

JOSEPH BILOVUS

Brief Outline
of
Ukrainian History



Дармак
Дора Бер. Омура
Танрыка
У. Тиралыс

MR. & MRS. JOSEPH BILOVUS
11499 CONTINENTAL
WARREN, MICHIGAN 48099


41

Brief Outline
OF
Ukrainian History

by JOSEPH BILOVUS



Corona Publishers



THE CRADLE OF A NATION

The emergence of a nation that is known today as Ukraina - Ukraine dates back to prehistoric era - the dawn of civilization, approximately to the 10th century B.C. At that time it was known as the Scythian empire.

In the 7th century B.C. Scythians invaded the Assyrian empire and for a time held Palestine. Marius I, led an expedition against them in 562 B.C. Alexander the Great of Macedonia also led an expedition against the scythians.

In the 3rd century B.C. the name of Scythia was replaced by Sarmatia. Sarmatia was a continuation of Scythia, except for the change of name that in turn were known as Avars, Roxolanis, Antes, Ruthenians, Rus and Ukraina - the land and the people identified today as Ukrainians - UKRAINA.

Joseph Lilovus

Corona Publishers

First Printing 1955

Detroit, Michigan

U. S. A.

To
Prince Danylo Skoropadsky



TERRITORY AND POPULATION

UKRAINE is a vast rich territory lying in the Southeastern corner of Europe on the treshold of Asia, immediately north of the Black Sea. It is the second largest ethnographic territory in Europe and fourteenth largest in the world. The territory comprises 362,200 square miles.

Prior to the annexation of the Ukraine into the Soviet Russian empire, there were approximately 45,000,000 Ukrainians inhabiting the territory. Numerically, they are the third largest group in Europe, and ninth largest in the world.

TOPOGRAPHY

APPROXIMATELY nine-tenths of the surface consists of plains and plateaus, known as the steppes. The Carpathians, the Yaila, and the Caucasus mountains, along the southern borders, are the only mountain zones. Extensive forest lands formerly occupied the northern part, but the trees have gradually disappeared, until now there are scarcely any remaining.

RIVERS

THE CHIEF RIVERS are the Dnieper, by far the most important, flowing through the center and having many tributaries, and the Buh, and the Dniester, all flowing into the Black Sea.

CLIMATE

THE CLIMATE is very pleasant and healthful, being transitional between the warmth of the Mediterranean and the cold of Northern Europe. Strong winds

prevail, and the rainfall is everywhere sufficient for vegetation.

FLORA AND FAUNA

THE SOIL is exceedingly fertile. The black earth region, famous for its richness extends longitudinally through Ukraine and embraces three-fourths of its territory, making it the richest grain country of Europe. Wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, millet and corn are raised. Peas, beans, potatoes, sugar beets, tobacco, all kinds of vegetables, melons, and other fruits are abundant. Wine culture, silkworm breeding and bee-keeping are carried on, and large flocks of sheep, an excellent breed of horses, and good hogs are raised.

MINERALS

THE MINERAL resources are excellent. Mercury, copper and manganese are found. Coal is very abundant.

CITIES

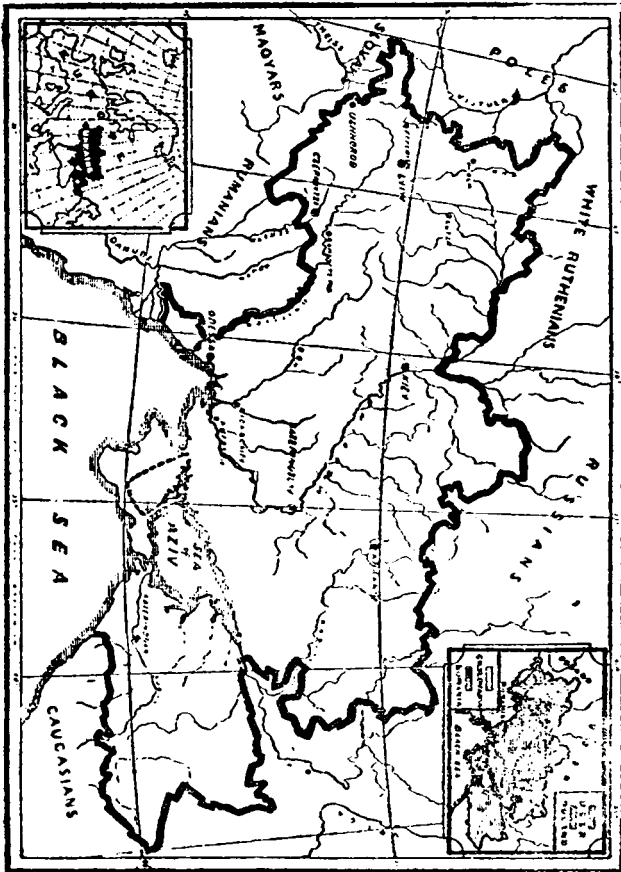
THE ANCIENT CAPITAL of the Ukraine is Kiev — population 600,000. Kharkiv — population 700,000. Other great cities include Odessa — population 430,000. Lwiw, Stanislawiw, Drohobych, Tarnopil are the great cities in the West.

EARLY HISTORY

THE UKRAINIANS are a distinct and separate people. They first appeared in history in the fourth century. The early historical dates are as follows:

- 1—Goths on Ukrainian territories—III-IV A. D.
- 2—The Ukrainian ancestors—Antes—IV century.
- 3—Ruthenians in Noricum—V century.
- 4—Ruthenians on the banks of the Black and Azov Seas—VII-VIII centuries.
- 5—Expansion of Ruthenians and further fision with the Ukrainian tribes—VIII-IX centuries.

Ethnographic Boundaries of Ukraine



THE ERA OF KINGS

THE ARABIC writers speak of a Slavic race as having lived in the basin of the Dnieper at the close of the ninth century. There is a theory that the early Ukrainians were called Ruotsi—a Finnish term applied to the seafarers or vikings; thence the name Rusy, Rusychi and Rusyny. Later, the name—Ukraina and Ukraintsi were applied, a term defining borderland and its inhabitants. This name had been accepted by all modern historians.

NOVHOROD

THE FIRST capital of the Ukrainians was founded by three **Scythian** brothers: Rurik, Sineus and Truver. Rurik on the death of his two brothers became sole master, also known as the first Ukrainian king of Novhorod.

KIEV

TWO OF Rurik companions—Askold and Dyr went further south and secured possession of Kiev, already a flourishing city. How long these two reigned in Kiev it is not known.

OLEH

THE NEXT mighty man to rule Kiev and the tribes surrounding the city was Rurik's companion—Oleh. He was a guardian of Rurik's son Ihor. Having made himself master of Kiev, he transferred the capital there. Oleh was a great warrior, and during an incursion against Byzantium hung his shield on the gates of Tzarhorod (Constantinople).



St. Olga—First Ukrainian Queen

IHOR

AFTER the death of Oleh, Ihor became sole ruler. A very brave warrior he often raided the capital of Byzantium—(Constantinople), subjected many tribes, but finally met with treachery. He was murdered by subjugated tribe—the Pechenegs.

QUEEN OLHA

THE FIRST queen of the Ukraine, who later embraced and introduced Christianity to this land was Olha, the wife of Ihor. Her first notable event was a complete destruction of the Perchenegs, the murderers of her husband. Many tribes fearful that a similar fate may await them, voluntarily paid tribute to her and acknowledged her as their queen.

SVIATOSLAV

A VERY brilliant figure was king Sviatoslav, the son of queen Olha. He reigned from 964 to 972. The memorable events under his guidance, were the defeat of the Khazars, and the great war against the Byzantine empire for the possession of Bulgaria. "I march against you", were always the warning words forwarded to the enemy before the actual warfare. Sviatoslav was killed in an ambush.

VOLODYMYR

KIEV WAS a very important city, and there were signs, that it would soon rival Constantinople. Here Volodymyr, one of the sons of Sviatoslav, adopted the Christian faith in 988, and soon the whole country accepted the new faith. He is especially famous for the erection of churches, the remains of which were famed wonders for many centuries. He died in 1015.



**Volodymyr the Great—First Christian
King of Ukraine**

YAROSLAV THE WISE

YAROSLAV occupied a glorious place among the kings of his time. Ukraine became a truly European state. He set up schools, built churches. He also wrote and published the first monument of Ukrainian jurisprudence, known as "Ruska Pravda", thus setting up codes resembling that of Northern Europe. His sister Mary married Casimir, king of Poland. His daughters: Elizabeth married Harold the Brave, king of Norway; Anne became the wife of Henry I., king of France; Anastasia, married Andrew I., king of Hungary. His sons married princesses of European royalty.

VOLODYMYR MONOMAKH

THE TERRIBLE civil war followed after the death of Yaroslav, and weakened the country. Volodymyr Monomakh became a mighty sovereign that had accomplished the unity. He ruled from 1113 to 1125. His advice: "It is neither fasting, nor solitude, nor the monastic life, that will procure you the eternal life — it is well doing", became a credo of the entire Ukrainian nation.

DECLINE OF KIEV

AFTER THE death of Volodymyr Monomakh, civil war ensued. His sons fought for the supremacy of the Kievan throne. In the meantime a new kingdom appeared in the north, beyond the borders of Ukraine. It was the Muscovite-Suzdal kingdom ruled by George of Suzdal. The Muscovites, later known as Russians, were a mixture of various northern and Asiatic tribes, including a sprinkle of Ukrainians and Finns. George Dolgoruki, the ruler of Suzdal on Volga, seized the opportunity to conquer the Ukrainian Kievan state, and proclaim himself a king. In 1155, the Ukrainian capital—Kiev was destroyed by the Muscovite hordes.

REVIVAL IN THE WEST

AFTER THE downfall of the Kievan state, the center of the Ukrainian government shifted to Volhynia and Galicia (Halychyna). Yaroslav Osmomysl, (glorified in the "Ihor's Saga"), a descendant of the ruling house of the Kievan state, governed the principalities in the west — the Volhynia. His son Volodymyr took over after his death. Being unpopular with the Boyars, that were a great influence at Court, and actually the power behind the throne, he relinquished his reign in favor of Roman of Halych, also a royal descendant. Roman ruled the revived Ukrainian kingdom from 1188 to 1205. His bravery and victories in battles brought him fame, and a crown of a monarch was offered to him by the great Pope Innocent III. In his war with Poland in 1205, he perished in an unequal battle on the banks of Vistula.

KING DANYLO

DANYLO, Roman's elder son was proclaimed king of Halych and Volhynia in 1205. He distinguished himself as a great leader in battles with Mongol invaders. In 1254, he accepted the royal crown from Pope Innocent IV. King Danylo died in 1264.

END OF THE ERA OF KINGS

DANYLO was succeeded by his son Lev (Leo). The city of Lviw (Leopold-Lemberg) was erected in his honor, by his royal father Danylo; and Lev had shifted the capital from Halych to the new city of Lviw. After his death, the crown of the Ukraine passed to other rulers, descendants of his family. The reign of kings terminated in 1340.



Ukrainian Monarch - King Danylo

Ukrainian Monarch—King Danylo

CONFEDERATION OF THREE KINGDOMS

UKRAINE bowed to the rising strength of the expanding state of Lithuania. Amalgamation of these two states took place in 1340. Later Poland joined the union. This union lasted until 1569. The arrogance of the Polish nobles, and the imperialistic designs of the Polish circles, caused the severance of this union. The armed rebellion followed, and a new Ukrainian state was in the making.

THE SIEGE

A MILITARY state was formed on the large island in the midst of the Dnieper river. The island of Zaporozhe became an armed fortress. The serfdom imposed by Poland upon the Ukrainians, brought about retaliations from the freedom loving Ukrainians. The fortified island, popularly called—the Siege, became a refuge to those that had to flee from the vengeance of the Poles.

The Siege, gradually evolved into a Kozak state, and its rulers were called the Hetmans. The founder of this new Ukrainian state was a descendant of Ukrainian royalty, Prince Dmytro Vyshnevetsky in 1550. The Siege rapidly became an ideal of the Ukrainians throughout the land, and in a brief period of time a powerful army of Kozaks came into being, ready to defend the newly acquired liberties, and to defend the Ukrainian land from the enemy.

BOHDAN KHMELNYTSKY

THE SIEGE had many famous leaders. The Ukrainian Kozaks were constantly at war with all enemies of the Ukraine. They ravaged Polish settlements, raided the shores of Turks and Tatars, also inflicted powerful blows upon the Russians. In 1648, Bohdan Khmelnytsky became the Hetman of the Siege. After a victorious war with Poland, the entire nation rallied to his support, and he was proclaimed a Hetman—ruler of the entire Ukrainian land.

AT THE HEIGHT OF GLORY

UKRAINIANS once more experienced the taste of glory. Out of obscurity rose a mighty nation that had challenged the Russian, Polish, and the powerful Turkish empire. Khmelnytsky before his death had set a pre-

cedent of Hetman succession, such as was practiced in all royal houses. After the death of Hetman, the eldest son automatically became the Hetman of the Ukraine.

DECLINE

THE RUSSIAN tzars, aware of the growing power of the Ukrainian Hetman state, made a secret agreement with Poland with an intention to weaken and conquer the country. Through their agents, they were successful in dividing the Ukrainian land into two separate units. Poland introduced a favorable Hetman to rule half of the Ukraine, and Russia followed in the same pattern. Both Hetmans were rivals, and this internal struggle weakened the nation. Decline was inevitable.

WAR WITH RUSSIA

THERE WERE a number of prominent rulers of the Ukrainian land, but the most brilliant and daring



Brilliant Hetman Mazepa

was Hetman Ivan Mazepa. Under the watchful eye of the Russian emperor Peter the great, he conspired with other Ukrainian true patriots, and laid plans to liberate the Ukrainian nation from its occupants. Mazepa made a secret treaty with the Swedish ruler Charles XII., and soon found himself at war with Russia. The preparation for war were far incomplete, when Charles invaded Ukraine for the decisive battle with the Russian forces, and therefore the cause of liberation of the Ukraine met with disaster.

MAZEPPA'S SUCCESSORS

MAZEPPA'S successors in the early eighteenth century—Skoropadsky, Orlyk and Rozumowsky, were true patriots, but the Russian rulers were then too powerful, and any armed resistance proved to be futile. Under pressure of the cunning Russian empress Catherine II., Hetmanate was abolished, and thus ended another brilliant era of Ukrainian independence.

RENAISSANCE

AFTER A series of uprisings that were drowned in blood, the Ukrainians were forced to accept the consequences. Soon upon the Ukrainian horizon appeared individuals, that started a revival of national consciousness. These prominent personages were the bards, that stirred the nation with a written word. Among the famous were—Kotliarevsky, Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka, Ivan Franko and many others.

INDEPENDENCE

IN THE EARLY months of 1917, a revolution broke out in Russia. Ukrainian leaders proclaimed an autonomous Ukrainian state, but the popular pressure for a complete independence was very intense. The leaders were forced to sever all relations with Russia, and proclaim a complete independence of the Ukrainian state.

MONARCHY REVIVED

DUE TO the uncertain policies of the initial Ukrainian government, known as the Ukrainian Central Rada,



Heiman Paul Skoropadsky

with some of its members in sympathy with the Russians, a huge convention of Ukrainian delegates, representing all classes of Ukrainian population assembled in Kiev on April 29, 1918. The convention proclaimed a monarchy with Paul Skoropadsky as a sovereign ruler of the Ukraine with an historical title of Hetman. The glorious days of the past, merged with a promising future was a cause for rejoicing. Order was restored. The army and the navy were in process of organization. Some battleships of the Russian imperial navy, manned with the Ukrainian crew, raised the Ukrainian colors of sky-blue and golden-yellow.

REVOLUTION AND CHAOS

UNDERMINED by destructive propaganda of the bolsheviks, a revolution broke out, and the traditional monarchical system collapsed. The conditions in the Ukraine became chaotic. Many leaders appeared, but the aim of a free Ukrainian state often collided with party politics, especially that of the socialistic world brotherhood. Russians grasped the opportunity, and invaded the Ukrainian land from the north. A well equipped Polish army followed suit, invading the country from the west. After several years of bitter struggle, the Ukrainian independence ceased to exist. Ukraine was partitioned by four powerful unfriendly nations—Russia, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

WHEN THE Ukrainian independence was crushed, and the country partitioned, an underground movement flourished throughout the Ukrainian land. Before the outbreak of the second world war, it was apparent that the Ukrainians will not remain idle, and will make another attempt for independence. In the last days of Czechoslovakia, Ukrainians beyond the Carpathian mountains, proclaimed an independent Carpatho-Ukrainian state. Hitler's satellites, the Hungarians, invaded this mountainous Ukrainian state, and after a brief fierce battle conquered it.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT

JUNE 30, 1941, was another monumental day. Ukrainian Nationalists raised the banner of the Ukraine in Lwiw, traditional capital of the Western Ukraine, and formed a provisional government. This attempt was drowned in blood by the superior Hitlerite forces, marching into the Ukrainian territory with imperialistic designs.

UKRAINIAN INSURGENT ARMY

AS THE TWO giants, Russia and Germany were devouring each other, Ukrainian patriots organized a military underground, known as the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. They sabotaged and weakened the powerful German military machine, as it rolled on into the Ukrainian steppes. With the retreat of the German army, the Ukrainian insurgents used the same tactics upon the Russians. Supported by the aid from abroad, Russia once more occupied Ukraine, but was unable to crush the magnificent resistance movement of the Ukrainian underground and the ever struggling Ukrain-

ian Insurgent Army, that refused to lay down arms. The uneven struggle for freedom and independence of the Ukraine goes on. The approaching armed conflict of the world war III, raises hope of the subjugated, but never conquered Ukrainian nation. It will rise again in all its glory, and perhaps the majestic throne of the Ukraine will once more be occupied by the Ukrainian ruler—Prince Danylo, the son of Hetman Paul Skoropadsky.

THE HOUSE OF SKOROPADSKY

THE DISTINGUISHED ruling house from which Prince Danylo is descended, traces its origin back to the 17th century, when the semi-elective sovereignty, or Hetmanship, of Ukraine, was declared vacant upon the exile of the childless Hetman Mazeppa in 1708.

In keeping with the custom of the country the nobles assembled to elect not only a new king but a new dynasty, for the royal prerogative descended traditionally upon the expiring Hetman's eldest son, a precedent set by the celebrated ruler of the Ukraine Bohdan Khmelnytsky in 1648.

The choice of the assembled nobility of the Ukraine fell upon Mazeppa's Councillor, Ivan Skoropadsky, a man of brilliant talent and great administrative ability. The new ruler of Ukraine, Hetman Ivan Skoropadsky, set about at once to consolidate the Ukrainian State to which he had already contributed so largely as Councillor of Hetman Mazeppa.

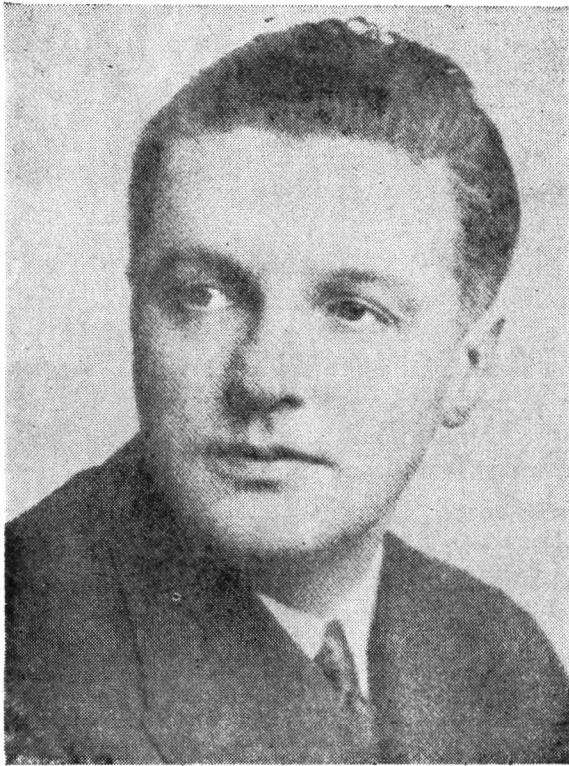
Hetman Ivan Skoropadsky was the last Sovereign of an independent Ukraine until 1918—when his descendant Paul Skoropadsky—father of Prince Danylo—became Hetman of Ukraine.

After Ivan's death in 1722, Russian Czar Peter the Great and his descendants finally succeeded, in attaching the last remnant of independent Ukraine to the Russian Empire.

The descendants of the Hetman Ivan Skoropadsky were called to the Czars' court where for generations they distinguished themselves as military leaders. They never forgot, however, the land of their illustrious forefathers nor the cause of their people, and as far as possible, while remaining attached personally to the Im-

perial Russian house, worked constantly and successfully for the betterment of the Ukrainians.

Indeed to the princely munificence and the undying devotion of this historical family may be traced the origin on the endowment of practically all the great Ukrainian seats of learning and centres of national culture.



Prince Danylo Skoropadsky

With the fall of the Czar Nicholas in 1917, Paul Skoropadsky, a lineal descendant of the great Ivan, devoted himself entirely to the great historical mission—the liberation of the Ukraine.

On April 29, 1918, in the ancient capital of the Ukraine, the royal city of Kiev, founded centuries before by the conquering Normans, Paul Skoropadsky was acclaimed Hetman of the Ukraine by no less than eight thousand representatives of the whole Ukrainian people. On the same day he was triumphantly escorted to the venerable Byzantine Cathedral of St. Sophia, which dates back to the eleventh century, where surrounded by the flower of his own famous cavalry, and amid the joyous plaudits of the people, he was solemnly anointed by Metropolitan Archbishop.

For eight troubled but glorious months the newly restored nation and dynasty fought against the invading hordes of Russian Trotsky Bolsheviks. At a critical moment in November 1918 the bolshevik inspired revolution broke out in which socialistic elements of the Ukraine participated. Deeds of heroism were performed by the faithful Ukrainian guards. But the odds were hopeless. The Hetman Paul defended his capital until his own person was in danger, and withdrew on December 14, only when useless slaughter would have followed his continued resistance.

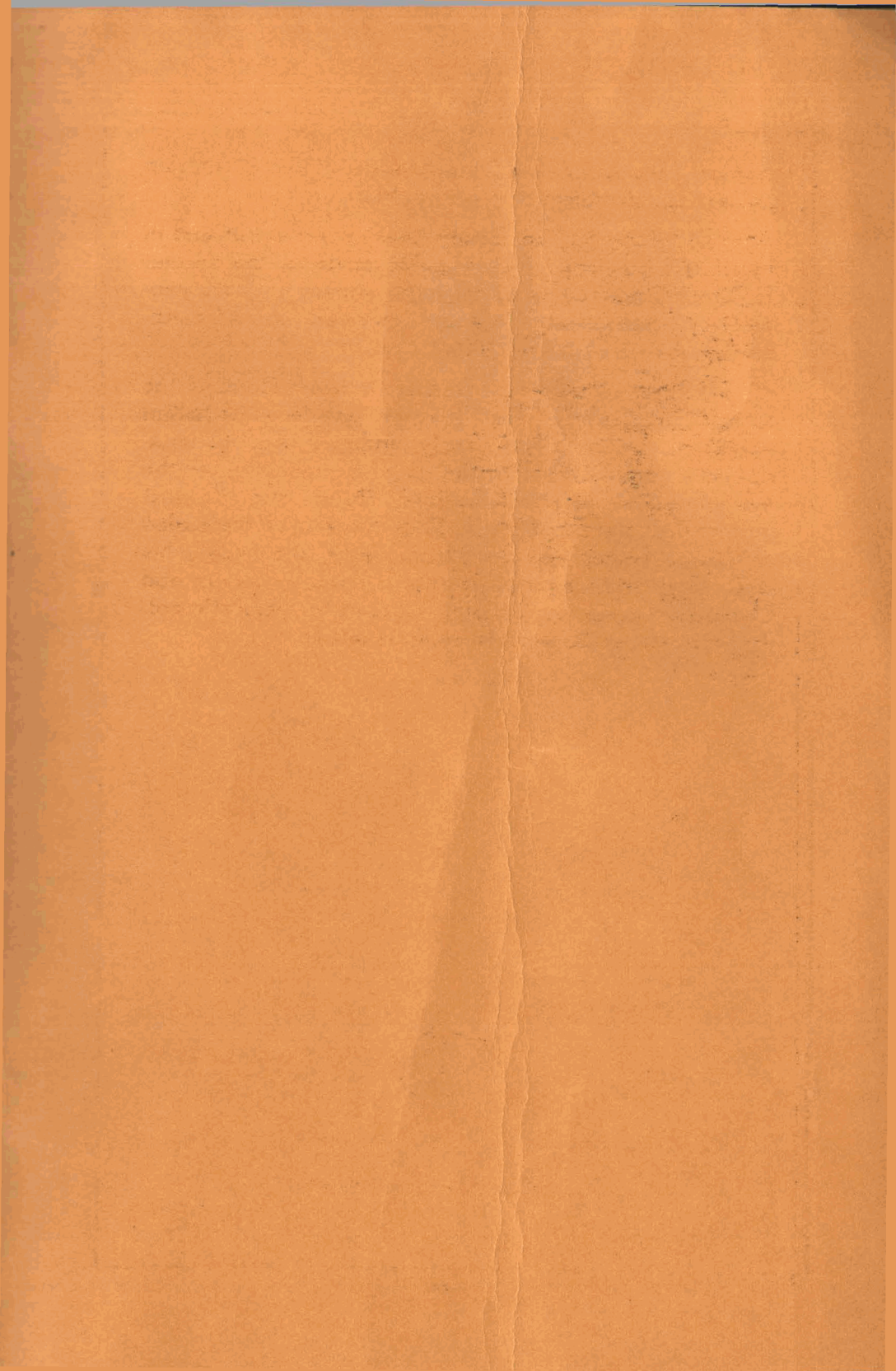
He retired into exile without relinquishing his legal claim nor that of his posterity to the Hetmanship of the Ukraine.

All his achievements were later nullified by the violence of the Russian Bolsheviks, who, having conquered and subjugated the country, granted it a merely fictitious independence, under the nominal title of the "Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic". This latter in fact maintains the country in a slave-like dependence under Bolshevik Moscow rule. As soon as the country had been overrun and occupied by the Moscow Bolsheviks, the Ukrainian Nation at once protested against this act of violence. Constant peasant uprisings, general armed resistance against the oppressors, and, at last the complete flight of the Ukrainian cultured classes to

Europe, Asia and America are proof of the Ukrainian protest against bolshevik occupation.

The Skoropadsky family lived in exile, but not in inactivity. Surrounded by capable advisers, the former Ruler of Ukraine was in constant contact with his people, both on their own soil and scattered over all countries, until his death in 1945.

His only son, Prince Danylo, heir apparent, is the national aspiration of the Ukrainian people. A Christian nation and state, living freely under a constitutional monarchy modelled after the English monarchy, is the aim of the heir to the Ukrainian throne and the vast majority of the Ukrainians. Thus the son of the exiled sovereign Prince Danylo Skoropadsky, his house, his councillors and his people, aspire towards a modern and Christian democracy, equally opposed to socialistic collectivisation and dictatorial regimentation.





●

Author of the **Brief Outline of Ukrainian History** has to his credit a brief novel **Mariyka**, a picturesque story of the Ukrainian underground, before the downfall of the Czarist empire.

●

JOSEPH BILOVUS



Corona Publishers