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COSSACK TERMINOLOGY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF THE HETMANATE, THE UKRAINIAN COSSACK STATE

Terminological problems bedevil all scholars of Eastern Europe. Conflicting geographical and historical nomenclature confuses the reader unfamiliar with the complexities of this region. These problems proliferate in the field of Ukrainian history wherein Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Rumanian and German terms were used to describe the same places, figures and events. This chaos forces researchers and writers to publish extensive indices and glossaries to make their works readable.

In order to standardize the terminology which refers to a segment of Ukrainian history, the Cossack era (approximately from the end of the fifteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century), we propose the following list of terms.¹ They will be divided into several categories:

- a. General Terms
- b. Geographical Terms
- c. Cossack administration and officers
- d. Cossack realia

The suggested terms attempt to approximate parallel institutions of Western Europe and will incorporate terms which gained general acceptance in the English language. Short definitions of terms are provided and the Library of Congress transliteration system is used.

GENERAL TERMS

Autonomists — name used to describe a group of Cossack officers and Ukrainian nobility, mostly from the northern part of the Hetmanate, who wanted to restore the Hetmanate in the late 1780's & 1790's.

Common Cossacks — *chern*, describes the rank and file, sometimes in the pejorative.

Company — an administrative unit, part of a regiment. The company or *sotnia* equaled a county. Also, a military unit, one of many composing a regiment.

Cossack — *kozak*, a free person bearing arms and belonging to a military class or group. In Ukraine, during the XVI through XVIII centuries there were various Cossack groups:

¹ On July 12, 1973 and July 16, 1973, terminological seminars devoted to Cossack terminology were held at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The author attended the first session and acknowledges gratefully the chance to use some of the terms discussed in his paper.

Elected Cossacks — *vyborni kozaky*, after 1735, the wealthier Cossacks in a regiment and company who were able to provide their own horse, ammunition and provisions for a campaign.

Helper Cossacks — *kozaky pidpomichnyky*, after 1735, poor Cossacks unable to provide their own mount and provisions. Served as infantry, sappers, garrison troops and in other auxiliary positions.

Registered Cossacks — *reiestrovi kozaky*, a select group of Cossacks serving the Polish Crown. In the first half of the 17th century, they numbered 6,000 to 8,000. During the Khmelnytskyi Era, they swelled to 60,000 and became a regular army.

Town Cossacks — *horodovi kozaky*, Cossacks living in towns and recognizing the authority of the Polish government. After Khmelnytskyi's Uprising, the Cossacks of the Hetmanate as distinguished from the Zaporozhian Cossacks.

Zaporozhian Cossacks — *zaporozhtsi*, also known as Dnieper Cossacks. Cossacks living at the *Sich* or in the Dnieper steppes, not recognizing any authority other than the *Koshovyi Otaman* at the *Sich*.

Cossackdom — *Kozachyna*, period of the Cossacks in Ukrainian history, from the late fifteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century.

Decree — *hramota*, command or order of the Hetman or other administrative bodies to a private individual or corporation.

Dnieper cataracts or rapids — *Dniprovi porohy*, extensive rock formations on the lower Dniiper River, which blocked normal navigation. The area south of the rapids became the center of extensive Zaporozhian Cossack dominions.

Era of Khmelnytskyi — *Khmelnychyna*, period from 1648 to 1657, embracing the Khmelnytskyi Uprising of 1648, the establishment of the Hetmanate in 1649 and the war with Poland for its survival.

Era of the Ruin — *Ruina*, period from 1659 to 1676. Ukrainian equivalent of the Time of Troubles with constant warfare, civil war and destruction.

Era of Vyhovskiyi — *Vybovshchyna*, period of Hetman Ivan Vyhovskiyi, 1657—1659, characterized by Pushhar's revolt, Treaty of Hadiach, battle of Konotop and introduction to the Era of the Ruin.

Hajdamaks — bands of peasants and some Cossacks who plundered Polish manors during the eighteenth century, mostly on the Right Bank Ukraine.

Hetman — chief military leader of the Cossacks. Head of the Hetmanate, after 1648.

Hetmanate, Hetman State — *Hetmanshchyna*, Cossack state in the Eastern Ukraine which existed from 1648 through 1782. It was a class state with the Cossacks ruling the other classes of population, through its officers. It was an autonomous institution with its own army, administration and justice.

Homestead — *zymovnyk* or *kbutir*, often the dwelling of Cossacks.

Kish — centre of the Zaporozhian Cossacks, usually the *Sich*.

Koliiv Uprising — *Koliivshchyna*, peasant *jacquerie* in 1768—69 under the command of Zalizniak and Gonta, on the Right Bank Ukraine.

Little Russia — *Malorossia*, official term for the Hetmanate used by the Russian (Muscovite) officials.

Little Russia Department — *Malorossiskii Prikaz*, part of the Russian Chancellery dealing with Ukrainian affairs.

Little Russia Collegium — *Malorossiiska Kollegia*, institution which governed the Hetmanate when the office of the Hetman was vacant.

Palanka — administrative unit of the Lands of the Zaporozhians. In 1775, there were 8 *palanky*.

Palatine — *voevoda*, head of the palatinate.

Peasantry — *pospolyti*, general term used by Cossacks to designate members of non-Cossack status, often included townsmen of smaller towns.

Regiment — *polk*, administrative division of the Hetmanate. Their number varied, but 10 regiments composed the Hetmanate the longest. Also the regiment was a large unit of the Cossack army.

Register — *reestr*, census of all Cossacks serving in the army and exempt from various burdens imposed on other classes.

Roster — *komput*, current list of Cossacks of a given regiment.

Sich — headquarters of the Zaporozhian Cossacks and the capital of all their dominions. It was located on the Dnieper River, below the cataracts and served as the main stronghold of the Zaporozhians.

Starosta — chief official of a smaller territorial unit, part of the palatinate during the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the former Rus-Lithuanian State.

Treaty of Hadiach, 1658 — between Hetman Vyhovskiy and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. An attempt to make the Hetmanate and the rest of Ukraine an equal partner in a triune commonwealth, ended in failure.

Treaty of Pereiaslav, 1654 — between Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyi and Muscovy. The former recognized the sovereignty of the Tsar of Muscovy over the Hetmanate but Muscovy guaranteed the Hetmanate full autonomy.

Treaty of Zboriv, 1649 — between Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyi and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. *De jure* recognition of the Hetmanate as an autonomous state within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Universal — public proclamation or decree of the Hetman or the chief executive body.

Wagonburg — *tabir*, fortified campground of the Cossacks while on campaign, easily defended against enemy attack.

Zaporozhzhia or Zaporozhe — synonymous with the Lands of the Zaporozhians.

Zaporozhian Host — *Viisko Zaporozhke*, official name of the Hetmanate.

Zaporozhian order — *sichovyi ustrii*, democratic system prevalent in the Sich and among the Zaporozhian Cossacks.

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

Lands of the Zaporozhian Cossacks — *Zemli Zaporozhkykh Kozakiv* or *Vilnosti Zaporozhki*, territory of the Zaporozhian Cossacks in southern Ukraine; extending from the Boh River on the west to Kalmius River on the east and bordering with the Hetmanate and Right Bank Ukraine to the north, and the Black Sea to the south.

Left Bank Ukraine — *Livoberezhna Ukraina*. Ukraine east of the Dnieper River. This region comprised of the ten Left Bank Regiments which formed the Hetmanate in the latter part of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.

Right Bank Ukraine — central Ukrainian lands west of the Dnieper River and east of the Sluch and Boh Rivers. It belonged to the Hetmanate less than fifty years and was divided into nine Right Bank Regiments. It was called *Pravoberezhna Ukraina* or *Naddnyprianshchyna*.

Left Bank Regiments:

1. Starodub
2. Chernyiv
3. Kiev
4. Nizhyn
5. Pereiaslav
6. Pryluky
7. Hadiach
8. Lubny
9. Myrhorod
10. Poltava

Right Bank Regiments:

1. Bila Tserkva
2. Bratslav
3. Cherkasy
4. Chyhyryn
5. Kalnyk or Vynnytsia
6. Kaniv
7. Korsun
8. Pavoloch
9. Uman'

Slobidska Ukraine — easternmost part of Ukraine, the Kharkov Region. It was settled by Ukrainians in the 17th & 18th centuries, but it never comprised part of the Hetmanate.

Palatinate — *voevodstvo* (*województwo*) large administrative divisions of the Rus-Lithuanian and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, e. g. Palatinate of Kiev, Palatinate of Chernyiv and Palatinate of Bratslav.

Residence of Hetmans:

1. Chyhyryn, capital of the Hetmanate, 1648—1663; residence of the Right Bank Hetmans until 1676.
2. Baturyn — residence of the Left Bank Hetmans, 1672—1709.
3. Hlukhiv — residence of Hetmans Skoropadskyi, Polubotok, Apostol and Rozumovskyi.

Starostvo — division of the palatinate in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, e. g. Starostvo of Kaniv.

COSSACK ADMINISTRATION

OFFICERS

Hetman — chief of the Cossacks. After 1648, head of the Hetmanate.

Acting hetman — *nakaznyi hetman*, deputy of the hetman either in command of a military expedition or the chief executive, when the hetman left his territory.

Koshovyi Otaman — commander of the Zaporozhian Cossacks and chief executive of the Zaporozhian Lands.

General Staff — *generalna starshyna*, the hetman's chief advisory body and his cabinet.

General Quartermaster — *generalnyi oboznyi*, first office after the hetman. He was responsible for the artillery, munitions, fortifications and logistics.

General Treasurer — *generalnyi pidskarbi*, responsible for the taxes, and treasury.

General Judge — *generalnyi suddia*; there were usually two judges. They acted as appellate court, rode out on circuit, heard cases of mixed Cossack-Russian jurisdiction and were heads of the General Military Tribunal.

General Chancellor — *generalnyi pysar* — headed the Geneneral Military Chancellery. He was responsible for official correspondence, took part in negotiations with foreign powers and drafting treaties.

General Aide-de-Camp — *generalnyi osaul*, usually two in number. They were used for various *ad hoc* assignments, like inspection of troops, reviewing a regimental roster, command of smaller expeditions, etc.

General Flag-Bearer — *generalnyi khorunzhyi*, responsible for the military flag in battle and ceremonies. Also, used by the hetman as his representative at company ceremonies and presiding over land settlements, etc.

General Standard Bearer — *generalnyi bunchuzhnyi*, he carried the personal standard of the hetman in ceremonies and on campaign. Otherwise, used by the hetman as his representative in various *ad hoc* assignments.

Colonel — *polkovnyk*, commander of a regiment (*polk*), a large administrative division of the Hetmanate. Also, leader of a military formation, the Cossack regiment, in martial expeditions.

Acting colonel — *nakaznyi polkovnyk*, deputy of the colonel. He led part of the regiment during campaigns or remained in command when the colonel led the whole regiment.

Regimental staff — *polkova starshyna*, officers of the regiment, duplicated the Hetman's General Staff.

Regimental quartermaster — *polkovyi oboznyi*, second in command, most often served as acting colonel.

Regimental judge — *polkovyi suddia*, usually two in number; they served as court of appeals from company levels, heard cases of capital crimes, referred other cases to the General Judges.

Regimental chancellor — *polkovyi pysar*, handled all official correspondence of the regiment; kept up to date records of Cossacks fit to serve, kept records of major land transactions and other important commercial matters.

Regimental aide-de-camp — *polkovyi osaul*, usually two in number; served as the colonel's representatives in various *ad hoc* matters.

Regimental flag-bearer — *polkovyi khorunzhyi*, responsible for the regiment's flags, banners and other realia. Served as the colonel's emissary to the various captains.

Captain — *sotnyk*, administrative head of a company, which was a smaller division of the regiment, like a county. Also, military commander of a body of troops on campaigns.

Acting captain — *nakaznyi sotnyk*, fulfilled the captain's functions when the former was away from the company or when the office of the captain was vacant.

Company officers — *sotenna starshyna*, consisted of a company scribe, aide-de-camp, lieutenant and detachment commanders.

lieutenant — *horodovyi otaman*, the captain's deputy and commander of all Cossacks residing in the town which served as company headquarters.

detachment, platoon — *kurin*, part of the company consisting of Cossacks living in a village or in hamlets around a village.

detachment commander — *kurinnyi otaman*, leader of a detachment, 22—30 Cossacks.

Kurin — among the Zaporozhian Cossacks: one of 36 squadrons composing *Sich*.

INSTITUTIONS

Council of the General Staff — *Rada Generalnykh Starshyn*, equivalent to Privy Council, and composed of members of the General Staff.

Council of the Elders — *Rada Starshyn*, deliberative body meeting thrice annually, composed of General Staff and Regimental Officers.

Regimental Council — *Polkova Rada*, smaller deliberative councils in each regiment composed of the Regimental officers and captains.

Popular Council — *Zahalna Rada*, legally convened council of all Cossacks, usually held to elect a Hetman or ratify important decisions.

Council of Commoners — *Chorna Rada*, illegally convened council by the common Cossacks to express dissatisfaction of the existing policies or to remove an unpopular Hetman. Often held among the Zaporozhians.

Artillery Command — *viiskova artyleria* or *harmata*, domain of the General Quartermaster. Headquarters composed of an artillery scribe (*harmatnyi pysar*), artillery aide-de-camp (*harmatnyi osaul*). They bought, provisioned and maintained the Cossack artillery, provided supplies, trained and supervised cannoners, gunsmiths, powder-makers, etc.

General Military Tribunal — *Generalnyi Viiskovyi Sud*, the supreme court of the Hetmanate.

General Military Chancellery — *Generalna Viiskova Kantseliaria*, the secretariat of state, main bureaucratic office of the Hetmanate, under the supervision of the General Chancellor. His staff consisted of:

Vice-chancellor — *Reient*, deputy to the General Chancellor

Scribes — *kantseliarysty*

Scriveners — *pidpysky*

Translators — *tovmachi* and *buty*

Notable Military Fellows — *Znatne Viiskove Tovarystvo*, Cossack officer class, in general.

Fellows of the Standard — *Bunchukovi Tovaryshi*, served the Hetman directly. Most distinguished group.

Military Fellows — *Viiskovi Tovaryshi*, associated with the General Military Chancellery.

Fellows of the Banner — *Znachkovi Tovaryshi*, distinguished individuals in each regiment, lowest group of Cossack officer hierarchy.

Abshytovani tovaryshi — retired members of the Notable Military Fellows.
Cossack troops under the Hetman's direct command:

- Kompaniitsi*: cavalry guard regiments
Serdiuky or *serdeniata*: infantry guard regiments
Zholdaky: Hetman's personal guard

COSSACK REALIA

Banner — *znachok*, small flag of each Cossack company, symbol of the captain's authority.

Baton — *pernach*, symbol of the colonel's authority.

Flag — *khoruhva*, large pennant carried in battle and at ceremonious functions, symbol of the General Flag-Bearer's authority.

Kettledrums — *litavry*, used by the Zaporozhians to call a Popular Council or a Commoner's Council.

Mace — *bulava*, symbol of the Hetman's authority.

Rod or staff — *komyshyna*, symbol of the General Judge's authority.

Seal — *pechat*, symbol of the General Chancellor's authority.

Standard — *bunchuk*, horsetail standard, carried at the hetman's side, symbol of the General Standard-Bearer's authority.



НОВЕ ВИДАННЯ У.І.Т.

HABSBURGS AND ZAPOROZHIAN COSSACKS

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Це видання включає обширне впровадження про роллю козаків в європейській політиці XVI ст. Перший раз появляється англomовний переклад Щоденника Ериха Лясоти з 1594 р. — одного з найважливіших джерел до історії козаччини.

