

**V.I. GOSHKEVYCH'S PUBLIC ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD  
OF REVOLUTION 1905**

*The article analyzes the political views and assessment of the achievements of active public man, archeologist, ethnographer and the founder of the first museum in Kherson Viktor Ivanovych Goshkevych, before and during the Revolution of 1905. The article characterizes the peculiarities of his struggle for liberalism and democratization of society in the Russian Empire. The article investigates his publishing activity and analyzes the content of published «scientific and literary, political, agricultural and commercial» newspaper «Yug», which was edited by him since 1898. Some attention was paid to Ukrainophilic views of the scientist, and his attitude towards the Ukrainian language. The article describes the connections of Viktor Ivanovych with the activities of the regional office of the Constitutional Democratic Party (Cadets) in the south of Ukraine and analyzes two possible reasons for such views. Also in the article there was considered the position of local authorities concerning active citizenship of the scientist.*

**Keywords:** V. Goshkevich, newspaper «Yug», Constitutional Democratic Party, Southern Ukraine.

When the totalitarian regime was abolished and Ukraine became independent, the leading positions in domestic humanities were taken by the problem of liberalism and civil society. The process of finding the best models for transition to a democratic regime, in particular, needs the researching of the historical experience of different social segments of the people in social and political life in general, and in particular regions. At the same time, most scientists are increasingly relying on the experience of western countries, considering such fields of historical science as and biography studying and prosopography.

An important period in the development of liberal ideas was just the end of XIX – early XX century – the period of the social crisis increase that affected all the population in the Russian Empire. The aggravation of national and land issues, general public mood in the authoritarian, aristocratic Russian Empire became the reason for the mass discontents and demonstrations against the government. Therefore, in terms of such researches it is topical to use the methodology of

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mentioned historiographical trends for researching political views and assessing the achievements of the active public man, archeologist and the founder of the first museum in Kherson Viktor Ivanovych Goshkevych, before and during the period of revolution in 1905.

Published works about his life and activities, appeared at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the conditions of historical regional ethnography revival in Kherson region. In particular, these works are the articles and records from scientific and practical conferences, dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kherson antiquity museum. S.G.Vodotyka [2] partially studied the biography of the scientist; his archeological activities were studied by I.Y. Sinkevych [10], V.P. Bylkova [1], A.V.Kostenko [7], M.Y. Lasinska [9], N.M. Karamzina [4]. In 1993 there was published an auxiliary scientific bibliography guide about V.I.Goshkevych's life and creative work [3]. O.O. Konyk in his research self-administration of peasantry in 1905 used the record taken from «Yug» newspaper, the editor of which was V.I.Goshkevych at that time. O.O. Konyk partially covered the issue of party membership of the newspaper although it declared itself as politically neutral [6, p.61]. However, it is still worth mentioning that in all of the published works researchers were concentrated on the scientist's archeological and regional ethnography works without describing him as a public man. Moreover, Goshkevych's political views and party membership were never the objectives of historical research. Considering this fact, the aim of the research is to define the peculiarities of social and political activity of V.I.Goshkevych in the Southern Ukraine during the period of revolution in 1905.

The scientist was born on the 09<sup>th</sup> ( 21<sup>st</sup> ) day of March, 1860 in Kiev, his father was a professor in a theological seminary. He was raised in educated, religious surrounding and aimed for development and education since childhood. He got higher education in the St. Vladimir's Kyiv University at the faculty of Mathematics, and then – at the historical and philological faculty [4, p. 61]. It is important to mention that his university teacher was Volodymyr Antonovych (1834-1908) – a

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bright representative of the narodnik (Russian populist) movement. Antonovych created so-called «Kyiv school of historians» and Viktor Goshkevych joined it. The period of being taught by Antonovych influenced the formation of young student's social views.

In April, 1890 Viktor Ivanovych moved to Kherson and having received from the regional government an invitation to work as a secretary in Kherson regional statistic committee (KRSC). In 1890 the scientist founded (at first in his own room) an Archeological museum of Kherson regional statistic committee, established the donations to museum from private persons and organizations. Under the control of Viktor Ivanovych the museum was renamed into Kherson antiquity museum (modern Kherson museum of local history) and became an important scientific and educational center [4, p. 62].

At the same time, the scientist began the publishing of daily «scientific, literary, political, agricultural and commercial» newspaper «Yug». And the article «The pioneer of Kherson publishing» dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the newspaper noticed that «the first issue of the first private newspaper «Yug» in Kherson went out in 1898» [11].

The analysis of newspaper articles gives a bright description of the position of the editor-in-chief. In the conditions of growth of social and political crisis in the Russian Empire, the information given in the newspaper became more radical towards the regime of that time. A lot of attention was paid to agriculture and problems of the peasantry, to the cultural and historical development. Here one can notice the influence of V. Antonovych's views to Viktor Ivanovych – namely the idea of Russian populism. The position of editor-in-chief towards Ukrainian language and culture is the matter of greater interest. The newspaper contains many articles on this subject, in particular, regularly articles dedicated to the works of Taras Shevchenko were published («On Shevchenko's days» or «The chanter of Ukraine Taras Shevchenko» and others). It is important to mention that some personal records in diaries and notebooks of Viktor Ivanovych, preserved in Kherson museum of local

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history, were made in Ukrainian. A proof of this statement is scientific and research activities of the scientist, namely the fact that the largest department of the Museum of Antiquities was the department of antiquities from Zaporizhzhia [4, p.62]. There are even recollections that he loved this department the most, and as he was talking about the exhibits – «those days were imagined vividly, and Cossack glory was so bright that it was difficult to respire. He was like filled with some strange inner fire» [5, p. 77].

The criticism of the autocracy and the fight for liberalism cost V.Goshkevych quite a lot. He was under constant secret police surveillance [2, p. 69].

Since the beginning of the 1905th, Viktor Ivanovych was even more interested in the political life of the region. At the same time, the newspaper gives more and more information about the activity of Constitutional Democratic Party (Cadets). On October 27, 1905, the newspaper published an article «Program of the Constitutional Democratic Party» The program contained several points: general rights of citizens, system of state, local self-government and autonomy, judiciary, legal and financial policy, labor laws and educational activities [12]. Like other parties the cadets wanted to rebuild society. Favoring the introduction of the law of public elections, freedom of speech, press, assembly, association and so on in the Russian Empire, they insisted on strict adherence to civil and political rights [8, p. 85].

However, the real proof of Goshkevych's membership in the Cadets party was an article dated November, 16, 1905 – the newspaper presented the results of meeting of regional representation of Constitutional Democratic Party, which took place on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After proposal of Y. I. Yakovenko a speech of whom started the meeting, Viktor Ivanovych Goshkevych was elected as a chairman [13]. At the end of the meeting V. Goshkevych was elected as a member of the district committee of the party. As a proof of that fact that editorial group of the newspaper headed by V. Goshkevych was not only spreading the ideas of the party, but also was the catalyst for the creation of regional offices, is a report of G.K. Pachoskyi – a representative of the temporary committee dedicated to the analysis of the number of the party: «Party

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in Kherson district until the establishment of reporting, consisted of more than 100 people, among those who live in Kherson – 38 people, mostly territorial officials, landowners and members of the editorial board of «Yug» [13].

It is most likely due to newspaper's publishing in 1905 V. Goshkevych was dismissed from the position of the Secretary in Regional Statistic Committee. Coverage of the events of the revolution in 1905 was shocking the authorities, and as a result in 1907, Viktor Ivanovych was prohibited to publish newspapers [14, p. 53].

After the deployment of the revolution on the Ukrainian territory, Viktor Ivanovych ultimately stopped his political activity, focusing on preserving the museum.

Thus, there are several basic aspects of social and political position of V.I. Goshkevych to be named:

1) Scientist definitely wanted to liberalize and democratize the society in the Russian Empire.

2) Under the influence of Volodymyr Antonovych, he became interested in the idea of recognition of the Ukrainian language and study of cultural heritage.

3) Since 1905, Viktor Ivanovych supported the idea of creation of regional department of the Constitutional Democratic Party in the South of Ukraine. As a result, it can be affirmed that he agreed to the idea of converting the Russian Empire into the constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliament elected under a democratic electoral system. However, this does not correspond to his Ukrainophilic views. The other reason is that perhaps the scientist, like many other representatives of the Ukrainian intellectuals, joined the party and was not able to speak explicitly about his political views, and that is why the specifics of CDP in Ukraine had a strong national character.

4) During the Civil War the scientist, because of his age, was not engaged into social and political activities.

At first sight, the combination of the ideas of cadets and pro-Ukrainian views of the scientist seemed a bit strange, but during the revolutionary period, Viktor

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Ivanovych chose probably the most realistic and optimal way of political struggle. Thus, throughout the life V.I. Goshkevych was a social activist. With the growing of crisis in the Russian Empire society, the scientist tried not remain in the shadow of the silent majority and spread the ideas of liberalism and education among peasants and intellectuals of the Southern Ukraine.

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*Стаття присвячена аналізу політичних поглядів та оцінки здобутків активного громадського діяча, археолога, краєзнавця та засновника першого у Херсоні музею, Віктора Івановича Гошкевича напередодні та в період Революції 1905. Охарактеризовано особливості його боротьби за лібералізм та демократизацію суспільства Російської імперії. Розглянуто видавничу діяльність Віктора Івановича та проаналізовано зміст публікацій «науково-літературної, політичної, сільськогосподарської і комерційної» газети «Юг», яка з 1898 року виходила під його редакцією. Певна увага приділяється*

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*українофільським настроям вченого, та його ставленню до української мови. Висвітлено зв'язок Віктора Івановича з діяльністю регіонального представництва Конституційно-демократичної партії (кадетів) на Півдні України та проаналізовано дві можливі причини такого позиціонування.*

**Ключові слова:** *В.І. Гошкевич, газета «Юг», Конституційно-демократична партія, Південь України.*

*В статье проанализированы политические взгляды и оценки достижений активного общественного деятеля, археолога, краеведа и основателя первого в Херсоне музея Виктора Ивановича Гошкевича перед и во время революции 1905 года. Дана характеристика особенностям его борьбы за либерализм и демократизацию общества Российской империи. Рассмотрена его издательская деятельность и дан анализ содержания публикаций «научно-литературной, политической, сельскохозяйственной и коммерческой» газеты «Югъ», которая с 1898 года издавалась под редакцией В.И. Гошкевича. Также уделено внимание украинофильским настроениям ученого и его отношению к украинскому языку. Рассмотрена связь Виктора Ивановича с деятельностью регионального представительства Конституционно- демократической партии (кадетов) на Юге Украины и дан анализ двум возможным причинам такой позиции.*

**Ключевые слова:** *В.И. Гошкевич, газета «Югъ», Конституционно-демократическая партия, Юг Украины.*