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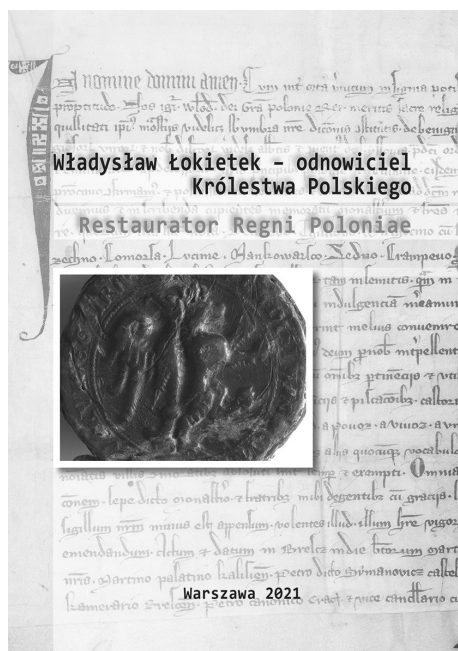
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**[Рец.] WŁADYSŁAW ŁOKIETEK'S POLITICAL STRATEGIES  
BETWEEN RUS', LITHUANIA, AND BOHEMIA: A VIEW FROM  
CONTEMPORARY HISTORIOGRAPHY [на кн.]: Władysław  
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The figure of Prince and King Władysław Łokietek (1261–1333) is important for Polish history. In the difficult conditions of internal strife and opposition from external enemies, the ruler received the royal title, which determined the development of Polish statehood for centuries to come. This research publication is dedicated to the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coronation. Since this date passed in 2020 and coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the articles were originally submitted to a scientific conference that did not take place. The book contains valuable research covering a wide range of issues related to the reign of Władysław Łokietek. In the introduction, the editors noted that they hope to reinforce in the public consciousness the significance of the coronation as a symbol of the restoration of a unified Polish kingdom. It is important for Ukrainian

historiography that Prince and King Władysław actively interacted with the Romanovids, especially Prince Lev Danylovych (Лев Данилович, 1228–1301) and his heirs. Some texts by Polish researchers pointed to the existence of strong alliances between neighbouring medieval states against the backdrop of political developments in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Jan Tengowski, professor at the University of Białystok, analyzed the role of Prince Władysław in the struggle for Krakow in the last quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (p. 9–22). He outlined the early actions of the ruler in the struggle for Krakow and his role in the process of uniting the Polish lands. Władysław Łokietek, as a direct descendant of Casimir the Just (Kazimierz II Sprawiedliwy, 1138–1194), had a certain emotional connection with Krakow. At the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, he acted as an ally of Bolesław II of Mazovia (1251–1313) in the conflict over the inheritance of Leszek the Black (Leszek Czarny, 1241–1288), using military assistance from Rus. Prince Lev Danylovych provided significant support, but the attempt to take Krakow in 1289 was unsuccessful. The Rus and Mazovian troops were repelled by Prince Henry IV Probus (Henryk IV Prawy, 1258–1290). To strengthen his position, Prince Władysław Łokietek entered dynastic marriages (his own with Jadwiga and his sister Euphemia with Prince Yuri Lvovych (Юрій Львович, 1257–1308) to strengthen alliances. After his defeat at Seradz in 1292 and his expulsion from Lesser Poland, Władysław Łokietek cooperated with Przemysław II (1257–1296) of Greater Poland, supporting his coronation aspirations. The loss of territories, including Kuyavia, Greater Poland, and Pomerania, under pressure from Wenceslaus II (or Václav II, 1271–1305) and the Margraves of Brandenburg, led to his expulsion in 1300.

Krzysztof Ożóg, professor at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, examined how the death of King Władysław Łokietek (March 2, 1333) is described in 14<sup>th</sup>-century historiographical sources from Lesser Poland (p. 23–38). The researcher noted that the most complete account is contained in the continuation of the «*Annales Polonorum deperditi* for 1330–1340», which was included in the well-known «*Rocznik Traski*». The author emphasizes King Władysław's courage in wars, his victories, and his «extraordinary mercy», «invaluable humility», and «inexpressible patience». His last moments, confession, and conversation with his close associates, who asked the king to call on the nobility to support his son Kazimir as heir, are described. The 14<sup>th</sup>-century biography of the Polish ruler mentions his exile, his struggle to regain his lands, and God's support in his ascension to the throne. The source also emphasizes that the body of the deceased king remained incorrupt until the funeral. Interestingly, a similar story is found in the Galician-Volhynian part of the Hypatian Chronicle in the description of the funeral of Prince Volodymyr Vasylkovych (Володимир Василькович, 1249–1288): his body also remained incorrupt (Dąbrowski, p. 626). Perhaps there was a certain tradition of describing the funerals of prominent figures, which could potentially contribute to their canonization.

Jan Libor, professor at the Masaryk University in Brno, revealed details of the conflict between Czech King Wenceslaus II and Władysław Loketek for dominance in Poland (p. 39–62). King Wenceslaus II received the Duchy of Krakow through hereditary claims and the support of part of the Polish nobility. In 1292, Wenceslaus II besieged Loketek in Sieradz, where the Polish prince swore an oath renouncing his claims to Krakow and Sandomierz and promising allegiance to the Bohemian Crown. This submission was forced, and prince Władysław had no intention of abiding by it. In 1299, despite financial difficulties and an interdict from the bishop of Poznań, Władysław Lokietek was again forced to sign an agreement in Klenki, under which he was to become a vassal of Wenceslaus II, renouncing all his lands. In response to Czech expansion, in 1300 the «rutheni» (probably Galicians) invaded and plundered the Sandomierz region, which may

have been a coordinated action on the part of Władysław Lokietek. Only after the deaths of Wenceslaus II in 1305 and Wenceslaus III in 1306 did the Polish ruler return to the struggle for the Polish throne.

Jarosław Nikodem, professor at the Institute of History of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, examined Lithuania's role in the foreign policy of Władysław Łokietek (p. 63–84). The researcher believed that in 1323–1324, the Galicia-Volhynian state remained without a ruler, and Bolesław-Yuri II Troidenovich (Болеслав-Юрій Тройденівич, †1340) from Mazovian Piasts family came to power, probably because of a joint decision by Prince Łokietek and the Lithuanian ruler Gediminas (Gediminas, 1275–1341). Some historians suggest that Gediminas agreed to this political move in exchange for Podlasie. The Polish-Lithuanian union was strengthened by the marriage of Łokietek's son Kazimierz to Gediminas' daughter Aldona (Anna) in 1325. This union was generally regarded as a military agreement directed against the Teutonic Order. In 1326, Gediminas provided troops led by David for a campaign against Brandenburg, and «Rus people» were mentioned among the participants in the campaign. The Teutonic Knights criticized Władysław Lokietek for his alliance with the «pagans». The Lithuanian attacks on the Mazovian lands in 1324, to which the Polish king did not react, may have been part of his strategy to subjugate the independent Piast princes. After the death of Anna, the «family» factor in Polish-Lithuanian relations disappeared, which led to the resumption of Lithuanian raids on Poland.

Professor Janusz Grabowski from the Central Archives of Ancient Acts in Warsaw researched the policies of the Mazovian Piasts, Bolesław II Mazowiecki and Conrad II Czernecki, in the context of the struggle for Krakow and relations with Loketek (p. 85–112). After the death of Prince Leszek the Black, the Mazovian Piasts, supported by Rus troops (Prince Lev of Galicia), were contenders for Krakow. Władysław Lokietek initially supported Bolesław II but later became his rival. Bolesław II's alliance with Wenceslaus II of Bohemia, sealed by dynastic marriages, was an attempt by the Mazovian princes to preserve their independence and influence, while Władysław Łokietek sought to unite the Polish lands under his rule. In particular, the marriage of Anna, daughter of Conrad II, to Przemysł of Racibórz (a vassal of Wenceslaus II) brought the prince of Czersk into the sphere of influence of Prague. The Lithuanian raids on Mazovia in 1324, which Władysław Łokietek did not oppose, may have been to his advantage, contributing to the subjugation of the Mazovian princes.

Jerzy Sperka, professor at the University of Silesia in Katowice, analyzed the relationship between Prince Władysław Łokietek and the Silesian Piasts (p. 113–134). Although Władysław Łokietek was related to the Opole Piasts (his mother was from this family), they were often opponents in the political arena. In 1288, Loketek entered the struggle for Krakow against Henry IV Probus, who was supported by the Silesian princes. After the battle of Siewierz (1289), Prince Loketek's army, together with Lev of Galicia, ravaged the Duchy of Opole. The Silesian princes were often allies of the Czech rulers, who sought to subjugate Silesia, while Władysław Łokietek tried to establish relations with them by arranging dynastic marriages (for example, the marriage of his daughter Kunegunda to Bernard of Świdnica). However, despite these attempts, most of the Silesian princes in 1327–1329 swore allegiance to the Czech king John of Luxembourg, which indicates Władysław Łokietek's limited ability to subjugate Silesia by force.

Anna Pobóg-Lenartowicz, professor at the University of Opole, conducted a comparative study of the life and political career of Władysław Łokietek and his cousin Bolesław I of Opole. They had a strong family bond, but Bolesław I was a constant opponent of Prince Władysław in the political arena: he supported Henry IV Probus in the struggle for Krakow. After his defeat at Siewierz (1289), Bolesław was taken prisoner by his cousin, which probably made him an irreconcilable enemy. He was a loyal ally of the Czech king Wenceslaus II and a witness to Loketek's humiliation at Sieradz in 1292. In 1312, Bolesław I of Opole captured Krakow during the so-called «rebellion of Albert the Mayor», but later reached an agreement with Władysław Lokietek and transferred power over the city to him. After the death of Bolesław I in 1313, relations between prince Lokietek and the Opole principalities changed, as reflected in the marriage of Bolesław II of Opole's son to Loketek's granddaughter, Elizabeth of Świdnica.

Waldemar Graczyk, professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, demonstrated the role of the bishops of Płock in the process of unifying Polish lands in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (p. 153–166). The bishops were active participants in political life, combining religious duties with administrative and political functions. After Bolesław II of Płock's unsuccessful attempt to capture Kraków in 1289, the Mazovian princes focused on preserving their independence by forming alliances with various parties, including the Czech king Wenceslaus II. The bishops of Płock, who often held the position of chancellor at the princes' courts, reflected the political orientations of their rulers, manoeuvring between Poland, the Teutonic Order, and Lithuania. For example, Bishop Jan Nalencz worked in the chancelleries of princes Władysław Łokietek and Bolesław II. The loss of territories and the threat from the Teutonic Order led to a rapprochement between the Mazovian princes (and, accordingly, the bishops of Płock) and the Order in the 1320<sup>s</sup>, through the conclusion of defensive alliances, as happened at the congress in Brodnica in 1326.

Jolanta Marszalska, professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, researched the relationship between Władysław Łokietek and the Cistercian monastery in Szczerczyc. The monastery actively developed its economic base throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century, acquiring new lands. Prince Władysław actively supported this development. On May 29, 1308, while in Krakow, he granted the monastery in Szczerczyc the privilege of founding villages under Magdeburg law. This privilege allowed the monastery to establish new settlements and exercise jurisdiction over the settlers. In 1324, Władysław Łokietek stayed at the monastery in Szczecin, where he issued a document confirming its importance as one of the centers of the restored Polish Kingdom. This shows that the monastery was an important object for the king in both economic and political contexts, contributing to the process of unification and consolidation of power.

Jerzy Rajman, professor at the University of National Education in Krakow, reviewed the participation of the Jerusalemites (canons of the Holy Sepulchre) from Miechów in the so-called «rebellion of Albert» (1311–1312) against Prince Władysław Łokietek. The author stated that existing sources do not confirm the monastery's direct participation in the rebellion and its «pro-German position», as has often been claimed in historiography. On the contrary, Władysław Łokietek took hostile action against the monastery even before the rebellion, in particular, his supporters plundered the city and monastery in 1292, 1296, and 1300. Polish prince also unjustifiably took the village of Khmelów from the monastery

(1304–1305). The papal bulls of October 1311, which condemned the «unjust wrongs» against the monastery and ordered the Archbishop of Gniezno to protect it, do not mention the monks' participation in the rebellion. The confiscation of the villages of Lentkowice and Krzesławice (which were leased by rebellious townspeople) was directed against the mayor Albert, not against the monastery. The construction of a defensive tower near the monastery in 1311 was probably initiated by Prince Władysław to control the strategic route, rather than as punishment for the rebellion. The author concluded that the monks were unjustly accused of rebellion, although their relations with Prince Władysław were tense due to his hostile actions.

Professor Wojciech Iwańczak researched how Prince Władysław Łokietek was portrayed in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Czech historiography, primarily in the Zbraslav Chronicle. Czech chronicles written for the local authorities usually supported Czech political concepts. Władysław Łokietek was initially portrayed as a «destroyer of peace» and a less significant prince. After his surrender in Sieradz (1292), where he was captured by King Wenceslaus II, Czech chroniclers emphasized the triumph of their patron. For the next 15 years, the Polish ruler is hardly mentioned. His return to power and coronation in Krakow in 1320 is seen as «usurpation» and «taking advantage of differences» between European rulers to the detriment of the Czech king. Czech chroniclers express surprise at the Pope's permission for the coronation, linking it to the payment of Peter's Pence. Łokietek's alliance with Lithuania and the joint campaign against Brandenburg in 1326 were also negatively assessed, as the «pagans» were ravaging Christian lands. However, later Czech medieval authors showed a certain evolution in the perception of Prince Władysław Łokietek: from a «destroyer» he became a «serious partner» and a «cunning enemy».

Antoni Barciak, professor at the University of Silesia in Katowice, also addressed a similar issue. He examined the motives of 14<sup>th</sup>-century Czech chroniclers in their descriptions of Władysław Łokietek. Chronists such as Petr of Žitava (Zbraslav Chronicle) wrote from a Czech perspective and sought to downplay the importance of the Polish ruler, especially his coronation. Initially, Prince Władysław was referred to only as «prince» without specifying his domain, with a «disparaging» connotation. However, with the growth of his influence, Czech chroniclers were forced to acknowledge his «perseverance» and «militancy». The coronation in Krakow in 1320 was seen as a usurpation and a challenge to Czech authority, as the Czechs considered themselves the legitimate heirs to the Polish throne after Wenceslaus II. Chronists tried to discredit the coronation of Władysław Łokietek, pointing to its allegedly «corrupt» nature (due to Peter's Pence) and the venue (Krakow, not Gniezno, where Wenceslaus II was crowned). They also emphasized Władysław's alliances with Hungarian rulers, suggesting that it was thanks to Hungary that he avoided defeat.

Sobiesław Szybkowski, professor at the University of Gdańsk, focused on the political history and knightly elites of Kuyavia and Dobrzyń during the reign of Władysław Łokietek. These territories, as the prince's hereditary lands, became an important pillar of support for the united Polish Kingdom. However, only 12 years after the coronation, these possessions were completely under the temporary occupation of the Teutonic Order. The fate of these territories and their knightly elites largely depended on relations with the Teutonic Order. An important step taken by Władysław Łokietek was the relocation of his nephews



to other appanages, which took place between 1327 and 1328. This was due to the threat of a new armed conflict with the Teutonic Order, as the possessions of the Polish king's nephews bordered the Order's lands. As a result of the conflict, the Teutonic Knights probably planned to annex the conquered territories permanently by introducing their own administrative system there.

Therefore, the team of authors prepared a thorough study dedicated to the figure of the Polish prince and king. Such scientific work is also useful for Ukrainian historiography, as it allows us to clarify several important episodes concerning Rus-Polish relations at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is important that Polish researchers actively used the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle as a historical source, as well as individual works by Ukrainian historians, in particular the studies by Leontii Wojtovych (Wojtowycz, 2011; Войтович, 2014). Scientific cooperation against the backdrop of growing anti-Ukrainian and anti-European forces should become a reliable foundation for further dialogue in the future.

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