



News Release

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New book features founder of modern Ukrainian national idea

Fashioning Modern Ukraine: Selected Writings of Mykola Kostomarov, Volodymyr Antonovych, and Mykhailo Drahomanov, edited by Serhiy Bilenky

31 March 2014 —A new book published by CIUS Press as volume 6 of the Monograph Series of the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research is an anthology of works by three leading Ukrainian scholars whose academic writings became cornerstones of Ukrainian national ideology in the nineteenth century and were a driving force behind the Ukrainian movement in the early twentieth century.

Mykola Kostomarov was the founder of the populist trend in Ukrainian historiography and in the Ukrainian national movement. A cofounder of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood in the 1840s and the author of its programmatic text, the *Books of the Genesis of the Ukrainian People*, Kostomarov was a political moderate who regarded the development of culture and education as the best way of promoting the Ukrainian national idea. Kostomarov's "Memoirs" offer a vivid description of Russo-Ukrainian cultural and political relations from the 1840s to the 1860s. His essay "Two Rus' Nationalities" is an in-depth analysis of cultural and social differences between Ukrainians and Russians. It was long considered a fundamental statement of the Ukrainian national movement.

Volodymyr Antonovych was born into a Polish family in Right-Bank Ukraine. His life and works exemplify the creation of modern Ukrainian national identity. His transformation from a Pole into a Ukrainian began with his discovery of Ukrainian culture and folklore. This journey of discovery and identity formation is described in his "Memoirs" and in "My Confession." After Antonovych switched loyalties, he became the leader of the Old Hromada (Community) in Kyiv. A historian by profession, he founded the Kyiv school of Ukrainian historians and had a direct influence on the ideas and works of his student, the renowned Ukrainian historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky.

Mykola Drahomanov was born in Poltava to a family descended from the Ukrainian Cossack gentry. His sister was the Ukrainian writer Olena Pchilka, and his niece was the famed Ukrainian poetess Lesia Ukrainka (Larysa Kosach). Drahomanov was a scholar of positivist outlook and a political liberal whose supreme value was individual freedom regardless of nationality. He studied relations between the individual and the state, advocating a federal system that would acknowledge the liberties and autonomy of cultural minorities. Drahomanov was the author of the first modern Ukrainian political program (presented in his introduction to the journal *Hromada*), which had a profound effect on political parties in western Ukraine and on the policies of the Ukrainian Central Rada in 1917.

The editor, Serhiy Bilenky, provides an analytical introduction that explains the historical context of the writings included in the anthology. He also supplies a wealth of explanatory footnotes. Most of the essays were translated by Richard Hantula as part of a Harvard translation project initiated by Omeljan Pritsak in the 1970s. The volume includes a preface by Frank E. Sysyn discussing the Harvard project. The Ukrainian Studies Fund, Inc. provided a generous subsidy for the preparation and printing of the book.

Fashioning Modern Ukraine is available in paperback and hardcover editions for \$34.95 and \$69.95 respectively (plus taxes and shipping; outside Canada, prices are in U.S. dollars). Orders can be placed via the secure on-line ordering system of CIUS Press at www.ciuspress.com or by contacting CIUS Press, 430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2H8; tel.: (780) 492-2973; fax: (780) 492-4967; e-mail: cius@ualberta.ca.

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