

SUMMARY

Nesterovych V.F. The role and place of elections in state-building in Ukraine. The article reveals the role and place of elections in state-building in Ukraine. It is noted that the appearance of elections is inextricably linked with the emergence of the first states.

The second stage of election development covers the XV-XVIII centuries and is associated with the emergence of the Cossacks and the establishment of the Hetman State.

The third one is due to the establishment of local self-government in the Ukrainian lands that were part of the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires at the end of the eighteenth - early nineteenth centuries. Elections were held only at the local level and had class and census nature.

The fourth stage is related to the First Russian Revolution of 1905-1907. There was first established representative legislative body - the State Duma of the Russian Empire, which included representatives of the Ukrainian lands.

The fifth stage is conditioned by the establishment in 1917-1920 of the statehood of the Ukrainian Independent Republic. But due to the difficult internal and external political situation, democratic elections were not held.

The sixth stage is related to the Soviet period of Ukrainian statehood. The elections were somewhat limited and distorted, since until 1989 they were held only within the framework of the Communist Party's activities.

The seventh stage is determined by the declaration of independence of Ukraine.

The eighth stage is conditioned by the adoption in 1996 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

The ninth stage of the election development spans 2000-2013 and is characterized by a constant change of the electoral legislation of Ukraine.

The tenth stage is related to the 2014 military aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Presidential, parliamentary and local elections during 2014 and 2019 failed to hold on to the occupied Crimea and in the area of anti-terrorist operation (Operation of United Forces) in parts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

The author has concluded that elections play an important role and are one of the key places in state creation in Ukraine. He has proposed to highlight ten stages of the constitutional and legal approval of elections in the state of creation in Ukraine - from the era of the tribal system and the period of Kievan Rus to modern times.

Keywords: *elections, electoral law, democracy, state formation, Ukraine.*