

**Yesyunin S. "Cities of PODILLYA IN the SECOND HALF of XIX - EARLY XX centuries". - KHMELNITSKY : FOP MELNIK A. A., 2015. - 336 p.**

The emergence in the early autumn of 2015 a monograph by Sergei Yesyunin became a noticeable phenomenon in the modern Ukrainian historiography. The presented study was the result of many years of painstaking study of the famous historian and ethnographer of the historical school Professor L. Bazhenov infrastructure and society of urban settlements of Podillya.

Still fresh in memory, when 25 Mar 2011 in the hall of the dissertation Council of History Department of Kamianets - Podilskyi national University named after Ivan Ogienko Sergey Yesyunin has successfully defended his thesis and got the scientific degree of candidate of historical Sciences on specialty 07.00.01 - History of Ukraine. The theme of his dissertation was "Cities of Podillya in the second half of XIX - early XX century: social infrastructure, administrative and economic aspects." The supervisor was the doctor of historical Sciences, Professor of Department of the world history of Kamenetz-Podolsk national University named after Ivan Ogienko L. Bazhenov. The official opponents were the doctor of historical Sciences, the head of the Department of international information of Khmelnytskyi national University, Professor A. Grigorenko and the candidate of historical Sciences, chief specialist of State archive of Vinnytsia region K. Zavalniuk. The materials of the protected dissertation had formed the basis of the monograph.

The peer-reviewed research impresses with the breadth of aim and the scope of the author's opinion. The key aspects of the development of the towns of Podillya in the second half of XIX - early XX century are viewed in the monograph through the lens of a quite logical conception. The research starts with a short preface, which states that the publication specifies the importance of the study of urbanization processes in Ukraine. In fact, cities play a crucial role in the development of the state, while carrying out administrative, economic, social, cultural, educational and other functions. The researches on regional sections allow developing a scientifically-based approach to urgent structural and administrative reforms, improving the socio-economic model of modern Ukrainian cities, especially medium and small ones.

The main text of the monograph consists of five chapters. In the first part, "Historiography and sources" the historiographic and source study analysis of the problem are carried out. It is mentioned that when a particular attention of

researchers was paid to the study of the history of the towns of Podillya, the questions of the formation of the city government, the formation of cities on Podillya as centers of business life and military garrisons, the establishment of the urban social infrastructure were out of sight of historians. Thus, according to the author, he had used some archival materials that allow deep and comprehensive analysis of the development and socio-economic transformations of the cities of Podillya.

The one of the main core aspects, namely administrative is viewed in the second section that is called "The towns of Podillya in the administrative-territorial system of the Russian Empire". The section is formed of three divisions: urban space region, administrative and legal status of cities; urban population dynamics, social, ethnic and economic structure; public administration of cities. The author frankly points out that the dynamic development of urbanization processes on Podillya restrained the implementation of reforms of local self-government, in particular, the City regulations of 1870, the real impact of which cities of Podillya felt only in the 80-ies of the XIX century.

The third part "Strategic Military function of cities on Podillya" is devoted to the research of the questions of the presence of military garrisons in cities of Podillya and their impact on urban life. These issues are examined through the prism of two issues - the formation of the urban garrisons and the construction of military infrastructure in the cities of Podolsk. In General, the formation of the large permanent garrisons gave the impetus to the construction of the soldiers' barracks in the towns, residential buildings for the officers, military warehouses, stables, and other objects of military infrastructure. This, in its turn, affected objectively on the planning-spatial changes in the cities and significantly changed their material substance. Vinnitsa, Proskurov, Zhmerynka, Mohyliv-Podil's'kyi became significant garrison cities with a developed military infrastructure.

The fourth section "Economic Development of cities" is devoted to the coverage of factual trends and specifics of industrial and handicraft production, trade, transport and banking credit system in the urban region. The author proves that during the studied period, the economic development of towns of the region differed with the formation of factory enterprises while maintaining a significant specific weight of handicraft and fine handicraft production. Trade proceeded to keep up leading positions in the economy of the cities on Podillya. The author emphasizes that a fair success of the urban development contributed to the development of the modern transport infrastructure, especially the rail network. At the same time, in the early twentieth century in the cities of the region, the more weight and importance of the public were devoted to credit and banking

institutions, the financial assistance of which was increasingly in need for merchants, industrialists, certain trade, and craft population.

The main principles of development of cities, improvement, and organization of the municipal economy, development of education, culture, science, sports, media and the health system were viewed in the fifth section, that was called "The formation of urban infrastructure". It is alleged that during the studied period the building in cities and new public and administrative buildings, apartment buildings, complexes and military installations were erected at an accelerated pace. The city received the master plans, which helped to organize the building. At the same time, the level of improvement has increased and the utilities were formed. Cities of the region catively developed as educational centers, among which the leading place belonged to Kamyanets-Podilsky. A lot of libraries, theaters, and museums appeared in the towns, a third of medical institutions as the largest out-patient clinic had emerged, every fourth pharmacy made them the centers of the healthcare of the region.

The clearly and professionally written insights complete the monograph. In particular, the author proves that the subject of the research was 17, and from 1903 - Podillya 18 cities, 12 of which had the status of administrative centers. The author divides the urban social process into three periods: first: 60-70-ies of the XIX century. - a time when the city performed primarily administrative functions and acted mainly as craft and trade centre, there were almost no large industrial plants, reliable communications and banking credit institutions, and a network of cultural, educational and medical institutions did not meet the needs of the citizens, second: 80-90 years of the XIX century, decades during which the reforms gave the first shift, factories, and the factory productions and the first banking institutions began to appear in the cities. Railway communication and the beginning of construction of roadways turned most of the cities into important transportation hubs and the location of permanent garrisons into military strategic points. However, improvement, utilities, cultural, educational and medical sector were behind the overall dynamics of urban development; third: from the beginning of the twentieth century. to 1914, when we had the dynamic development of cities, significantly growing the population, developing new industries, new forms of trading and an extensive network of financial institutions. Further construction of railway and highway and the emergence of the telephone had turned the cities into important communication hubs of the region. In the great quantities new culture, education, health care institutions were opened and also the creation of utilities was initiated.

It should be mentioned about the wide sources, mostly introduced for the first time archival documents and materials in the scientific circulation ,

and fractography database work, content and carefully selected illustrations to the texts, as well as a whole range of applications that significantly enhance and concretize set forth material in the text. Pointer settlements of the region and common name index contribute to the scientific knowledge of the essence and specific character of urbanization processes.

In General, the emergence of peer-reviewed monograph became a great contribution of the tireless researcher of Podillya in a thorough scientific reconstruction of the urbanization processes on the example of cities in Podillya during the second half of XIX - early XX century.