies used by the chroniclers. In general, the existence of several editions of the text of the outstanding Rus' medieval work was noted. Moreover, the chronicler of Romanovids dynasty adhered to the principles of Kyivan chronicling, which was an echo of the political program of the Galician-Volhynian princes to preserve the unity of the Rus' lands under their rule. It is worth noting that contemporary Polish historiography is striving to get rid of tendentious assessments and at the same time rethink some established clichés by drawing on a wider range of sources.

The use of Rus'ian chronicles to study Polish «plots» indicates the deep interest of Polish historians in these materials. To a certain extent, this is confirmed by a separate publication of the Galicia-Volhynian Chronicle (*Chronica Romanoviciana*) in the regular series *Monumenta Poloniae Historica* (Dąbrowski, 2017). Dariusz Dombrowski, Adrian Yusupovich, and other compilers

made an important critical edition of one of the most important monuments of medieval Ruthenian historiography in Poland. The uniqueness of this text lies in the fact that it was created in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and contains extremely thorough historical material. According to the compilers, it can be stated with a high degree of confidence that there were at least five authors of the source, that is, the chronicle underwent five edits. The chroniclers worked at the courts of Prince Mstyslav Mstyslavovich, Prince and King Danylo Romanovich, his successors Vasylko Romanovich, Volodymyr Vasylkovych, and Mstyslav (II) Danylovych (Dąbrowski, 2017). However, the idea that there were several princes with the same name, Mstyslav, may be wrong. Dariusz Dombrowski put forward several original arguments in support of the idea that there were two Mstyslavs, sons of Danylo Romanovich, who came from two marriages of this ruler (Dąbrowski, 1999, s. 180–187). It is also worth agreeing with the researchers that although the chronicler did not record the activities of Prince Mstyslav until 1271, this does not prove anything. In fact, there is no information about many princes in the chronicles at all (Войтович, 2006, c. 502). Nevertheless, the new critical edition of the Rus' Chronicle provides access to unique information not only about the Galicia-Volhynian state (present-day Ukraine) in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but also about its ties with various countries, including Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, Austria, the Mongols and others. This source has preserved particularly numerous and invaluable records of contacts with Mazovia (Jeż, 2021, p. 70–75) and Little Poland (Skoczyński, 2020, p. 104–112), and isolated references to Greater Poland and Silesia.

Even a modest review of the latest publications on Rus'ian-Polish issues is enough to emphasize the relevance of such research. Several important aspects can be distinguished. First, there is a growing interest in the source heritage of the Middle Ages. New publications of Rus' chronicles aim to present texts from unique sources to the public. At the same time, information about Rus' is combined with information about neighbouring countries, including the Polish principalities. The existence of such a foundation makes it possible to conduct further research based on the joint processing of sources, their interpretation, and discussion. Some achievements in this area have already been made by scholars. At least, the publication of the Galicia-Volhynian Chronicle also involved Ukrainian experts. Although the work is not without its controversial episodes, it indicates attempts to form a balanced picture of the historical past that can be used not only for scientific but also for public dialogue. Second, Ukrainian scientific achievements are more «closed» to the world than the works of Polish scholars. While Polish scholars are actively publishing their works in English, Ukrainian researchers are primarily focused on domestic consumers. Translations and publication of works in English would, in my opinion, greatly enrich Ukrainian media studies. Thirdly, scientific works (Ukrainian and Polish) create a solid foundation for public discussion and the formation of national memories in both countries. Also, research on medieval topics is a source of a certain public discourse that takes place in several directions.

One of these social areas is historical literature for school use, which has a direct impact on the creation of national memory (Гирич, 2018). Studying history at school is an integral element of shaping students' worldview. Ukraine is no exception in this regard, as it seeks to build a modern European society with the necessary level of social capital and industrial development. Even in the face

of the unprecedented aggression of the Russian Kremlin regime, it is important for social development to continue to objectively consider historical realities and overcome existing stereotypes in the perception of the past. An example of such a model is the coverage of the complex medieval contacts between Rus' and the Polish principalities (the Kingdom of Poland) in Ukrainian school textbooks (the latest editions from 2020 were taken for the sample).

When analysing Ukrainian history textbooks, it is worth noting the peculiarity of the organization of this process, as it involves separate courses on world history, integrated history, and the history of Ukraine. As a result of the introduction of the NUS (New Ukrainian School) concept, all textbooks since 2020 have been used in parallel and were compiled in accordance with several curricula. Therefore, the emphasis in the textbooks was shifted in accordance with the requirements of such constituent documents and the general concept of education. For the analysis, we selected textbooks that received more than 20 000 orders at a general competition for teachers' choice and were printed in appropriate numbers – these are textbooks for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade of secondary schools. The study found that all teaching materials contain information about Rus' and the Polish Kingdom (Polish principalities). The authors have taken an objective approach to both the description of conflicts (with explanations) (Васильків та ін., 2020; Васильків та ін., 2024; Гісем та ін., 2020) and the conclusion of important dynastic alliances (Гісем та ін., 2024; Шупак та ін., 2020; Шупак та ін., 2024). Thanks to balanced assessments, the textbooks focus on the peculiarities of political and social structure, active diplomacy, dynastic alliances, etc. The emphasis of the old pedagogical literature, which referred to the conquest of the territories of Rus', has changed to a more neutral one. In particular, the use of the less aggressive term «incorporation» is noted (Гісем та ін., 2024; Шупак та ін., 2024). Emphasis is also placed on the matrimonial policy of the Rus'ian and Polish princes, which indicates the interest of textbook authors in demonstrating examples of medieval diplomacy (as also pointed out by scholars (Jeż, 2021, p. 65). The inherited Soviet concept of «feudalism» has given way to balanced assessments of historical phenomena (the word «feudal lords» has been replaced by «nobility», «elite», «gentry», etc.) In our opinion, the textbook's content was significantly influenced by the deepening of scientific cooperation in the study of medieval problems of Ukrainian-Polish relations in the Middle Ages. Thanks to the rethinking of the history of Rus' and Poland in professional historiography, there has been a general update of curricula and, accordingly, educational and methodological literature (Parshyn, Mereniuk, 2023, p. 70–72). The interconnection of scientific literature and interpretations of the past in textbooks will have an impact in the future.

Scholarly debate also influences discussions in other cultural spaces. Museums, like libraries and archives, are institutions whose main social function is to preserve memory. Museums actualize the past; they store and process historical sources for the reproduction of culture. Such institutions are also indicators of socio-cultural changes and platforms for conducting educational events of various kinds (Киридон, 2015, c. 193–194). Recently, there has been a clear global trend of increasing interest in the development of museums. Moreover, researchers note not only the quantitative growth but also the qualitative growth of museums as specialized institutions. The community of workers and museum scholars quite clearly define the importance of «integrated» museums, which leads to the formation of a «new museology». In recent studies,

museums are viewed as institutions that are not just engaged in the storage of artifacts, demonstration or broadcasting of historical and cultural heritage. Modern museums perform much more fundamental functions, which consist in establishing a broad social cultural identification, integration of antiquities into the surrounding social environment (Киридон, 2015, c. 193–196). Accordingly, there is a need to point out the presence of Polish material heritage of the Middle Ages in the collections of Ukrainian museums. However, not all of them are functioning in the context of Russian aggression.

As a result of shelling, the «Galician-Volhynia» part of the exposition of the Museum of the History of Ukraine in Lviv (part of the Lviv Historical Museum) was closed. In peacetime, the exhibition represented the history of Ukraine-Rus' and the Galicia-Volhynian state. Numerous archaeological finds from various urban centres have been supplemented with materials from more recent times. In particular, the exposition showcases individual artifacts of life in princely and medieval cities, some items from the period of Polish rule in Lviv, including monuments of the Lviv Lava and Rada. First, individual exhibits preserved from the time of the old Lviv town hall are presented. Among such objects is the Lviv executioner's sword, which, together with its direct function, symbolized the fullness of the city's power and the right of the city court to sentence the person sentenced to death. Also preserved are commemorative and jubilee medals, which depict portraits of the kings of Poland and some Lithuanian princes, and individual graphic works containing drawings of late medieval cities. Artifacts of Lviv townspeople of the 16th century have also been preserved. Such materials can improve knowledge about Lviv and the western Ukrainian lands after the inclusion of the city in the Polish Kingdom.

Individual items of Polish origin are presented in the Museum-Arsenal (part of the Lviv Historical Museum). Numerous samples of weapons and armour from different eras, such as the armor of the Polish winged hussars, the elite cavalry of the Kingdom of Poland. However, due to the threat of Russian missile strikes, this museum is also closed to visitors. Instead, the Museum of the History of Lviv operates. In his exhibition we can see a model of princely Lviv of the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries with some archaeological artifacts of those times. The development of the local community during the times of Magdeburg law during the Polish rule is represented by unique objects of the 14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among these things, it is worth highlighting the symbolic keys to the city, seals of the Lviv magistrate, coins of Polish kings, royal seals, inaugural chains of the mayor of the city, portraits of Lviv leaders, a model of the Renaissance town hall. The exhibition is supplemented with separate materials that indicate the city's religious multiculturalism, which has been formed over the centuries. Much attention is paid to the time of formation and development of guild craft in the city: flags, seals, signs. The information stands indicate that during Lviv's stay as part of the Kingdom of Poland, the city was a centre for the sale of handicraft products, a source of income for workshop masters, for which they were obliged to provide protection for the city, to sell the necessary handicraft products on the local market. Quite detailed descriptions accompanying the museum exposition greatly simplify the perception of the material and generally introduce visitors to the main socio-cultural processes of late medieval Lviv under Polish rule.

Some artifacts are also presented in other museums of Lviv and Lviv Oblast. In the Tustan' museum (Urych village, Lviv region), some exhibits related to

Polish history have been preserved. The first medieval references to the Tustan' fortress date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the Polish king Casimir III (1310–1370) annexed these lands to his possessions. Later, it came under the control of Polish magnates. Accordingly, some items with images of Polish coats of arms have been preserved, including tiles. In the city of Zhovkva (Lviv region), the «Ideal City» museum presents portrait compositions of Polish and Ukrainian hetmans whose lives and fate relate to this city. Among the artifacts, it is worth noting fragments of a wooden water pipe of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Church of Saint Lawrence, built at the expense of the Zholkevski family, has an even greater museum value. Open to tourists, this religious monument represents the military exploits of Polish troops in the early modern era.

The National Museum of the History of Ukraine (Kyiv) has a collection of royal portraits from the series «Hommes illustres Polonais» (Illustrious People of Poland). The images of the portraits of kings Casimir III, Stephen Batory and other medieval and early modern rulers, which have been preserved in Ukraine and are now shown to the wider public, are important. Individual artifacts are present in the private Sheremetev Museum, which focuses on the sphragistic heritage. Among the exhibits are many Polish seals of the, which indicate the political and economic history of the region.

In general, «Polish subjects» in Ukrainian museums are an addition to artifacts from Ukrainian history. However, they are exhibited at exhibitions and are present in stationary exhibitions, which indicates attention to them. The long stay of the Ukrainian lands as part of the Polish kingdom is properly represented in the museums of Lviv. Unfortunately, as of 2024 part of the expositions is inaccessible due to the threat of Russian shelling, however, the presented materials point to certain elements of the socio-political, religious Polish past. Such a picture is complemented by individual artifacts from the museums of the Lviv region. A little less about the Rus'ian-Polish contacts of the Middle Ages is included in the museum collections of Kyiv. However, the funds of local museums are indispensable for the study and understanding of the Cossacks era. It is obvious that modern Ukrainian museums are open to all forms of interaction, including scientific and social events, organization of excursions, etc. This gives reason to talk about active museum-cultural interaction with society even in times of martial law.

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## СЕРЕДНЬОВІЧЧЯ В УКРАЇНСЬКО-ПОЛЬСЬКОМУ ДІАЛОЗІ СУЧАСНОСТІ

Досліджено роль середньовічної спадщини у формуванні сучасного українсько-польського діалогу крізь призму історичної науки, освіти, музеєзнавства та медіа. Звернено увагу на багатовікові взаємини між Руссю та Польщею, які, попри конфлікти, мали численні приклади співпраці: дотримання угод, укладання династичних шлюбів, спільні військові кампанії, релігійні та культурні контакти. Особливо наголошено на необхідності збереження пам'яті про ці позитивні явища як противаги пропагандистсько-му нагнітанню ворожнечі, що є елементом гібридної війни з боку сучасного кремлівського режиму.

Детально проаналізовано сучасну історіографію українсько-польських взаємин середньовічної доби, акцентовано на наукових здобутках як

українських, так і польських істориків, зокрема щодо вивчення Галицько-Волинського (Володимирського) літопису. Акцентовано на важливості переосмислення стереотипів та оновлення наукової парадигми у трактуванні взаємин Русі та Польського королівства.

Окрему увагу приділено впливу наукових досліджень на шкільні підручники, зокрема у світлі концепції Нової української школи (НУШ), яка поступово переходить від концепції «завоювання» руських земель до нейтральнішого терміна «інкорпорація». Зауважено, що аналіз музейних експозицій вказав на присутність польського матеріального спадку в експозиціях українських музеїв, попри обмеження, пов'язані з воєнними діями.

Тож унаслідок комплексного дослідження продемонстровано значущість історичного контексту у формуванні культурного діалогу між Україною та Польщею. Наголошено на ролі історичної пам'яті як інструмента взаєморозуміння, інтеграції та протидії деструктивним наративам у складних геополітичних умовах. Виявлено особливості інтерпретації українсько-польських взаємин доби Середньовіччя в сучасному науковому, освітньому, музейному та медійному дискурсі, акцентовано на необхідності подолання історичних стереотипів у контексті гібридних загроз.

**Ключові слова:** Русь, Україна, Польща, діалог, освіта, вплив, історіографія.

Стаття: надійшла до редакції 21.07.2025  
прийнята до друку 1.09.2025