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## **THE FIGURE OF STEPAN BANDERA IN THE MEMOIRS OF THE OUN LEADERS**

*Introduction.* OUN is a political organization of the early XX century, which has evoked permanent scientific interest. Despite the extensive historiography of the topic under consideration, investigating the problem of personal measurements, which are important sources of the personal origin, are still regarded as extremely topical. Analysis of the sources about OUN gives one an opportunity to deepen into the human dimension of history. Especially when we are talking about the outstanding personality of Stepan Bandera.

*The objective* of the paper is to discuss the figure of Stepan Bandera in the memoirs of OUN leaders. The memories of this leader of Ukrainian nationalists were published by V. Oleskiv – the curator of the London Museum of Liberation Struggle of Stepan Bandera. As he points out, Stepan Bandera was short in stature, "but one could feel some kind of power." He produced simple but stylistically sophisticated sentences, as if he had read a particular text in advance. Bandera's speech was very expressive and truly Ukrainian. He spoke without many emotions to be expressed, his ideas were peaceful, logical and optimistic. He was also a very sociable person. V. Alaska wrote about S. Bandera that he was "<... > loved and respected, but also evoke fear. He could be strict and fair <...>." S. Bandera strongly believed Ukraine to sooner or later stand up consistently on the victory way of the struggle for independence [1].

One of the OUN leaders who proclaimed the "Act of Restoration of the Ukrainian State," A. Smith, wrote about S. Bandera: "It was a man whose requests were impossible not to listen to and not to fulfill; any of his requests – he was a great energy. Moreover, he was very humble and decent." [2].

The information about the activities of the Ukrainian nationalists was found in the memoirs of the particular individuals of the OUN movement. In the interview

entitled "The Rules of Life by Eugene Stakhov," a former member of the OUN noted that "Stepan Bandera fought for an independent Ukraine, a democratic Ukraine with social justice, equality, where all the citizens were equal." It is noteworthy that after staying in the Donbass region, he appeared to be critical of the slogan of "Ukraine for Ukrainians" giving the ethnically diverse composition of the local population [3]. Is. Stakhiv believed that Bandera's nationalism had no place in the Ukrainian ideology, because this ideology was supposed to be changed. Stepan Bandera, according to Is. Stakhiv, wanted to turn back to totalitarian regime that could protect the needs of the Ukrainian people. According to him, the OUN planned to form a national dictatorship, and thereby to conquer the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian nation. Is. Stakhiv noted: "Bandera wanted to return back to the totalitarianism that was absolutely negative and inadequate for the Ukrainian people. Therefore anyone who wants to build a monument to Stepan Bandera is the one who wants to go back to totalitarianism." [3].

*Conclusion.* Now, the sources of personal origin, namely, the memoirs, contain the information that particularly reflects the inner perception of each member of the OUN movement about Stepan Bandera's historical figure to be discussed. These documents demonstrate the existence of certain differences regarding the methods of activity, but not towards the strategic objectives.

### **References**

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### **TEN YEARS OF MODERN POLISH-UKRAINIAN HISTORY: THE FACTOR OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (2005 – 2015)**

*Introduction.* The research showcases the changes in bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland after the "Orange Revolution" in the former and the ascension to the European Union in the latter. Said events (along with the changes in the primary political parties of both countries from 2005 to 2015) greatly