REALIZATION OF V. LYPYNSKY’S CONCEPT
OF “TERRITORIAL PATRIOTISM” AGAINST THE BACKDROP
OF UKRAINIAN ETHNO-NATIONAL REALITIES

An independent and sovereign Ukrainian state appeared on the political map of the
world in 1991 and marked the next stage of nation-formation on its territory. Over
the span of 25 years Ukrainian state and society faced trials regarding its political
maturity and self-sufficiency, ability to coexist on the common historically
inherited territory and cultural unity within a single Ukrainian ethno-political
entity.

Revolutions and counterrevolutions that broke out during this time have testified to
the complexity of our historical destiny as well as the process of nation-formation
and state-building. However, nowadays the issue of internal cultural and political
self-identification and nationwide consolidation becomes highly-charged. The loss
of territorial integrity and separatist movements that arose in the Crimea and
eastern regions of Ukraine indicate the lack of effective and consistent state ethnic
policy of unity and integration of these regions into a single socio-cultural space of
Ukraine during previous years of independence. This is accounted for the absence
of nationwide consolidation ideology around the common national idea and is
highlighted in research works dedicated to this problem.

Among the scholars that conduct extensive research in this area are
I. Gyrych, K. Galushko, O. Gnatiuk, V. Jevtukh, V. Isaiv, V. Kremen,
G. Kasianov, I. Kresina, M. Kozlovets, N. Kovtun, T. Kuzio, H. Kuromia,
V. Lisovyi, O. Motyl, T. Ostashko, A. Portnov, O. Protsenko, Ya. Pelenskyi,
V. Troshchunskyi, V. Tkachenko, Yu. Tereshchenko, J. Armstrong,

The aim of the article is to examine the process of nation-formation in
Ukraine in the light of V. Lypynsky’s concept, comparing it with modern
European approaches to ethnogenesis and nationgenesis, clarify the concept
“national identity”, study the primordialistic and constructivist theory of ethnogenesis and nationogenesis, give a scientific definition and realize conceptual approaches to nation-formation by V.Lypynsky, substantiate the ideological underpinnings of modern Ukrainian national identity and state ethno-national unified policy.

The concept of “territorial patriotism” by V. Lypynsky, as a part of his state-building ideology, is an attempt to construct a modern Ukrainian national identity that matches the phase of Ukrainian ethno-policy in the first half of the twentieth century, but has not lost its significance today. The lack of consolidation and understandable political ideology to all citizens of Ukraine has led to inconsistent and ineffective ethnic policy during previous years. Under such circumstances, in our opinion, one can talk about consistent and effective public policy in this area provided that continuity of Ukrainian political nation-formation tradition is restored.

The concept of “territorial patriotism” by V. Lypynsky can be interpreted as a Ukrainian political nation-formation tradition, which, if taken into consideration, enables the development and implementation of national ethnic policy, making use of our own state-building experience. Ukrainian national identity that is now undergoing modifications because of ethno-political bifurcation in the aftermath of the Revolution of dignity, requires a balanced approach by the state, taking into account cultural specifics of struggling regions, and, most importantly, a clear understanding of how these regions should be integrated into a single socio-cultural space of Ukraine. The vulnerable and quite delicate nature of national identity requires “sensitive” construction in order to preserve national unity and restitute the lost territories.

Thus, the state ethnic policy is an important direction of government activities to enhance a favorable social and cultural environment for strengthening ethnic unity and solidarity. National identity in this context is both the aim and the means of implementing such policy, as well as the structural level of the Ukrainian nation, which determines national reputation of Ukraine. Political-ideological basis of the above mentioned policy, in our opinion, are the conceptual constructs by the
Ukrainian conservatism ideologist V. Lypynsky, including the concept of “regional patriotism”. This approach gives us the opportunity to formulate the central issues pertaining to the formation of the Ukrainian nation, building on the analytical-scientific direction provided by the scholar and, thus, ensuring continuity of political traditions and profound historical underpinnings to develop an effective state ethnic policy.