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HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN DANUBIAN REGION: THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ASPECT

The article analyzes Ukrainian historical researches, which represent political, economic, cultural, ethnic, social and mental processes in the history of Bessarabia, South Bessarabia, Ukrainian Danube region by problematic chronological approach. The author defines main directions of scientific researches devoted to the important problems of the multi-ethnic region in different periods.

Key words: *Ukrainian historiography, Bessarabia, Southern Bessarabia, Ukrainian Danube region.*

The leading place in the modern national historical science is occupied by social history, one of the approaches of which is regional or local history as means of studying general historical facts on the local material, self-development of the national, independent nature in the context of general humane values. This determines the relevance of expanding and deepening the research on the history of the Ukrainian Danube region.

The ability of people to consolidate, to overcome all difficulties in their work, largely depends on the awareness of the lessons of the past for the sake of the present and the future. The degree of comprehension of the history and culture of citizens' region is an important component of measuring the person's spirituality, and therefore, the ability to make universal progress, the readiness to serve his people, his state.

On the territory of the Ukrainian Danube region, the interests of many peoples were originally clashed, and some events were even fateful. Historically, there was made a complex ethnic mosaic and specific ethnic-cultural traditions. These facts are of great importance for regulating interethnic relations in sovereign Ukraine.

There have never been separate long-term state formations on the lands of the Ukrainian Danube region. Before the incorporation of this region into Ukraine, the researchers did not consider this territory a separate ethnic region. Thus, in our opinion, it is useless to look for generalizing, complex works, devoted to the lower interfluve area of the Dniester and the Danube rivers. The exceptions, perhaps, is the publication of «History of Cities and Villages of the USSR: Odessa region» *(K, 1969)* and the publications of the teachers of the Department of History of Ukraine of the then Izmail State Pedagogical Institute (*Ukrainian Danube, 1998; Lebedenko, Tychyna, 2000, 2002*). The information about this region can be found in the numerous works of archaeologists, historians, ethnographers of Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Moldova, Turkey and other countries. The problem-thematic approach is more suitable for the characterization of the region historiography than the territorial-chronological one.

Today we have a large number of the scientific, popular-scientific and publicistic works, which analyze some issues of the pre-Slavic antiquities of the Danube region *(Hrushevsky, 1991; Berg, 1923; Stanko, 1982; Gudkova, Fokeyev, 1994-1995).*

Without diminishing the scientific and socio-political significance of these works, it should be noted that the best material for the characterization of the pre-Slavic period of the Danube region is provided with the archeological excavations and the works written on their basis (*Vanchugov, Subbotin, Dzygovsky, 1992; Mozolevsky, 1983; Symonenko, Lobay, 1991; Samoilova, 1988; Son, 1993*). These explorations were initiated by the Russian archaeologist O.S. Uvarov and F.I. Knauer, the professor of Kyiv University. The archaeological explorations of the Danube region continued in the Soviet times. In May, 1925, the First All-Ukrainian Local History Meeting was held, where the Ukrainian Committee of the Local Lore (UCC) was elected. This committee, headed by M.I. Yavorsky, in every way contributed to the development of the archaeological research in the Danube region.

In the late 40's - early 50's of the twentieth century the region was explored by the special Bilgorod-Dnistrovsky archeological expedition (*Dmytrov, 1952*). In 1958, the excavations in the area of Tira were carried out by A.I. Furmanska (*Furmanskaya, 1963*). In 1973, the archaeologists worked in Artsyz and Bilgorod-Dnistrovsky districts (*Gudkova, 1973-1978*). In the last thirty years of the twentieth century the archaeologists and local historians I.A. Rafalovych, L.L. Polyovy, V.I. Krasnovsky, V.N. Stanko, N.M. Shmagliy, I.T. Chernyakov, I.V. Sapozhnykov and others, were working in the region (*History and Archeology of the Lower Danube region, 1989*).

Their researches allow us to draw the important conclusions for the comprehension of the ancient history of the Ukrainian Danube region:

- since the end of the IV millennium, the human life on the territory of the Ukrainian Danube has never stopped;
- the lands of the Danube yet in the pre-Slavic period were the contact zone of the multicultural tribes. This is proved by the presence of multicultural burials on the same stratigraphic level;
- the explored original sites testify that the primitive population more or less equally settled in both the steppe and the coastal zone of the Danube region. The invasion of the nomads radically changed both the ethnic composition of the population and its location on the territory of the region. There was a mixing of the local population with migrants;
- among the variety of mutual influences and the mixing of primitive cultures, the tradition of coexistence of farmers and cattle-breeders is seen, which is very close to the life, material and spiritual culture of the tribes of the Northern Black Sea coast.

The numerous works devoted to the Scythian-Sarmatian period in the history of Ukraine tell about the life of the ancient peoples on the territory of the Ukrainian Danube region. Among the great number of these works it should be noted the research of B.M. Mozolevsky «Scythian steppe», A.I. Terenozhkin «Cimmerians», which are characterized by the original, unique, deeply scientific vision of the Scythian-Sarmatian era. These and other works allow us to conclude that the creators of the original Scythian-ancient culture were mostly the inhabitants of the North-Western Black Sea coast region. Their way of life, religion, social order, traditions and preferences could not be neutral or disappear forever due to living together.

The problem of the Slavic colonization of the Danube has been complicated in the Ukrainian historiography. It is closely connected with the problem of the localization of the ancestral homeland of the Slavs. The numerous researches and sources with rather contradictory concepts are devoted to these problems (*The Tale of Time, 1990; Hrushevsky,*

1991; Berg, 1923; Pashuto, 1950; Makhov, 1969; Baran, 1981; Kukharenko, 1969; Petrov, 1975; Melnykova, 1999).

The Danube region played an important role in the early history of the Slavs, and the East-Slavic population had been the main population of the region for a long time. L. Berg, V. Pashuto, N. Makhov and others wrote about the Slavic colonization of the Danube region during its affiliation in the Galicia-Volyn principality. Some information about the Slavic population of the Ukrainian Danube region during the Mongol-Tatar invasion can be found in the works of M.S. Hrushevsky, V. Pashuto, N. Makhov and the researches by I. Grekov, P. Paraska, N. Rusev, A. Kravchenko and others.

We cannot help analyzing the Slavic colonization of the Danube region in the Romanian historiography. Trying to prove the historical affiliation of the Bessarabia lands to the Greater Romania, some of its representatives, in particular N. Iorga, I. Nistor, claimed that in the X-XI centuries all Slavic population of this region was «assimilated by the Romanians» (*Iorga, 1992*). It should be noted that not all Romanian historians approved this point of view. In this regard, I. Bogdan stated that «all our past life since the VI century is inextricably intertwined with the history of the Slavs, who lived both among us and around us».

The published works and sources say that the Slavic colonization of the Danube region was the main, but not the only one. Greeks, Thracians, Romans, Wallachians and Moldavians lived here. However, until the XV century, there were neither Wallachian nor Moldavian settlements on the territory that now forms the Ukrainian Danube region.

The researchers who devoted their work to the issues of the Turkish rule in the South-Western Black Sea Coast region (*Brun, 1868; Skalkovsky, 1843; Khalippa, 1914; Kantemyr, 1973; Palamarchuk, 2000; Kyrtoage, 1992; Bachynsky, Dobrolyubov, 1988*) also made the researches on the lands of the Ukrainian Danube region.

These works contain a great amount of the factual material that characterizes the Turkish rule, the changes that happened in the ethnic composition of the population. The general ideas about the ethnic composition of the region's population, its way of life, state of economy and culture are given by the travel descriptions of the foreigners who travelled the roads of Bessarabia in those years (*The Journey of Antioch Patriarch Macarius,1900; Kleyeman's Journey from Vienna,1783; Lyasota Erik from Steblev,1984; Yevliy Chelebi,1997*). It is clear that the vision of Bessarabia of that time by the foreign travellers depended on their intelligence, ideological views and political preferences, and it, therefore, requires critical thinking. Yevliy Chelebi, for example, was in sympathy with the Turkish Empire, he was interested in matters, above all, which ensured the power and security of his state. However, these were the eyewitness's accounts. The descriptions of the fortresses, roads, urban economy, trade, life of the local population, military affairs, administrative management expand our ideas about the history of the region, give the opportunity to feel the breath of that time better than special researches. The territory of the North-Western Black Sea region, as is well-known, was the place of struggle of the Ukrainian Cossacks against the Tatars and Turks for two centuries, later on – against the Russian and the Turkish empires, the first struggle – for asserting on the Balkans and Middle East, the second one for capturing the Western and Eastern Europe. A considerable place in these works is devoted to the certain aspects of the history of the population of the lands that now belong to the Ukrainian Danube region.

The affiliation of Bessarabia with Russia, the intensive settlement of the region in the late XVIII – early XIX centuries by the foreign colonists and immigrants from the central provinces of Ukraine and Russia, greatly attracted to this region not only the government officials, politicians, businessmen, but also the researchers and scientists. In 1821-1829,

officer Rozelyon Sashalskyy made a military-statistical description of the Bessarabia region. The reviews by P. Kunytsky (1812) and P. Svinin (1815) were devoted to Budzhak.

From the middle of the XIX century Bessarabia has been the object of the numerous scientific studies. The works of Russian and Moldavian authors were published (*Batyushkov, 1886; 1892; Grygorovych, 1876; Zashchuk, 1862; Skalkovsky, 1850–1853; Lukulesku, 1889*). The Russian historians began to call this region the «South-Russian region.» The vast majority of the works by the Russian historians were written from the standpoint of defending the colonial expansion of the tsarist Russia, glorifying the role of the Great Russian population in the conquest of the Danube region. For example, P.N. Batyushkov wrote about the need to educate the local population in the «spirit of the Russian people», advising to «submit to the influence of the strong and cultural tribes» (*Batyushkov, 1892*).

There was also another vision of the inhabitants' life in Bessarabia at that time. Associate professor I.S. Derzhavin, using his own researches and materials of the Slavic Commission of the Institute of Language and Literature of Leningrad University, which he headed, wrote about the long stagnation in the cultural development of the region. He noted that the Bulgarian people, losing their national traditions, joined the «Russian culture, carrying from the market to their village the Russian song of the city tavern and the same morality with all its components: alcoholism, debauchery, crime» (*Derzhavin, 1910*).

The history of the South-Western Black Sea Coast region is closely connected with the history of the Ukrainian Cossacks, who not only waged a long, difficult struggle against the Tatars and Turks, but also played a significant role in the economic and cultural conquest of this region. A considerable amount of works is devoted to the socio-political role of the Ukrainian Cossacks in the North-Western Black Sea Coast region, their military victories and economic activities in the Cossack settlements (*Markevych, 1859; Khoroshhyn, 1881; Kondratovych,1883; Korolenko,1891; Kolomoytsev,1913; Shafranov,1891; Ivanov, 1914; Yavornytsky, 1990; Ryabinin-Sklyarevsky, 1927; Holobutsky, 1961; Bachynsky, 1994; Tsyganenko, 1997*).

These works were written at different times, and therefore the interpretation of the history of the Ukrainian Cossacks in them is quite ambiguous. At the time when most Ukrainian historians considered the Cossacks the leading force of the survival and preservation of the Ukrainian population in the Danube region, the Russian historians find them as a destructive, anti-state force. Both Turkey and Russia, in the struggle for the North-Western Black Sea Coast region, played the Cossack card, they made certain concessions to the Cossacks in order to turn them into a military force, but in fact they did all possible to oust them from the social and political life. The question of the relationship between the «Turkish oppression» and the «Russian oppression», the forced and the voluntary Cossacks' collaborationism in the Turkish domain, remains debatable until now.

Some events in the history of the Danube region in the late XIX – early XX centuries are described on the pages of the chronicle «Chisinau Diocesan Journal», which are stored in the municipal institution «Izmail Archive». In this journal the inspector of the Izmail town vocational school P.G. Kolomoytsev published his original historical reviews which till recently remained away from the scientists' attention. (*Kolomoytsev, 1913, 1914*).

Certain monographs, numerous journal articles and newspaper publications are devoted to the history of the Ukrainian Danube region in the XX century. Most of them were written from the Marxist-Leninist points of view, in the spirit of the official Soviet ideology, and therefore, on their pages there are many cases of disputed interpretation of the facts, the idealization of «the revolutionary reformations», ideologized generalizations and conclusions *(Bachynsky, 1984; Budak, 1955; Bereznyakov, 1957; Yesaulenko, 1977; Melnik, 1981*). These works ignore an important fact that the Danube region started the XX

century as a feudal-ethnic society interspersed with bourgeois relations. Both Russian revolutions of the early XX century came to the Danube from Petrograd, Moscow, industrial cities. Due to the social and cultural backwardness of the region, there were not enough conditions for the strengthening not only the social-democratic, but also the liberal-democratic ideas. The majority of the region's population did not approve the radicalism of the Bolsheviks. They relied mainly on the revolutionary soldiers of the Russian army who were in the region. Frequent change of the statehood, insufficient structure of the population, diversity of the ideologies, mentality, affected by the ethnic stereotypes, led to the uncertainty, division – most residents of the region often did not know «which god to pray to, which shore to stick to».

Since the second half of the 50's of the XX century the works have been published where the researches of pre-revolutionary times are reconsidered and supplemented, the historical stereotypes of the totalitarian Soviet times are gradually overcome (*Antsupov, 1958; 1966; Grosul, 1956; Zhukov, 1964; Kustryabova, 1977; Budak, 1955; Symashko, 1969; Boyechko, 1992; Sergeichuk, 1991;Bachynsky, 1964; Palamarchuk, 1997*).

In the independent Ukraine, historians have been given the opportunity to study the history of the region without bias and prejudice. Having overcome the historiographical vacuum of the Soviet era, using new methodological approaches, expanding the scope of their research, they continued to study various aspects of history of the Ukrainian Danube region. Among these problems, the issues of the settlement and development of the Southern Bessarabia region remain actual. Thus, L.S. Melnykova studied the East Slavic colonization of the region in the V - XIX centuries and came to conclusion that it was the Slavic tribes that played a leading role in the conquest of this region (*Melnykova, 1997;1999*). For the first time a comprehensive study of the colonization of the Danube lands by the Ukrainian population in the XVIII – XX centuries was carried out by O.A, Bachynska, who analyzed the causes and territories of migration, the stages of colonization, stated the role of the Ukrainian Cossacks in the settlement of the region and described the interactions between the Ukrainian population and other ethnic groups (*Bachynska, 2002*). The researcher S.V. Palamarchuk for the first time in the national science analyzed the development of the interfluve area of the Dniester and the Danube rivers from the late XIV to XVII centuries, the formation of such territorial structures as Akkerman, Kiliya, Izmail and Budjak lands, the formation of the historical and geographical region Bessarabia and the relation of this name with the term Budjak (*Palamarchuk, 2008*). The following archaeologists actively researched the history of the region in the ancient period: R.D. Bondar, I.V. Bruyako, A.N. Dzygovsky, I.V. Sapozhnykov, V.G. Petrenko and others (*Bondar, 1997; Bondar, Petrenko, 2005; Bruyako, 1913; Dzygovsky, Sapozhnykov, 2018*). A collective monograph was the result of more than half a century of archaeological research in the Northwest Black Sea region. In this monograph the authors chronologically characterize different cultures and civilizations that existed on these lands in ancient times – from the late Stone Age to the Middle Ages *(Ancient Cultures of the North -Western Black Sea Coast region, 2013*).

As it has already been mentioned, the history of the South-Western Black Sea region is closely connected with the history of the Ukrainian Cossacks, the problem of the settlement and development of the Ukrainian population in the interfluve area of the Dniester and the Danube rivers in the XVIII - XIX centuries. This issue is successfully studied by the famous Ukrainian researcher O.A. Bachynska. She is the author of a number of works in which she examines the history of the Danube Cossack army, the policy of the Russian and Turkish empires in the Danube lands, the settlement and economic development of the Danube lands by the Ukrainian population in the XVIII – early XX centuries. (*Bachynska, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007*).

The history of the Old Believers of the Danube region is the subject of the research of the modern Ukrainian scholars Prygarin O.A., Fedorova A.I., Kucheryavenko I.F. In his works, Prygarin O.A. considered the history of the Old Believers' moving to Bessarabia, the culture of the Old Believers in this region, their lifesyle and religious traditions (*Prygarin, 2001, 2005*). In her works A.I. Fedorova studied Bessarabia as a region of settlement of the Old Believers. She described the main stages of the formation of the Old Believers' settlements, the peculiarities of their settlement in these areas, the daily life of the communities, the functioning of the local Old Believers' monasteries (*Fedorova, 2002, 2004, 2005*). I.F. Kucheryavenko studied the history of the Izmail-Bessarabian Old Believers' eparchy, Old Believers' monasteries, material and spiritual culture of the Old Believers and their role in the colonization of the Southern Bessarabia (*Kucheryavenko, 2006, 2007*).

The Ukrainian historians continue to actively study the issues of the economic, social and political development of the Southern Bessarabia region during different periods. For example, L.F. Tsyganenko focused on the researches of the problems of the South-Ukrainian nobility and its contribution to the economic and socio-political processes in the region *(Tsyganenko, 2009, 2006*). The author studied the legal bases of the registration of these layers, the characteristic features of nobilitation and the internal stratification of the nobility of the region, characterized its ethnic structure. A considerable attention in the research is paid to the changes in the system of landowning tenure, participation of the nobility in the industrial and trade-financial activity. This is the first complex research of the designated questions on the materials of four southern Ukrainian provinces – Katerinoslavska, Kherson, Tavria and Bessarabia. The role and value of trade in expansion of Bessarabia's economic relations were studied by V.M. Tomulets (*Tomulets, 2005*). The formation and development of banking and credit system in the region became the object of research by O.I. Mykhaylov (*Mykhaylov, 2014; 2016*), the process of the socio-political evolution of the bourgeoisie in the southern provinces of the Russian Empire during the revolutionary process of 1905 – 1907 was analyzed in the works by O.O. Posternak (*Posternak, 2008; 2009*).

Various aspects of history of ethnic groups on the territory of the region at the end of the XIX – the beginning of the XX centuries were investigated by Yu.Yu. Boguslavska, A.V. Dizanova, V.V. Drozdov, S.Z. Novakov, I.Ye. Tatarynov, V. G. Tserkovna, L.F. Tsyganenko (*Boguslavska, 2004; Dizanova, 2010; Drozdov, 2017; Novakov, 2004; Tatarynov, 2013; Tserkovna, 2017; Tsyganenko, 2016; 2017).*

The issues of the specific features of traditional culture of Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Gagauz and the representatives of other ethnos in the multi-cultural environment of the Ukrainian Danube region are being actively investigated now. In this line of research, O.I. Ganchev, A.V. Dizanova, V.G. Kushnir, N.A. Petrova are successfully working (*Ganchev, 2013; Dizanova, 2013; Kushnir, 2012; Petrova, 2001; 2005*).

Over the last ten years, there appeared a number of the scientific works devoted to the history of charity and its realization in various spheres of public life in the Southern Bessarabia. This line of research is being successfully investigated by L.F. Tsyganenko, who in a number of her works analyzed the charity of Bessarabia's nobility in various spheres (*Tsyganenko, 2008; 2011; 2012*). The researcher states that the noblemen of the region were «an important subject of the public work», they promoted the expansion of the educational institutions, gave a financial support to the local governments in the sphere of education, they started and ran schools and gymnasiums with their own money. L.F. Tsyganenko also investigated the issues of charity and trustee work in the sphere of medical care of the poorest stratum of population, the charity work of various ethnos, noble

families and certain representatives of the political elite of the region (*Tsyganenko, 2013; 2015; 2008*).

A significant number of the publications by N.O. Goncharova are devoted to the analysis of the noblemen's charity of the South of Ukraine in the spheres of education, medical care, church charity (*Goncharova, 2014; 2015; 2016).* She is also successfully working in the line of research, analysis and systematization of archival sources on the history of noble charity, such as «A complete collection of laws of the Russian Empire», the official periodical press including the church press, the works of the Tavria scientific archival commission, the documents of the Institute of manuscript, the materials of territorial collecting, guides and so on. The researcher N.V. Moroshan made actual scientific investigations on the participation of noblemen of the region in the organization of charity work during the East (Crimean) war of 1853-1856, the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878 and the Russian-Japanese war of 1904-1905 (*Moroshan, 2016; 2018; 2019*). A young historian I.Ye. Tatarynov was the first to investigate the activity of the Chisinau eparchy during the initial stage of World War I (*Tatarynov, 2013; 2015*). A.O. Dorosheva, M.I. Bashly investigated in their works a wide range of problems, concerning different types, forms and methods of charity and their influence on the development of the South Ukrainian provinces (*Dorosheva, 2006; 2007; Bashly, 2015*).

During the last decade the scientists are successfully researching a number of actual regional problems on the history of the region. For example, in one of her articles L.F. Tsyganenko tells about the attempt of solving a question of lack of pedagogical staff in the region by starting a teacher's seminary in Bayramcha (nowadays the village of Nikolayevka-Novorossiysk of Sarata district, Odessa region) which ended with a failure (*Tsyganenko, 2018*). On the basis of the published statistical materials of «Bessarabia province survey» within 1878 – 1910, T.G. Yerych analyzed the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the development of educational institutions of the state, regional and church submission in the Southern Bessarabia. The researcher came to a conclusion that in spite of the growth of number of educational institutions in the region, they did not satisfy the needs of residents of the province (*Yerych, 2019*). The state of education in the Ukrainian Danube region in the XX century was analyzed by L.V. Chorna. She stated that the development of the educational system in the region was defined by the specific features and needs of the business and economic activity of the region. In general, the educational system satisfied the needs of economy in the staff, however, the opportunities to get education in the Ukrainian language were extremely limited (*Chorna, 2017*). L.F. Tsyganenko also investigated the problems of development of some branches of light industry on the territory of the region, its features and the reasons of lag in comparison with other provinces (*Tsyganenko, 2019*).

The Izmail historians actively investigate the ethnic structure of the population of the region. L.F. Tsyganenko investigated the position of the Polish ethnic group in Izmail at the beginning of the XIX century, the place and role of Serbians in the Danube region (*Tsyganenko, 2017; 2015*). Studying the materials of official statistics, V.V. Drozdov analyzed the ethnic structure of the urban population of the Southern Bessarabia at the end of the XIX – early XX centuries (*Drozdov, 2017*). On the basis of population censuses analysis of the cities of Akkerman, Tuchkov (Ismail), Renie and Kiliya, the researcher established the size of the Greek ethnic community, defined its place in the ethno-social structure of the city dwellers after the accession of this territory to the Russian Empire (*Drozdov, 2019*). The ethnic structure of the population of the Ukrainian Danube region in the second half of the XX century was researched by V.G. Tserkovna, who analyzed its territorial differences concerning the administrative regions, defined the specific features of the settlement of Ukrainians and the largest ethnic groups (*Tserkovna, 2018*).

It's important that the modern Ukrainian scientists are also working in the line of research of the region history before and during the years of World War I. In their scientific research, the historians V .V. Drozdov, L.V. Chorna, I. Ye. Tatarynov investigated the preventive actions and fight against epidemics in the Izmail County, installing electric lighting in Izmail, the process of implementation of a military horse duty in the Bessarabia province in the years of World War I (*Drozdov, 2017; Chorna, 2018; Tatarynov, 2015*).

The scientists did not ignore the history of the Southern Bessarabia and Ukrainian Danube region in the years of World War II. A.V, Dizanova, V.P. Hadzhyradeva investigated in their works the situation on the eve and during the years of World War II (*Dizanova, 2005; 2016; 2017; Hadzhyradeva, 2010*). Among the historians who study different sides of the Romanian occupational regime on the territory of modern Odessa region, it is necessary to mention M.I. Mykhaylutsa who paid attention to the state of church, characterized the activity of the Romanian religious mission in Transnistriya and the Southern Bessarabia, brought up a question of collaborationism on these territories (*Mykhaylutsa, 2006; 2009; 2016*). The young researcher A.V. Akchebash started the investigation of the activities of various religious organizations on the territory of the region, and repressions from the side of the Soviet power concerning believers in the second half of the 40-s of the XX century *(Akchebash, 2019*). G.V. Gold (Vetrova) and A.O. Dorosheva investigated the reasons of the origin of the Bessarabia problem and its development on the eve of World War II. They analyzed the social and economic, political and cultural processes, the policy of the Romanian power concerning certain ethnic groups on the occupied territories (*Gold, Dorosheva, 2016*). In her article, G.V. Vetrova brought up the question of specific features of the economic development of the Southern Bessarabia as a part of the Royal Romania in 1918 - 1940 *(Vetrova, 2013).*

V.G. Tserkovna, N.V. Volkanova made a noticeable step in studying the history of the Ukrainian Danube region, analyzing the fact of hunger of 1946-1947 on the territory of Izmail region, and its regional features (*Tserkovna, 2017; Volkanova, 2017).*

The regional-historic investigations of the Izmail historians deserve our attention as they characterized in their works the archival inheritance of Bessarabia, the activity of certain outstanding people and dynasties, the biographic materials on the pages of religious editions, the local history researches of the activity of the Odessa history and antiquities society. *(Drozdov, 2017; Volkanova, 2018; Akchebash, 2019; Tserkovna, 2019; Chorna, 2015),* the everyday life of citizens (*Goncharova, 2019*), socio-cultural processes in the multicultural region *(Chorna, 2017)* and so forth.

Therefore, we observe a consistent trend to theoretical scientific grounding of the Ukrainian Danube region as a subregion, being the part of the Southern Ukraine region (The Southern Bessarabia since the ancient times to the late XVIII c., 2011; The Southern Bessarabia (late XVIII - XIX cent.), 2011; The sources of the Southern Bessarabia history (since the ancient times till the late XIX cent.), 2013; Izmail State University of Humanities: pages of history, 2015; Izmail State University of Humanities: pages of history, 2016; Ismail streets, 2017; They changed history, 2019; History and civilization of the Law Danube, 2018; Documents and materials on the history of the Southern Bessarabia Greeks, 2019; Documents and materials on the history of the Southern Bessarabia Bulgarians, 2019).

The historical regional studies as the new approach in historical science allows to deeply analyze the political, economic, culturo-logical, ethno-social, mental processes in the certain local territorial parts, and also to concentrate on «boundary» researches. All this will allow us to include the Ukrainian Danube region in the network of regions of the global world.

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