

## Book review: "BAN RASHISM" (ed. V. Piskun). Kyiv, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, 2023, 223 p.

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The academic community of Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University has decided to contribute its share in the humanitarian confrontation with the Russians in terms of their imperial encroachments on the Ukrainian nation and our independent Ukraine. The author's team offers the general public an interdisciplinary study of a new fascism type of the 21st century - *rashism*. Confrontation on the humanitarian front with the eternal enemy - Russian imperialism was and remains the priority of the Ukrainian scientist-patriot.

The Russian Bolsheviks failed to overcome the Ukrainian national liberation movement, which captivated and continues to captivate the world with its resilience and courage. The Ukrainian nation has the right to self-determination. The unifying idea of all times for the Ukrainian people was a national, sovereign state. "Russian World" is trying to absorb the sovereign states of the post-Soviet space. Russians are always looking for an enemy, their existence is connected with the struggle for the illusory ideas of socialism, communism, internationalism against the class enemies of the revolutionary working class and the laboring peasantry. In fact, this is the ideology of one party. Formerly communist, now Putin's "United Russia". For the Russians, the main enemy is the USA, NATO, the EU, the entire Western civilized democratic world. The ghostly ideas of Lenin were worth much to Ukraine: three wars, two of them world wars, three famines (1922-1923, 1932-1933, 1946-1947), Stalin's repressions in the 30s-40s and at the beginning of the 50s. Moscow deliberately destroyed intellectuals in Ukraine, because it considered it a direct threat to its existence. Ukrainians were not recognized as a separate nation in tsarist Russia. We were considered "Little Russians" who had to assimilate. Ukraine and Ukrainians, according to Russian Tsars Nicholas I and Alexander II, did not exist. The President of the Russian Federation V. Putin maintains the same position. For this, the history of the Russian state was rewritten. Russians consider themselves historically chosen, which is supported by messianic myths (Russian-centric pan-Slavism).

The authors use the term *rashism*, having characterized its ideological basis, singled out its characteristic features, and given their scientific definition. The scientific team successfully outlined the essence of Ukrainian civilization, which for centuries has opposed Russian state formations from Muscovy to the Russian Federation. They successfully summarized the main directions of Russia's policy towards Ukraine and Ukrainians in different time periods and territorial frameworks and came to the correct final conclusion: "The historical mission of Ukraine and Ukrainians is not only to ban *rashism*, but also to destroy the Russian Empire" (p. 13).

According to the authors, the modern *Russian-Ukrainian war* is a war between the two civilizational worlds, totalitarianism and democracy. Barbarian Russia aims at the destruction of Ukrainian statehood and the Ukrainian nation. In historical retrospect, the Russians have always tried to deprive us of our historical memory and national identity for the sake of their own ideological needs. They forget about age-old democracy and patriotism of Ukrainians. After the collapse of the USSR, all wars in the post-Soviet space took place with the participation of the Russian Federation: Ichkeria, Transnistria, Georgia, now Ukraine. Unpunished evil grows. Historical lessons should not only be known, but conclusions should be drawn from them.

The correct statement is: "In Ukraine there are no, there were no, and there cannot be" originally Russian lands" is convincingly confirmed by the chapters "Ukraine is not Terra incognita" (pp. 18-21) (author **Viktor Ogneviuk**) and "The Origin and Formation of Ukrainian Civilization" (p. 22-46) (authors **Viktor Ogneviuk and Mykhailo Videiko**). The authors give the example of Ukraine as a large Eastern European state, reveal all periods of the Ukrainian civilization's formation, paying special attention to the processes of ethno- and state genesis, the duration of the nation-building process and the interruption of state formation, the struggle for the preservation of national identity and state sovereignty of Ukraine. Our state survived centuries of opposition to the Moscow tsars and their inheritors. Ukrainians have completely different values, outlook, way of life, material and spiritual culture, philosophy and religion, we belong to a certain East Slavic group of languages and traditions. Ukrainians are mentally different from Russians. We must protect our Ukrainian language as a tool of Ukrainian revival and a significant cultural value. Language is an important factor in the national identification of a person.

Modern *rashism* repeats the old aggressive practice of the Russian Empire. This is successfully shown in the chapter "The Ukrainian Question in the Ideology of the "Russian World" in the Conditions of the Great War" (pp. 101-115), author **Yuriy Mitrofanenko**. Russia considered Galicia to be "originally Russian" lands. Therefore, their military arrival in Galicia and Bukovina in 1914-spring 1915 was accompanied by total de-Ukrainization. The reason was the "fault line", which was based on language, history and religion, the uniqueness of Ukrainian culture, traditions, and lifestyle.

Instead, "general history, language, culture, religion" was imposed. They closed all Ukrainian-language periodicals, all cultural and educational organizations, bookstore clubs, seized all Ukrainian-language literature, arrested Ukrainian intellectuals (M. Hrushevskiy), clergy (Metropolitan A. Sheptytskyi). They began to destroy the Greek Catholic Orthodox Church. Even then, the Russians realized that the great Russia could exist only after conquering the rich Ukraine. The main conclusion from the defeat of the Ukrainian revolution of 1917-1921 should be drawn from the lack of unity between different sections of the population (p. 137).

The next chapter "Under a foreign flag" (author **Volodymyr Serhiychuk**) shows Ukraine under the occupation of three states - the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia, partially Romania (pp. 138-159). The Ukrainian village resisted Soviet totalitarianism for the longest time, until the Holodomors of 1921-1922 (losses of 3.6 million), 1932-1933 (losses of 3.9 to 10 million) destroyed them. The terrible lessons of Ukrainian history must be engraved in the national memory - the Muscovite has never been our brother, he has always been an insidious enemy.

Chapter "Ukraine in the Second World War. Against the *rashist* monopoly on the "great victory" (pp. 160-172), authors **Petro Chernega** and **Pavlo Polyanskyi**, factually shows the participation of the human and material and technical resources of the Ukrainian SSR in the victory over the Nazis in 1939-1945. Today's Putin's desire to minimize the participation of the Anti-Hitler coalition's countries in the fight against Nazism vividly convinces of the propaganda falsehood of the Stalin's follower. From 6 to 8 million Ukrainians fought in the Red Army. During

the 1941-1945 war, Ukraine lost 13.6 million people. The demographics of the population decreased sharply, in 1941 – 41.7 million, in 1945 – 27.4 million. And such facts just show the failure of the rashist version of history.

The section “Lingucidal practices of the Russian Empire in Ukraine during the Soviet era” (p. 172-183) calls on representatives of other humanitarian sciences to study the reasons for the return to genocidal practices by the Russian Federation. The same fully applies, according to author **Larysa Masenko**, to the study of the colonial nature of Ukrainian-russian relations, as well as to the very phenomenon of aggressive russian imperialism. Previous researchers pointed to the peculiarities of the russians' mentality, their worldview, the cruel despotic nature of the ruling regimes. It is hard not to agree with the author about the Asian natural despotism of rashism, the reluctance by the majority of Russians to live in a legal democratic state. The desire to realize one's “wishes” by force of aggression, weapons, and brutality is a characteristic feature of russian politics. Widespread phenomena of drunkenness, lying, hatred of work, crime have long been generally accepted by russian society as the norm of everyday life. The author cites the historical facts of the Soviet authorities' dislike to the “small nations”, the total eviction of Crimean Tatars and Chechens in 1944, deportation and mass repressions against Ukrainians classified as “Banderites”, “bourgeois nationalists”. The manipulation of the concept of the “triumphal russian people” still finds its supporters in the power structures of the Russian Federation, who do not know and do not want to know the true history of their people and their neighbors. Russians cannot survive the fact of losing the Russian language as a “language of international communication”, because it excludes their privilege and greatness over their “smaller brothers”. At the current stage of Ukrainian-russian relations, russia and the russians are our enemies, who are trying to destroy our statehood and us as an ethnos, under the guise of a special military operation to “denazify and demilitarize” Ukraine. Russian-speaking Ukrainians are primarily russified citizens who have abandoned their native language and deserve the condemnation of their compatriots. The russian orthodox church, which is a foreign element in the territory of Ukraine, sings along to them. These positions were occupied by pro-russian parties, political and public organizations in the territory of Ukraine, generously financed by Moscow. The deep degradation of russian society requires its isolation from the world community, and Ukrainians must unite and defend their lives and their territory by force of arms, with the help of the civilized world. Today it is a priority. Ukraine should not be interpreted as a buffer zone between the West and the East. It is an organic component of Europe, its eastern gate. Our state has always been looking for a reliable ally. History gives us a bloody chance to become a subject of geopolitics among powerful states.

One of the key sections – “Rashism as a type of fascism” (pp. 184-195) summarizes the known concepts of the fascism's signs and singles out **Ostap Kryvdyk's** work of 2010, in which he gives his author's definition of rashism as a new type of fascism in the 21st century. and indicates its nutrient environment. The greatest danger of rashism lies in its aggressiveness, in its readiness to launch a pre-emptive nuclear attack on supporters of the collective West. This right is seen as a historical duty of the once powerful “Evil Empire”. The author of the chapter, Pavlo Polyanskyi, notes that the Russian Federation has acquired the

characteristics of a fascist state with Putin's unlimited rights. Fascist Russia has been subjected to international economic sanctions, its president is recognized by the Hague Tribunal as an international criminal, defeat in the Ukrainian-Russian war is inevitable - this is the logical price for aggression. The global importance of the Russian Federation is ending. The International Criminal Court will put an end to this terrible war against the Ukrainian nation and its state.

The chapter “Revived Ukraine between the West and Russia: the path to self-cognition” by **Boris Humenyuk** summarizes the global clash of two worlds, opposing philosophies, different civilizational vectors, calling it the national liberation war of the Ukrainian people against the rashist occupiers. The author correctly predicts the geopolitical future of Ukraine as a subject of international relations.

The last chapter “Ukraine and the civilized world after the victory over rashism: a look to the future” (pp. 205-217), written by **Volodymyr Ogrzyko**, captivates with the logic of presenting the analysis of global and European security systems, as well as the forecast of options for the development of geopolitical events in the future.

The conclusions (pp. 218-223) indicate the miscalculations of the Ukrainian authorities, when we saw the moment when the “strategic partner” turned into an enemy of the nation and the state. An enemy whose goal is to “denazify” Ukrainians, that is, to destroy them. Rashism is a repetition of German Nazism, which denies the very existence of the Ukrainian nation and statehood. The authors derive eight characteristic features of this shameful misanthropic ideology, which convincingly indicates a deep analysis in an interdisciplinary environment.

The following two points can be wished to the authors that do not reduce the significance of the content and essence of the book. The book was written simultaneously by twelve authors, which led to the repetition of some theses. In the analysis of historical events, some historical facts are left out of consideration, and some are debatable.

The world faced a new form of fascism - rashism, which is passionately supported by the socially vulnerable, poorly educated, demotivated electorate of the Russian Federation. Russians cannot come to terms with new geopolitical realities. The world leaders are the USA, the European Union, and China. The only argument for Russian “power” is nuclear weapons inherited from the USSR.

The strength of the Ukrainian nation is in unity. The power of the Ukrainian language, the Ukrainian word and education were an invisible weapon against Sovietization and Russification. At the moment, the Ukrainian language is a weapon against the enemy. Now we all understand that diplomacy must be reinforced by a modern army.

The book is primarily useful for Ukrainian public officers and politicians who know little about the history of Ukrainian statehood and who are responsible for the law-making process and its implementation in practice. There should be no unlearned lessons of history in the future. Another title of the book may sound like “History of Ukrainian statehood”, “Ukrainian-Russian confrontation yesterday, today, tomorrow”.

The book needs a broad presentation. The monograph forms the true historical national memory of Ukrainians about their state-building process.

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