

THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF THE UKRAINIAN STATE: HIGHER AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES, AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

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The importance of studying this topic is in the fact that examining the state and legal system during the time of Skoropadskyi helps us understand the characteristics of forming the Ukrainian statehood in the context of inner crisis and external pressure. It was a difficult period for Ukraine, and, I believe, we should know the history of the formation of our state. Analyzing this period reveals how legal institutions developed and how national and international circumstances influenced the creation of legal norms and state structures.

The **relevance** of this topic is that the Hetmanate under Skoropadskyi is one of the most controversial and under-researched periods in the Ukrainian history, especially in the context of its legal and state systems. Understanding how the state institutions functioned under Skoropadskyi is essential to identifying weaknesses in the development of the Ukrainian legal system and analyzing why the attempts to establish independence were short-lived.

The problems in studying this topic include insufficient research on specific legal acts and their impact on state development, as well as the contradictory assessments of Skoropadskyi's actions as those of a political figure. Since the legal framework of the Hetmanate differs from the legislation of other European countries, this issue requires a deeper analysis.

Skoropadskyi's rule began in 1918 after the fall of the Ukrainian Central Rada. The form of governance changed, and along with it, the law and civil life. His activity can be seen as both successful and not successful. He introduced land reforms, developed culture and education. One of the main criticisms of Skoropadskyi was his policy of rapprochement with Germany.

The state was authoritarian, with the Hetman as the head of the Ukrainian people. The Constitution of 1918 was introduced, proclaiming basic rights and freedoms, although in practice they were limited.

During Skoropadskyi's rule, the territory of the Ukrainian state was divided into provinces, just as it had been under the Russian Empire. They included Kyiv, Podillia, Chernihiv, Poltava, Katerynoslav, and others.

The Council of Ministers existed as the main executive body, but its powers were limited by the Hetman's will. The State Senate was the highest legislative authority. It had the function of overseeing the implementation of laws and decrees but also operated within the powers defined by the Hetman.

Under Skoropadskyi's Hetmanate, the Ukrainian judiciary combined elements of both the Russian and Austrian legal systems. Russian traditions were evident in the application of the 1864 Judicial Statute, while the Austrian influence was in administrative and land issues. The blending of those two systems created difficulties in the judiciary.

The implementation of justice faced significant challenges because of political and economic instability. There was also strong external pressure from other states. Although the Hetmanate did not manage to secure independence, it helped develop the idea of independence.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the Hetmanate was a bold step toward independence. Although it was not fully realized, it laid the foundation for key principles. Overall, it had a positive impact on the further development of the state.

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