

This thesis deals with the People's Movement of Ukraine (*Narodnyi rukh Ukrainy*) in 1990–1998. This phenomenon is closely related to the problem of the Soviet Union demise, the anti-Communist movements, free elections, and emergence of a multiparty system in Ukraine.

The first part of the thesis starts with a short introduction and review of literature. Then the author proceeds to the description of socio-political and economic situation in Ukraine during the last decades of the Soviet system and to the beginning of the People's Movement. The Movement was launched by a number of members of the intelligentsia previously imprisoned in the 1980s. The thesis focuses on the movement's ideology which was considered too nationalistic by many critics. Hence, a brief introduction to the history of Ukrainian nationalism is provided.

The second part of the thesis analyzes the early success of the People's Movement following the 1990 parliamentary elections. Further, the author discusses transformation of the People's movement into a political party. The thesis identifies main factors that contributed to the crisis and, later on, to the break up of the People's Movement political party. The role of the Movement in Ukrainian politics is elaborated in subsequent chapters. The thesis also provides a brief overview of internal developments in Ukraine in the 1990s.

The concluding part summarizes the importance of the People's Movement for post-Soviet Ukraine.