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## **Pedagogical activity and basics of geography teaching of academician Arkadiy Zhukovsky (1922 - 2014)**

**Valery Rudenko<sup>1</sup>, Alla Vintonyak<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Chernivtsi National University named after Yuriy Fedkovych, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Valery Rudenko - [rudenko\\_valery@ukr.net](mailto:rudenko_valery@ukr.net); <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7542-4399>

Alla Vintonyak - [alla.pirogovskaja@gmail.com](mailto:alla.pirogovskaja@gmail.com); <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7729-7602>

### **Summary**

Arkady Zhukovsky is known almost all over the world for his encyclopedic experience, social and political activities, scientific works in the field of history, religion, geography, etc. Along with this an important place in the sphere of his interests and vocations was given to pedagogical activity. An important task for himself, the scientist put systematic work on the organization of Ukrainian school abroad.

The purpose of this exploration is to shed light on the fundamental achievements of the scientist in the field of teaching geography and to make them available to a wide range of readers.

During the study, we used techniques such as search and information gathering, analysis, synthesis of submissions received, explanation and classification when writing articles.

This study examines the approaches and techniques Arcadiy Zhukovsky geography teaching in a foreign country, it focuses on the study of geography Ukraine, but this valuable information can easily be projected onto any other geographic unit and used today in teaching practice. Academician Arkadiy Zhukovsky as a talented scientist, experienced and responsible teacher, a conscious citizen has highlighted important pedagogical values and advice in his publications raised serious questions about the teaching of geography and proposed it solutions. When working with students, the scientist proposes to focus on the following points: analysis of available textbooks for teachers and students; use of comparative characteristics of geographical features of countries; provide the students with materials

describing the terrain and landscapes of the countries; pay attention to different levels of students' knowledge.

Undoubtedly, this information will be useful and interesting both for teachers, teachers, scientists, as well as for those who are interested in the life of a famous scientist, academician Arkadiy Zhukovsky.

**Key words:** Academician Arkadiy Zhukovsky; educational activities; geography; geography teaching; school.

**Introduction.** Arkadiy Zhukovsky known almost everywhere encyclopedic scientist, one of the creators of "Encyclopedia of Ukraine," a talented scientist in sphere of history, culture, geography, foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. His contribution to the development of science is large and still invaluable. This article reveals one of the most important aspects of Arkadiy Zhukovsky's activity, namely, the pedagogical one, which occupied the scientist's role in the main. The scientist considered one of its most important tasks as a teacher, a citizen is systematic work on the organization of Ukrainian education in a foreign country.

One central place in this process, according to the scientist, belongs of geography to Ukraine. He firmly believes that the geography of Ukraine, along with history, language and literature, is «the basis of all types of courses in Ukrainian studies ... The best pedagogical success can be achieved when all Ukrainian disciplines create a whole, for example, when teaching history and geography will complement literature illustrations» [1].

**The purpose** of this publication is to highlight the main approaches, tools and techniques of Arkadiy Zhukovsky to the study of geography of Ukraine, which need detailed disclosure and characteristics. The information, ideas, approaches provided can become a necessary and valuable foundation for the activities of geography educators today.

**Materials and methods.** In writing this article, we worked on the personal case of Arkadiy Zhukovsky from the Archive, the work of the scientist "History and Geography in Ukrainian Studies" and other works in the field of programs of study and activity of Arkadiy Zhukovsky. In the course of the research we relied on the following methods and approaches: analysis of pedagogical works, in particular the works of Arkady Zhukovsky; illumination in this article the main techniques, ideas, views, approaches, wick described in his works by A. Zhukovsky; the method of synthesize allowed us summarize the information, which was obtained during the study of the sources and to draw the necessary conclusions.

**Presenting main material.** Analysis of pedagogical activities Zhukovsky should start with a number of problems faced by teachers schools of Ukrainian studies in foreign lands. This will grasp the overall situation of study in a foreign country and outline the main areas on which to stop in the article when considering approaches to teaching geography.

So Zhukovsky highlights the following key issues:

- 1) surrounding environment that does not always understand the needs of "people torn from their continent";
- 2) not organized general condition and position of Ukrainian emigration;

3) the composition of students, "among whom there are often children who do not speak Ukrainian, not know not only Ukraine, but in general. On the other hand, we have students with the proper preparation and good knowledge of Ukrainian subjects"[4];

4) lack of professional, Highly qualified teachers, as they are usually selected from different professions. And only their good will and work on yourself, self may at least partially result in improved quality and overall level of teachers' training.

Ukrainian teachers is important in learning to use modern means - projection equipment, auditory-visual techniques appropriate illustrative material.

Teaching geography of Ukraine in Ukrainian Saturday schools conducted under the program approved by the School Board of the Central Delegation of Ukrainian Emigration in Germany (CDUEG). According to it "the purpose of teaching geography Ukraine is to give students knowledge of Ukrainian land, to open their eyes to the true image of Ukraine with its natural beauty and wealth to arouse and instill love to the Native Land" [3].

Zhukovsky as a leading expert geographer, educator was systematic involved to the studied of geography in schools of Ukrainian studies. This is evidenced the letters to him, including from the leadership of the Ukrainian Free University. Thus, in a letter dated July 19, 1976 prof. Dr. G. Vaskovych - prodekan Philosophical Faculty UVU asks Dr. Zhukovsky to teach the subject "Geography in schools of Ukrainian studies" on pedagogical courses [2].

Over the years of teaching the subject Zhukovsky thoroughly worked out their approaches, their methods and their filling of teaching of Ukraine geography, what should learn more.

Proceeding to the teaching of Ukraine geography, Zhukovsky primarily focuses students on an analysis of existing textbooks for students and teachers. Second, the illustrations in textbooks should present the most typical features to ensure a landscape of Ukraine. Thirdly, textbooks for students have very little information on population size in Ukraine on socio-economic changes in the post-war years. To fill the gaps in this area Zhukovsky recommends fairly accurate "The map of population ethnic composition of the USSR" Naulka V. and the application of the second volume of English "Encyclopedia of Ukraine" with 6 maps of Ukraine (physical, geological, soil, administrative, ethnographic 1926 - 1930 GG and ethnographic 1959) [1].

The overall conclusion Zhukovsky as a result of the analysis of almost all of our books - "they pay little attention to the modern user, students who grow up among alien environment and have less knowledge about Ukraine as their peers at home. When drafting new textbooks should pay attention to it and see to it that there were different textbooks depending on the age and prepare of students" [4].

Then, analyzing own experience working with students, trainees of course "Geography of Ukraine," Zhukovsky submit their proposals - recommendations for a better perception of the material on separate sections of discipline. A very important point here is comparison of geographical Ukraine features with those countries where pupils and students lives.

One of the key problems to the teaching Geography Ukraine is the issue of its borders. The young generation of foreign Ukrainians identifies concept of nation with the concept of state, and so it takes with caution in the absence of Ukraine "permanent borders." Do not distribute in historical aspect Ukraine's borders up to the Caspian Sea, should follow its ethnographic boundaries - claimed Zhukovsky. In this matter, the basis of presentation of the teacher, of course, must be modern "administrative and state state of the borders of the USSR". The emphasis always needs to be done to the ethnographic those adjacent to the USSR, territories inhabited by numerous Ukrainian communities. It is also noted in historical

terms, that absent of natural borders, especially in the east and north, negatively influenced to the defense of Ukrainian lands.

Significant impact on the development of Ukraine undoubtedly has its geographical position. What major Ukrainian statements should a teacher defend here? First - this is Ukraine connectivity with throughout Europe. The famous motto - Ukraine placed "on the verge of two worlds" between Europe and Asia - writes Zhukovsky - this is best defined the historic mission of Ukraine" [4].

The second, equally important provision - Ukraine is nadchornomorskoyu state. Black, Azov and Mediterranean Sea have become the mainstream of our constant communication with the European culture.

The third advantage of geographical position of Ukraine - access to the Danube Delta and as a consequence - an opportunity to "participate in the conference naddunayskyh countries and have a relationship with Central Europe."

Much attention by Zhukovsky is always given to geographical study of Ukraine. The area considered by him not only as material resources or ecological habitat of the Ukrainian people, but as the material basis of sovereignty - a defining characteristic of state power. As with borders, cognize the territory of Ukraine, should, according to scientist, to observe "certain stability and contours." It should always emphasize, though modern Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic territory occupied 603.7 thousand. km<sup>2</sup>, but entire ethnographic territory of Ukraine extends to 750 thousand. km<sup>2</sup>. It is appropriate to realize the historical aspect when considering this issue - to reveal how the area inhabited by Ukrainians during the princely days, in the Cossack times, changed in the modern period.

Giving students the materials describing the topography and landscapes of Ukraine, Zhukovsky advises teachers to "amplify" the children's visual imagination, deeper perception of geomorphological objects of natural systems. Always remember that only a few students have or will be able to visit Ukraine, and for most of them - it is an unattainable dream.

Analyzing the features of climate Ukraine, Zhukovsky advises teachers to use the comparative method - correlate meteorological phenomena and climatic characteristics Ukraine from countries where course listeners lives. It should particularly emphasize the continental climate of Ukraine, formed under the influence of the prevailing air masses of continental origin. Its different features from Western Europe countries - high daily and annual amplitudes of air temperature, reducing summer and afternoon relative humidity, rainfall - unstably and decreases with distance from the ocean, are long and cold winters and hot summers like.

Ukraine has about 22,000 years and rivers. Teachers should not be overwhelmed by the rivers names of young people's memory. It had little effect. At the same time, the historical significance for the formation and development of the Ukrainian people such rivers as the Dnieper, Danube, Dniester, Zbruch, Xiang, Don, Kalka should be thoroughly described [3].

It is equally important to assess the state of water resources as sources of drinking and industrial water, hydropower, natural waterway tourism and recreation facility, justify the preservation and restoration of rivers water content and water quality.

Zhukovsky poetically represents Black Sea - "is not only a gate in the Ukraine wide world, the only natural border, the source of economic prosperity but especially closely connected with the past of our people - the sea. The great attraction to the sea was brilliantly presented by T. Shevchenko in his poem "Gamalia" [4].

It is logical are disclosure of geographical features of the flora and fauna in natural areas of Ukraine. However, Zhukovsky is talking only about "five classic floral zones": Woodlands, Forest-steppe, Steppe, Ukrainian Carpathians and Mountain Crimea. Description of the

animal world, in our opinion, better to be submitted taxonomic units zoogeographical zoning, which at the highest hierarchical level in Ukraine are zoogeographic provinces and 6 zoogeographical districts. Undoubtedly, the assessment of economic value of plant and faunal resources - one of the important tasks geography teacher.

The central section of geography as it proves Zhukovsky, are "geography of man." Unfortunately, in Soviet textbooks chapters about population size contain "conflicting information", that superficially reveal the real state of things. Therefore, the geography teacher should carefully, conscientiously, scrupulously collect "not only detailed demographic and ethnic data, but also to trace them throughout the ages, to see when and how happened a settlement of Ukrainians on the modern territory. Statistical data are best provided on the basis of conducted official censuses; to conduct their critical analysis, including censuses from 1926 to 30 and 1959 » [4].

Basis and cornerstone to understanding the social and national changes in modern Ukraine, as substantiated Zhukovsky, is the growing over the past 70 years the proportion of the urban population from 13% to 51%. On the one hand, in this process, as scientist believed, is "the danger of Russification", on the other hand - "Ukrainian element will acquire the city". The rural population of Ukraine is almost are exclusively is Ukrainian, which leads quite naturally to increase the share of Ukrainians in the cities. Describing the ethnic composition of the population of Ukraine should be clearly analyze its geographical location, not just the total number of national communities.

To students understand the postwar spatial changes that have occurred in Ukraine in the international relations, the teacher must necessarily compare, compare contemporary ethnographic map of the country with its analogous before the Second World War. Then become clear major trends: the extermination of the Jews; expulsion of Germans and Tatars; sudden influx of Russians; population exchange at the Ukrainian-Polish border.

One can not ignore of students the territorial characteristics in religious and confessional composition of the population of Ukraine. Zhukovsky indicates the objective difficulties of such an assessment in terms of communist prohibitions and pursuit of believers in the USSR, but offers teachers "at least draw the prewar state".

At the end of "geography of man" should highlight the main centers of Ukrainian settlement outside of modern Ukraine, namely Kuban, Caucasus, Voronez, Kurschyni, Belarus, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and beyond ethnic lands of Ukraine (Canada, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Asia).

A very important section of the course is Economic Geography of Ukraine. A. Zhukovsky stresses the need to address the following problematic issues:

1) should assess the natural and economic resources of Ukraine as one of the "richest countries in the world" by showing a "contribution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic percent compared with the total production of the USSR" (coal, natural gas, manganese, steel, grain, sugar beets, meat, tractors, locomotives, etc.). It should be emphasized the uneven and not always rational use of the wealth of Ukraine;

2) characterizing the great changes that have taken place in industry and agriculture, Ukraine's transformation into a "semi-industrial country" must be objective, showing both positive and negative points. "However, we must not forget to present a true state without exaggeration, so that present-day Ukraine does not emerge as an economically undeveloped, primitive and poor country, to which only compassion can be had," the scientist writes, "but that large modern factories, factories, electronics, ships, planes, tractors - this is not a merit of the modern regime, but a testament to the hard work and ability of a Ukrainian worker, peasant, specialist"[4];

3) on the basis of specific indicators from certain sectors of the economy, transport, trade, it is imperative to reveal the "colonial policy pursued by the USSR against Ukraine": "Ukrainian workers and peasants do not use the fullness of their labor and products, because most are exported outside the borders of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic";

4) the key to successful mastering of the discipline is the widespread use of the teacher in the presentation of heterogeneous maps, statistical tables, illustrations, "blind" (outline) maps to entice listeners to reproduce the geographical features of Ukraine from memory [4].

**Conclusions.** Thus, as we can see, the pedagogical and didactic advices of A. Zhukovsky for teachers to successfully master the course "Geography of Ukraine" retain their relevance to our day. Of course, this article reveals approaches to teaching geography abroad for children who are unfamiliar with Ukraine, with its natural, climatic, and economic features. In addition, the information provided characterizes the pedagogical experience of Arkady Zhukovsky, which contains important general information in the field of teaching geography, and that it will undoubtedly be valuable for today's educator.

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