

Payda Yu.Yu., Kuruts N.V. Legal features of the annexation of Western Ukraine in the 1920s. The article deals with historical and legal reconstruction of the process annexation of Western Ukraine by the Second Rzeczpospolita in 1920. Methods of comparative-legal and historical-legal research are used. The legislation of the Second Rzeczpospolita concerning the Ukrainian lands is shown and the amount of violations by the Polish government of international obligations is determined. The results of the study are an international legal assessment of the consequences of the annexation of Western Ukraine by the Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the period under study.

The annexation of Western Ukraine and the policy of the Polish authorities in the region in the 20-30's of the twentieth century have been exposed. In the international legal context, the nature of the programmatic target assimilation was small in order to accelerate the ethnopolitical incorporation of these territories, which was negatively perceived by the indigenous population and violated the international legal framework for the entry of Volyn and Galicia into the Second Rzeczpospolita.

The Ukrainians were artificially divided and opposed by ethnic, political, economic, party, tribal, religious and other grounds. The implementation of this policy was carried out by ministries, voivodship and county governments, commanding military districts, and Polish civil society organizations, which unexpectedly exacerbated Polish-Ukrainian relations on the eve of the Second World War. International legal treaties, on the basis of which Poland implemented the incorporation of Western Ukrainian lands, established the obligations of the Polish government to respect the inalienable rights and freedoms of national minorities, which was violated by the national legislation rules of the analyzed period.

Keywords: *annexation, international law, Eastern Galicia, Volhynia, polonization.*