

**Mykhailo Hrushevsky. *History of Ukraine-Rus'. Volume 7: The Cossack Age to 1625.*** Translated by Bohdan Strumiński. Edited by Serhii Plokhyy, Consulting Editor, and Frank E. Sysyn, Editor-in-Chief, with the assistance of Uliana M. Pasiecznyk. lxxvi, 548 pp. Glossary, Maps, Tables, Bibliography, Index. Edmonton-Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 1999. Cloth \$119.95.

Hrushevsky's unfinished ten-volume (eleven-book) history of Ukraine consisted of three subseries. The first three volumes dealt with the Kyivan princely state and its successors through the middle of the fourteenth century. Volumes 4-6 focused on Ukraine under Polish and Lithuanian rule from the fourteenth to the second decade of the seventeenth century. The last four dealt with the Ukrainian Cossacks from the fifteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. The volume under review here is Volume 7 of the series and the first in the subseries on the Cossacks. It is the second volume of the translation project by the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The first to appear was Volume 1 (see *Kritika* 1.1 [Winter, 2000]: 195-202). Translated from the only Ukrainian edition of 1909, Volume 7 maintains the high scholarly standards set by its predecessor, and will be of inestimable value to students of Ukrainian and East European, including Russian, history.

Hrushevsky discussed the origins of Ukrainian Cossackdom as an occupation, a social phenomenon resulting from the social and economic conditions on the southeastern Ukrainian frontier in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Volume 7 considers the activities of hetman Dmytro Vyshnevetsky, who entered Ivan the Terrible's service and managed to leave with his head still attached to his shoulders; the transformation of the Cossacks into an organized social stratum and the creation of the Zaporozhian Host; the first Cossack wars under Kosynsky and Nalyvaiko in the 1590s; Cossack involvement in the Muscovite "Time of Troubles"; the role of the Cossacks in the re-establishment of an Orthodox Church hierarchy in Ukraine and its attendant cultural revival, including the activities of Petro Mohyla; the 1620 Khotyn War against the Ottoman Empire; and the 1625 Polish-Cossack War. In short, Volume 7 is dedicated in its entirety to the pre-Khmelnysky period.

The translator and editors deserve considerable kudos for their achievement. The translation reads extremely well, aided and abetted, to be sure, by Hrushevsky's ironic and sarcastic observations. The editors have corrected factual and typographical errors; provided identifications of locations (especially important considering the significance of geography to Hrushevsky's exposition), people, and events; and updated textual attributions (Hrushevsky quoted sources extensively). The editors

**CANADIAN SLAVONIC PAPERS**

43.1 March 2001

supplied the two maps and tables of hetmans and rulers. Plokyh updated each of Hrushevsky's nine bibliographic "Notes."

In his "Introduction," Plokyh explains the circumstances in which Volume 7 was written. Utilizing his own and his students' archival researches, Hrushevsky provided the most comprehensive, complete, systematic, and definitive study of early Cossackdom available then or since. Plokyh pays close attention to Hrushevsky's populism, which made him skeptical of the class alliance between the Cossacks and their social enemies, the Ukrainian nobility and burghers, rather than with their natural social allies, the peasantry. Hrushevsky interpreted the alliance between the Cossacks and the Ukrainian "intelligentsia," namely the clergy, as crucial to Cossack growth beyond narrower Cossack interests to espousing religious and national values. Hrushevsky took an extremely critical attitude toward sources, discarding forgeries and fantasies, cautiously avoiding the pitfalls of reading mid-seventeenth century Cossack institutions into earlier periods. Even subsequent historians who disagreed with Hrushevsky's point of view evaluated the volume positively.

Hrushevsky's overarching conceptualization of the evolution of Cossackdom remains breathtaking in its sophistication and profundity, and Plokyh rightly considers this volume an indispensable turning point in Cossack historical studies.

Hrushevsky's approach was as much thematic as chronological. Therefore, he frequently cited earlier volumes of the "History," especially 5 and 6, for background. Volume 7 retains these citations to the Ukrainian editions of those volumes, since references to the English volumes can only be inserted as they appear (cf. Plokhii, p. xxxix n. 60 to Volume 1 vs. Hrushevsky, Note 8, p. 466 to Volume 6; otherwise the apparatus clearly refers to the Ukrainian editions). It would have been ideal for the volumes to have been translated in their original sequence.

The tensions between Hrushevsky's scholarly objectivity, on the one hand, and his passionate patriotism and political loyalties, on the other, rarely remained below the surface. The historiographic "subtext" of Volume 1 was the interplay of his populism and statism; volume 7 centers on the contradictions between his populism and his nationalism. This is more than a tale of Polish perfidy and Ukrainian heroism, although Hrushevsky spares no colors in painting both, nor in desecrating the class prejudices of Ukrainian nobles who betrayed the national cause. But he was equally unsparring in depicting Cossacks (e.g., Borodavka) as at times no better than opportunistic bandits. The events of Cossack history to 1625, which Hrushevsky depicted with sympathy and honesty in equal measure, were, to him, but a part of the greater tragedy of Cossackdom in Ukrainian history, awaiting exploration in subsequent volumes. Thus the translation project will only enhance Hrushevsky's reputation among the broader audience to whom the Ukrainian edition remains inaccessible.