

## FIGURE OF THE NATIONAL BULGARIAN HERO IHNATIEV IN THE LIGHT OF THE UKRAINOCENTRIC VISION

Horenko L.<sup>1</sup>, Zelinskyi R.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Cherkasy Institute of Fire Safety named by Chernobyl Heroes, Ukraine*

<sup>2</sup> *Honorary regional historian of Ukraine*

### Abstract

*The famous Russian diplomat and statesman Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev is an important figure in Bulgarian history. The talented diplomat manifested himself not only in the service of Russian interests. He made a personal significant contribution to Bulgaria's independence. Count Ihnatiev was the author of the 1878 Treaty of San Stefano, under which Bulgaria received autonomy within the Ottoman Empire and later state independence. Nikolay Ihnatiev is considered a national hero of Bulgaria for such merits. After a diplomatic career, Count Ihnatiev settled in the Ukrainian village of Krupoderyntsi, which became the last place of his eternal rest. The period of the Count's life in Ukraine is marked by his effective commercial activity. As a Russian official, Nikolay Ihnatiev had a positive and sympathetic attitude towards Ukrainism, which was reflected in his personal life. Therefore, there are reasons to consider the figure of Nikolay Ihnatiev favorable to Ukraine and his period of life in Ukraine as an asset of Ukrainian historical and cultural heritage.*

**Keywords:** Ukrainian and Bulgarian nations, Bulgarian independence, national hero.

### INTRODUCTION

Ukrainian-Bulgarian relations reach their oldest depths, dating back to the time of Russia and the First Bulgarian Empire. Mutual relations cover various spheres of human activity: state, cultural, scientific, commercial, religious, etc. The mutual influence of the Ukrainian and Bulgarian national communities is marked by a large number of bright historical figures on both sides. Count Ihnatiev also contributed to the development of the Ukrainian-Bulgarian relations.

A separate significant aspect which unites the Bulgarian and Ukrainian nations is the Orthodox faith inherent in the majority of the population. Now there are many "classical" and modern options for understanding the role and prospects of the orthodoxy rule on the territory of states [1,2].

In the history of the Slavic East, the word "philosopher" first appeared in the

first great Oriental-Slavic work, known as "Chronicle." Nestor "or" The Tale of the Bereaved Years ". Ukrainian monk Nestor wrote this essay at the beginning of the XII century. on the basis of those older chronicles, which were written before him by Kiev chroniclers of Rus. In the Chronicle of Nestor "the philosophers" are called saints Cyril and Methodius [3].

The idea of Slavic unity gets explosive development in the late XVIII XIX centuries. It was connected with the growth of the national liberation movement. The twentieth century with two world wars, two Balkan wars, a Soviet-Polish war, etc., when the Slavic peoples found themselves on different sides of the front, and a short period of existence of national states Eastern Europe (1918-1939) brought disunity to the Slavic world [4].

However, the authors of this article do not resort to supporting or refuting the ideas of the above-mentioned authors in any way, but only demonstrate the real historical

component that connects the history of the Bulgarian and Ukrainian nations. Namely, the figure of Count Ihnatiev.

## EXPOSITION

Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev was born on January 17, 1832 in St. Petersburg (Russian Empire). In his youth, he graduated from the Page Corps, and then the General Staff Academy with a silver medal. In 1851-1856, he served as a lieutenant in the Life Guards Hussar Regiment and Chief Quartermaster in the Guards regiment of the General Staff. Subsequently, Nikolay Ihnatiev took the path of diplomatic activity and at the age of 24 already held the position of military attache in London. After that, the young diplomat conducted successful diplomacy in the East: in the Khiva, Bukhara khanates and China.

One of his achievements was the conclusion of the Treaty of Beijing in 1860. The Ussuri region did not officially belong to the Russian Empire. It was a disputed territory with China. At that time, China was at war with Britain and France, and the Chinese emperor was not up to Primorsky Krai. Then the Russian ambassador to China, Count Ihnatiev, managed to mediate between the enemies and convince the French and British to delete humiliating points for Beijing from the peace treaty. In gratitude, the Chinese emperor signed the Treaty of Beijing, under which Russia received the Left Bank of the Amur River, the Right Bank of the Ussuri River and the Manchurian coast of the Japan Sea to the border with Korea. It also allowed for the construction of the Port of Vladivostok in the Golden Horn Bay. Since then, the Russian Empire has gained access to the Japan Sea and captured the Primorsk and Khabarovsk territories.

For quite a long period, 13 years (1864-1877), Nikolay Ihnatiev served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Constantinople (Turkey). Being a deep expert on the East and the Balkans, Ihnatiev negotiated with the Turkish authorities to grant autonomy to

Bulgarians, Macedonians, Greeks and Romanians.

The second half of the nineteenth century was characterized by a turbulent political life in the Balkan region, which was associated with the strengthening of National Liberation processes and the desire of the Balkan peoples for political independence. The great diplomatic victory of Ihnatiev was the decision of the Constantinople Conference of ambassadors of European states, who demanded that Turkey grant autonomy to the Christian provinces of the Ottoman Empire. However, the Sultan's refusal to accept this demand prompted Russia to declare war on Turkey. After the Russian victory in the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-1878, the draft peace treaty, which was adopted in San Stefano on February 19, 1878, was prepared by Count Ihnatiev. Subsequently, the Berlin Congress revised a number of important positions of this treaty, but the Independent States of Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, and the Bulgarian principality were formed in the Balkans. Southern Bulgaria has been granted autonomous status as part of Turkey. Later in 1885, both parts were reunited into a single Bulgaria.

After such an important mission, Nikolay Ihnatiev was dismissed from the diplomatic service for health reasons. Then, he served as Minister of State Estates (1881) and Minister of the interior (1881-1882). However, the astute mind of Nikolay Pavlovich did not give him rest in this position. Nikolay Ihnatiev suggested that Tsar Alexander III radically change the structure of the Empire. The minister considered it appropriate to introduce a Zemsky Sobor, which provided for the possibility of holding elections by all segments of the population, the creation of a Western-style cabinet of ministers, which was a sign of a constitutional monarchy. Such ideas led to Ihnatiev's resultation from the post of Interior Minister.

Nikolay Ihnatiev was married to Ekaterina Golitsyna. The couple had five

children. In 1880, the count acquired the Krupoderinsky estate, where he lived permanently since 1882. It should be noted that in different provinces of Russia, the count owned about forty estates that were in a neglected state due to the count's official employment. However, for life, he chose a picturesque place in Podillia. In the village of Krupoderintsy, Kyiv province (now Vinnytsia region, Ukraine), Nikolay Pavlovich bought up land, successfully develops agriculture, built factories and Mills.

The Ihnatiev family: count, his wife Ekaterina and their children lived in a two-story house on the pond hill. Today this house is an architectural monument. An Orthodox church was built in Krupoderintsy in 1895 at the expense of Count Ihnatiev, according to the project of Alexander Pomerantsev, which is a smaller copy of the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky, built in the Bulgarian capital Sofia. At the same time, a priest's house, utility rooms and a hospital were built. The church first opened its doors to parishioners on September 17, 1901.

The Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos is a family tomb: in 1908 Nikolai Ihnatiev was buried there, in 1914 – his daughter Ekaterina, and in 1917 – his wife Ekaterina Leonidovna.

At the back of the churchyard is a huge cross on a granite pedestal. This is a monument to the sailors who died in the Battle of Tsushima during the Russo-Japanese war of 1905. It was installed by the Order of Ekaterina Leonidovna Ihnatieva in 1914 in memory of her son, nephew and other sailors who died in the Tsushima battle. Four ancient ship anchors fastened with heavy chains enclose a block of stone, on which the inscription reads that the monument honors the memory of Count Vladimir Ihnatiev, Alexey Zurov (the count's nephew) and all other sailors.

Count Ihnatiev's farm in Krupoderintsy, according to the Kyiv Statistical Committee for 1900, consisted of 1,573 dessiatines of land. There were 1,064

people living in the village. After the Russian victory in the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-1878, the draft peace treaty, which was adopted in San Stefano on February 19, 1878, was prepared by Count Ihnatiev.

The count took bold steps to introduce industrial technologies and innovative management methods. So, in 1896, a unique four-story mill was built on the estate near the pond, which still stands over the Ros River (now inactive).

Local historians claim that Count Ihnatiev invested in the construction of a railway station in the town of Pogrebishche and allegedly even intended to stretch a seven-kilometer railway track to the village of Krupoderintsy, but death caused by a heart attack in the summer of 1908 prevented this.

After the Bolshevik coup of 1917, Count Ihnatiev's children went abroad. Bolshevik activists looted property and destroyed individual buildings. In the Count's estate, there was a commune, which took out part of the property. In the church, the Bolsheviks set up a warehouse for grain. Other products were stored in the tomb. According to the testimony of old-timers on the count's tombstone, workers chopped meat. In 1930, the largest bell weighing 2.5 tons was thrown from the church, which, falling, destroyed the entrance to the church. Subsequently, during the political warming, the temple was allowed to open. From 1957 until recently, Father Serhiy Vyhovskyi served here.

In Bulgaria, the memory of Count Ihnatiev is honored. The central streets of Sofia and other localities are named after him, and five villages are called Ihnatievo.

Thanks to the diplomatic activity of N. Ihnatiev, thousands of Bulgarian and Serbian immigrants after the failed April anti-Turkish uprising of 1876 settled on the Ukrainian lands of modern Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The Ukrainian period of Nikolai Ihnatiev's life was marked by Economic Affairs. He was at the origin of the

development of the sugar industry in Podillia. Nikolay Pavlovich founded a distillery in Nemyrovtsi in 1881, which gave an impetus to the development of the Nemyrovsky plant, which produces the famous Nemyrovsky horilka.

In 2005, the village of Krupoderintsy hosted distinguished guests: the great-great-granddaughter of Count Stolpovska-Ihnatieva, representative of the trade mission of the Bulgarian Embassy in Ukraine Todor Kanev and others. And in Pogrebishche on October 1 of the same year, the II international scientific and practical conference "My ideal is a free Bulgaria" was held, dedicated to the national hero of Bulgaria Nikolay Ihnatiev, during which Nadrossia was visited by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Ukraine Dimitr Vladimirov, Bulgarian researcher of the life path of the Ihnatiev family Kalina Kaneva, great-great – granddaughter of N. Ihnatiev Oleksandra Stolpovska-Ihnatieva. Then, in 2008, with the participation of distinguished Bulgarian guests, an international scientific and practical conference was held in Pohrebyshe to mark the 130th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke and perpetuate the memory of the heroes of Shypka and Plevna. On the wall of the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos in Krupoderintsy, a memorial plaque was installed with the inscription "To The Faithful Bulgarian lover Count Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev. Slavyany Foundation. July 3, 2008 from the Grateful Bulgarian people."

In the count's estate there was a rural school, part of which is reserved for the Ihnatiev Family Museum, where you can see old photos of the count's family and other exhibits.

Local historians and researchers preserve and distribute the cultural and historical heritage of Nadrossia. Among them is the historian and public figure Valeryi Starynychuk, who provided significant

assistance to the authors of the article in preparing the material.

The Bulgarian writer Kalina Kaneva rightly calls count Ihnatiev a knight of the Balkans. Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev, being an outstanding diplomat, directed his talent for the benefit of the state he served - the Russian Empire. During his life, Ukraine, which became his second homeland, was under the colonial rule of Russia. And at a time when big political players shared spheres of influence in the world, Ukraine was assigned the role of a provincial southwestern edge of the Russian Empire.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Bulgaria gained independence, and at the beginning of the twentieth century, Ukraine made another attempt to escape from Russian enslavement. In 1918, Bulgaria recognized the Ukrainian people's Republic and, together with other states, signed the Brest peace treaty with the UPR. Bulgarian ambassador I. D. Shyshmanov stated that Ukraine is a state with a long history and culture.

But these events occurred after the death of Count Ihnatiev. It is obvious that there was no place for Ukrainian state independence in the worldview of high-ranking Russian officials. However, to investigate the attitude of Count Ihnatiev to ukrainism, we note first of all that his family descended from the Chernihiv Boyar Fedor Byakont, who moved to Moscow during the Horde invasion. It is likely that the awareness of the historical homeland of his ancestors prompted count Ihnatiev to settle in the picturesque Ukrainian Podillia. The village of Krupoderintsy became the count's ancestral estate.

An important detail that characterizes Nikolay Ihnatiev's sympathy for the Ukrainian mentality is that he often used Ukrainian words. So, Nikolay Pavlovich did not find a more tender word in his native Russian, nor in English, German and French, which he knew perfectly, than the Ukrainian "zhinka" (Eng. "woman"). This is how exquisitely and gracefully he addressed his wife: "nenahliadnaya zhinka"

(Eng. "favored woman"), "besthennaya zhinka" (Eng. "priceless woman"), "nesravnennaya zhinka" (Eng. "incomparable woman"). And his home, contrary to Noble etiquette, calls the Ukrainian word "hata" (Eng. "house").

In research publications, we find information that Nikolay Ihnatiev visited the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra and also visited the grave of Taras Shevchenko.

Nikolay Ihnatiev, as a state official of the Russian Empire who contributed to Russia's power in the foreign policy arena, was put at the service of imperial ambitions. Thanks to his diplomatic efforts under the Beijing Treaty, Russia received more than 800 thousand square kilometers of territory, including the port of Vladivostok. However, the map of Modern Ukraine has also changed, which at one time included the lands of Bessarabia inhabited by Bulgarians. In the Far Eastern expanses, the famous Zelenyi Klyn (Green Ukraine) was formed - the territory of compact residence of Ukrainian immigrants. After the collapse of the Russian Empire in the early twentieth century, this region claimed state independence and was defeated due to the Bolshevik occupation.

## CONCLUSION

Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev lived and worked in the conditions of his time. His proposals for reforming the Russian state structure were dictated by his insightful thinking about the need to democratize the state. The count sympathized with the ideas of Pan-Slavism, which at one time were also professed by supporters of the Cyril and Methodius society, among whom was Taras Shevchenko.

Today, Ukraine is getting rid of the consequences of Russian imperial influence in socio-political life. The assessment of

many Russian figures in various spheres of human activity has been fairly revised through the prism of the Ukrainian vision, from the standpoint of their attitude to ukrainism. We consider this a necessary requirement of the time.

In light of such trends, we also believe that a descendant of the Chernihiv Boyar Family, Russian count and diplomat Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev sincerely loved Ukraine, he called the village of Krupoderintsy "a cute Ukrainian Paradise".

Attention and respect for the figure of Nikolay Pavlovich Ihnatiev will continue to be a unifying bridge between the Ukrainian and Bulgarian nations.

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