ІСТОРІЯ НАУКИ Й ТЕХНІКИ

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DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE IN KHARKIV IN THE 1920S–1930S: AN ERA OF LATENT TERROR

The article examines the origins of the development of scientific thought and cultural traditions in Kharkiv at the backdrop of large-scale socio-political events of the 1920s–1930s. The first quarter of the 20th century was a unique period in the development of Ukrainian science. To a certain extent, this also affected Kharkiv, which during this period had significant scientific and intellectual potential. In addition to Kharkiv University and Kharkiv Technological Institute (now the National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute"), a network of scientific centers operated, contributing to the advancement of science in Ukraine. The revival of Ukrainian culture took place in local history circles and societies, museum institutions, and heritage protection centers. The article summarizes information about the activities of various scientific centers operating in the Kharkiv region at the end of the 1920s and the beginning of the 1930s. These include research departments, such as nine research departments opened at the Kharkiv Technological Institute, thirteen at the Kharkiv Institute of Public Education, five at the Kharkiv Agricultural Institute, five at the Kharkiv Medical Institute, three at the Kharkiv Veterinary Institute, two at the Kharkiv Institute of National Economy, and one at the Pharmaceutical Technical School. However, the escalation of the political situation at the end of the 1920s and the subsequent wave of large-scale repressions led to the destruction of a significant portion of Ukrainian scientific and creative intelligentsia, including representatives of the Orthodox Church. The article explores little-known pages of the development of science and culture in Kharkiv, particularly the activities of the writer S.V. Pylypenko, the rector of the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, economist G.Y. Slavin, representative of the high-voltage engineering school of Kharkiv Electrotechnical Institute G.G. Demidov, and chemistry professor of Kharkiv Technological Institute P.T. Dedusenko.

Key words: cultural heritage, Kharkiv, local history, political repressions, Serhii Pylypenko, Ukrainian national revival, Ukrainian culture, history of science, museum, biographical studies.

Problem Statement. Today, studying the trends in the development of Ukrainian science and culture amidst political and socio-economic transformations is highly relevant. The investigation into the origins and significance of Ukrainian science, the processes of forming scientific research, and the implementation of educational technologies against the backdrop of crises and destabilizing events throughout the 20th century is particularly significant. The first quarter of the 20th century was a unique period in the development of Ukrainian science. To a certain extent, this also affected Kharkiv, which at that time had developed a significant scientific and cultural intellectual potential.

Scientific activities were primarily concentrated in Kharkiv University (now V.N. Karazin Kharkiv

National University) in the natural and socio-humanitarian sciences, and in Kharkiv Technological Institute (National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute") in technical and natural sciences. Additionally, a network of scientific centers operated: laboratories, research stations, design bureaus, and sectoral institutions, which contributed to the overall advancement of science in Ukraine. The revival of Ukrainian culture took place in local history circles and societies, museum institutions, and heritage protection centers. However, the escalation of the political situation at the end of the 1920s and the subsequent wave of large-scale repressions led to the destruction of a significant portion of the Ukrainian scientific and creative intelligentsia, including representatives of the Orthodox Church. Many representa-

tives of Kharkiv's science and culture were repressed, and their scientific and creative works were placed in "special archives."

Analysis of recent research and publications. The historiography of the researched problem is represented by a wide range of diverse publications. Various aspects of the development of Ukrainian science during the 1920s-1930s are considered in V.V. Tkachenko's research [1]. The author analyzed the peculiarities of the development of scientific thought under ideological pressure and mass repressions in Ukraine. Based on criminal cases and archival sources, the consequences of political repressions and their impact on the development of pedagogical science and the educational space were revealed [2]. The development of physical research in Ukraine, the organization of the Ukrainian Physico-Technical Institute, and the subsequent fate of the institution's scientists are the subjects of the publication [3]. The authors, based on a large number of documents, conducted a reconstruction of the history of the creation and further development of the center of physical thought in Kharkiv through the prism of the personification of scientific thought.

S.S. Glybitska, in her research, refers to the history of Kharkiv University, particularly the tragic events of the 1930s in the Faculty of Philology, Kharkiv Institute of Public Education, and Kharkiv Pedagogical Institute of Professional Education [4]. Based on diverse sources, new facts from the biographies of the Faculty of Philology scientists who were repressed were discovered. Publications of a biographical nature are dedicated to the theme of political repressions during the "Stalin" era. M.V. Gutnyk conducted a separate study of the life of one of the rectors of Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, G.Y. Slavin, for the first time [5–6]. The scientific exploration by L.V. Turchin and I.M. Spudka, dedicated to the study of the creative path of the Ukrainian writer S.V. Pylypenko, proved to be interesting [7].

The aim of the article is to study the main trends in the development of scientific thought and cultural traditions in Kharkiv at the backdrop of large-scale socio-political events of the 1920s-1930s, and to identify unknown and little-known names of Ukrainian scientists and public figures who were repressed, suffered from violence, or were destroyed.

Presentation of the main material. The development of scientific research in Kharkiv during the 1920s was quite intensive and concerned both technical, natural, and humanitarian sciences. An important impetus for the intensification of scientific research was the so-called phenomenon of the Ukrainian

Renaissance, as a consequence of the Ukrainian National Revolution of 1917-1921, which the Russian Bolshevik occupation authorities had to temporarily tolerate by starting the policy of "Ukrainization" in 1923. The analysis of the development of various directions of scientific research in the Kharkiv region can be carried out based on a network of diverse scientific centers that operated in the Kharkiv region at the end of the 1920s – early 1930s. One of the factors that stimulated scientific activity at the beginning of the 1920s was the creation of a network of research departments. At this time, the focus of scientific activity shifted towards applied topics. The high pace of production development required scientific support. This contributed to the creation of sectoral institutions, research laboratories, design bureaus, and more. A total of 84 research departments began operating in Ukraine, 20 of which were of a technical orientation. Nine research departments were opened at the Kharkiv Technological Institute (KhTI), thirteen at the Kharkiv Institute of Public Education (KhIPE), five at the Kharkiv Agricultural Institute (KhAI), five at the Kharkiv Medical Institute, three at the Kharkiv Veterinary Institute, two at the Kharkiv Institute of National Economy (KhINE), and one at the Pharmaceutical Technical School, which influenced the organization of scientific research. Thus, the key to the development of electrical engineering science in Ukraine was the creation of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Industrial Energy in Kharkiv, which became the basis for the establishment of the Institute of Energy within the system of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in subsequent years. The field of technical sciences in the Kharkiv region was represented by 27 scientific centers, including research institutes and departments, technical bureaus, and specialized laboratories (Table 1) [9].

Agricultural sciences were represented by 14 institutions, including scientific institutions, laboratories, and experimental stations (Table 2) [9]. The fields of physical-mathematical, chemical sciences, and natural sciences included 28 institutions (Table 3) [9]. In Kharkiv, a powerful network of medical research institutions was established, encompassing a total of 27 centers (Table 4). The development of the humanitarian and cultural component was supported by socio-economic and historical-philological sciences, which were represented by research departments, research institutes, etc., totaling 15 institutions (Table 5), as well as a number of scientific and scientific-technical societies, museum institutions, libraries, local history centers, and organizations for the protection of historical and cultural monuments, totall 27 institutions (Table 6) [9].

Table 1*

Scientific Institutions, Sectoral Establishments, Laboratories, 1930. Technical Sciences

Ukrainian Research Institute of Silicate Industry

Research Institute of Metals

Coal Industry Institute

Institute of Applied Chemistry

Research Institute of Industrial Energy

Research Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Research Departments at KhTI: Electrotechnics, Hydromechanics, Mechanical Engineering, Engineering and Building Sciences, Heat Engineering, Technology, Organic Substances, Chemical Technology, Technology of Mineral Substances, Mechanical Technology of Metals

Ukrainian Geodetic Administration and Ukrainian Main Chamber of Measures and Weights

Central Scientific-Experimental Chemical Laboratory of Donvuhillia

Central Chemical Laboratory at the Institute of Applied Chemistry

Laboratories: Donetsk Railways, Sugar Industry at KhTI, "Sickle and Hammer" Agricultural Machinery Plant, Budy Ceramic Plant, Control Department of Kharkiv Locomotive Plant, Kharkiv Fermentation Laboratory

Highest Technical Construction Committee

Central Laboratory of the Joint-Stock Company "Koksobenzol" and Central Laboratory of Ukrsyilikattrest

Road Research Station of the Main Directorate

Research Bureaus of Kharkiv Electromechanical Plant and Chemical Apparatus Bureau

Table 2*

Agricultural Sciences, Research Centers, 1930

Research Institute of Applied Botany

Ukrainian Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and Organization

State Institute of Scientific and Practical Veterinary Medicine

Research Departments (KhSGI): Agriculture, Soil Science, Animal Husbandry, Forestry

Central State Seed Control Station and Central Plant Protection Station, Kharkiv Experimental Beekeeping Station

Ukrainian Station of the All-Union Institute of Applied Botany and the Research and Educational Nursery of Medicinal Plants

Table 3*

Physical and mathematical, chemical and natural sciences, 1930

Research Institute of Physical and Technical Sciences, Ukrainian Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Institute of Applied Chemistry

Kharkiv Astronomical Observatory

Hydrometeorological Department of Donetsk Railways

Experimental Pharmaceutical Institute, Biochemical Institute

Research Departments: Department of Physics and Physics Cabinet, Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry (KhINO); Department of Physics (KhTI), Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (Pharmaceutical College)

Ukrainian Research Institute of Geography and Cartography

Research Departments: Geology, Geography and Anthropology, Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy Cabinet (KhINO), Chemical Laboratory of Southern Railways

Kharkiv Botanical Garden and Biological Station (Zmiiv)

^{*}This and following tables were created by the author

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Table 4*

Medical Sciences, 1930

Ukrainian Pathological and Anatomical Institute, Hospital Neurological Clinic

Ukrainian Radiological Institute

Kharkiv State Venereological Institute

First Ukrainian Sanitary-Bacteriological Institute

Ukrainian State Institute of Pathology and Occupational Hygiene

Ukrainian State Clinical Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology

First Ukrainian State Institute for the Protection of Motherhood and Childhood

Ukrainian State Institute of Clinical Psychiatry and Psychology

Institute of Forensic Medicine, Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics

Ukrainian State Psychoneurological Institute

Research Departments: bacteriology, surgery, microbiology, social hygiene, morphology, physiology, psychoneurology, physical education, physiological chemistry, clinical veterinary medicine

Table 5*

Socio-Economic and Historical-Philological Sciences

Taras Shevchenko Research Institute

All-Ukrainian State Institute of Labor

Research Institute of Pedagogy, Institute of Marxism-Leninism

Research Departments of European Cultural History, Literary Studies, Linguistics, Ukrainian Culture named after Academician D.I. Bahalii (Kharkiv Institute of National Economy); Applied Economics, Contemporary Law Issues (Kharkiv Institute of National Economy)

Ukrainian Book Chamber

Kharkiv Section of the Art Studies Research Department in Kyiv

Table 6*

Scientific Societies, Museums, Libraries, Local History Centers

All-Ukrainian Association of Physicists, Engineers, Association of Oriental Studies

Societies: Scientific-Technical, Naturalists, Legal, Mathematical, Medical, Physico-Chemical, All-Ukrainian Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries

Ukrainian Committee for Local History, Protection of Natural Monuments, Protection of Cultural Monuments, Central Archival Administration

Museums: All-Ukrainian Social Museum, Kharkiv Museum of Ukrainian Art, Historical and Art Museum of Kharkiv, Archaeological Museum, All-Ukrainian Agricultural Museum, Museum of Sloboda Ukraine named after H. Skovoroda Kharkiv Scientific and Educational Library and V. Korolenko Public Library

The development of science and culture in the Kharkiv region during the 1920s–1930s took place against the backdrop of various social and political events. This included constant reorganization measures of Kharkiv's leading educational and scientific centers: Kharkiv University and Kharkiv Technological (Polytechnic) Institute. It involved the search for new forms and approaches to the organization of scientific research. Undoubtedly, it also encompassed numerous repressions that swept across the country like a terrifying wave. The most well-known and resonant processes in Kharkiv were related to the case

of the "Union for the Liberation of Ukraine," which initiated political crimes against the Ukrainian intelligentsia. The attacks on representatives of the humanities began as early as 1928, following the All-Union Conference of Marxist Historians (Moscow) [4].

Criticism was directed at the activities of the research departments of Ukrainian culture, linguistics, and literary studies at Kharkiv University, as well as at specific individuals. A notable case was that of the residents of the famous building in Kharkiv, specially created for poets, artists, and writers, known as the "SLOVO" building. Most of the cultural figures

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living in the building were repressed, subsequently either sent to camps or executed. Among the representatives of the "Executed Renaissance" era, it is important to mention the Ukrainian writer and public figure S.V. Pylypenko, whose works remain little known to the general public today. S.V. Pylypenko's organizational talent was realized in the creation of the Union of Peasant Writers "Pluh", which was liquidated in 1932. S.V. Pylypenko was then expelled from the party, arrested, and executed on March 3, 1934. Afterward, all of his works were categorized as bourgeois-nationalist literature and were banned (Fig. 1) [7, p. 205; 10, p. 204].

Repressions against the technical intelligentsia gained momentum in the early 1930s. This also affected the Kharkiv Technological Institute, which was renamed the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute (KPI) in 1929. In 1930, KhPI underwent reorganization to strengthen the training of specialists in a wide range of specializations. By order of the Higher Council of National Economy No. 1240 dated April 17, 1930, five separate institutes were established, three of which – the Kharkiv Electrotechnical Institute (KhETI), the Kharkiv Mechanical Engineering Institute (KhMEI), and the Kharkiv Chemical Technology Institute (KhCTI) – were created on the territory of the disbanded KhPI, which was reinstated in 1950.

Let's recall a few little-known facts from the history of the institute. In 1929, Geliarii Yosypovych Slavin, a specialist in the field of economics, was appointed as the rector of KhPI. After the reorganization of the polytechnic, he took the position of director of KhMEI, which he headed until 1931. The further fate of G.Y. Slavin was connected with the Procurement

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Fig. 1. Confiscated literary works of S.V. Pylypenko [11, p. 204]

Committee, where he held the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Procurement Committee in the Kharkiv region. In 1937, with the arrest of the head of the Procurement Committee, I.M. Kleiner, a terrible campaign against the procurement sector began. The Kharkiv branch, including G.Y. Slavin, I.M. Pletner, who was the Commissioner of the Regional Office of "Zagotzerno," and I.M. Borodavko, the Deputy Commissioner of the Regional Procurement Committee, fell under the repressions. In 1937, all of them were arrested and sentenced as participants in an anti-Soviet right-Trotskyist terrorist organization under Article 54-8-10-11. By the verdict of the special board of the Kharkiv Regional Court from October 28–31, 1937, G.Y. Slavin, I.M. Pletner, and I.M. Borodavko were sentenced to the highest measure of punishment. In 1938, the sentence was carried out. The SBU archives hold a three-volume case that shows this case was closed on August 29, 1956, due to lack of evidence. G.Y. Slavin and I.M. Borodavko were rehabilitated (Fig. 2) [5; 6].

The fate of P.T. Dedusenko, a lecturer at KhTI and professor of the Department of Analytical Chemistry, is well known. He was an active participant in various charitable societies and social projects, worked extensively for the community, headed the cultural and educational society "Prosvita," and contributed to the development of Ukrainian culture. P.T. Dedusenko was arrested first in 1928 for his "nationalist" views. The charges were very "tenuous," and he received only three years of imprisonment. He served time in the Solovetsky Special Purpose Camp, where he worked as a researcher in the chemical laboratory. Then there was a second imprisonment, and on March 27, 1946, a military tribunal sentenced him to 10 years of imprisonment. He died in the camp in 1946. In 1991, due to the lack of evidence confirming his guilt, P.T. Dedusenko was rehabilitated [8; 12, p. 4].

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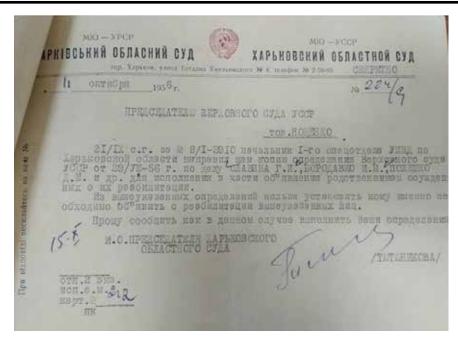


Fig. 2 Rehabilitation Letter of G.Y. Slavin and I.M. Borodavko [15, p. 21]

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The fate of another Kharkiv polytechnic is connected with the famous "UFTI Case." In the late 1930s, the first arrests began at the Ukrainian Institute of Physics and Technology (UFTI). The situation escalated, and the repressions became widespread. In 1937, leading UFTI employees were arrested and executed: L. Shubnikov, L. Rosenkevich, V. Gorskyi, V. Fomin, and Conrad Weisselberg, who had received Soviet citizenship. Arrests and imprisonments also affected O. Leipunskyi, L. Landau, and others [13, pp. 2–8].

Among them, the fate of G.G. Demidov, a graduate of Kharkiv University, a research associate at KhETI, a talented scientist, and a favorite student of L.D. Landau, remains little known. Since 1932, he began working at KhETI and under the guidance of Academician V.M. Khrushchov, he studied in postgraduate school from 1933 to 1936. He defended his dissertation. In 1936, he worked as a senior research associate in the newly formed laboratory of ion and electronic apparatus at KhETI, where he continued research in the scientific school of high-voltage technology of Academician V.M. Khrushchov. In 1938, G.G. Demidov was arrested and subsequently spent 14 years in Stalin's camps in Kolyma. He managed to survive these conditions and left memoirs about those terrible events [14].

Conclusions. Thus, during the ongoing reorganization processes of leading scientific and educational institutions in Kharkiv throughout the 1920s-1930s, new forms and approaches to organizing scientific research were sought. The creation of a fairly strong network of scientific and cultural centers indicates that, despite the contradictions of that time, the scientific potential was increased. Scientific schools began to form, the sectoral science sector was established, and the demands of industry for the creation of a system for training engineering and technical personnel and highly qualified specialists were met. In the Kharkiv region, physical-mathematical, chemical, socio-economic, historical-philological, and medical sciences were developing. Museums, libraries, local history centers, and scientific societies were active.

The liquidation of the "Union for the Liberation of Ukraine" marked the beginning of the near-complete destruction of historical and local history centers, the closure of museums, and printed organs. The consequence of the repressions was ideological control in science, the shift of focus in scientific discourse, and a change in the content of polemics. During numerous processes against the Ukrainian intelligentsia, many scientists and educators, teachers and students, engineers and workers were condemned. Among them were many Kharkiv residents, little known to the general public, whose names need to be restored from oblivion and their memory immortalized. These repressions had a negative impact on the development of Ukrainian science and culture.

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Тверитникова О.Є. РОЗВИТОК НАУКИ ТА КУЛЬТУРИ ХАРКОВА У 1920-ТІ – 1930-ТІ РР.: ЕПОХА ЛАТЕНТНОГО ТЕРОРУ

У статті розглянуто витоки розвитку наукової думки та культурних традицій у Харкові на тлі масштабних суспільно-політичних подій 1920-ті — 1930-ті рр. Перша чверть ХХ ст. — це особливі час у розвитку української науки. Певною мірою це торкнулося й Харкова, який на цей період мав потужний науковий та інтелектуальний потенціал. Крім Харківського університету та Харківського технологічного інституту (нині Національний технічний університет «Харківський політехнічний інститут») функціонувала мережа наукових осередків, що сприяли підняттю науки в Україні. Відродження української культури відбувалося у краєзнавчих гуртках і товариствах, музейних установах, пам'яткоохоронних осередках. Узагальнено інформацію щодо діяльності різнопланових наукових осередків, що працювали на теренах Харківського регіону наприкінці 1920-х рр. – початку 1930-х рр. З'ясовано, що на початку 1930 р. діяло 137 установ, що представляли природничі, соціогуманітарні, технічні науки, бібліотеки, музеї. Однак загострення політичної ситуації наприкінці 1920-х рр. і подальша хвиля масштабних репресій призвели до нищення великої частини української наукової і творчої інтелігениїї, представників православної церкви. Під час чисельних процесів було засуджено чимало науковців і освітян, викладачів і студентів, інженерів і робітників. Досліджено маловідомі сторінки розвитку науки і культури Харкова, зокрема діяльність літератора С.В. Пилипенка, ректора Харківського політехнічного інститут, фахівця в галузі економіки Г.Й. Славіна, представника наукової школи техніки високих напруг Харківського електротехнічного інститут Г.Г. Демідова, професора хімії Харківського технологічного інститут П.Т. Дедусенка.

Ключові слова: культурна спадщина, Харків, краєзнавство, політичні репресії, Сергій Пилипенко, Українське національне відродження, українська культура, історія науки, музей, біографістика.