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## UKRAINE AND UKRAINIAN TOPONYMS IN CZECH URBANONYMY<sup>20</sup>

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This research of Czech urbanonyms is based on the official register of streets RÚIAN, which is administered by the Czech Land Surveying and Cadastral Office. A number of street names in Czechia were motivated by Ukrainian toponyms or directly by the name of this state. These toponyms are used in street names in their Czech forms, i.e. as exonyms (e.g. Bělocerkevská from Czech exonym Bílá Cerekev for Ukrainian town Біла Церква 'Bila Tserkva'). Detoponymic urbanonyms are often combined and form whole urbanonymic systems. Several motivations as well as time layers can be distinguished: 1. After the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, streets were named after the places of important battles on the territory of Ukraine (e.g. Zborovská, Sokolovská). These places were thus primarily viewed through their role in Czech history, they become a part of the creation of the contemporary "cult" of brave Czech soldiers. 2. In the communist period (1948–1989), the main function of these commemorative urbanonyms was to declare friendly relations with other socialist states. In some cases, urbanonyms could be also motivated by some similarity between Czech and Ukrainian urban space (e.g. houses built in style of socialist realism in Kyjevská). 3. In the post-communist era, new detoponymic names of streets and public spaces currently declare cooperation between Czech and Ukrainian cities (e.g. Užhorodská) and regions (e.g. Podkarpatská). 4. In 2022, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a number of streets in the world were renamed to express solidarity and support for the invaded country. New ideological urbanonyms raised in Czechia as well, Ukrajinská ('Ukrainian') in Pilsen and Ukrajinských hrdinů ('Ukrainian heroes') in Prague.

**Keywords:** urbanonyms, toponyms, exonyms, Ukraine, Czechia, Czech language

## УКРАЇНА ТА УКРАЇНСЬКІ ТОПОНІМИ В ЧЕСЬКІЙ УРБАНОНІМІЇ

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Представлене дослідження урбанонімів базується на офіційному реєстрі RÚIAN, який адмініструє Чеське управління землевпорядкування та кадастру. Низку назв вулиць у Чехії мотивовано українськими топонімами або безпосередньо назвою цієї держави. Ці топоніми вживаються в номенклатурі вулиць у чеській формі, тобто як екзоніми (наприклад, вулиця

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*Bělocerkevská* від чеського екзоніма *Bílá Cerekev* для українського міста Біла Церква). Відтопонімні урбаноніми часто групуються й утворюють цілі урбанонімні системи. Можна виділити кілька різних мотивацій і водночас часових пластів: 1. Після Першої та Другої світових воєн вулиці називали на честь місць важливих битв на території України (наприклад, *Zborovská*, *Sokolovská*). Ці місця розглядали насамперед через їх роль у чеській історії, вони стали частиною створення тогочасного "культу" хоробрих чеських вояків. 2. У комуністичний період (1948–1989 рр.) основною функцією цих гонорифікаційних урбанонімів було декларування дружніх відносин з іншими соціалістичними державами. У деяких випадках урбаноніми також можуть бути мотивовані певною подібністю між чеським та українським міським простором (наприклад, будинки, побудовані в стилі соціалістичного реалізму на вулиці *Kyjovská*) 3. У посткомуністичний період нові відтопонімні урбаноніми демонструють співпрацю між містами (напр., *Užhorodská*) та регіонами (напр., *Podkarpatská*). 4. У 2022 році, після вторгнення Росії в Україну, низку вулиць у всьому світі було перейменовано на знак солідарності та підтримки країни, яка зазнала нападу. Нові ідеологічні урбаноніми з'явилися і в Чехії (*Ukrajinská vPlzni* та *Ukrajinských hrdinů* 'Українські герої' в Празі).

**Ключові слова:** урбаноніми, топоніми, екзоніми, Україна, Чехія, чеська мова

**Defining the problem.** A number of names of streets and public spaces in the Czech Republic were motivated by the names of other states or foreign toponyms. Most of these detoponymic names come from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when many new streets were built and had to be named. On the maps of Czech cities, we find that sometimes these urbanonyms are combined and form whole urbanonymic systems.

**The analysis of previous research and publications.** At present, this type of urbanonyms has been receiving an increased attention of onomasticians [2; 3] and historians [22]. However, there is still no study dealing with the motivation in urbanonyms which has been based on toponyms or other names from one particular country.

**The object of the article.** The research into urbanonyms is based on the official street register RÚIAN, which is managed by the Czech Land Survey and Cadastral Office. As of January 2, 2023, it contained a total of 85,360 street names in the Czech Republic. It is available on-line: <https://www.cuzk.cz/ruian/>.

**The aim of the study** is to focus on Czech urbanonyms which have been derived from the name of the state Ukraine and from various toponyms situated in Ukraine.

**Presentation of the main research material with substantiation of the scientific results obtained.**

**Name of the state.** The name of the state **Ukrajina** (Україна 'Ukraine') appears in the form *Ukrajina* in only one case, namely in the name of a street in the municipality of *Moravská Nová Ves*. (Although in this case it could also be a transfer of the original anoikononym, which arose from the Czech appellative *ukraine* with the meaning 'region on the border, borderland'). The form of a substantivized adjective is more common. The street named *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian') can be found in eight Czech cities (Brno, Černošice, Kladno, Litvínov, Ostrava, Pilsen, Prague, Teplice). The oldest of them dates from 1946 (in Teplice). The most recent is from March 2022, when street *Sírková* near the railway station in Pilsen was renamed *Ukrajinská*. It was a symbolic expression of solidarity with this country during the Russian-Ukrainian war. Changing the name of *Korunovační* street in Prague in April 2022 had the same goal, however only a part of the street leading past the Embassy of the Russian Federation was subjected to the renaming, the current name being *Ukrajinských hrdinů* ('Ukrainian Heroes') [for details, see 6].

Urbanonyms motivated by the names of states often come together and create larger urbanonymic systems [for details, see 29, 18]. One of the first urbanonymic system was created in the 1920s in Prague in honour of the victorious countries in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, streets were named after these states and their

capitals [cf. 28: 540]. A relatively long street *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian') in Černošice fits into the system created in 1951 along with *Bulharská* ('Bulgarian'), *Srbská* ('Serbian'), *Kubánská* ('Cuban'), *Chilská* ('Chilean'), *Polská* ('Polish') and *Rumunská* ('Romanian') streets. In addition to streets named after states, there are also street names in Černošice motivated by cities – perpendicular to *Ukrajinská* is street *Kyjevská* (> Kyjev for Київ 'Kyiv'). In Kladno, the urbanonymic system is grouped around street *Obránců míru* ('Defenders of Peace'), and in addition to *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian'), there are *Maďarská* ('Hungarian'), *Estonská* ('Estonian'), *Litevská* ('Lithuanian'), *Polská* ('Polish'), *Bulharská* ('Bulgarian') and *Arménská* ('Armenian') streets on one side, and on the other side there are streets derived from the names of Western European states (*Anglická* 'English', *Italská* 'Italian', *Holandská* 'Dutch', *Švýcarská* 'Swiss', *Francouzská* 'French') and north-European countries (*Norská* 'Norwegian', *Finská* 'Finnish', *Dánská* 'Danish'). The longest street is *Americká* ('American'). Among street names motivated by names of countries, there are also street names based on the names of the capitals of the "friendly socialist republics", such as *Varšavská* (> Varšava 'Warsaw'), *Havanská* (> Havana), *Bělehradská* (> Bělehrad 'Belgrade'), *Budapeštská* (> Budapešť 'Budapest'), *Jerevanská* (> Jerevan 'Yerevan'). Streets *Wednesbury* (after the city in Great Britain) and *Vitry* (after the city Vitry-sur-Seine in France) were newly added to them. The second one is the partner city of Kladno. Supplementing and expanding it then shows the viability of such systems [see 27].

The choice of countries that are mentioned in the street nomenclature reflects the time when the name was created, and the prevailing ideology of the time, e.g. in Ostrava, *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian') is next to *Mongolská* ('Mongolian'), *Řecká* ('Greek'), *Maďarská* ('Hungarian'), *Bulharská* ('Bulgarian'), *Alžírská* ('Algerian'), *Vietnamská* ('Vietnamese') and *Polská* ('Polish')

streets. It is a system that was created in 1965 (see Ostravský uličník, on-line), therefore it contains only "friendly socialist states" of that time. In Brno, in the former housing estate *Sídliště československo-sovětského přátelství* ('Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Settlement'), there were streets named after the states that were part of the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) – *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian'), *Moldavská* ('Moldovan'), *Gruzínská* ('Georgian'), *Běloruská* ('Belarusian') and *Arménská* ('Armenian') streets lie next to each other. The Brno system was created in the 1970s [8: 295; cf. 3].

**Names of parts of Ukraine (Choronyms).** In the names of Czech streets, in addition to the names of the entire state, there are also the names of various historical and administrative areas that are currently part of Ukraine (i.e. choronyms).

The historical area of today's Zakarpattia region (Закарпатська область) was a part of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1430–1918. On May 9, 1919, the Ruthenian Central National Council decided on its annexation to Czechoslovakia, which was confirmed by the Saint-Germain (September 10, 1919) and Trianon (June 4, 1920) peace treaties. As a part of Czechoslovakia, it was officially called **Podkarpatská Rus** in Czech (Підкарпатська Русь 'Subcarpathian Rus'). In the years 1938–1944, Podkarpatská Rus was annexed by Hungary again. In the autumn 1944, it was occupied by the Soviet army. The territory was annexed by the USSR and this act was based on the treaty with Czechoslovakia dated June 29, 1945 [9: 618–619]. Since 2007, the Ukrainian Zakarpattia region and Czech Vysočina region have been so-called partner regions and strive for cultural and economic cooperation. Since 2019, we can find street *Podkarpatská* in the town Jihlava (the center of the Vysočina region) commemorating the historical Czech name of this Ukrainian area [15].

Another area in today's Ukraine with historical ties to Czechia is **Volyň**

(Волинь 'Volyn'), where several thousand Czechs moved in the second half of the 19th century. In 1946 and 1947, most of the Volyn Czechs were repatriated back to their homeland. The street *Volyňských Čechů* ('Volyn Czechs') in Žatec commemorates them, because "Žatec was one of the important repatriation centers after the war. The name *Volyňských Čechů* was proposed at the meeting of the municipal national committee on March 10, 1948, and approved at the plenary session on October 14, 1948" [12: 190]. Streets called *Volyňská*, related to the Ukrainian Volyň, can be found in Dlouhá Loučka near Olomouc, in Prague, and Tachov.

**Exonyms.** In Czech urbanonymy, we can find a number of names motivated by hydronyms and oronyms, for example, street *Dunajská* (Brno, Prague, Říčany) after the **Dunaj** River (Дунай 'Danube') or *Karpaty I.* and *Karpaty II.* streets (Šitbořice), and *Karpatská* (Brno, Liberec, Ostrava, Prague, Říčany, Trnov, Ústí nad Labem) after the **Karpaty** Mountains (Карпати 'Carpathian Mountains'). Both the Danube and the Carpathians are natural objects that are part of the territory of several countries, including Ukraine. The urbanonym *Krymská* was derived from the name of another geographical object – the peninsula **Kрым** (Крым 'Crimea') and can be found on the map of five cities in the Czech Republic (Brno, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Prague, Varnsdorf).

Other tracked urbanonyms are based on the names of Ukrainian cities. When naming streets and public spaces in Czechia, the standard is based on Czech exonyms, i.e. traditional domestic forms of foreign toponyms, for example, the French city Paris is called Paříž in Czech (> street *Pařížská*), the Danish city København is Kodaň (> *Kodaňská*), the Vietnamese city Hà Nội is Hanoj (> *Hanojská*), etc. There are only rare exceptions in street nomenclature, possibly due to the ignorance of the exonym, e.g. *Regensburská* street in Pilsen, although the established Czech exonym for the German municipality of Regensburg is Řezno. A more detailed definition of exonym is given by United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: "Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated. Examples: Warsaw is the English exonym for Warszawa; Londres is French for London; Mailand is German for Milano." [31: 10]

In the street nomenclature, well-established Czech exonyms are treated in the same way in the case of Ukrainian toponyms as can be seen in Table 1.

Tab. 1:

**Detoponymic urbanonyms**

Ukrainian toponym	Czech exonym	Czech urbanonym	Occurrence of the urbanonym in Czechia
Бахмач	Bachmač	U Bachmače	Plzeň
		Bachmačská	České Budějovice, Chomutov, Jaroměř, Kolín, Liberec, Ostrava, Říčany, Šumperk
		Bachmačské náměstí	Praha
Біла Церква	Bílá Cerekev	Bělocerkevská	Praha, Kutná Hora
(Чеський) Малин	Český Malín	Českomalínská	Praha
Харків	Charkov	Charkovská	Karlovy Vary, Olomouc, Ostrava, Praha
Херсон	Cherson	U Města Chersonu	Most

Ялта	Jalta	Jaltská	Karlovy Vary, Praha
Крим	Krym	Krymská	Brno, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Prague, Varnsdorf
Київ	Kyjev	Kijevská	České Budějovice, Kutná Hora, Svitavy
		Kyjevská	Brno, Černošice, Děčín, Hradec Králové, Kladno, Kralupy nad Vltavou, Ostrava, Pardubice, Plzeň, Praha, Prostějov, Říčany, Tábor, Teplice, Třebíč, Žamberk
		nám. Kyjevské	Liberec
Львів	Lvov	Lvovská	Ostrava, Praha
Одеса	Oděsa	Oděská	Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
Севастополь	Sevastopol	Sevastopolská	Brno, Kladno, Praha, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
		Sevastopolské náměstí	Příbram
Соколове	Sokolovo	Sokolovo	Mašťov, Rovensko pod Troskami
		Sokolovská	90×
		Sokolovská cesta	Teplice
		nám. Sokolovské, Sokolovské náměstí	Liberec, Přelouč
Ужгород	Užhorod	Užhorodská	Jihlava
Ужок	Užok	Užocká	Praha
Зборів	Zborov	Zborovská	58×
		Zborovské nábřeží	Beroun
		Zborovské náměstí, Zborovské nám.	Mělník, Pardubice
Житомир	Žitomir	Žitomířská	Praha

Since the earliest times, the origin and existence of exonyms have been connected with the development of international relations at the political and economic level, with penetrating religious influences, and rich cultural contacts between individual countries, therefore it is not surprising that the local naming of a geographical object arises primarily when the local population gets in close contact with this object, and therefore considers it necessary to name it somehow. These are, above all, the names of large cities and the names of cities that played an important role in Czech history [11: 104].

This contact did not always have to be direct. The names of foreign (and especially exotic) destinations reach Czech through mediating cultural languages, in the Middle Ages through Latin, later mainly through German, English, French, Spanish and Russian. The form of the name in the mediating language can then

influence the resulting form of the exonym, e.g. the Czech exonym Rovno for the Ukrainian city Рівне ('Rivne') was adopted through Russian (Ровно), similarly e.g. in Polish (Równie). The Czech exonym Černobyl corresponds to the Russian form Чернобыль rather than the Ukrainian Чорнобиль ('Chernobyl'), which is undoubtedly due to the circumstances under which this place became infamous. However, the similarity with the Czech adjectives rovný ('straight') or černý ('black') may also have played a role. Regardless of what the initial or mediating language was, it is important to realize that Czech exonyms are an integral part of the vocabulary and richness of the Czech language, into which they have been incorporated.

If a name taken from a foreign language is to be incorporated into the receiving language, it must necessarily be adapted in a certain way. "For this reason, when

foreign geographical names are adopted into Czech, they adapt in a certain way to its phonetic, morphematic and word-forming structure, which enables them to be smoothly integrated into the Czech language system." [11: 107] The adaptations are primarily phonetic (the stress moves to the first syllable, sounds that do not exist in Czech are replaced by the closest domestic phonemes) and morphological (the foreign base is preserved, but the ending of the name is adapted, the original endings or suffixes are replaced by domestic ones, which enables the easier incorporation of a foreign geographical name into morphological system of the Czech language, etc.), names are translated etc. [for details, see 21; 26; 11: 106–114]. From Czech exonyms for Ukrainian toponyms, we can cite as examples of various types of adaptations or partial translations: Černovice – Чернівці ('Chernivtsi'), Kamenec Podolský – Кам'янець-Подільський ('Kamianets-Podilskyi'), Jasenná – Ясиня ('Yasinia'), Podolí – Поділля ('Podillia'), Tarnopol – Тернопіль ('Ternopil') etc. [13].

In one of the first dictionaries of contemporary Czech language by J. Jungmann (1836), we can find the Czech exonyms Lvov (including the German and Latin variants Lemberg and Leopoldis for Львів 'Lviv') and Kyjev (Київ 'Kyiv'). In the younger dictionary of F. Š. Kott (1878), Charkov (Харків 'Kharkiv'), Kyjev (Київ 'Kyiv'), Lvov (Львів 'Lviv'), Mukačovo ("Hungar. Munkács", Мукачево 'Mukachevo') and Užhorod ("Hungar. Ungvar", Ужгород 'Uzhhorod') are listed. These Czech forms of Ukrainian toponyms have therefore been part of the Czech national language for almost 150 to 200 years and are still actively used. Thanks to this, historical and linguistic continuity has been preserved, even though in the past there may have been some orthographic instability of some exonyms, e.g. earlier, Oděsa (Одеса 'Odesa') was sometimes also spelled Oděssa or Odessa [21: 129–130], or "We very often read Kijev [...], although the Rules [of Czech Orthography] prescribe Kyjev." [1: 85], etc. That is why there are three streets

incorrectly named *Kijevská* in Czechia. It should also be noted that the street name *Žitomířská* in Prague, derived from the name of town Житомир ('Zhytomyr'), "was approved in 1962 with a short -i- in the form *Žitomířská*, the shift took place according to the plans of Prague sometime in the 1970 s." [20: 736]

Currently, the form of Czech exonyms is codified by Index českých exonym (Index of Czech exonyms), which is published by the Czech Land Survey and Cadastral Office and which "serves the function of a normative guide for all who come into contact with Czech exonyms, including geographers, cartographers, historians, linguists, journalists, radio and television editors and announcers, as well as for the general public". [13: 10].

In terms of frequency of occurrence, we can distinguish exonyms living (current), receding and historical (archaic). The difference is also manifested in the street nomenclature, where we find, for example, the outdated form *Žitomířská* (Český Brod) and the newer *Žitomířská* (Prague) derived from the name of town Житомир ('Zhytomyr'). It should also be noted that "The name of the street was approved in 1962 with a short -i- in the form *Žitomířská*, the shift took place according to the plans of Prague sometime in the 1970s." [20: 736]

"The situation is different with the names of places that did not play a significant role in our cultural relations, and of course with new or at least recently named places. We usually leave the original spelling here." [5: 36] For Ukrainian toponyms, for which we do not have a well-established Czech exonym, transcription is used according to the principles established by the Rules of Czech Orthography. The Internet Language Guide authored by the Czech Language Institute lists these rules clearly and with examples of toponyms (<https://prirucka.ujc.cas.cz/?id=926>).

**Czech toponyms resembling exonyms.** Czech and Ukrainian are related Slavic languages. It is therefore not surprising that in the toponymy of both countries there are the same or similar

place names that arose independently and that originate from the same Slavic base. When analyzing Czech urban names, we must therefore be careful to relate the street name to the correct toponym. This requires some local knowledge.

I listed several streets derived from the Czech name of the region Volyn (Волинь 'Volyn') in Ukraine. However, one street called *Volyňská* can be found in Strakonice, which is located about 13 km from the Czech village **Volyně**. In the case of this street, it is therefore more likely that it is named after the direction given the nearby Czech village Volyně and that this name is not related to the Ukrainian Volyn.

A similar situation occurs in the case of *Zborovská* streets. Most of them can be considered commemorative names derived from the exonym Zborov (Зборів 'Zboriv') in Ukraine. However, there are also villages **Zborov** (in Šumperk district) and **Zborovy** (in Klatovy district) in Czechia. Streets *Zborovská*, which are found in the villages Lanškroun and Šumperk, are therefore more related to the Czech village Zborov located in their neighbourhood. It would also be a mistake to derive the name of the street *Ostrožská* from the name of the Ukrainian city Ostroh (Острів 'Ostroh'). Three streets with this name can be found in the nearby villages Hluk, Moravský Písek and Veselí nad Moravou. In their neighbourhood lies not only the village **Uherský Ostroh**, but also the smaller villages *Ostrožská Lhota* and *Ostrožská Nová Ves*. Also, in these cases, it is not a question of the motivation by Ukrainian place.

The case of the municipality **Sokolov** in Karlovy Vary region is somewhat more complicated. The name of this town was a translation of the original German toponym Falkenau an der Eger (formerly Falknov nad Ohří in Czech). However, in addition "the motivation for the new oikonym Sokolov was also 'an effort to commemorate the battle for the Ukrainian village Sokolovo during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, in which a Czechoslovak military unit in the USSR distinguished itself'. This corresponded not only to the presence of General Ludvík Svoboda at the act of

renaming Falknov nad Ohří to Sokolov on March 31, 1948, but also the subsequent unveiling of the 'Warrior from Sokolovo' monument (by Vendelín Zdrůbecký) in 1951." [4: 105–106] Right in the city of Sokolov, there is *Sokolovská* street, which probably also refers to the Ukrainian village of Sokolovo (Соколове 'Sokolove') just like most other *Sokolovská* streets in Czechia. However, the situation is apparently different with the *Sokolovská* streets in the municipalities near this Czech town Sokolov (Karlovy Vary, Loket, Staré Sedlo). I assume that they have a more localizing function and show the direction relative to the Czech city.

**Naming motivation.** Let's focus on the issue of the motivation of these detoponymic urbanonyms, when they arose and why. Several time layers can be distinguished at the same time. P. Štěpán [27: 296–297] divides commemorative (honorific) urbanonyms formed from toponyms into two groups:

a) urbanonyms commemorating a certain event that took place in the location named by the basic toponym (the commemorative function is very prominent in the name of this type),

b) urbanonyms reminiscent of a certain important geographical object.

In my material, the first group would include urbanonyms commemorating the places of battles in Ukraine during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, while the second group includes names motivated by other Ukrainian cities or places.

Urbanonyms derived from the same toponymic base could naturally be motivated differently, in different cities. In Pilsen, for example, the street was named *Kyjevská* in memory of Czechoslovak legionnaires during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and was part of the Pilsen street nomenclature in 1928–1940, and returned again in 1945 [7: 60]. On the other hand, *Kyjevská* street has been in Ostrava since 1963 as a part of a street system commemorating the battles of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, in which the Czechoslovak army was also involved (*Charkovská*, *Lvovská*, *Sokolovská*), in its vicinity there is also the street *1. československého armádního sboru* ('1<sup>st</sup> Czechoslovak Army Corps'). In other

cities, the primary motivation for naming *Kyjevská* street could have been the fact that Kyjev (Київ 'Kyiv') is the capital of Ukraine, or an architectural or another similarity may have played a role, etc.

**1. The 1<sup>st</sup> World War.** After the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, independent Czechoslovakia was declared on October 28, 1918. Our soldiers (called legionnaires) on the western and eastern fronts played an important role in the creation of the independent state. In the new republic there was a widespread activity of renaming and getting rid of urbanonyms reminiscent of the former Austria-Hungary and some streets were renamed after the places of important battles in which these soldiers of the Czechoslovak legions took part.

On July 2, 1917, a battle took place near **Zborov** (Зборів 'Zboriv') in Ukraine, where a troop of Czechoslovak legions fought against the German and Austrian armies. In memory of this event, *Zborovská* street in Prague got its name already in 1919 [20: 726]. There are currently 60 streets named *Zborovská* in the Czech Republic.

Another famous battle, in which the Czechoslovak legions intervened, was the one at **Bachmač** (Бахмач 'Bakhmach') on March 8 – March 13, 1918. The urbanonyms motivated by this Ukrainian toponym, however, had a rather turbulent fate, which fully reveals the historical upheavals of the 20th century. In Prague, a square was named *Bachmačské náměstí* in 1925. However, in 1940, during the German occupation, this ideologically undesirable name had to disappear from the street nomenclature. It was possible to return it only after the liberation in 1945. However, it did not last long, because already in 1952 it became inconvenient for the new communist regime again, as everything else that might have reminded of the former democratic republic and Czechoslovak legions. Prague square has borne its original name again only since 1992 [20: 73]. It is a typical manipulation of historical memory [cf. 17: 150]. It turned out differently with *Bachmačské náměstí* in Olomouc. It was renamed in 1948 to *Velké říjnové socialistické revoluce*

('Great October Socialist Revolution'). However, after the fall of communism, the original name was not returned, and since 1990 the space has been called *Palachovo náměstí* [30: 25]. In České Budějovice, the street name *Bachmačská* "was to become a reminder of the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of Bakhmach in Ukraine, where the Czechoslovak legions fought in March 1918 (the same motif was used in the naming of the nearby Zborovská street, today dedicated to S. K. Neumann). Most of the houses in this street were built by former legionnaires, who founded a construction cooperative for this purpose. [...] After the liberation, the pre-war name *Bachmačská* returned and has remained valid to this day. Surprisingly, it also survived the period of communism, when all commemorations of the legions had to mostly disappear." [19: 86]

The capital of Ukraine, **Kyjev** (Київ 'Kyiv'), was also connected with the Czechoslovak Legions on the eastern front. It was the main center of the Czech foreign resistance since 1914. The so-called "Kyjevská dohoda" ('Kyiv Agreement') was signed in Kyjev on August 29, 1916, by the representatives of various foreign resistance groups. The street *Kyjevská* in Prague was named in memory of this event. It bore this name in 1925–1940 and again after 1945. "The fact that Czechoslovak military units also participated in the liberation of the city in November 1943 contributed to the retention of the name after 1945." [20: 294]

The urbanonymic system of names based on the locations of the battlefields of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War can be found today in Říčany, where *Bachmačská*, *Kyjevská* and *Zborovská* streets are located next to street *Legií* ('[Street of] Legions').

## **2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War**

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, the places of important battles on the Eastern Front, in which Czechoslovak troops were once again involved, entered the Czech urbanonymy. The battle which took place on March 8 and March 9, 1943, near the Ukrainian village of **Sokolovo** (Соколове 'Sokolove') was particularly remembered and commemorated. There are still 90



streets named *Sokolovská* in Czechia. J. David [4: 105] believes that "it was an obvious tendency to create a new myth that would replace Zborov associated with the legionary tradition and the First Republic".

The 1<sup>st</sup> Czechoslovak Army Corps also took part in the liberation of **Kyjev** (Київ 'Kyiv') during the military operation carried out between November 3 and November 6, 1943. This became the motivation for naming the streets *Kijevská* in České Budějovice [19], *Kyjevská* in Tábor [33: 23] and probably some other streets named after the Ukrainian capital city. Again, the fate of one embankment in Olomouc is significant. Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, it was called *Zborovské nábřeží* (1927–1939) after the battle near Zborov. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, it was renamed *Kyjevské nábřeží* (1945–1991). Thus, one battle in Ukraine was (probably for ideological reasons) replaced by another. After the fall of communism, the embankment was renamed to *Dr. Milady Horákové* after the Czech politician executed in 1950 [30: 51].

After the war, an entire urbanonymic system began to emerge in Prague Vršovice, which today is probably the most extensive in Prague. It was dedicated to the commemoration of important battlefields of the Red Army. It also includes streets derived from Ukrainian toponyms (respectively from Czech exonyms for Ukrainian cities): *Sevastopolská* (from 1947 to the present), *Krymská* (from 1947 to the present), *Charkovská* (from 1947 to the present), *Karpatská* (from 1947 to the present), *Bělocerkevská* (from 1948 to the present), *Lvovská* (from 1952 to the present), *Jaltská* (from 1957 to the present) and *Žitomířská* (from 1962 to the present) [25: 97; 20: 700]. Less extensive urbanonymic systems based on the places of battles of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War can also be found in other cities, e.g. in Žamberk it is formed by *Kyjevská*, *Sokolovská* and *Dukelská* streets, in Kladno *Kyjevská*, *Sokolovská* and *Sevastopolská* are located between *Míru* ('Peace') and *Vítězná* ('Victorious') streets.

In the post-war urbanonymy, in addition to the battles, another important

historical event that took place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in Ukraine was also remembered, namely the conference in **Jalta** (Ялта 'Yalta') which took place from February 4 to February 11, 1945. Street *Jaltská* can be found in Prague (since 1957) and in Karlovy Vary.

Since 1951, the commemorative urbanonym *Českomalínská* in Prague has been a reminder of the massacre and burning of the Czech settlement **Český Malín** (Малин 'Malyn') in Volyň region. The Nazis perpetrated the massacre on July 13, 1943. Let us add that on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burning of *Český Malín*, the Czech village of Frankštát near Šumperk was renamed *Nový Malín* ('New Malín'), and several surviving residents of *Český Malín* moved there.

**3. Partner towns.** In the communist period (1948–1989), the main function of detoponymic urbanonyms was to declare friendly relations with other socialist states, so they were primarily ideological and commemorative. Soviet toponyms in Czech urbanonymy can also be viewed as a means of colonizing our space, as "toponymic newspeak and the creation of the so-called state landscape" [4: 42]. It also functioned as a means of manipulating historical memory, e.g. in the entire extensive urbanonymic system in Prague Vršovice described above, there were no "towns from Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, perhaps so as not to create an unwanted reminder of the 'voluntary' ceding of the former Podkarpatská Rus ('Subcarpathian Rus') to the Soviet Union in June 1945". [22: 287].

After the so-called Velvet Revolution (November 17, 1989) and the fall of the communist regime, the urbanonyms associated with it were removed. However, detoponymic urbanonyms often remained. As, for example, J. Kneselová [16: 170–171] states on the example of Brno: "The Nomenclature Commission tried to prevent hasty changes, especially for names motivated by geographical names, even if they were the names of Soviet cities. Only *Leningradská* (the name of the city disappeared) was changed to *Hradecká* and, due to the pressure of the

citizens, *Moskevská* was also changed to *Skácelova*, but the streets *Kujevská*, *Kurská*, *Irkutská*, etc. remained." On the other hand, there stands an opinion of O. Gnatiuk and A. Melnychuk [10: 258] who wrote about situation in Ukraine: "However, geographical urbanonyms, despite their powerful significance for the formation of the symbolic urban space, remain on the periphery of decommunization discourse. The reason is the lack of their inalienable ideological connotations, although the name of 'Moscow Street' may evoke associations with the communist regime, and the name of 'German Street' – with the Nazis. Perception of such names as problematic, contradictory, undesirable, etc. is possible only within the discourse of decolonization, according to which current changes in the symbolic space in Ukraine should not end with the elimination of communist ideology, but should be continued in order to erase a memory of the 'colonial' past of Ukraine as a part of the USSR, the Russian Empire, etc." This point of view can be compared with a request to consider the possibility of renaming some streets associated with the communist era, which they dealt with in town Most on April 29, 2020, because "It is really shameful and outrageous to have streets named after such places, people and the like nowadays". The applicant stated on his list also street *U Města Chersonu* ('By the City Kherson'). However, the mayor defended this urbanonym motivated by the name of Ukrainian town Cherson (Херсон 'Kherson') and wrote: "In terms of connection with the previous regime, we are not aware of any direct link. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, mainland Cherson was occupied by the Nazis, and naming the street could be a way to express belonging to its inhabitants. Another reason may be that Czech scientists participated significantly in the excavations of the Greek settlement there at the end of the 19th century. Brothers Cyril and Methodius also lived in Cherson. In any case, the naming of a street after any city should not arouse any negative emotions, regardless of the time and circumstances of its origin." [23]

The new post-communist era then brought new relationships. A number of Czech cities joined the project of so-called partner towns and found their counterparts in Ukraine, especially in the Zakarpattia and Volyn regions, to which Czechia has historical and cultural ties. Partner towns are:

- Český Krumlov – Kaluš (Калуш 'Kalush') (since 1993),
- Česká Lípa – Užhorod (Ужгород 'Uzhhorod') (since 2000),
- Bílina – Novovolynsk (НОВОВОЛІНСЬК 'Novovolynsk') (since 2000),
- Moravský Beroun – Ostroh (Острозь 'Ostroh') (since 2005),
- Brno – Charkov (Харків 'Kharkiv') (since 2007),
- Kutná Hora – Kamienec Podolský (Кам'янець-Подільський 'Kamianets-Podilskiy') (since 2008),
- Hradec Králové – Černihiv (Чернігів 'Chernihiv') (since 2010),
- Přerov – Ivano-Frankivsk (Івано-Франківськ 'Ivano-Frankivsk') (since 2010),
- Jihlava – Užhorod (Ужгород 'Uzhhorod') (since 2010),
- Kuřov – Luck (Луцьк 'Lutsk') (since 2011),
- Uničov – Dubno (Дубно 'Dubno') (since 2011),
- Pelhřimov – Mukachevo (Мукачеве 'Mukachevo') (since 2012),
- Semily – Koločava (Колочава 'Kolochava') (since 2013),
- Brandýs nad Labem-Stará Boleslav – Dunajivci (Дунайівці 'Dunajivtsi') (since 2014),
- Krnov – Nadvirna (Надвірна 'Nadvirna') (since 2015),
- Třebíč – Rakhiv (Рахів 'Rakhiv') (since 2017),
- Žďár nad Sázavou – Chust (Хуст 'Khust') (od 2017),
- Lysá nad Labem – Kukeziv (Кукезів 'Kukeziv') (since 2019),
- Chotěboř – Tjačiv (Тячів 'Tiachiv') (since 2019)

Ostrava was a partner town of Doněck (Донецьк 'Donetsk') (2009–2022), but as a result of the declaration of the self-

proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it terminated this partnership agreement.

Street *Užhorodská* in Jihlava was named after its partner town Užhorod (Ужгород 'Uzhhorod') in 2013 [14]. In other cities, they have not yet taken such a step.

**4 Architecture.** However, not all detoponymic urbanonyms from the communist period were necessarily ideological. The motivation for the creation of the name could also be a certain similarity between, for example, a Czech and Ukrainian place. The author of the book about streets in Olomouc believes that "The fact that a small part of architect Leopold Hoferek's originally magnificent project for houses similar to those that stood somewhere in the capital of Soviet Ukraine was realized in the years 1952–1955 on the *Kyjevské nábřeží* was just a coincidence" [30: 26], but similarly, *Kyjevská* in Kladno is also "a street of multi-storey apartment buildings in the style of socialist realism from the turn of the 1940s and 1950s" [32: 118] and street *Sevastopolská* looked the same in Kladno [32: 180]. It did not have to be a coincidence, but rather an intention.

#### **Conclusion and research prospects.**

Detonymic urbanonyms are based on Czech exonyms and are primarily commemorative. Their main function was and is ideological. Unlike some other detoponymic urbanonyms (e.g. *Videňská* 'Viennese' in Brno), the ones that originated from names of places situated in the territory of today's Ukraine were not motivated by location and direction. The most of these urbanonyms are

commemorating the places of famous battles of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars, in which Czechoslovak troops also took part. Places in Ukraine are thus primarily viewed through their role in Czech history, they become a part of the creation of the contemporary "cult" of the Czechoslovak legionnaires after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War (especially *Zborovská*) and then of the Czechoslovak units in the Red Army after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War (especially *Sokolovská*). With the rise of communism in 1948, the ideological highlighting of the Red Army's struggles intensified, in addition, detoponymic urban names motivated by various places in the then Soviet Union and in other "friendly socialist republics" penetrated into Czech cities. Although after the fall of communism at the beginning of the 1990s most of the urbanonyms linked to communist ideology were removed, the detoponymic ones remain in our street nomenclature, with exceptions.

New detoponymic names of streets and public spaces currently declare cooperation between cities (project of partner towns) and regions, especially those with historical ties to Czechia (Zakarpattia, Volyn). In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, there are new urbanonyms *Ukrajinská* ('Ukrainian') in Pilsen and *Ukrajinských hrdinů* ('Ukrainian heroes') in Prague. They have a clear ideological function. Their goal is to express solidarity with the invaded country and to define political demarcation towards the aggressor.

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