THE FAMOUS WOMEN OF THE PERIOD OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF UKRAINE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL STATE

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The period of the Ukrainian Central Council occupies a special place in the history of Ukrainian women. At this time, the social horizons of women expanded, which gave them significant free will and contributed to the growth of their activity. In particular, Ukrainian women gained access to more complete self-realization in the public sphere of society, since their education, talent, wisdom, balance, perseverance and consistency in the public arena were in demand in the revolutionary transformations of social institutions.

In this landmark period for Ukrainian women, they gained the right to participate equally with men in the construction of Ukrainian statehood. Highly educated, patriotic women representatives of the Ukrainian movement got access to public administration. Nadezhda Surovtseva, Lyudmila Staritskaya-Chernyakhovskaya and Zinaida Mirnaya are considered to be one of the leading activists of the Ukrainian movement of the times of the Ukrainian Central Council, whose life and activity became the subject of scientific research.

Among the personalities who paved the way for Ukraine's independence and democracy was Nadezhda Surovtseva (1896–1985). She was a public and political figure, diplomat, writer, historian and journalist, but above all an ardent patriot of Ukraine [2, 78].

The period of the Ukrainian revolution of 1917–1921, in which the young years of Nadezhda Surovtsova fell, was difficult and rich in significant events. Her life and work during the period of the Ukrainian Central Council, described by her in memoirs, is one of the sources of the biography of the Ukrainian people of 1917–1918 [6, 12].

Nadezhda Surovtsova met the February Revolution of 1917 in Petrograd, where, as a student, she joined the Revolutionary Committee. In particular, the girl was a member of the Ukrainian Society, which had its representatives in the Petrograd Soviet of Workers’ and Soldiers’ Deputies [3, 157].
Conscious Ukrainians of Petrograd, hoping that better times will begin for Ukraine, plunged into the preparation of the demonstration, thus seeking to demonstrate their commitment to the February Revolution of 1917. However, in the process of organizing it, news came from Kiev about the creation of the Ukrainian Central Council, therefore, in March 1917, the Revolutionary Committee delegated Nadezhda Vitalyevna to Kiev. She was instructed to find out from Mikhail Grushevsky the question of the need to return to Ukraine the Ukrainian student youth from Petrograd. The positive response of the head of the Central Council of Ukraine contributed to the completion of the Petrograd period of the life of a female student and a revolutionary woman Nadezhda Surovtsova. The Uman period began, when a woman received the position of district instructor of the Central Council of Ukraine [2, 81].

As a representative of the Ukrainian government, Nadezhda Surovtsova visited Uman villages and informed their residents of the revolutionary transformations of recent months in Petrograd and in Ukraine itself. Indeed, due to the lack of press and wireless telegraphy, the inhabitants of the Uman countryside did not know about the overthrow of the Russian autocracy and the beginning of the construction of the Ukrainian state [5, 146].

The next task of Nadezhda Surovtsova was to carry out propaganda work among Uman soldiers, which was associated with the Ukrainianization of military units. By order from Kiev, Nadezhda Surovtsova, as the authorized person of the Ukrainian Central Council, was to convey to the soldier’s audience information on the results of the First All-Ukrainian Military Congress of Soviets, which was held in Kiev in late May 1917 and Ukraine’s intentions to leave the war [3, 158].

Her constructive propaganda work among the soldiers was successful. In particular, in early June 1917, Nadezhda Surovtsova organized a military rally in the city of Uman. During the meeting, soldiers of the 14th Reserve Infantry Regiment decided to consider it Ukrainian, naming it after Ivan Gonta [2, 82].

The social activities of Nadezhda Surovtsova in Uman included membership in the county “Peasant Union”, where the woman received the position of deputy chairman of the society [5, 147–148].

One of the important events that made a lasting impression on Nadezhda Surovtsova was her solemn speech on the main square of the city of Uman regarding the historical role, significance and content of the First Universal of the Ukrainian Central Council (June 10 (23), 1917) [2, 83].

The further stage of her life and activity is connected directly with Kiev. There, a woman joins the work in the Department for Refugees under the General Secretariat of the Interior. She began her career in this institution as a clerk-typist. At her new work, Nadezhda Surovtseva met with leading political figures of the Ukrainian Central Council, in particular, with Alexander Shulgin. When the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs is subsequently opened, he will head it and offer the woman the position of head of the general department [6, 13].

However, Nadezhda Surovtseva’s activities in the diplomatic field will be disrupted by the coup in Petrograd (October 25 (November 7), 1917). As a result of the first Soviet-Ukrainian war (December 1917 – March 1918) there was a
temporary relocation of the leading staff of the civil service of the Ukrainian Central Council from Kiev to the city of Zhytomyr [2, 85].

In such a critical period for the Ukrainian People's Republic, the top leadership turns to the countries of the Fourth Union for help. Nadezhda Surovtseva, as an employee of the foreign ministry, was among those who joined the preparation of the negotiation process with the German-Austrian side. The conclusion of the Brest Peace Treaty (January 26, 1918) facilitated the return of Nadezhda Surovtseva with other employees to Kiev, where she began her main mission – establishing interstate relations [3, 161].

On April 29, 1918, Nadezhda Surovtseva did not learn about the change of power in Ukraine from the media. The female diplomat belonged to a narrow circle of people who tried to save the Ukrainian Central Council from defeat. In particular, she was instructed to hold a meeting with the German ambassador to the Ukrainian People's Republic, Alfons Mumm, and invite Mikhail Grushevsky to declare himself a dictator. However, the head of the Ukrainian Central Council categorically rejected such a proposal. The above circumstances not only turned the next page of Nadezhda Surovtseva's life, but also put an end to the existence of the Ukrainian People's Republic since the times of the Ukrainian Central Council [2, 86].

The formation of the image of the then Ukrainian political woman figure was also influenced by the socio-political activity of a rather extraordinary person, a talented Ukrainian playwright and public figure Lyudmila Staritskaya-Chernyakhovskaya (1868–1941) [1, 517].

A patriotic intellectual woman known in the Ukrainian cultural and artistic environment simply could not have been uninvited to participate in state activities of the period of the Ukrainian Central Council. Its entry into the Ukrainian political environment had an objective explanation. Firstly, it is the leap formation of Lyudmila Staritskaya-Chernyakhovskaya. Secondly, she had considerable experience in social activities, and therefore was one of those who were members of the leadership of the Ukrainian Central Council [4, 83].

Conscious Ukrainians also include Zinaida Mirnaya (1875–1950) among the prominent figures of the Ukrainian movement during the period of the Ukrainian Central Council [5, 147].

Just as there are women who are considered “style icons”, there are women who have become a model of spiritual female power, representatives of its value and high mission in society. That was Zinaida Mirnaya. An activist who has grown as a person in the Ukrainian women’s movement. She appreciated the ideas of female unity and solidarity. For example, being a female member of the Ukrainian Central Council, she proved by her tireless social and political activities the role and importance of women in the formation of the Ukrainian state [4, 87].

Noting her fruitful social activities in the pre-revolutionary period, together with other activists she joined the revolutionary ranks. In particular, she participated in the creation of new women’s associations and in the work of the All-Ukrainian Women’s Congress, which took place on September 14(27), 1917 in Kiev [6, 14].
To be more precise, the beginning of Zinaida Mirna’s political career came from the organization of the first composition of the Ukrainian Central Council. By this time, she was already an experienced public figure, a leading member of the authoritative Kiev Society for the Defense of Women, whose main focus was the fight against prostitution and trafficking in women [3, 165].

The social and political activities of Zinaida Mirnoy in April 1917 entered a new round of their development. This was due to the construction of Ukrainian statehood. In the above privacy, she was a woman delegate to the All-Ukrainian National Congress, responsible for clerical work in the financial department of the Ukrainian Central Council and a female member, created in June 1917, of the Malaya Rada [5, 148].

Her main responsibility was to prepare, organize and hold various conferences, congresses, meetings of delegates and the like. The most significant events, whose organization was entrusted to Zinaida Mirna, were the All-Ukrainian National Congress and the Day of the National Fund. As for the latter, it was carried out with the aim of collecting donations for national needs. To do this, a Committee was created by Zinaida Merna, whose members, through leaflets and newspapers, contacted Ukrainian society with the rationale for creating a charitable foundation. They urged its members to donate their earnings in one working day for the needs of the Ukrainian Central Council. The common cause of the activists under her leadership was successful. Campaigning was effective, therefore, funds from the Ukrainian population began to flow within a week. The “National Fund Day” in Kiev lasted several days (during the day there were rallies, and in the evening there were theater performances). The money collected in this way was deposited into the bank account of the Ukrainian Central Council [4, 88].

All of the above achievements of Zinaida Mirna contributed to her appointment to leadership positions in the Committee of the Society for Aid to the Population of Ukraine Affected by War, organized in August 1917, and the Executive Committee for Refugees, established in October of the same year [6, 14].

Studying the problem “The famous women of the period of the Central Council of Ukraine and their contribution to the building of the national state”, the author came to the conclusion, that the national-democratic transformations that took place during the period of the Ukrainian Central Rada contributed not only to the gradual rethinking by women of their social mission and their direct relation to public duties, but they also provided an opportunity for socially active female patriots to feel the practical consequences of the political practices they received.
ЗОВНІШНЬОПОЛІТИЧНА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ
БОГДАНА ХМЕЛЬНИЦЬКОГО ЯК СУБ’ЄКТА
МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИН

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Українська козацька держава, яка виникла у середині XVII століття, займала особливе геополітичне становище на політичній карті тогочасної Європи. У цьому регіоні домінували великі держави: Річ Посполита, Московська держава, Османська імперія. Безумовно, що всі вони не були зацікавлені в існуванні самостійної й міцної Української держави, адже це суперечило їхнім політичним намірам щодо українських земель. Виникнення Української держави порушило рівновагу сил у Центрально-Східній Європі. Щоб зберегти себе як незалежну державу, Україні доводилося проводити гнучку зовнішню політику і шукати союзників серед сусідніх та віддалених країн [1].

Головною метою зовнішньополітичної діяльності гетьмана було утвердження самостійної козацької держави як рівноважного суб’єкта міжнародних відносин. У пошуках союзників для боротьби з Польщею Хмельницький увійшов у дипломатичні зв'язки майже з усіма країнами Європи.

Польський історик Л. Кубаля не без захву ту писав, що, «здається, не було й дня, щоб Богдан не приймав іноземних послів, дипломатичних агентів, кур’єрів і посланців, або не виряджав своїх» [2].