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THE ELEMENTS OF COSSACK SELF-ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION DURING THE REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY

The Revolution of Dignity is one of the most tragic and most heroic pages in the modern history of Ukraine, which is represented by Euromaidan activities. It is no coincidence that it is compared with the Zaporizhian Sich. During Maidan, as 500 years before, there was its own area of freedom, self-organization, direct democracy phenomenon that is the true spirit of the Cossacks was presented.

The aim of this article is to analyze and identify common elements of Cossack self-administration and organization that have been inherent during Euromaidan. In addition, special attention is paid to all the revolutionary structures that took part in the Revolution of Dignity.

During Maidan military units, such as those that existed in the Zaporizhian Sich were created, which were the organizations of resistance. Self-defence of the Maidan engaged the coordination of demonstrators. Its basic structural unit was sotnia (hundred), which numbered 70 to 150 people. It was created by both territorial and extraterritorial, that is the core principle. Euromaidan protesters as well as the Cossacks, built fortifications or constructions around its territory which served to protect against opponents attacks. Our ancestors had a "strengthening of fallen trees, so-called gorodets and the sich" [2], and during the events of the Revolution of Dignity – barricades. Boards and tires were used for their construction. Built constructions were watered in frost so that they were equally strong and solid, like cement.

During Maidan a spiritual component was represented too. In the Zaporizhian Sich, as it is known, the Church of the Holy Virgin was located in the center. In the Sich of the 21st century on December 5, 2013 the Interconfessional Prayer Tent was opened. Its mission, according to the researcher of religion history A. Babchenko, was to "show solidarity among all Christians" [1].

It should be noted that we can also trace the elements of Cossack organization in the demonstrators' appearance (sharovary, oseledets on the head etc.). During and after the Revolution of Dignity it became fashionable among young people to have hair like a Cossack. The Maidan participants also kept the Cossack customs.

In particular they sang Ukrainian folk songs as their ancestors during the campaign against the enemy.

Thus, the events of the Revolution of Dignity became another stage in the history where Ukrainians showed their strength, courage, dignity, faith and strength of spirit that was similar to Cossack times.

LITERATURE

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