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### PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY OF ROMAN YAROSEVYCH

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the analysis of the parliamentary activity of Roman Yarosevych, a political figure, who represented the interests of Ukrainians in Galicia within the Austrian Parliament. The study covers his role in legislative processes, speeches, and initiatives aimed at defending the rights of the Ukrainian community, criticizing election process violations and abuses by local authorities. **The article's aims** is to analyze Roman Yarosevych's parliamentary activity, his speeches, initiatives, and their impact on the political climate of the time. Special attention is given to his speeches in parliament, where he opposed election process violations, violence, and abuses of power. **The research methodology** is based on the principles of historicism, scientific rigor, objectivity, and systematic analysis. General scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, generalization) and specialized historical methods (historical-genetic, historical-systematic) are used. **Conclusions.** The parliamentary activity of Roman Yarosevych had a significant impact on the political development of the Ukrainian movement in Galicia in the late 19th century. His speeches and initiatives in the Austrian Parliament demonstrate tireless efforts to defend Ukrainian interests and fight for political and social rights. Yarosevych consistently advocated for electoral system reform, opposed local authorities' abuses and violence, raised issues concerning the social and economic conditions of peasants, and actively supported the idea of national equality. His activity was accompanied by criticism of repressive government methods, election manipulations, and unfair treatment of Ukrainians. Yarosevych's speeches reveal his commitment to democratic values, contributing to the growth of national awareness among the Ukrainian population.

**Key words:** Roman Yarosevych, parliamentary activity, elections, parliament, Halychyna.

### ПАРЛАМЕНТСЬКА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ РОМАНА ЯРОСЕВИЧА

**Анотація.** Стаття присвячена аналізу парламентської діяльності Романа Яросевича – політичного діяча, який представляв інтереси українців у Галичині в Австрійському парламенті. Дослідження охоплює його роль у законодавчих процесах, промови та ініціативи, спрямовані на захист прав української громади, критику порушень виборчого процесу та зловживань місцевої влади. **Метою** статті є аналіз парламентської діяльності Романа Яросевича, його промов, ініціатив та впливу на політичний клімат того часу. Особлива увага приділяється його виступам у парламенті, де він виступав проти порушень виборчого процесу, насильства та зловживань владою. **Методологія дослідження** базується на принципах історизму, науковості, об'єктивності, системності. Використано загальнонаукові (аналіз, синтез, узагальнення) та спеціально-історичні (історико-генетичний, історико-системний) методи. **Висновки.** Парламентська діяльність Романа Яросевича мала значний вплив на політичне становлення українського руху в Галичині кінця XIX століття. Його виступи та ініціативи в австрійському парламенті свідчать про невтомні зусилля щодо захисту інтересів українців та боротьби за політичні й соціальні права. Р. Яросевич послідовно відстоював реформування виборчої системи, виступав проти зловживань і насильства з боку місцевих властей, піднімав питання соціальних та економічних умов життя селян, а також активно підтримував ідеї національної рівноправності. Його діяльність супроводжувалася кри-

тикою репресивних методів влади, маніпуляцій під час виборів та недобросовісного ставлення до українців. Промови Р. Ярошевича показують його прихильність до демократичних цінностей, і вони сприяли підвищенню національної свідомості серед українського населення.

**Ключові слова:** Роман Ярошевич, парламентська діяльність, вибори, парламент, Галичина.

**Problem Statement.** At the end of the 19th century, the political landscape of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was characterized by the rise of national movements striving to expand the rights and freedoms of ethnic groups. In this context, the activities of Ukrainian deputies in the parliament were of key importance for protecting the interests of Ukrainians in Halychyna. Among the prominent figures was Roman Yarosevych, a political leader whose parliamentary work was marked by an active struggle for democratic principles, social justice, and the preservation of national identity.

The relevance of studying Roman Yarosevych's parliamentary activity is driven by the need for a deeper understanding of his contribution to the development of the Ukrainian national movement and socio-political processes in Halychyna. Despite significant challenges, including resistance from local authorities and obstacles in the electoral process, R. Yarosevych sought to secure equal rights for Ukrainians, raised important social issues, and advocated for electoral system reform.

**The aim of the article** is to analyze the parliamentary activity of Roman Yarosevych, his speeches, initiatives, and their impact on the political climate of the time. Special attention is given to his speeches in parliament, where he spoke out against election process violations, violence, and abuses of power.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The declared issue has not been systematically and comprehensively studied by scholars. However, it is worth noting the works of H. Binder [1], A. Baran [2], O. Zhernokleiev [3], M. Kaziuk and O. Huchak [4], Yu. Plekan [5], and Yu. Yakovliev [6]. Nonetheless, the declared issue has remained practically unanalyzed, which constitutes the scientific novelty of this publication.

**Presentation of the main material.** The parliamentary elections in the IV and V curiae in Halychyna were accompanied by numerous violations by local authorities, including the use of force and clashes between military units and voters. In several instances, these conflicts resulted in fatal outcomes [7, p. 98–99]. During the elections in Halychyna, 8 people were reported killed, 29 were injured, and over 800 individuals were arrested. The court proceedings that followed the elections led to the conviction of 149 individuals, who were collectively sentenced to 65 years, 11 months, and 25 days of imprisonment [8, p. 29].

The election results across all five curiae resulted in 78 representatives from Halychyna being elected to the Vienna Parliament, including 9 Ukrainians, 6 Jews, and 63 Poles. Among the Ukrainian deputies, only three out of nine were affiliated with the Provincial Ruthenian Electoral Committee, while the rest were labeled as "government loyalists" by the publication *Dilo*. The election results indicated that the interests of the Ukrainian community in the Vienna Parliament would be represented by 11 deputies, five of whom were elected "by the will of the people." This group included T. Okunevskyi, D. Taniachevych, and R. Yarosevych from Halychyna, as well as V. Volyan and S. Vynnytskyi from Bukovyna. The remaining six – O. Barvinskyi, A. Vakhnyanin, I. Hrobelskyi, M. Karatytskyi, K. Mandychevskyi, and Ks. Okhrymovych – were considered by the editors of *Dilo* to have been elected with the support of Polish committees and the government, which led to a certain degree of mistrust among the Ukrainian community [9].

O. Makovey, in his analysis of Ukrainian parliamentary representation, employed satirical descriptions, notably portraying R. Yarosevych as a figure who "struggled against himself" [10].

The 1897 elections were marked by significant abuses of power, known as the "Baden elections". These violations did not go unnoticed by the newly elected Ukrainian deputies, who made concerted efforts to counteract the injustices and defend the electoral rights of their supporters. The debates

surrounding the Galician elections, as reflected in R. Yarosevych's speeches, highlighted substantial issues within the electoral process in the region. He emphasized the need for electoral system reform to ensure its transparency, fairness, and genuine representation of Ukrainians in parliament. Additionally, he underscored the importance of establishing independent oversight bodies and strengthening public control over the electoral process [11].

In his speech, R. Yarosevych emphasized the serious violations of the electoral process in Halychyna, particularly the manipulative and violent methods employed by the government to secure support for pro-government candidates. He expressed sharp criticism of the administration's actions, stating that gendarmes were used to control rural voters and force them to vote under the threat of repressive measures. R. Yarosevych provided specific examples where peasants were prohibited from participating in voting, and those who attempted to protest such abuses faced unlawful arrests. He also noted that the electoral process was accompanied by organized terror carried out by government agents and hired groups who attacked opposition voters. These acts of violence included illegal entry into homes, intimidation, and physical assaults. Additionally, R. Yarosevych highlighted the presence of vote result falsifications through ballot manipulations, which deprived a significant number of citizens of their right to vote. He called for an immediate parliamentary investigation and reform of the electoral system to ensure transparency, fairness, and equality in the electoral process [12].

R. Yarosevych pointed out instances of illegal financial expenditures amounting to 8–15 thousand guilders, made to secure victory over another Ukrainian candidate, Yu. Romanchuk, during the elections in Kalush [13]. He highlighted cases of abuse of power, including the actions of gendarme Lyubeshivsky in the village of Loshniv in the Terebovlia region [14]. The deputy meticulously documented specific cases of unlawful conduct by local law enforcement, which indicated a systemic pattern of power abuse at the local level. R. Yarosevych called for necessary measures to ensure adherence to legality and justice in the actions of officials. These cases were not isolated and were repeatedly discussed among Ukrainian deputies [15].

On October 25, 1899, he delivered a speech in the Reichsrat, in which, on behalf of the population of all of Eastern Galicia, he accused the government of condoning the unlawful actions of regional authorities under the influence of the Galician governor and the Stancyks. In his address, he focused on the oppression of the Ukrainian people and the violence that occurred during electoral processes [16].

These speeches reflect R. Yarosevych's principled stance on the need to protect the electoral rights of Ukrainians and their struggle for national equality. His addresses demonstrate a commitment to justice and democratic reforms, aimed at strengthening political culture and raising national consciousness among Ukrainians within the multi-ethnic Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In the spring of 1900, the first peasant strikes erupted in the Borshchiv district, affecting 15 villages, including the estates of the prominent Polish landowner, Count Baworowski. The main demand of the strikers was to increase daily wages from 18–20 cents to 50 cents, and during the harvest season – from 80 cents to 1 gulden.

The deputy from the Borshchiv district, R. Yarosevych, submitted an appeal calling for the immediate withdrawal of military units from the communities involved in the strikes. He argued that the strike was a forced measure, driven by the extremely low wages that the leaseholders refused to raise. Yarosevych's initiative was supported by deputies D. Taniachevych and T. Okunevsky, who made similar appeals to the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of National Defense, the Minister of Agriculture and Horticulture, and the Governor of Halychyna [17].

R. Yarosevych emphasized the discriminatory status of the Ukrainian language in Halychyna, pointing out its limited use in administrative and educational spheres. He expressed the belief that such a situation undermined the national identity of Ukrainians and perpetuated inequality among ethnic

groups in the region. To address this issue, Yarosevych proposed the implementation of a "natural division" of Halychyna based on ethnographic principles. This approach, he argued, would ensure fair representation and equality among different nationalities, particularly Ukrainians, and prevent further dominance by any single ethnic group. He believed that such measures would promote social and political stability, creating conditions for the harmonious development of all national communities [18].

R. Yarosevych expressed opposition to the expansion of Halychyna's autonomy, justifying his stance by arguing that such a move could lead to an even greater consolidation of the influence of the Polish community, which already dominated political and administrative structures. He emphasized that increasing autonomous rights without ensuring adequate representation of the Ukrainian community would threaten to further marginalize Ukrainians in the political life of Halychyna. Yarosevych believed that such initiatives could potentially reinforce the social and cultural inequality that already existed among the main ethnic groups in the region. He stressed the importance of implementing equal representation and guarantees for protecting the national rights of Ukrainians as a prerequisite for any expansion of autonomy. The absence of such guarantees, he noted, could exacerbate the imbalance of political power and lead to further assimilation and oppression of the Ukrainian population [19–21].

One of the important forms of communication between deputies and their constituents were their report meetings, during which key issues were discussed, including agricultural problems, working conditions of peasants, and educational needs. R. Yarosevych paid particular attention to social initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of peasants. He also emphasized the need to expand the rights of the Ukrainian language in educational institutions. However, local authorities often attempted to obstruct such meetings, as evidenced by the case of the starosta of Kopychyntsi, who tried to prevent a gathering of voters with R. Yarosevych [22].

Financial difficulties prevented R. Yarosevych, who at that time primarily worked and resided in Vienna, from effectively organizing his activities in Halychyna and regularly visiting his electoral district. This led to a loss of direct contact with the voters. Notably, during a strike in the Borshchiv district, he was unable to arrive in time and participate in the events, which negatively affected his reputation among the local population. V. Temnytsky noted in his correspondence with Ye. Kosevych: "Nowadays, do not even mention him to people" [3, p.]. After the dissolution of the parliament in September 1900, R. Yarosevych suffered defeat in the subsequent elections, losing his parliamentary mandate.

**Conclusions.** The parliamentary activity of Roman Yarosevych had a significant impact on the political development of the Ukrainian movement in Halychyna at the end of the 19th century. His speeches and initiatives in the Austrian Parliament demonstrate tireless efforts to defend the interests of Ukrainians and fight for political and social rights. Yarosevych consistently advocated for the reform of the electoral system, opposed abuses and violence by local authorities, raised issues regarding the social and economic conditions of peasants, and actively supported the ideas of national equality.

His work was accompanied by criticism of repressive government methods, electoral manipulations, and unfair treatment of Ukrainians. Yarosevych's speeches reveal his commitment to democratic values and contributed to raising national awareness among the Ukrainian population. However, the political and financial constraints he faced affected the effectiveness of his work in the constituency, ultimately leading to the loss of his parliamentary mandate in 1900.

Yarosevych's experience as a deputy underscores the importance of political activity under external pressure and the formation of national identity. His work serves as evidence that the fight for the rights of Ukrainians within parliamentary conditions was not only a political endeavor but also a moral responsibility to the people.

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