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UKRAINIAN FAR-RIGHT PARTIES AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Nowadays the international community is declaming any displays of anti-semitism. In 1991 Ukraine proclaimed its democratic vector, its foundations are not compatible with any displays of xenophobia and anti-semitism. In terms of legislation, there are well-established methods which prevent such phenomena. However, the strengthening of the positions of the far-right parties has become the future of modern society and the distinctive feature of anti-semitism.

The topicality of this research is presented by spreading unreliable data about the level of anti-semitism in Ukraine. It is worth mentioning that the experts have made predictions for recent years about the possible increase in anti-semitic actions.

Since the establishment of an independent Ukrainian state, the senior government officials have clearly shown that anti-semitism will not become a part of an official state policy. Particularly, L. Kravchuk in his speech which was devoted to Babyn Yar 50th anniversary emphasized that Ukraine would not keep back the truth about the tragedy. He recognized it as genocide and noted that not only the Nazis were guilty of the tragedy but also the people who had not done anything to prevent it [5, p. 75].

The period of V. Yushchenko's tenure as the President of Ukraine certainly brought many positive achievements for the Ukrainians in the ideological sphere. At the same time V. Yushchenko showed the world the pro-European position of

Ukraine. In this context, it's worth noting V. Yushchenko's attitude towards the Jews, for example, awarding a rank of Heroes of Ukraine to R. Shukhevich and S. Bandera, a part of Ukrainian Jewry perceived it as an expression of anti-semitism. But some representatives of Ukrainian Jews had different views on this topic. Thus, Y. Zisels has not blamed the President's orders and argued in favour of R. Shuhevuch and S. Bandera as those who are associated in Ukraine with the fight against Communism and the Soviet power but not as anti-semitism [3].

Over the period of independent Ukraine, a number of political parties have emerged, whose ideologies are expressed in anti-semitic positions. The most vivid and powerful among them was the All-Ukrainian Union 'Freedom' (Svoboda). The aggravation of anti-semitic rhetoric was observed in the 2000s. In summer 2004, the party leader of 'Freedom' (Svoboda), O. Tiahnybok allowed himself anti-semitic statements, where in fact, he called for Ukraine to be defended from the Muscovites and Jews, the UPA soldiers fought with. The judicial investigation was initiated, which resulted in O. Tyahnybok being expelled from the faction 'Our Ukraine' (Nasha Ukraina) [6, p.186-187]. In 2011 'Freedom' (Svoboda) proceeded to more large-scale events such as the campaign 'Uman without Hasids' but Cherkasy country administrative court prohibited this political meeting [4]. In 2012 'Freedom' (Svoboda) won the parliamentary election and attracted much public attention. Everybody was waiting for Svoboda's development path, whether it would become less radical or vice versa – it would cease to conceal the true views (including xenophobic ones). J. Zisels believes that the success of All-Ukrainian Union 'Freedom' (Svoboda) in 2012 parliamentary elections is not related to the growth of anti-semitic and xenophobic attitudes, but to the Ukrainians' disappointment in government.

The theme of anti-Semitism is used by Ukrainian mass media during pre-election campaigns, additionally far-right parties and their opponents use it in different ways. As concerns the most influential party 'Freedom' (Svoboda), its leaders try to avoid anti-semitic expressions during pre-election speeches. The former mayor of Uzhhorod, S. Ratushniak (one of the candidates for presidency in 2010)

thanks to his anti-semitic expressions has become popular among some population groups. However, his hatred of the Jews didn't bring him success because only 0,12 % electors voted for him [2].

Anti-Semitism in the Ukrainian real life does not contribute to political success. On the contrary, parties that were prioritizing over anti-semitic rhetoric could not overcome even the minimum barrier to become the members of the Parliament. The most authoritative among Ukrainian far-right parties is 'Freedom' (Svoboda), but its leader forfeited for his sharp statements towards the Jews, and that's why before the elections the party tried to avoid any comments on the Jewish theme.

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