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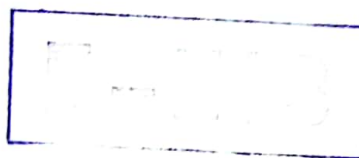
HISTORY OF UKRAINE and UKRAINIAN CULTURE



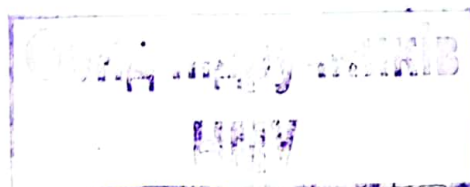
Department of Ukrainian Studies of Bogomolets
National Medical University

The manual for the course
"HISTORY OF UKRAINE AND UKRAINIAN CULTURE"
in a concise summary

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CONTENT

<i>Theme 1.1.</i> The History Of Kyivan Rus' (Rozovyk O. D.)	4
<i>Theme 1.2.</i> The culture Of Kyivan Rus' (Velychko O. B.)	17
<i>Theme 2.1.</i> The Polish-Lithuanian period and the era of the Hetmanate (Rozovyk O. D.)	39
<i>Theme 2.2.</i> The Ukrainian culture of the XIV – mid. of the XVIII century (Velychko O. B.)	59
<i>Theme 3.1.</i> Ukraine in the second half of the XVIII – early XX century (Rozovyk O. D.)	82
<i>Theme 3.2.</i> The Ukrainian culture of the end of XVIII-XIX century (Velychko O. B.)	97
<i>Theme 4.1.</i> Ukraine in the first half of the XX century (Rozovyk O. D.).....	119
<i>Theme 4.2.</i> The Ukrainian culture on the verge of the XIX–XX centuries Modern period (Velychko O. B.).....	135
<i>Theme 5.1.</i> Ukraine in the second half of the XX – beginning of the XXI century (Rozovyk O. D.)	150
<i>Theme 5.2.</i> The Ukrainian culture of the Soviet era and postmodern (Velychko O.B.)	176
Recommended literature	205

Theme 1.1.

The History Of Kyivan Rus'

The problem of the origin of Kyivan Rus' was debatable for a long time. Already in the XVIII century the German historians G. Bayer and G. Miller put forward **the Norman concept** of the origin of the Kyivan state. The main idea is that Kyivan Rus' was created by the Normans (Varangians).

The main arguments of this theory are: in "The Tale of Bygone Years" it is told about the invitation of the Varangians to rule in Novgorod (Northern Rus'); reports of the Roman historians about the backwardness of the Slavs; the term "Rus' " has a Scandinavian origin. **Anti-Norman theory** (Mykola Kostomarov, M. Grushevskiy and others) defines the local Slavic origin of the Rus' state. Its main principles: long before the appearance of the Scandinavians the Antes had tribal alliances and the features of the state (the separation of artisanship from agriculture, the property differentiation, the separation of the nobility); the name "Rus' " is of a local origin (river Ros); the presence of the Scandinavians was negligible – only in the administration. **The modern Ukrainian historiography** (M. Braichevskiy, L.Zaliznyak and others) claims that the Kyiv-Rus' principality was, primarily, the state of the Ukrainian nation with a center in the Dni-pro's Ukraine. And the core of the Belarusian and Russian statehood was formed in the first half of the XI century and the middle of the XII century, respectively.

Unions of tribes gradually turned into *a tribal principalities*, which were beforegovernmental associations. In the middle of the IX century the Kyiv Principality was formed. The first princes (prince – known as Knyaz at that time) – **Dir** (830–850's) and **Askold** (? 850–882) were from the tribe of the Polans and pursued a policy of annexation of the Uliches and Drevlians. In 860 they made the campaign against Constantinople. The first in Rus', they tried to establish Christianity that met the resistance from the *volkhvs* and the population. At the same time in Novgorod (Northern Rus') the Varangian Rurik ruled. In 879 Rurik died and his relative **Oleg** (882–912) came to power, he became a regent for the son of Rurik, Igor. In 882 Oleg came to Kyiv with an army and killed Askold. Thus, he united under his rule Northern and Southern Rus'. Kyiv was declared as the center.

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