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JAN STANISLAV LOS AS A SPOKESPERSON
IN THE INTERWAR UKRAINIAN-POLISH DIALOGUE
AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

(Rev.: J.S. Los, *Ukrainian cause in memoirs, correspondence and journalism. Selected works*, Ord., Scient., Edit., Comment.: M. Marshal, S. Vuytovych; Postscript: M. Los; Translated from Polish by V.F. Sagan. - K.: Nika-Center, 2018, 340 pp. (Ideas and History, nr 15), ISBN 978-966-521-718-3

Jan Stanislaw Los (1890–1974) belongs to the group of famous Polish diplomats, politicians, publicists of the interwar period. He was part of the immediate entourage of Jozef Pilsudski and took an active part in the creation and development of the Polish state revived after the World War I. As an expert on Ukrainian issues, J.S. Los has repeatedly been involved in the study and development of expertise and recommendations on this matter. In the difficult historical conditions of the interwar period, he was a persistent theorist and practitioner of constructive Ukrainian-Polish dialogue and mutual understanding for the future of both peoples, as well as strengthening the internal foundations and international positions of Poland in the 1920s – 1930s. His memoirs, correspondence and journalistic articles appeared in the work „Ukrainian Cause” (in the Polish edition in 2012: Łoś St., *Sprawa ukraińska we wspomnieniach, korespondencji i publicystyce. Wybór pism*, wyboru i redakcji naukowej dokonali, wstępem i przypisami opatrzyli Maciej Marszał i Sylwia Wójtowicz, posłowie Marek Łoś, Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, Kraków 2012, XXI, 410 s.).

The „Ukrainian Cause” is part of the wider memories of J.S. Los and directly related to the formation of the policy of interwar Poland towards Ukrainians, primarily in the territories of Eastern Galicia and Volynia. The Ukrainian matter is considered in the context of the complex intertwining of domestic policy and the international position of the Polish state in the period of two decades between the world wars. Speaking from the position of a dedicated defender and supporter of the revived Polish statehood, he, at the same time, sought to strengthen its internal foundations and international recognition by resolving the Ukrainian issue in a positive and acceptable way for Poles and Ukrainians. From this point of view, he actually held positions and defended the principles of Polish-Ukrainian understanding, which was to contribute to the successful development of the Second Commonwealth.

Structurally and substantively, “Ukrainian Cause” consists of a preface by Ukrainian and Polish editors (pp. 7–33), the actual memoirs of Jan Stanisław Los (pp. 34–111), a picture of Ukrainian-Polish relations in the light of his correspondence with Polish and Ukrainian state and public figures (Tadeusz Romer, Józef Ruzniecki, Henryk Sukhenek-Sukhetski, Adolf and Alexander Bokhenski, Stanisław Zatswilichowski, Titus Wojnarowski) (pp. 112–179), publications of a number of journalistic works on Ukrainian issues in the columns “Ukraine-Polish Bulletin” („Biuletyn Polsko-Ukraiński”), „Our Future” („Nasza Przyszłość”), “The Road” (“Droga. Miesięcznik poświęcony sprawom życia polskiego”) (pp. 180–324), and also an afterword by Doctor of Engineering Marek Los, the son of Jan Stanisław (pp. 325–333), bibliography (pp. 334–335) and an index (pp. 336–339).

In general, his vision of the realities and prospects of Polish-Ukrainian relations within one state was characterized by moderation. The views of the activist corresponded to the point of view of Polish representatives close to the conservative trend on the Ukrainian issue: broad autonomy for Ukrainians within the Polish state, provided that Ukrainians are loyal and support the development of interwar Poland. On the verge of life, after a long teaching and administrative work at the Catholic University in Lublin, J.S. Los noted with regret that the lack of understanding and tolerance in relations between Ukrainians and Poles in the Second Commonwealth, among other reasons of domestic and foreign policy, led to the catastrophe of 1939.

The search for understanding, in the good sense of the word “doomed” to be and work together, living together within one territory, long historical and economic tradition, cultural and ethnic closeness – these are the principles that formed the views of J.S. Los on the constructive policy of the interwar Polish authorities on the Ukrainian question, mutually beneficial Ukrainian-Polish cooperation and dialogue throughout the state and, in particular, its eastern territories in 1923–1939. These ideas and principles of the Polish scientist, statesman

and public figure not only did not lose their relevance today, but also acquired a new sound in the context of modern interstate (Ukraine-Poland) and inter-social (Ukrainian-Polish) constructive dialogue. They are especially important in the light of the understanding of the two states and peoples in the complex and contradictory realities of the post-bipolar world. Views of J.S. Los are also important in the context of finding a mutually beneficial consensus in the field of „historical truth”. The complex and contradictory pages of the Ukrainian-Polish past in previous periods not only united but also divided Ukrainians and Poles.

Publication of the Ukrainian translation of texts by J.S. Los, including his memoirs, correspondence with Polish and Ukrainian statesmen and public figures of the interwar period, as well as scientific and journalistic works published in Polish magazines in the 1930s, is of paramount importance for studying the historical tradition of Ukrainian-Polish understanding and achievements of Polish scientific thought on this issue. We emphasize that the selected works of J.S. Los, being on the paradigmatic border of biography, document and political journalism, significantly complement and enrich the source complex on the social history of Ukrainian-Polish relations in the interwar period. They will certainly be a valuable and scientifically important source for researchers on this issue.

We also note the fact that the Ukrainian translation of the memoirs of J.S. Los became possible thanks to the support of the Polish Institute in Kyiv. This work appeared at a very auspicious time to mark the centenary of Poland's revival and the events of the Ukrainian Revolution, in the context of further growing public interest in Ukrainian-Polish issues, including in the context of understanding between peoples and nations. Texts written by J.S. Los are accompanied by introductory articles by Polish (Dr., Adjunct S. Vuytovych and Prof. M. Marshal) and Ukrainian (Prof. S. Troyan and Prof. A. Kyrydon) scientific editors and an afterword by Doctor of Engineering M. Los, son of J.S. Los, who, having considerable experience in the field of research of Ukrainian-Polish relations, gave scientifically significant explanations to a wide range of issues raised in selected works of J.S. Los.

In general, all of the above gives every reason to recommend selected works by J.S. Los in Ukrainian translation, published by Nika-Center in the „Ideas and Stories” series, for acquaintance both for the general intellectual community and for professional sociologists, political scientists, and historians dealing with Ukrainian-Polish relations.