

KHOROSHEV O.

Ph.D. (historical sciences), associate professor of department of social and humanitarian disciplines, National University of civil protection of Ukraine.

khan61@nuczu.edu.ua

Kharkiv, Ukraine

**ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES OF YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS
(LATE 1917 – EARLY 1918)**

The article defines the place and the role of the youth in society. The author refers to the origin of an organizationally outlined youth movement as a form of expression of the young generation's social activity. The article deals with the organizational principles underlying the creation of the youth unions that existed in Ukraine during the late 1917 – early 1918. It also gives a detailed analysis of the sources of the national communist youth associations, shows their connection with the political parties that existed in the republic during the Civil War as well as describes the reasons which prevented the creation of all-Ukrainian youth organizations.

Keywords: *organizational principles, youth, Socialist Working Youth Union (SWYU), party reserve, national communist ideas.*

Building independent Ukraine is accompanied by the collapse of the old political and ideological system and the gradual confirmation of new national values and priorities. During this period, a new system of socio-political and socio-economic relations is created, the foundations of civil society are laid down.

Domestic experience shows that construction of a new society is only possible when young people, who form the most dynamic part of the population, take an active part in the transformation process. Youth public associations have become an important factor in attracting young people to participate in social processes. These associations contribute to the satisfaction of young people's social, professional, educational and other needs. Effective activity of youth

associations and increasing their political participation are essential for deepening democracy.

Youth movement as a form of expression of the young generation's social activity is the most effective mechanism of interaction between the new generations and the society. Within the youth movement, a young person does not only acquire the necessary experience of social life but also self-fulfillment.

Youth movements emerge in the course of socio-economic and socio-political development of the society. Their content and form of activity largely reflect the socio-cultural, historical, demographic, political and other specific features of each country, each individual situation.

Economic and political changes, which are taking place in the modern Ukrainian society, have affected the younger generation's activity, accelerated the formation of the youth movement in its formal and informal manifestation.

All these factors increase the topicality of the research into the nature and peculiarities of functioning of youth organizations.

Although the study of the Ukrainian youth movement has a long history, the problem of functioning of youth associations is not adequately investigated. Ideological stamps, which prevailed in the historical science for a long time, difficulty that the researchers faced while getting access to the sources kept in special archive and library stocks did not allow historians to examine and study the youth movement as an integral unity. Non-komsomol youth associations were mainly viewed during the Soviet period from the standpoint of their being fought against by Komsomol organizations and the Ukrainian Bolsheviks Party [1, 7, 10].

Only with the collapse of the old political and ideological system and the gradual confirmation of democratic principles in the society, favorable conditions were created for studying the history of the youth movement in Ukraine. Plenty of works have appeared recently covering individual aspects of contemporary youth associations and studying the problems of the country's youth movement [2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 13, 15]. However, researchers focus mainly on modern politological and sociological youth problems as well as on the determination of the youth's

participation in the development of modern Ukraine. The problems of the historical past of the youth movement are considered only fragmentarily; there is no clear coverage of the historical connection between the youth associations that existed in the period of 1917 – mid 1920s and modern organizations. **The research problem** lies in the fact that today there is no generalizing scientific work where the many-sided history of the youth movement at all stages of development of Ukraine would be comprehensively covered.

The above mentioned makes it particularly topical to study the formation and establishment of the youth movement in post-socialist countries, especially Ukraine. From this perspective, considerable interest is aroused by the analysis of historical experience of the formation and activity of independent socio-political youth organizations that had different political landmarks.

Hence we aim to deepen (on the basis of a complex and objective analysis) the research of the history of the youth movement during the Civil War and draw well-grounded conclusions about organizational principles of socio-political youth organizations during the late 1917 – early 1918 years.

The object of the research includes the organizational principles of Socialist Working Youth Unions (from now on – SWYU).

The object, the subject and the aim of the article determined the following objectives: firstly, to highlight the main sources of the formation of the first youth unions and to analyze the organizational principles of the activity of youth organizations during the late 1917 – early 1918 years; secondly, to conduct a wider and deeper research into the organizational activities of youth unions during the Civil War.

Main part. In October 1917, the Provisional Government was overthrown and the political power in the country passed to the Bolsheviks. After becoming the ruling party, the Bolsheviks tried to create a new society – the dictatorship of the proletariat. They also tried to involve the younger generation of the country, primarily the proletarian youth, in this process.

The switch of power to the Council of People's Commissars marked a new

stage in the development of the political youth movement. It was greatly affected by the state-party apparatus that was formed on the class basis. All of its work was aimed at creating such a system of political power which would provide unlimited possibilities for the Russian Communist Party (bolsheviks) – RCP (b) – to develop and strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat based on the principles of Bolshevism. With this purpose in mind, the Communist Party tried to control and influence the youth movement as well as to direct its development to strengthening the state created by the Party.

The RCP (b) paid special attention to Socialist Working Youth Unions (from now on – SWYU). They were organized in the period between February and October 1917 and were under the Bolsheviks' ideological and political influence. The Bolsheviks intended to unite the scattered organizations of SWYU and to create a single organization of young workers. Ukrainian Bolsheviks carried out their work among young people in the same sector. With their help, the Congress of Young Workers' Unions of Donetsk-Kryvyi Rih region was held in Kharkiv on March 10, 1918 [24, March 10]. Organizations of the largest industrial centers of the left-bank Ukraine were represented at the congress, including Kharkiv, Katerynoslav etc. The congress was attended not only by SWYU members, who adhered to the ideological principles of Bolshevism, but also by other non-Communist youth organizations. For instance, Katerynoslav was represented at the congress by the “Mayak” (the “Lighthouse”), “Jewish Working Youth Organization” (JWYO), “Work and Light”. On the one hand, this showed that the leaders and organizers of the first youth organizations intended to unite young people in a single association. On the other hand, this fact proved that the ideological differences, which occurred between the members of different youth groups, were not a serious obstacle to their cooperation among the mass of Ukrainian youth. There was no deadly feud between the SWYU and non-Communist organizations of the younger generation in the early 1918. Notable was the desire to compromise in organizing the youth, followed by their involvement in the process of building a new society.

The congress elected a regional committee of seven people, whose main task was to create a single youth union. This was the first attempt to unite the scattered organizations of young workers on the Bolshevik basis.

Further development of this process was prevented by the Civil War. Most SWYU members, influenced by the Bolsheviks, got actively involved in the armed struggle on the side of the Soviet authorities. Their being overthrown as a result of the German occupation hindered the creation of the All-Ukrainian proletarian youth organization.

What significantly hampered the formation of young workers' unions was their isolation from the peasant youth. Indicative in this case is the confession of a delegate who took part in the 1st Congress of Young Workers' Unions of Donetsk-Kryvyi Rih region, "We," he said at a meeting of old and young Komsomol members in October 1928, "had no notion at all of what the peasantry was, and whether peasants supported the revolution. We considered this revolution as the urban revolution. We had no idea about any relations with the peasantry" [28, Cert. 944. – L.9]. These confessions prove that, on the one hand, the movement of the younger workers' generation was isolated from the peasant youth and therefore could not become widespread in the society where peasants were a major part of the population. On the other hand, this was an evidence of a suspicious and hostile attitude to young rural workers.

Another important reason for restricting the development and creation of new SWYU was the fact that most of these organizations, according to contemporaries, were neither united enough in terms of organization nor had sufficiently strong "roots in the labor movement. Young workers did not organize themselves. They *were* organized. The unions did not manage to identify the working (in composition) active core" [28, Cert. 926. – L.171; Cert. 944. – L.5]. Therefore, under the conditions of the armed struggle, significant organizational problems and the absence of direct support from the Bolsheviks SWYU ceased their functioning.

National youth unions, created in 1917, influenced by the events of late 1917 – early 1918 were more actively involved in the political processes taking

place in the society. The national youth (students, high-school students, rural youth) joined the struggle for power and for building a national democratic state in Ukraine. But its major shortcoming, as well as that of a proletarian Bolshevik sector, was insignificant organizational unity. Supporters of the national sector of the republican youth movement were isolated and unrelated organizationally. Although, judging by the statements of the first Ukrainian historians, they were numerous. To fully participate in the construction of the national democratic state and to influence political processes taking place in the republic they had to solve the problem of creating a single all-Ukrainian youth organization.

Conclusion. During the post-war period (though in difficult conditions), a student movement developed which originated under the influence of the 1917 events. Student associations appeared everywhere. Their formation was influenced by the policy of the Bolshevik Party, which sought to create a state-party mechanism that would control and direct the development of all social aspects. With this purpose in mind, the Bolsheviks began to pursue the policy on the division of the youth unions formed in 1917 that were based on ideological and organizational principles different from those of SWYU. For example, in Kharkiv, the Union of International Students was created in early 1918 under the influence of the Bolsheviks and opposing the Socialist Union of students, founded in October 1917. This union stood on the platform of recognition of the Soviet power [28, Cert. 925. – L.32]. The objectives of the established student youth organization included carrying out cultural and educational work among students, dissemination of the ideas of revolutionary socialism and internationalism, the organization of the revolutionary struggle for the school democratization [25, February 25]. Union members can be Students of all educational institutions that supported the Soviet power could become union members. Similar youth organizations, but under different names, were set up in many cities of Ukraine.

A large number of students, according to a contemporary and an active participant of this sector of the youth movement K. Maslov, did not support the October Revolution, and therefore “the general feeling among the students was not

in favor of the Soviets, the Mensheviks and SR (socialist revolutionary) attitude of mind dominated” [28, Cert. 934. – L.1]. The students mostly wanted to be out of politics. On this occasion, one of the participants of the meeting, held by SWYU in Poltava, wrote, “...There are almost no students who have changed the topic “Youth and Revolution” for theaters and cinemas. Once again it is necessary to emphasize students’ political immaturity and backwardness” [20, Cert. 925. – L.7]. This example demonstrates the existence of different attitudes among students. Nevertheless, materials of the periodical press in 1918 indicate that organizations of this sector were rather widespread. For instance, informational articles and declarations concerning the activity of the Working Students’ Union appeared quite regularly in the “Drug Narodu” (“People’s Friend”) newspaper in Oleksandrivsk [23, May 24; May 29; June 7; June 21; July 7]. Overall, this work was of cultural and educational character. Student organizations of different regions and cities of Ukraine were not organizationally related to each other.

Thus, the events that took place in 1918 in Ukraine had a deterrent effect on the development of the youth movement in the country. None of the established trends was shaped in terms of organization on an all-Ukrainian scale in late 1918 – early 1919. Therefore, creation of united national youth organizations remained one of the main objectives.

Література

1. Ацаркин А.Н. Пролетарская революция и молодежь. Рождение комсомола / А.Н.Ацаркин. - М., 1981. - 255 с.
2. Барабаш В.В. Інституціоналізація сучасного молодіжного руху України: тенденції та проблеми / В.В. Барабаш // Автореф. дис. канд. соціолог. наук. Нац. ун-т внутр. справ. - Х., 2005. - 19 с.
3. Глущенко Ю.В. Соціологія молоді: процеси концептуалізації в контексті соціокультурних змін / Ю.В.Глущенко // Автореф. дис. канд. соціолог. наук. Харк. нац. ун-т ім. В.Н.Каразіна. - Х., 2006. – 20 с.

4. Головенько В.А. Український молодіжний рух у ХХ столітті (історико-політологічний аналіз основних періодів) / В.А.Головенько. - К., 1997. - 102 с.
5. Головенько В.А. Український молодіжний рух: історія та сьогодення / В.А.Головенько, О.А.Корнієвський. - К., 1994. - 111 с.
6. Ісаїв І. Комсомол у боротьбі з націоналістичними супротивниками // Юнацький рух. - 1930. - №1.
7. Кузьменко В.В. Большевистские организации Украины в борьбе с непролетарскими партиями и союзами за трудящуюся молодежь (1918 - 1925) / В.В.Кузьменко // Дис. канд. ист. наук. - Запорожье, 1989. - 161 с.
8. Кулик В. На ґрунті практичної праці // Юний комунар. - 1921. - № 3-4.
9. Кулик В. Молода Україна: сучасний організований молодіжний рух та неформальна ініціатива / В.Кулик, Т.Голубоцька, О.Голубоцька. - К., 2000. - 460 с.
10. Лейкин А.Н. Исторический опыт борьбы КПСС с буржуазными и мелкобуржуазными партиями и союзами за молодежь (1917 - 1925) / А.Н.Лейкин // Дис. канд. ист. наук. - Л., 1981. - 161 с.
11. Молодіжна інтернет-газета [Електронний ресурс] - Режим доступу: <http://gazeta.km.ua>
12. Окулик М. КЮС / М.Окулик // Комсомол в боротьбі з націоналістическими організаціями молодежи. - Херсон, 1925.
13. Прилуцький В.І. Небільшовицькі молодіжні об'єднання в УСРР в 20-ті роки / В.І.Прилуцький. - К.: Ін-т історії України АН України, 1993. - 58с.
14. Союз молодёжи регионов Украины Портал [Електронний ресурс] - Режим доступу: <http://smru.com.ua>
15. Шумський І.І. Молодіжний рух у Західній Україні (1920 - 1939) / І.І.Шумський // Автореф. дис. канд. іст. Наук. Чернів. нац. ун-т ім. Ю.Федьковича. - Чернівці, 2001. - 20 с.

16. Kahane R. The Origins of Postmodern Youth: Informal Youth Movements in a Comparative Perspective / R. Kahane. - Berlin-New York: Walter De Gruyter Inc., 1997. - 256 p.
17. Neumann M. The Communist Youth League and the Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1917-1932 / M. Neumann. - New York: Routledge, 2011. - 312 p.
18. Plokhy S. Unmaking Imperial Russia: Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Writing of Ukrainian History, 2nd ed. / S. Plokhy. - Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. - 700 p.
19. Subtelny O. Ukraine: A History, 4th ed. / O. Subtelny. - Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009. - 666 p.
20. Боротьба: Видання літературного відділу Катеринославського губкому УКП(боротьбистів). - 1920.
21. Боротьбист: Орган Полтавського губернського комітету УКП(боротьбистів). - 1920.
22. Борьба: Орган ЦК и Харьковского губкома Украинской партии социалистов-революционеров (боротьбистів). - 1920.
23. Друг народа: Газета социалистическая и демократическая. - Александровск, 1918. - 24 мая, 29 мая, 7 июня, 21 июня, 7 июля.
24. Звезда: Орган Екатеринославского губернского комитета КП(б)У. - 1918. - 10 марта.
25. Земля і воля: Агитационный листок Харьковского комитета социалистов-революционеров и объединенной Еврейской социалистической рабочей партии. - 1918. - 25 лютого.
26. Красное знамя: Орган ЦК УКП. - 1920.
27. Пролетарская правда: Орган партийного комитета Харьковщины УКП(боротьбистов). - 1920.
28. Державний архів Харківської області. - Ф.10, оп. 1.
29. Центральний державний архів громадських об'єднань України. - Ф.1, оп.20.

References

1. Atsarkyn A.N. Proletarskaia revoliutsyia y molodezh. Rozhdenye komsomola / A.N.Atsarkyn. - M., 1981. - 255 s.
2. Barabash V.V. Instytutsionalizatsiia suchasnoho molodizhnoho rukhu Ukrainy: tendentsii ta problemy / V.V. Barabash // Avtoref. dys. kand. sotsioloh. nauk. Nats. un-t vnutr. sprav. - Kh., 2005. - 19 s.
3. Hlushchenko Yu.V. Sotsiolohiia molodi: protsesy kontseptualizatsii v konteksti sotsiokulturnykh zmin / Yu.V.Hlushchenko // Avtoref. dys. kand. sotsioloh. nauk. Khark. nats. un-t im. V.N.Karazina. - Kh., 2006. – 20 s.
4. Holovenko V.A. Ukrainyskyi molodizhnyi rukh u KhKh stolitti (istoryko-politolohichniy analiz osnovnykh periodiv) / V.A.Holovenko. - K., 1997. - 102 s.
5. Holovenko V.A. Ukrainyskyi molodizhnyi rukh: istoriia ta sohodennia / V.A.Holovenko, O.A.Korniievskyi. - K., 1994. - 111 s.
6. Isaiv I. Komsomol u borotbi z natsionalistychnymy suprotivnykamy // Yunatskyi rukh. - 1930. - №1.
7. Kuzmenko V.V. Bolshevystskye orhanyzatsyy Ukrainy v borbe s neproletarskymy partyiamy y soiuzamy za trudiashchuiusia molodezh (1918 - 1925) / V.V.Kuzmenko // Dys. kand. yst. nauk. - Zaporozhe, 1989. - 161 s.
8. Kulyk V. Na grunti praktychnoi pratsi // Yunyi komunar. - 1921. - № 3-4.
9. Kulyk V. Moloda Ukraina: suchasnyi orhanizovanyi molodizhnyi rukh ta neformalna initsiatyva / V.Kulyk, T.Holubotska, O.Holubotska. - K., 2000. - 460 s.
10. Leikyn A.N. Ystorycheskyi opyt borby KPSS s burzhuaznymy y melkoburzhuaznymy partyia my y soiuzamy za molodezh (1917 - 1925) / A.N.Leikyn // Dys. kand. yst. nauk. - L., 1981. - 161 s.
11. Molodizhna internet-hazeta [Elektronnyi resurs] - Rezhym dostupu: <http://gazeta.km.ua>
12. Okulyk M. KIuS / M.Okulyk // Komsomol v borbe s natsyonalistycheskymy orhanyzatsyiamy molodezhy. - Kherson, 1925.

13. Prylutskyi V.I. Nebilshovytski molodizhni obiednannia v USRR v 20-ti roky / V.I.Prylutskyi. - K.: In-t istorii Ukrainy AN Ukrainy, 1993. - 58s.
14. Soiuz molodězhy rehyonov Ukrainy Portal [Elektronnyi resurs] - Rezhym dostupu: <http://smru.com.ua>
15. Shumskyi I.I. Molodizhnyi rukh u Zakhidnii Ukraini (1920 - 1939) / I.I.Shumskyi // Avtoref. dys. kand. ist. Nauk. Cherniv. nats. un-t im. Yu.Fedkovycha. - Chernivtsi, 2001. - 20 s.
16. Kahane R. The Origins of Postmodern Youth: Informal Youth Movements in a Comparative Perspective / R.Kahane. - Berlin-New York: Walter De Gruyter Inc., 1997. - 256 p.
17. Neumann M. The Communist Youth League and the Transformation of the Soviet Union, 1917-1932 / M.Neumann. - New York: Routledge, 2011. - 312 p.
18. Ploky S. Unmaking Imperial Russia: Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Writing of Ukrainian History, 2nd ed. / S.Ploky. - Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. - 700 p.
19. Subtelny O. Ukraine: A History, 4th ed. / O.Subtelny. - Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009. - 666 p.
20. Borotba: Vydannia literaturnoho viddilu Katerynoslavskoho hubkomu UKP(borotbystiv). - 1920.
21. Borotbyst: Orhan Poltavskoho hubernskoho komitetu UKP 22. (borotbystiv). - 1920.
22. Borba: Orhan TsK y Kharkovskoho hubkoma Ukraynskoï partyy sotsyalystov-revoliutsyonerov (borotbystiv). - 1920.
23. Druh naroda: Hazeta sotsyalystycheskaia y demokratycheskaia. - Aleksandrovsk, 1918. - 24 maia, 29 maia, 7 yiunia, 21 yiunia, 7 yiulia.
24. Zvezda: Orhan Ekaterynoslavskoho hubernskoho komyteta KP(b)U. - 1918. - 10 marta.
25. Zemlia i volia: Ahytatsyonnyi lystok Kharkovskoho komyteta sotsyalystov-revoliutsyonerov y ob'edynennoi Evreiskoi sotsyalystycheskoï rabochei partyy. -

1918. - 25 liutoho.

27. Krasnoe znamia: Orhan TsK UKP. - 1920.

28. Proletarskaia pravda: Orhan partyinoho komyteta Kharkovshchyny UKP (borotbystov). - 1920.

29. Derzhavnyi arkhiv Kharkivskoi oblasti. - F.10, op. 1.

30. Tsentralnyi derzhavnyi arkhiv hromadskykh obiednan Ukrainy. - F.1, op.20.

ХОРОШЕВ О.М.

к.і.н., доцент кафедри соціальних і гуманітарних дисциплін

Національного університету цивільного захисту України,

khan61@nuczu.edu.ua

Україна, Харків

ПРОБЛЕМИ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ЮНАЦЬКИХ ОБ'ЄДНАНЬ (КІНЕЦЬ 1917 – ПОЧАТОК 1918 РР) .

У роботі визначені місце та роль молоді у суспільстві. Автором пояснюється зародження організаційно-окресленого молодіжного руху як форми вияву соціальної активності молодого покоління. У статті висвітлюються організаційні принципи, покладені в основу створення юнацьких об'єднань, які в період з кінця 1917 - на початку 1918 років існували в Україні. Здійснено аналіз джерел формування національно-комуністичних юнацьких об'єднань, показано їх зв'язок з політичними партіями, що існували на території республіки в роки громадянської війни, визначені причини, які заважали створенню загальноукраїнських молодіжних організацій.

Ключові слова: *організаційні принципи, юнацтво, Соціалістична спілка робітничої молоді (ССРМ), партійний резерв, національно-комуністичні ідеї.*