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SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT MAIDAN 2013

ABSTRACT. This article, written in winter 2013 and summer 2014, marks the Author's approach to the situation in Ukraine at that time. In fact, this situation is changing very quickly and it is difficult to predict the final outcome.

Living in Ukraine and particularly in Kyiv, it's impossible now not to think over and analyze the situation. I should say that it is neither a political, nor an economic crisis. It is a crisis of moral principles of the new independent Ukraine, which has very deep roots. These roots originate from the so long history of Ukraine and struggle for its independence during the whole history of the Ukrainian nation.

In this my very short search I am not going to speak about the history. Now I am thinking about what to do for the future of my land and future generations of the Ukrainians.

When I say 'moral crisis' I mean the following things: **first**, living in accordance with the Christian commandments (among which - do not kill, do not steal); **second**, respect the country where you live (even if you are not of the ethnic backgrounds), know the history of your country and be proud of everything the country has done and given not only to you, but to the whole mankind; **third**, be tolerant to other nations, their cultures, languages and traditions whatever small they are.

If we take into account the first one, we can watch now what Yanukovich and all his men were doing having the power. Before being shown the evidence of the corruption results, most people in Ukraine had felt that the average unwealthiness of the common people was because of the dark side of the government. And that is why MAIDAN took place in Kyiv in November 2013. Let's consider some facts. The average salary of an experienced school teacher (a teacher who has at least 10 years of work) was 1500-2000- hryvnas a month, at the same time a Verchovna Rada deputy was paid 12000-16000 hryvnas. It was a kind of humiliation when ex-prime minister Azarov at the meeting with the school teachers (then the Minister of education was D.Tabachnic) said that the Yanukovich government had done everything to improve their life rising their salaries as much as in 50 hryvnas. In Kyiv 50 hryvnas was enough to buy only a loaf of bread and half a kilo of meat. And then in spring 2014 everybody in Ukraine saw an absurd wealth in Meschigiria (V.Yanukovich estate).

During all the events happening in Maidan Yanukovich never appeared in front of those people who had voted for him. Signing the agreement with the opposition and representatives of foreign countries, he was packing most of his stolen things to escape from Ukraine. It was he and his consent who gave the order to kill people in Maidan. Huge lie had covered Ukraine in all spheres of life. "The Party of Regions" is based on lie from the moment of its foundation as their leader was Yanukovich, a person who under the Soviet Union had been

twice in prison and not because of his political views but because of mugging. During the President election in 2004 his team was doing everything to hush up this fact in his biography. The opposition was trying to get those facts to the people, but Yanukovich's electorate was 'deaf'. I can't understand those people who thought and, may be, still think that a man, having such criminal experience, still can be elected the Guarantor of their well-being.

Coming to the second thesis it is important to remember that Ukraine has only 20 years of its independence but before this there were about 70 years of Soviet Ukraine. It means that in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic as in all the 15 soviet socialist republics there was an extremely powerful and strongly structured ideological education. Teachers, lectures and professors of all educational bodies, especially those of humanitarian sciences, were taught to be first of all so-called 'warriors of ideological battle'. They had to teach their subjects only under the views and approaches of the communist morale. Only in the USSR there was the only right way of life, all the freedoms and human rights. The facts proving the opposite were not given to the public as all information was under the strict control of the ideological departments of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Central Committees of the Communist Party of the Soviet Republics. And of course everything was monitored and controlled by the KGB, though it was carried out not officially. The main ideological idea was that Russia was the leader among

other republics, it was ‘an elder brother’, and all the others had to follow ‘him’. The thing that was very deep was the tactics ‘of putting together republics and separating them’ simultaneously. It may sound strange but there used to be lots of anecdotes where other nationalities, except from Russian, were presented as slow-thinking, not very intelligent, mean, etc.

The history taught at secondary schools was mostly about Russia, Russian empire. The history of other republics as well as nationalities and nations was given in a shortened way. The same was with literature, traditions and the heritage of each particular nation and nationality in general. I was a student at the Kiev National Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages in 70s. I witnessed everything I am writing about. The Ukrainian language was not prohibited in Ukraine, but you did not hear so many people speaking Ukrainian in the streets of Kiev. (Here, with special purpose, I give the Latin spelling of my city as it used to be used). At our institute only one subject was taught in Ukrainian, most were in Russian, except for those theoretical courses which were delivered in English during the 4th and 5th years of study. The same situation with the teaching language (I mean Russian) was in higher educational institutions in the western and southern parts of Ukraine. And that is why I think now there are some Russian speaking people in Ukraine at the age of forty and up (not necessarily being Russian ethnically), who support the Russian invasion

into my country. But still, what I cannot understand is their aggressiveness towards the Ukrainians.

Nowadays when Russian government have put forward the ultimatum to negotiate with Ukraine only under the condition that the Russian language is a state language all over the Ukrainian territory, they even do not take into account the language, culture, traditions, recent history and will of the Crimean Tatars.

Having mentioned all above, I want now to come to the next part of my writing. I have deep belief that the main task of any teacher, especially a humanitarian one, is as it is said 'to plant the eternal, the kind and the wise'.

I started writing the above part of these thoughts in winter 2013-2014 as emotions and grief were in my heart. Now it is summer and the situation in Ukraine has changed dramatically: Crimea is occupied, the Eastern regions are under the ATO (anti-terroristic operation), civilians die because of the terrorists attacks, we have signed the Association Agreement, we have new President and new Cabinet of Ministers, and we hope to have Parliamentary elections in autumn. But what is the most important and the most positive fact is that Ukrainians, at last, united in their great dedication to protect their nation, their heritage, their language, their right to live the way they want to live and under the conditions they can build up themselves for future generations.

In the coming years we will have to solve a great number of problems: first of all in economic sphere, then military sphere (during the previous period everything was done by the governments to ruin military forces and to weaken them), health care, social protection of the pensioners and people in need and, of course, educational sphere.

Pupils and students are now on holidays. On the 1st of September we start new educational year in (actually) new Ukraine. Our main task (I mean lectures and academicians of higher educational institutions and teachers of secondary schools) is not only to prepare highly qualified specialists but also to bring up new generation of Ukrainians who are responsible for the future of their country. Having the 30-year-experience of work at the NTUU 'KPI' (teaching English, translation and interpretation) I can state that to fulfill this task now it is of vital importance to concentrate on the social and political competences of future translators.

Internet and new communication technologies offer a lot of possibilities for both lectures and students to find everything about this or that political or economic event to think about and to analyze it, as well as to compare different points of view and approaches. Ukrainian students have to be taught and shown how to use their knowledge to improve the situation in Ukraine, how to be tolerant to other nationalities and at the same time to be patriots of their country, and how to withstand the information war that Russia started against us.

Lack of deep knowledge of the history of the motherland (as well as economic, cultural and historical relations with other countries) influences both the quality of students' translations and their morale. That is why I hope that new educational year will begin a new era in Ukrainian educational system with the main focus of morale principles.