

This bachelor thesis concerns the Cossack Ukraine in the period of the first phases of the Ruin, after the death of hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky. The main task is to analyze causes of the desintegration of the cossack hetmanate and to cover the essential characteristics of this period. The study follows an axis of the developement of factions in the Cossack leadership according to the particular foreign political variants of the Cossack statehood, as well as the geopolitical context of the period and the interests of the Eastern European powers in the Ukraine. The paper also deals with the specifics of the political and social system of the Cossack state in the second half of the 17th century.