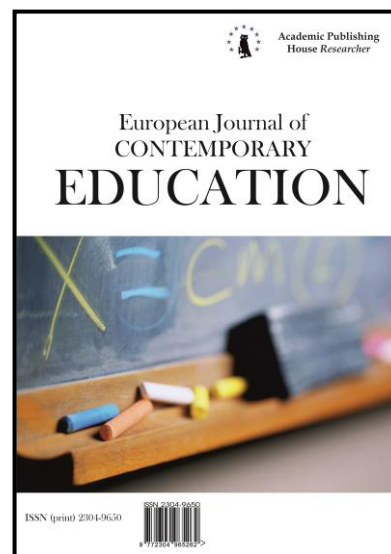




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Published in the Slovak Republic
European Journal of Contemporary Education
E-ISSN 2305-6746
2021. 10(3): 790-798
DOI: 10.13187/ejced.2021.3.790
www.ejournal1.com

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The History of Education

The System of Public Education in Volyn Governorate in the Period 1796–1917. Part 1

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Abstract

This work explores the system of public education in Volyn Governorate in the period 1796–1917. This part of the work examines the timeframe 1796–1885.

The key sources used in putting this work together are the Extracts from the Report of the Chief Procurator of the Holy Synod for the Department of the Orthodox Faith (1836–1885), the Military-Statistical Survey of the Russian Empire, and the 1887 Memorandum Book for Volyn Governorate.

The authors' conclusion is that in the period 1796–1885 the system of public education in Volyn Governorate had been developing in the light of the incorporation of this region into the Russian Empire. Attempts to keep in place the Polish education system led to a polarization of the local population and to student involvement in nationalist riots between 1830 and 1831. Only subsequent to this did the Russian government begin to take measures to unify the public education system based on the Russian Empire's standards.

By 1885, the network of the region's educational institutions numbered eight secondary schools, 28 lower schools, and 1,515 primary schools. Overall, Volyn Governorate had in operation 1,551 educational institutions, with a combined enrollment of 47,253 students. The region's

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education sector included secular, ecclesiastical, private, and national educational institutions. The process of the making of the region's public education system was pretty much over by 1885.

Keywords: Volyn Governorate, Russian Empire, public education system, Kiev Educational District, period 1796–1917

1. Introduction

Volyn Governorate was established in 1796 following the third partition of Rzeczpospolita. At that time, the governorate had in place a public education system of its own. As of 1789, the region had the following types of school in operation: Kremenets academic schools (six teachers; 463 students); Lutsk subdistrict schools (three teachers; 144 students); Olika subdistrict schools (six teachers; 54 students); Vladimir subdistrict Basilian schools (four teachers; 102 students); Ovruch Basilian schools (four teachers; 192 students); Zhitomir academic schools (519 students); Liubar Basilian schools (353 students); Mezhirechye schools (300 students). Volyn had a combined student body of 2,386 (*Istoriya imperatorskogo, 1884: 7-8*). Instruction in those schools was provided by members of the following Catholic religious orders: Jesuits – in Lutsk, Kremenets, Ostrog, Zhitomir, and Ovruch; Basilians – in Vladimir and Liubar; Piarists – in Dubrovitsa and Mezhirechye.

This part of the work is focused on the timeframe 1796–1885. Note that there are detailed statistics available on the state of the system of public education in Volyn Governorate in the period starting in 1886, whilst the amount of statistics available on its state prior to 1885 is limited.

2. Materials and methods

The key sources used in putting this work together are the Extracts from the Report of the Chief Procurator of the Holy Synod for the Department of the Orthodox Faith (1836–1885), the Military-Statistical Survey of the Russian Empire, and the 1887 Memorandum Book for Volyn Governorate.

Use was made of the statistical and chronological methods. The use of the statistical method helped gather and collate raw data on the region's educational institutions and students (including the student body's gender composition). The use of the chronological method helped examine the study's topic in chronological sequence. This helped identify some of the key characteristics of the development of the system of public education in Volyn Governorate and analyze some of its key weaknesses.

3. Discussion

Surprisingly, the system of public education in prerevolutionary Volyn Governorate has never been the subject of independent research, although attempts to explore it have been made. The first such attempt was undertaken in 1851, as part of an effort by a special commission at the University of St. Vladimir to generate statistical descriptions of education in governorates within the Kiev Educational District – Kiev, Volyn, Podolia, Poltava, and Chernigov (*Plan..., 1851*). There were plans to devote a section of the publication to the history of the system of public education in Volyn Governorate, but they never materialized.

In 1859, the Military Department released the Military-Statistical Survey of the Russian Empire. The publication's Volume 10 carried statistics on the system of public education in Volyn Governorate (*Voенно-статистическое обозрение, 1859*), with a significant focus on the region's ecclesiastical education, the educational contribution of its monasteries, and its system of secular education.

Some statistics on education in Volyn Governorate are also available in works on the history of certain educational institutions. Specifically, quite a large amount of statistical information was provided in a work by N.I. Teodorovich exploring the history of Volyn Ecclesiastical Seminary (*Teodorovich, 1901*) and a work by M.F. Vladimirsky-Budanov exploring the history of the University of St. Vladimir (*Istoriya imperatorskogo, 1884*).

During the Soviet period, the topic did not become the subject of dedicated research either. This must have been associated with ideological reasons, for it may have been believed that the Russian Empire's achievements in the area of public education would not comport well with the Soviet tenet about a significant portion of Russia's population during the prerevolutionary period being illiterate.

The topic of public education in the Russian Empire began to gain wider attention during the contemporary period, with historical-statistical research studies appearing on virtually all educational districts in the Russian Empire providing information on the numbers and quality of educational institutions and the student body, including its gender, religious, ethnic, and estate composition. The largest amount of research has been conducted so far on areas within the Caucasus Educational District, including Kars Oblast (Magsumov et al., 2020; Magsumov et al., 2020a), Stavropol Governorate (Natolochnaya et al., 2020; Natolochnaya et al., 2020a; Natolochnaya et al., 2020b), and Black Sea Governorate (Cherkasov et al., 2020; Cherkasov et al., 2020a). Among the areas within the Vilna Educational District, research has been conducted on Vilna Governorate (Natolochnaya et al., 2019; Natolochnaya et al., 2019a; Natolochnaya et al., 2020c), and among those within the Orenburg Educational District – on Orenburg Governorate (Magsumov, Zulfugarzade, 2020; Magsumov et al., 2020).

4. Results

In 1796, right after the incorporation of the Diocese of Volyn into Russia, the region became home to Volyn Ecclesiastical Seminary (May 14, 1796) (Teodorovich, 1901: 1). Two years later, they established a Russian school at the seminary. This facility, where the school day was divided into two shifts, remained in operation until 1817.

By 1803, Volyn Governorate had in operation 46 schools, including 10 uyezd schools (in Vladimir, Lutsk, Dubrovitsa, Olika, Kremenets, Mezhirechye, Liubar, Ovruch, Berdichev, and Zhitomir), 26 parish schools (in Porytsk, Vladimir, Zagorov, Turiysk, Lutsk, Zhidichin, Belostok, Duben, Derman, Berestechko, Annapol, Zaslav, Polyanka, Pochaev, Kremenets, Vishnevets, Radzivilov, Rovno, Shpanov, Teofilpol, Starokonstantinov, Zvyagel, Korets, Veledniki, and Troyanov), and six boarding schools (Istoriya imperatorskogo, 1884: 17-18). Instruction in all those schools was conducted in Polish. Russian was taught three times a week, with each class being an hour long. Although the issue of unifying education in Volyn Governorate based on the Russian Empire's standards had been raised back in the early 1800s, it had remained unresolved (Istoricheskii obzor, 1902: 24). This state of affairs persisted up to the November Uprising (1830–1831), in which students from different educational institutions took part too.

In 1832, Volyn Governorate and all of its educational institutions were incorporated into the newly created Kiev Educational District. By that time, the governorate had few public education institutions, which led the region's School Council to undertake significant effort to secure government funding for the purpose. In 1832, the region became home to several gymnasia (those in Lutsk, Kamenets-Podolsk, and Zhitomir) and a few uyezd schools (Istoriya imperatorskogo, 1884: 58). In 1834, the Kiev Educational District became home to the University of St. Vladimir in Kiev.

As of 1836, the Diocese of Volyn had the following ecclesiastical educational institutions: one ecclesiastical seminary, two uyezd schools, and six parish schools, with a combined enrollment of 1,269 students (Iz vlechenie iz otcheta, 1837: 137, 146-147). The first ecclesiastical schools were established in the area back in 1817 (Ostrog Uyezd School and Ostrog Parish School) (Teodorovich, 1901: 47). In 1819, the area became home to another four ecclesiastical district parish schools – one in the city of Kovel, one in the township of Berdichev, one in the village of Zagaytsy, and one in the village of Klinets (Teodorovich, 1901: 48-49). Each parish school was a two-grade institution, with each grade attended for two years. In 1831, due to Ostrog's uyezd and district schools being overfilled, the local commission for ecclesiastical schools petitioned the Synod to open a couple of more uyezd parish schools in the area (Teodorovich, 1901: 58). In 1833, the village of Derman became home to one uyezd and one district ecclesiastical parish schools, and the township of Meltsy – to an uyezd ecclesiastical school (Teodorovich, 1901: 65-66). As early as 1834, Meltsy became home to a parish school too (Teodorovich, 1901: 73).

In 1837, they established 1,064 parochial schools at churches within the Diocese of Volyn (Voенно-statisticheskoe obozrenie, 1859: 103). In the late 1850s, these schools had a combined enrollment of 5,210 boys (Voенно-statisticheskoe obozrenie, 1859: 126).

In 1843, Belostok became home to one uyezd and one parish ecclesiastical schools (Teodorovich, 1901: 98).

By the 1850s, the region's system of public education was comprised of ecclesiastical (seminaries, uyezd parish schools, and parish schools) and civil educational institutions. Overall, the region had in operation one ecclesiastical seminary (in the city of Kremenets), four uyezd

parish schools, and two parish schools, with a combined enrollment of 1,315 students ([Voенно-статистическое обозрение, 1859: 125](#)).

As the number of uyezd parish schools in the region increased (they were transformed into uyezd schools in 1854), some of its parish schools gradually closed down ([Teodorovich, 1901: 147](#)). Specifically, in 1877 they closed down the uyezd school in Derman, in 1854 – the one in Klinets, and in 1853 – the one in Zagaytsy ([Teodorovich, 1901: 167, 169, 174](#)).

As regards the region's civil educational institutions, this segment was represented by gymnasia, uyezd schools for nobles, civil parish schools, and boarding schools for noble maidens. These schools were of two types – female and male, with females attending only a boarding school for noble maidens. By the mid-19th century, circa 1857, the region had in operation two male gymnasia (one in the governorate's capital, the city of Zhitomir, and one in the uyezd city of Rovno), five uyezd schools for nobles, and 17 civil parish schools. There were two boarding schools for noble maidens in operation (one, a model boarding school, in the capital (33 girls), and one in Rovno (35 girls)) ([Voенно-статистическое обозрение, 1859: 125-126](#)). Overall, the region's 24 male civil educational institutions were attended by a combined 1,511 boys, and its two female civil institutions – by a combined 68 girls. In addition, the region's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by a combined 1,050 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1860: 70, 78-79](#)). No data on the region's parochial schools were published in 1857 ([Izвление из отчета, 1860](#)).

A significant role in terms of auxiliary education was played by libraries and museums in Volyn Governorate, most of which were based at its gymnasia and schools for nobles. In addition, the following libraries had large holdings: the library in the Derman Monastery, the library of Count Khatkevich (in the township of Mlynov), and the library of Count Mniszech (in the township of Vishnevets) ([Voенно-статистическое обозрение, 1859: 126](#)).

As of 1860, the Diocese of Volyn had in operation 1,055 parochial schools, with a combined enrollment of 10,183 students (10,086 boys and 97 girls) ([Izвление из отчета, 1862: 88](#)). In addition, the area's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by 1,089 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1862: 70, 78-79](#)).

As of 1861, the Diocese of Volyn had in operation 1,216 parochial schools, with a combined enrollment of 11,621 students (10,780 boys and 841 girls) ([Izвление из отчета, 1864: 88](#)). In addition, the area's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by 1,160 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1864: 70, 78-79](#)).

On January 17, 1864, the region became home to Zhitomir Ecclesiastical School ([Teodorovich, 1901: 145](#)).

As of 1866, the Diocese of Volyn had in operation 2,151 parochial schools, with a combined enrollment of 20,714 students (18,169 boys and 2,545 girls) ([Izвление из отчета, 1867: 94](#)). In addition, the area's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by 1,035 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1867: 74, 82-83](#)).

As of 1867, the Diocese of Volyn had in operation 1,070 parochial schools, with a combined enrollment of 18,345 students (16,022 boys and 2,323 girls) ([Izвление из отчета, 1868: 94](#)). In addition, the area's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by 1,168 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1868: 74, 82-83](#)).

As of 1868, the Diocese of Volyn had in operation 1,188 parochial schools, with a combined enrollment of 19,418 students (17,068 boys and 2,350 girls) ([Izвление из отчета, 1869: 94](#)). In addition, the area's five ecclesiastical educational institutions (one seminary and four schools) were attended by 1,059 students ([Izвление из отчета, 1869: 74, 82-83](#)).

By 1885, Volyn Governorate's network of educational institutions comprised 1,551 schools, with seven of those being secondary schools (one male and one female gymnasia, one real school, one Category 1 private educational institution, two ecclesiastical seminaries, and one teacher's seminary). The lower education sector comprised 28 educational institutions: two progymnasia, one ecclesiastical school for girls, four ecclesiastical uyezd schools, one female school of Count Bludov, 15 urban schools, four rural schools, and one feldsher school. The primary education sector was represented by 237 one-grade schools, 449 rural schools, 175 parochial schools, 237 German settler schools, 376 Jewish schools (cheders), and a few other private and religious educational institutions.

Table 1 displays the available statistical data on educational institutions in Volyn Governorate in the period 1803–1885.

Table 1. System of Public education in Volyn Governorate in the Period 1803–1885 (*Istoriya imperatorskogo*, 1884: 17-18; *Voenno-statisticheskoe obozrenie*, 1859: 125-126; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1837: 137, 146-147; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1860: 70, 78-79; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1862: 70, 78-79, 88; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1864: 70, 78-79, 88; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1867: 74, 82-83, 94; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1868: 74, 82-83, 94; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1869: 74, 82-83, 94; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1871: 74, 82-83, 94; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1872: 72, 80-81, 92; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1873: 72, 80-81, 92; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1874: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1876: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1876a: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1877: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1878: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1879: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1881: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1882: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1883: 70, 78-79, 90; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1884: 72, 80-81, 92; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1885: 72, 80-81, 92; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1886: 72, 80-81, 92; *Iz vlechenie iz otcheta*, 1887: 72, 80-81, 92; *Pamyatnaya knizhka*, 1886: 86-87)

| Year | Schools under the Ministry of Public Education (MPE) | | | | | | | Students | | |
|------|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|-------|--------|
| | Secondary | | Lower | | Primary | | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| | Run by the MPE | Run by the Holy Synod | Run by the MPE | Run by the Holy Synod | Run by the MPE | Run by the Holy Synod | | | | |
| 1803 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 16 | N/A | 29 | 46 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1836 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 2 | N/A | 8 | 11 | N/A | N/A | 1,269 |
| 1837 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 2 | N/A | 1,064 | 1,067 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1857 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 4 | - | 1,059 | 1,090 | 6,721 | 68 | 6,789 |
| 1860 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 1,055 | 1,060 | 11,175 | 97 | 11,272 |
| 1861 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 1,216 | 1,221 | 11,940 | 841 | 12,781 |
| 1866 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 2,151 | 2,156 | 19,204 | 2,545 | 21,749 |
| 1867 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 1,070 | 1,075 | 17,190 | 2,323 | 19,513 |
| 1868 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 1,188 | 1,193 | 18,127 | 2,350 | 20,477 |
| 1870 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 1,189 | 1,194 | 14,645 | 2,222 | 16,867 |
| 1871 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 831 | 836 | 12,974 | 1,526 | 14,500 |
| 1872 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 624 | 629 | 10,401 | 1,151 | 11,552 |
| 1873 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 383 | 388 | 8,275 | 923 | 9,198 |
| 1874 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 516 | 521 | 10,087 | 1,018 | 11,105 |
| 1875 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 493 | 498 | 9,191 | 916 | 10,107 |
| 1876 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 471 | 476 | 8,662 | 825 | 9,487 |
| 1877 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 494 | 499 | 10,855 | 836 | 11,691 |
| 1878 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 472 | 478 | 10,500 | 745 | 11,245 |
| 1879 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 467 | 472 | 10,341 | 703 | 11,044 |
| 1880 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 462 | 467 | 8,041 | 505 | 8,546 |
| 1881 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 351 | 356 | 9,686 | 699 | 10,385 |
| 1882 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 501 | 506 | 12,180 | 233 | 12,413 |
| 1883 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 545 | 550 | 13,041 | 211 | 13,252 |
| 1884 | N/A | 1 | N/A | 4 | N/A | 531 | 536 | 10,649 | 336 | 10,985 |
| 1885 | 7* | 1 | 24 | 4 | 1,340† | 175 | 1,551 | 38,398 | 8,855 | 47,253 |

* This includes one private school, one Catholic seminary, and one Jewish teacher's institute.

† This is inclusive of religious, private, and national schools.

As evidenced in [Table 1](#), in the period 1803–1885 parochial schools played a significant role in the region's public education sector. The activity of this type of schools peaked in the region at least twice – in 1837, when at the behest of Emperor Nicholas I they established 1,067 church-based parochial schools, and in 1866, when, following the abolition of serfdom in Russia, they established 2,156 schools in the region. This was done on the initiative of the Russian Orthodox Church, which was engaged in a mass opening of schools at the time. Subsequent to the second peak, there occurred a sharp drop in the number of schools in the region – to 175 in 1885. Note that this process was characteristic not only of Volyn Governorate but occurred throughout the Russian Empire, which was due to the Orthodox clergy failing to secure financial support for the cause of opening and operating schools – and, consequently, becoming much less enthusiastic about it ([Cherkasov et al., 2020: 661](#)).

Despite the paucity of information available on secular education in the region at the time, it was possible to include in [Table 1](#) some statistical data for the years 1857 and 1885. As evidenced by the data, over the 28-year period the number of secondary educational institutions in the region rose 3 times – from two to six (exclusive of a Catholic ecclesiastical seminary). At the same time, the number of its lower educational institutions did not change. In 1857, the military-statistical survey did not include information on the number of secular primary schools in the region; nor did the report of the Chief Procurator of the Holy Synod provide any data on its parochial schools. Nevertheless, it was possible to get the average number from 1837 (1,064 schools) and 1860 (1,055) – 1,059 schools. Despite the lengthy period (23 years), this figure seems quite plausible. In 1885, the region had a combined 1,515 primary educational institutions (both secular and parochial), an increase of 71%.

5. Conclusion

In the period 1796–1885, the system of public education in Volyn Governorate had been developing in the light of the incorporation of this region into the Russian Empire. Attempts to keep in place the Polish education system led to a polarization of the local population and to student involvement in nationalist riots between 1830 and 1831. Only subsequent to this did the Russian government begin to take measures to unify the public education system based on the Russian Empire's standards.

By 1885, the network of the region's educational institutions numbered eight secondary schools, 28 lower schools, and 1,515 primary schools. Overall, Volyn Governorate had in operation 1,551 educational institutions, with a combined enrollment of 47,253 students. The region's education sector included secular, ecclesiastical, private, and national educational institutions. The process of the making of the region's public education system was pretty much over by 1885.

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