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A Modern View of the European Vector of the Military Development of Ukrainian Lands in the 13th-14th Centuries: Prospects for Future Historiographical Studies

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Abstract: Given the widespread dissemination of Russian mythologies about Rus and its history, the examination of different phases in Ukraine's military history has become a crucial undertaking in our contemporary era. The primary objective of the research paper was to scrutinise the manifestations of European military culture within the trajectory of Ukrainian lands' development during the 13th and 14th centuries, with a particular focus on the Galician-Volhynian state. The analytical framework employed in this study encompassed methods such as content the analysis, the genetic-historical method, and synthesis. The scientific novelty of the work also consisted in an attempt to overcome stereotypes and refute false statements with the help of objective historical sources. The results of the analysis revealed robust connections between the military developments in 13th and 14th century Rus and the principles of European chivalry. A meticulous examination of specific chronicle events illuminated conspicuous indications of chivalric practices embedded within

the Rus'ian elite. Noteworthy among these manifestations was the deliberate adoption of mounted shock combat, a strategic approach mirroring European methods prevalent in the 13th century. It was imperative to underscore that Rus'ian princes and boyars demonstrated parity with their European counterparts in both military proficiency and the quality of their equipment. The Battle of Yaroslav in 1245 exemplified this parity, illustrating the effective resistance of the Rus'ian elite against the formidable Polish and Hungarian knights of that era. The mastery of mounted shock combat necessitated skill and training, suggesting that the Rus'ian military elite underwent analogous chivalric education. In conclusion, this study posited that during the Middle Ages, the military elite wielded substantial political influence in Rus, indicative of protracted and significant interactions with the European sphere. This challenges antiquated Soviet notions characterising the political system of Rus as "closed" and contradicts contemporary Russian narratives perpetuating myths surrounding the enduring dependence of Ukrainian lands on Moscow.

Keywords: Rus, chivalry, Medieval Europe, war, military equipment, chronicles, Ukraine.

Introduction

The modern European integration aspirations of Ukraine are not solely based on the geographical factor, but also heavily influenced by scientific and economic considerations. As an element of a single political and cultural space, the Ukrainian lands and the states that existed on them have long been oriented towards the West, borrowing certain practices and rituals from there. First of all, important in this context are the medieval times, when the Ukrainian state of Rus (Rus-Ukraine, as Mykhailo Hrushevskyi wrote about it (Hrushevskyi, 2016)) developed independently, played an important role in the dynastic diplomacy, politics, cultural and religious life and trade relations of that time. In fact, it is about the establishment of full-fledged interstate contacts in the medieval understanding of this concept – international relations that were based on the rule of a separate dynasty and its family ties, participation in military coalitions, protection of the Christian Church, etc. These interstate influences became especially noticeable in the 13th century, when around 1199 the Galician-Volhynian state was formed in the western territories of Rus. It included the powerful Galician and Volyn principalities united by the ruling of Romanids dynasty (a branch of the Kievan Monomachos family).

For the modern history of Ukraine, the Galician-Volhynia state is of extraordinary importance. Some scholars assumed that this entity became the first Ukrainian state in general (Tomashivsky, 1919). However, even without such generalisations, the study of a powerful medieval country is extremely relevant for historians. Additionally, it is important to consider that the Romanids had connections with various European dynasties, including those of Poland, Hungary, and Germany. This vector already directed them to borrow some household, military, and political practices of the Western European Middle Ages. For a long time, such paradigms of development were not investigated, because during the Soviet period these facts from Ukrainian history were deliberately emphasised, which testified to the union with the Moscow authorities, and not with European opponents to the Russian communistic regime. Instead, in recent years (primarily already in the 21st century), proper conditions have been formed for the resumption of true research, which is not involved in ideology or class prejudices. Therefore, the basis of this scientific paper is the results of the research of Ukrainian and European historians. Hrushevskyi (2016) wrote a grand narrative of the Ukrainian people's historical journey from its inception to the dissolution of statehood in the 14th century. The scientific delves into one of the most enigmatic and lesser-known eras in this historical account – the era of the ascendancy of the Galician-Volhynian state and the expansion of Tatar

(Mongol) rule across Ukrainian territories. Brief overviews of Ukrainian history were carried out by Plokhii (2006) and Subtelny (2009). The military skills of rus'ian boyars and princes were examined by Vojtovych (2010), Fedoruk (2014) and Hutsul (2015). Possibilities of comparing the skills of medieval chivalry and the Rus'ian elite are still understudied. The main reason for this situation is the insufficient number of historical sources.

Jež (2021) investigated marriages between Mazovian Piasts and Rurikids. Skoczyński (2020) researched military alliances of Polish and Rus'ian elite. Historians from both Poland and Ukraine have approached the history of Galician-Volhynia from their respective national perspectives. This has resulted in the creation of separate national stories and understandings. Polish scholars have often focused on the Polish connection, while Ukrainian scholars have emphasised the Ukrainian identity and statehood aspects.

Dąbrowski (2022) offers a fascinating exploration of a pivotal period in the history of Eastern Europe. This era was marked by a complex interplay of political, cultural, and religious forces, and the book delves into the region's shifting alliances and the challenges faced by the Galician-Volhynian Rus in their interactions with the emerging power of Lithuania in the 13th century. Jusupović (2021) examines the progress made in Polish historiography concerning medieval Rus during the past two decades. His monograph about the Chronicle of Galician-Volhynian delves into the chronological and narrative organisation evident in this source, with the aim of addressing a larger inquiry: whether the Chronicle was integrated into a historical compilation designed to establish a novel historiographical entity within medieval Rus (Jusupović, 2022). Bartnicki (2018) and Font (2021) described Polish and Hungarian vectors of diplomacy of Romanids, based on the analysis of the medieval sources. Also, Perfecky (1973) translated Galician-Volhynian Chronicle into English. These scientific works are important for further researching of history of Rus and medieval Ukraine. The focus will be on diplomacy and medieval affairs as important topics for upcoming historical papers. Parshyn & Mereniuk (2022) investigated the issue of coexistence of different communities in multinational Lviv during the 13th-15th centuries. Parshyn (2018) described international relationships of Romanids. Chuiko et al. (2021), Kindratiuk (2020) and Komendová (2023) wrote about multicultural society of Central Europe in 13th-14th centuries. Veszprémy (2019) thought, that the Angevin period in Hungary, which spanned from the late 13th century to the early 14th century, marked a significant era in the country's history, characterised by the rule of the Angevin dynasty. During this time, the Hungarian barons played a pivotal role in shaping the knightly culture of the region, embodying a set of ideals and practices that reflected the broader European chivalric tradition. Connections between Rus and Hungarian Kingdom are very important. For example, Voloshchuk (2021) made a collective portrayal of individuals residing in Hungary during the Árpáadian and Angevin periods who were recognised by their compatriots as "Rutheni". Many from this group originated from regions like Galicia (Halych), Chernihiv, Kyiv, and Volhynia and arrived in Hungary due to various circumstances. Over time, they established themselves as prominent figures within the kingdom's social structure and political landscape. It illuminates their significant contributions to the contemporary social and political dynamics of the time. The religious and cultural aspects of the Galician-Volhynian state have also been prominent in historiographical discussions. The kingdom was a center of Orthodox Christianity and was marked by interactions between Orthodox, Catholic, and pagan cultures. Researchers have delved into the religious, literary, and cultural aspects of the era. The trend of historians from various nations working together has gained traction, leading to a more equitable and all-encompassing understanding of Galician-Volhynia's historical narrative. So, the historiography of the Galician-Volhynian state is a vibrant field

with a diverse range of research topics and perspectives. It reflects the complex history of the region and continues to shed light on its significance in the broader context of medieval Europe.

Research Problem

The analysis of the current historiography emphasised that contacts with the Western European world of the Galician-Volhynian state influenced the spread of European medieval culture, which developed on the basis of local traditions. Less researched is the question of the use of individual chivalric practices the life of Rus'ian medieval warriors. This area of study, which has not been extensively explored, provides researchers with a significant opportunity to examine how the individual practices of knights impacted the strategies in warfare and everyday life of medieval Rus'ian warriors. A research into the use of these practices can expand the knowledge of the combination of cultural influences stemming from contact with Western Europe with traditions unique to the region.

Research Focus

The research emphasised the facts of the use of European military practices of the 13th and 14th centuries by representatives of the elite of the Galician-Volhynian state – princes from Romanids family and local boyars. First of all, it is about traditional for medieval Europe practices of chivalry, understanding of etiquette and participation in traditional entertainment. The emphasis on the recovered materials led to the formation of certain broader conclusions for future research.

Research Aim and Research Questions

Therefore, the aim of the article was to analyse the manifestations of European military culture in the development of Ukrainian lands in the 13th and 14th centuries, primarily on the example of the Galician-Volhynian state (successor to the political power of Kyiv). Consideration of the specified research goal involved the implementation of several important tasks:

1. To explore various aspects of knightly culture in Ukrainian lands during the 13th-14th centuries through the examination of medieval sources and scholarly literature.
2. To delineate specific chivalric practices within the Galician-Volhynian state, including the process of becoming a warrior, collective leisure activities, and adherence to etiquette norms.
3. To debunk prevalent Russian myths suggesting the isolation of Rus from the developmental influences of medieval Western European countries.

Theoretical Overview

The peculiarities of the development of medieval society indicated the leading role of representatives of the "*bellatores*" ("men of the war") in creating behavioral matrices that were later imitated by ordinary people (Mereniuk, 2022).

The medieval combat customs based on chivalry had strong foundations in the military elements of knighthood. These knights were regarded as exceptional fighters, and their education and methods exemplified the martial values of that era. Knights went through demanding training at a young age, beginning as pages and advancing to squires before achieving the esteemed rank of knight. The training included mastering various weapons such as the sword, lance, dagger, and polearm. Horsemanship and mounted combat skills were also crucial. Therefore, an important part of the life of a European knight was participation in tournaments. In the study conducted by Barker (1986) delved into the history and progression of tournaments in England within the designated time frame. According to Barker, tournaments held considerable importance in medieval European

society, functioning as dual-purpose events that served both as military exercises and social gatherings. Keen (2020) researched the phenomenon of French chivalry. His text is very important for further understanding of chivalric traditions in all Europe in 12th-15th centuries. The book by Cripps-Day (1982) provides a historical overview of tournaments, spanning their origins to later developments in both England and France. The author examines the cultural and chivalric aspects associated with tournaments, exploring their role in shaping the ideals of knighthood and the broader societal context. Clephan (1919) give an examination of various phases or aspects of tournaments, such as their origins, evolution, and decline. Clephan (1919) delve into the cultural and social contexts surrounding tournaments, exploring their significance in different societies and periods. Therefore, the paper's methodological foundation is rooted in these works, which serve to delineate the principal chivalric traditions prevalent in medieval Europe. By offering comprehensive insights into the core tenets and practices of chivalry, these sources establish a robust framework for the analysis undertaken in the research paper. Moreover, they not only outline the key elements of medieval chivalric culture but also provide a nuanced understanding of its evolution and multifaceted manifestations. The utilisation of these works contributes depth and context to the exploration of chivalric traditions, enriching the article's narrative with a well-grounded historical perspective. While the romanticised image of chivalry often focuses on the ideals of honor and courtly love, the combat traditions of chivalry were a vital aspect of a knight's identity. The combination of martial skill, adherence to a code of conduct, and participation in organised tournaments defined the role of the medieval knight in the realm of warfare.

The "*bellatores*" of the Galician-Volhynian state (and Rus in general) include princes and boyars who were the main political figures, equal to European kings, barons, dukes, etc. For this reason, the borrowing of elements of chivalric culture by the Rus'ian elite became a tangible, but insufficiently researched phenomenon. Representatives of the Galician-Volhynian nobility had their own ideas about entertainment, etiquette, and ritual practices. Further examination is needed to fully understand how the Europeans of the medieval era assimilated their experiences. By carefully exploring this issue, it becomes evident that the Ukrainian territories in the 13th and 14th centuries were highly connected with their western counterparts. The borrowing of European models in the conduct of battle, military tactics, the development of skills and chivalric etiquette indicates the belonging of Rus and Galician-Volhynia state to the medieval European world. Mereniuk (2021) described practices of chivalric military games (tournaments) and perceptions of it in Rus. It is worth emphasising the studies devoted to the multiculturalism of the Galician-Volhynian state and the problems of choosing identities in the pre-modern world in general. Voloshchuk (2021) wrote that the historical region of Galician land experienced a significant confluence of cultural influences from the 10th to the 14th centuries. These influences played a crucial role in shaping the region's ethnic composition, the political orientations of its ruling elites, and its local identity. It fundamentally undermines Russian narratives about the universal unity of Russians and Ukrainians throughout historical development.

Research Methodology

General background

The study examined the historical development of the military aspect of Ukrainian lands in the 13th-14th centuries, specifically by analysing past events in Europe. The final points examined the context of cultural and political interactions with the European environment, as well as the influx of officials of European culture into the formation of European traditions in Ukraine. This study was

based on an the analysis of historical sources and scientific literature. Obviously, the work should be carried out to a clear type.

Data collection

The primary sources used in the research were historical documents, namely the Kyivlian Chronicle, Galician-Volhynian Chronicle, and Radzyvill Chronicle. The content analysis of historiography involved the analysis of both fundamental works on the history of Ukrainian lands and modern works on the military history of the Galician-Volhynian state.

Data analysis

The methods of analysis and synthesis were used when writing the article. The method of analysis employed in this study enabled the identification of distinct manifestations of knightly culture within the society of Rus during the 13th and 14th centuries. This analysis unveiled specific evidence pertaining to the utilization of knightly techniques among the medieval elite of Rus, as well as the customs and combat skills they possessed. By employing the synthesis method, the study was able to formulate independent conclusions, consolidate diverse facts into coherent concepts, and propose further avenues for research. Through the use of the historical-genetic method, the study revealed patterns in the integration of medieval material into contemporary historical and political contexts. This method also facilitated the examination of the tools utilised by modern Russian propaganda, and shed light on the reasons behind propagandists' deployment of references to the Middle Ages. The combination of analysis, synthesis, and the historical-genetic method ultimately demonstrated that the elite of Rus in the 13th and 14th centuries had closer ties to European realities than previously believed in Russian and Soviet historiography. Furthermore, it allowed for the emphasis of content analysis in scientific works. For the study, a number of relevant studies published in the 21st century were selected, as well as individual sources that formed the basis for understanding the development of Rus in the period under study. The research took place in several stages. At the first, the necessary source material was collected and the research problem was identified. In the future, the scientific literature on the issue was elaborated and the existing concepts that justified social contacts in Rus were investigated. At the second stage, along with the analysis of existing concepts, examples of borrowing elements of knightly culture in Rus were considered in detail. This made it possible to proceed to the next stage and generalise by writing conclusions and proposals for further research.

Results

The propitious geographical positioning and extensive trade connections with Western Europe facilitated an intimate acquaintance of the Galician-Volhynian state with the chivalric military practices prevalent in Europe. A robust alliance developed in parallel with other prominent European nations, and the military prowess of its army rivaled that of Western knights in terms of both quantity and quality. The stationary cavalry corps, comprised of seasoned professionals, constituted the foundational strength of the princely army within this region. Therefore, the assertion by Soviet historians categorising the "regiment" as infantry proves inappropriate, as exemplified vividly in the Battle of Yaroslav (August 17, 1245), where the Romanovids seamlessly employed both cavalry and infantry units. The role of Rus'ian infantry predominantly lay in providing supporting accompaniment to the advancing cavalry units (Fedoruk, 2014, p. 52). Analogous to their European counterparts, Rus'ian professional warriors received commendation through benefits and land fiefdoms for their unwavering service (Voitovych, 2010; Voitovych, 2019).

A pivotal catalyst for militarised progress within the Galician-Volhynian state stemmed from the incessant threat posed by the Mongols. In order to effectively counter Mongol invasions, it necessitated not only the enhancement of weaponry but also substantial investments in systematic combat training. The educational upbringing of the offspring of the military elite in the Galician-Volhynian state mirrored the knightly traditions of the West. The European hierarchical progression of squire-page-knight underwent adaptation on Rus'ian terrain, transforming into "detesk-otrokgryd-boyar." Princes, too, traversed through the comprehensive stages of military chivalry (Voitovych, 2010, p. 155). Notably, certain individuals among the Rurikids, whether departing voluntarily or under duress, embarked upon the trajectory of knightly military training and cultivation. A vivid example of such adaptation is the stories about the Volhynian prince Roman Mstyslavovych († 1205) and his sons Danylo († 1264) and Vasylo († 1270). During his stay in Hungary (1205-1210/1211, with some breaks), Danylo, although a small boy, received an education in Hungary that included horsemanship and masterful swordsmanship. This early education is attested by a chronicler in 1212. These aspects are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

The Primary Facets Influencing the Dissemination of Knightly Culture of the Galician-Volhynian

Aspects	Description
Geographical Location and Trade Ties	The Galician-Volhynian state had a favorable geographical location and extensive trade ties with Western Europe. This facilitated a close acquaintance with chivalric military practices of Europe.
Military Practices and Army Development	The region developed a powerful union along the lines of other large European countries.
	The Galician-Volhynian army was comparable in number, quality, and armament to the knights of Western Europe.
	A stationary cavalry corps, consisting of professional warriors, formed the basis of the princely army.
The composition of the Army and role of Infantry:	Contrary to assertions by Soviet historians, the "regiment" in this context did not consist solely of infantry.
	The Romanovids, in the Battle of Yaroslav in 1245, utilised both cavalry and infantry.
	The importance of the Rus'ian infantry was primarily to provide accompanying support to attacking cavalry units.
Militarised Progress and Mongol Threat	Constant threats from the Mongols were a driving factor in the militarised progress of the Galician-Volhynian state. To effectively resist Mongol invasions, there was a need for continuous

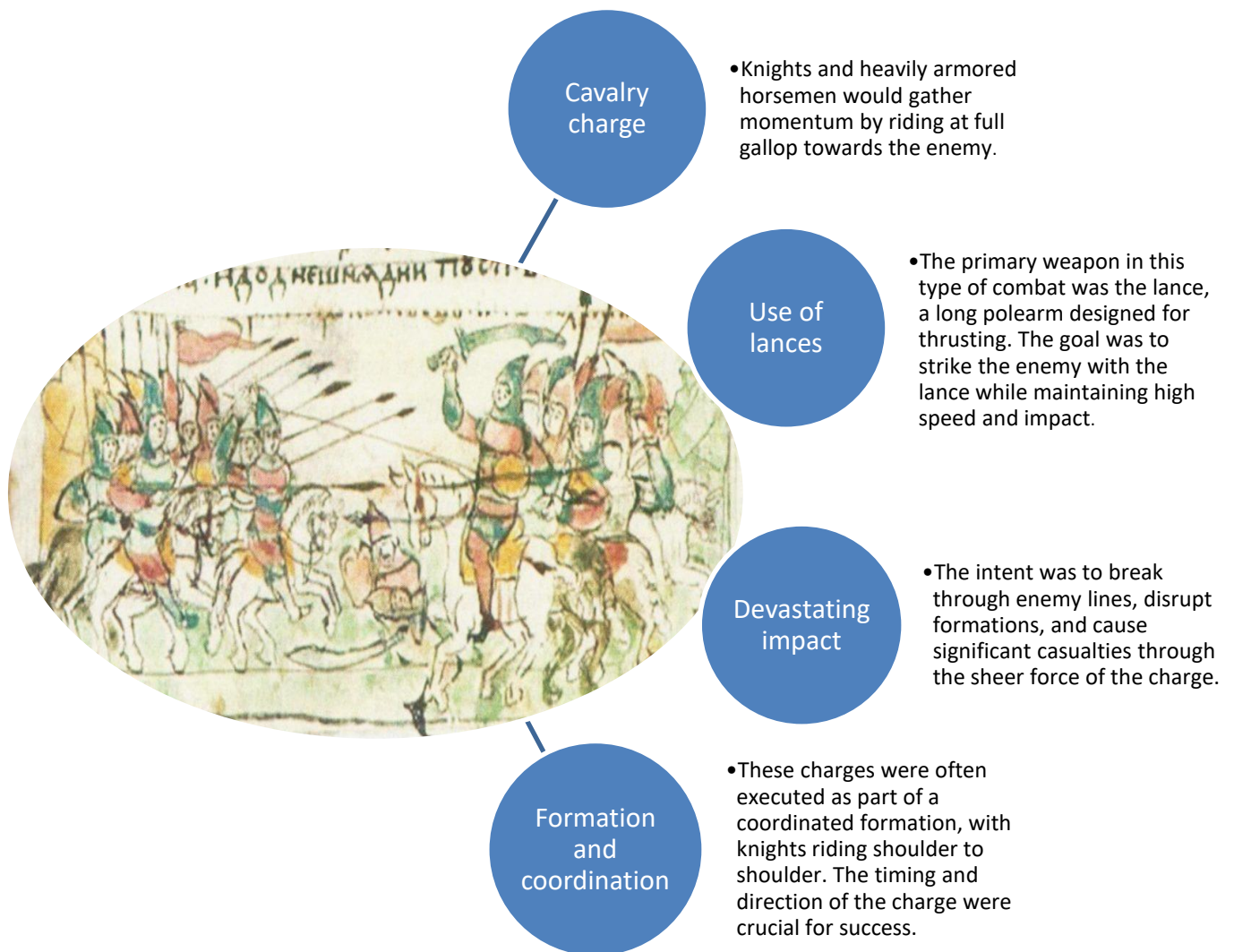
	improvement of weapons and regular combat training (tournaments)
Education and Training	Children of the military elite in the Galician-Volhynian state were educated similarly to knights in the West. The European gradation of squire-page-knight was adapted to "detesk-otrok-gryd-boyar" in Rus'.
	Princes also went through all the stages of military chivalry.
Rewards and Land Fiefdoms	Rus'ian professional warriors, akin to their European counterparts, were rewarded with benefits and land fiefdoms for their dedicated service.

Source: based on Voitovych (2010); Voitovych (2012); Fedoruk (2014); Mereniuk (2021).

In the medieval world, a cavalryman who did not possess the technique of mounted shock combat was not considered a full-fledged professional warrior (knight). "Mounted shock combat" is a tactical and technical technique, which is characterised as a cavalry attack, in which the rider strikes with a spear strictly horizontally (Hutsul, 2015). This method differs in that the rider's arm is no longer used to strike, but rather directs the spear at the side of the enemy to be attacked. In Western Europe, the art of ram fighting was mastered by specially trained warriors. The key elements of shock combat included several important aspects (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

Key Elements of Mounted Shock Combat



Source: Miniature from Radzivil Chronicle (1450). The text adapted from Hutsul (2015)/

During the medieval history, there were cases when fighters of low origin, having mastered the battering ram, not only fought on an equal footing with noble knights, but sometimes even acquired a noble status with the help of nobilitation. This type of combat was prominent in the Middle Ages, especially in the 12th and 12th centuries, and played a significant role in chivalric warfare. Convincing evidence of the use of *mounted shock combat* in medieval Rus is the story of 1151 in the "Kyiv Chronicle". This story concerns the controversial struggle between princes Andriy Yuriyovich Bogolyubsky (*1111-†1174) and Izyaslav Mstyslavovych (*1097-†1154) to the throne of Kyiv. The chronicler vividly describes the turning point when Andriy Bogolyubsky, leading the attack on the enemy, forcefully "broke the spear" - a feat similar to the feat of Prince Izyaslav, who launched an assault on the opposing regiments (Merenuik, 2021). The reason breaking a spear is significant in a duel is because it requires a powerful and accurate strike, as spears are typically designed to withstand significant force before they break (Hutsul, 2015, p. 259-283). In this context, it turns out that Prince Izyaslav used *mounted shock combat*. This narrative strongly suggests that there is official evidence suggesting the implementation of *mounted shock warfare* in the region of Rus.

The tradition of using this knightly tactic also spread in the Galician-Volhynian state. In the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle, when describing some of the great military campaigns of the Romanovids (Perfecky, 1973), there are references to the *mounted shock combat*. The phrase "break your spear" is used when chronicler described the battle of Yaroslav (August 17, 1245). The young son of Danylo Romanovych - prince Lev "broke his spear" against the skillful Hungarian voivode Filnij.

This episode was important for Danylo Romanovych's coalition: upon seeing the defeat of the Hungarian voivode, Rostyslav Mykhailovych (1219-1262, opponent of Romanovids) run out. In general, the years of the struggle of the Romanovids for their paternal heritage (until 1245 (Hrushevskiy, 2016) testify to repeated attempts to include not only new Western European weapons, but also attempts to reform the army in a more "Western" manner.

The analysis of the Yaroslav battle is important for the study of the influence of the European tradition on the peculiarities of the mitral development of the Galician-Volhynian state (Parshyn, 2018; Mereniuk, 2021). This is an important clash between the coalition of Danylo Romanovych and Vasylko Romanovych and the forces of the Galician boyar opposition (led by Rostyslav Mykhailovych from the Chernihiv Olhovids dynasty) (Isaievych, 2004). Having penetrated the Galician territory with the allied Hungarian troops, prince Rostyslav Mykhailovych arranged a knightly tournament. In the Galician-Volhynian chronicle this event is called as "*uzpa*" ("igra"-game"). The Latin equivalent of the Rus'ian "*uzpa*" is "*ludus*", which later influenced the appearance of the terms "*hastiludium*" or "*hastilude*" (Mereniuk, 2022). These Latin terms were common in European medieval chronicles and were used to describe as individual, as well as large, grand knightly fights involving spears. The use of such terminology reflected the common practice in medieval Europe, where these "*hastiludium*" or "*hastilude*" events were not merely martial contests, but highly ceremonial. They often served as displays of martial prowess, chivalric skills and entertainment, captivating the audience and demonstrating prowess and bravery. The chronicles of these events using such terminology provides valuable information about the cultural and military practices of the time, shedding light on the importance of tournaments and chivalry in medieval Rus'ian military society.

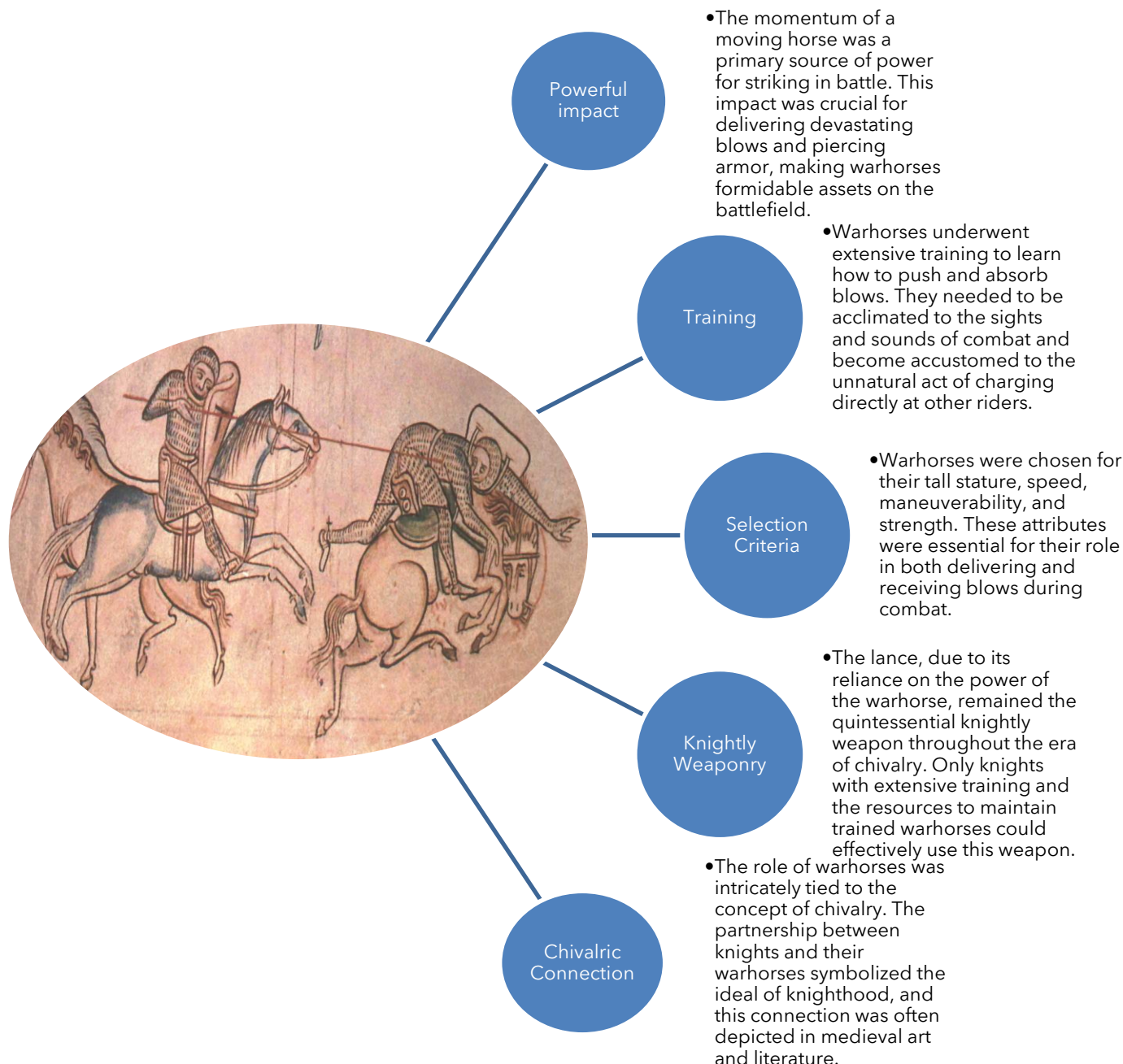
This conflict serves as a significant sign that the Galician-Volhynian state adopted European military practices, such as organising a tournament close to a city under siege and effectively employing cavalry attacks. The mentioned passage from the Chronicle is one of the vivid, but not the only, examples of how Rus'ian princes used chivalric tactics of attack. The particular episode with the prince Andriy, who, unwell, lets go of his spear in the midst of the attack, narrowly escaping death, is of special significance in several ways. First of all, this is a convincing proof of the existence of a chivalric military direction in Rus of this era. The deliberate use of a *mounted shock combat*, characterised by a precise and fast assault, shows that the Rus'ian elite not only knew Western European chivalric tactics, but also included them in their military strategy. This indicates the level of sophistication of military thought and tactics among the Rus'ian elite. Secondly, this episode provides a glimpse into the distinctive emotional ambiance of that time. Amidst the recounting of epic battles and grand feats prevalent in historical annals, this case unveils another dimension of the professional warrior's life. It paints a vivid portrait of the human aspect of war, where even the most valiant knights are susceptible to factors like illness and physical fatigue. This narrative captures the less glamorous, more personal, and human facets of medieval warriors, imparting depth and nuance to our comprehension of medieval military history. These historical vignettes underscore the cross-cultural influence and the assimilation of European combat practices, spotlighting the adaptation of tournament combat tactics within the milieu of medieval Rus (Skoczyński, 2020). The meeting between Andriy and Izyaslav, the breaking of a spear by Lev Danylovych in the Yaroslav battle, the organisation of a tournament by Rostyslav Mykhailovych provided an opportunity to look into the rich tapestry of military traditions that went beyond the geographical borders of Europe.

An important component of a knight is having a specially trained horse that could be used in professional cavalry charges and tournaments. In Europe, a special type of horse was often used – *destier* (this is not a specific breed, but a type of horse – the strongest and most combative). The latter denotes a medieval war horse specially trained for *mounted shock combat* and intended for

both war and tournament competition. The term "*destrier*", which comes from the Old French word for right-handed, appears in Old French texts as early as the 12th century. This coincides with the rise in popularity of the most famous form of chivalry – the spear attack. War horses themselves required special training. First, they needed to get used to the noisy sounds and chaos of battle. Second, in order to apply knightly technique, they had to get used to the unusual act of attacking another rider directly, which goes against the horse's natural instincts (See Figure 2).

Figure 2

The Role of Warhorse in Battle



Source: From the *Historia Major* of Matthew Paris, Cambridge, Corpus Christi College Library, Vol. 2, p. 85. MS 16, fol. 88r

These horses were stallions, carefully bred and raised from a young age, with special attention paid to their fitness for war. Perhaps the equivalent of the "*destrier*" is the Rus'ian "*Фарь*" (*far'*), which was also used in rapid cavalry attacks, and which, according to the chroniclers, had all the characteristics of a war horse. In the European tradition, these horses are known since the Early

Middle Ages. In Charles Du Cange's dictionary of Latin terms, this term refers to a noble Arabian or Saracen horse (Mereniuk, 2021). These horses were regarded as the top-notch ones and were priced accordingly. They are mentioned in the works of Emperor Leo VI (*886-†912), Nikita Choniates (*1155-†1217). Also «*фараъ*» are known as arabian "*alpharaces cavall*". The term consists of two parts: "al" denotes Arab horsemen, "*pharaʿ*" – noble horses (Mereniuk & Parshyn, 2021). In this sense, they are mentioned in the letter of Pope John VIII and in the letter of Pope Leo III. In the "Kyiv Chronicle", a message from 1150 tells for the first time about the use of «*Фараъ*» by the Hungarians. This word took root in the chronicles, later in the Galician-Volhynian chronicle, this term will appear several times.

Discussion

The conducted analysis showed that the traditions of the European vector of the development of military art were firmly rooted in the Galician-Volhynia state. This thesis was confirmed in a number of modern studies (Voloshchuk, 2021a; Parshyn, 2019; Mereniuk, 2021). The obtained results supported the thesis that the nobility in the Galicia-Volyn region was closely connected with the military aspect of society (Voloshchuk, 2021a). Boyars were expected to be skilled warriors, showing prowess and bravery on the battlefield, for example, chivalry played a significant role in the formation of military strategy and tactics (Ilin, 2021).

The analysis of Russian medieval sources demonstrated that the system of training in Rus was similar to the European paradigms. Particularly, the battle of Yaroslav in 1245 demonstrated the skill of Russian princes and boyars against Hungarian and Polish troops. This proved the following version: Galician-Volyn warriors were as strong as their opponents (Parshyn, 2019). Another battle showed similar situations. On the other hand, close matrimonial and political alliances between Romanids and European rulers led to the borrowing of certain additional practices that would allow maintaining military skill at the proper level (Parshyn & Mereniuk, 2022). It is worth agreeing with the researchers that already the system of education of "detesk", "otrok", "boyar", which was discussed above, was borrowed from the Western Europe of that time. In Russia it was impossible to use the experience of the Byzantine Empire with its professional army.

The customs of chivalry in the Galician-Volhynian state were shaped by its connections with neighboring territories such as Poland, Hungary, the Teutonic Order, and the Holy Roman Empire. Such conclusions are equal also for cultural sharing (Chuyko, 2020; Kindratiuk, 2020). These interactions sometimes led to cultural exchanges and the adoption of certain chivalric practices from other regions (Pylypchuk, 2021).

The analysis showed that mentions of tournaments in the Galician-Volhynian chronicle appeared precisely under the influence of chivalric traditions. This is confirmed in Mereniuk (2022). The analysed battle of Yaroslavl in 1245 approved the practice of using medieval European combat techniques. The "*узъа*" that preceded its holding is even more important, because it testifies to the participation of the Russian elite (specifically, its highest representative – Prince Rostyslav) in entertainments that were classic for European times (Mereniuk, 2021). It is about "hastiludium", – "military games with spears", which were also known in other Central European medieval states.

Moreover, undeniable statements about the direct borrowing of European military, worldview and mental practices among the Rus elite of the 13th and 14th centuries are still a matter for further discussion (Komendová, 2023). It is visible from the researched material that Hungarian warriors also took part in the knight tournament in 1245. From older Rus'ian sources it is known that the Hungarians demonstrated their military skills at the *hastilude* in Kyiv as early as the 1150s. However,

it is difficult to determine when the classical competitions for the European Middle Ages appeared in the Hungarian kingdom itself (Veszprémy, 2019). Researchers point to the 13th century, which contradicts indications of these military "games" in Kyiv almost a hundred years earlier. A similar situation is also with the Polish lands, where knightly entertainments gradually took root (Jeż, 2021). The knowledge about them reached the Galician-Volhynian state even more slowly, and it was impossible to borrow information about tournaments from other neighboring lands. This problem will require further searches for historical sources or their new interpretations. Such a procedure can be carried out on the basis of a comparison with the development trends of neighboring European countries.

Therefore, this research was marked by several innovative aspects that reflect a modern view of the European vector of the development of the military sphere of Ukrainian lands in the XIII-XIV centuries and reveals the prospects of future historiographical research. First, the work actively used the results of recent research, which allowed taking into account current methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of history. Given that the study examined the influence of European traditions on the development of the military sphere in Ukrainian lands. It provided a new perspective on European interactions and cultural exchanges that took place during the period.

In addition to the study of the historical context of the development of the military traditions of Rus in the 13th and 14th centuries, the modern aspect of the discussed question is extremely important. It is about overcoming the Soviet and Russian stereotypes of the perception of history. In European historiography, the history of the Galician-Volhynian state and princely Kiev of ancient times is perceived as a part of Russian history. This was also repeatedly emphasised by Russian researchers, considering Rus to be a single state mechanism under the rule of a single dynasty. At the time of Russian aggression against Ukraine, these concepts became part of a hybrid confrontation in which Ukrainian lands were assigned the role of a colony. Indeed, a comprehensive exploration of historical events, including military history, reveals tangible links between the Ukrainian territories during the 13th to 14th centuries and the medieval European realm. These specific connections challenge the claims made by contemporary Russian propaganda, and as a result, they merit thorough examination in the times to come.

The use of imagine about Rus in modern propaganda indicates that there are no limits to the negative phenomenon of politicisation of history (Savelyev et al., 2021). Dealing with misconceptions and deliberately spreading them at the present stage is a significant challenge not only for historians, but also for society as a whole. To counter the spread of false information, it is also important to refer to historical sources, and not to historiographical constructions that arose with the addition of subjectivism and political necessity. Since Ukrainian historiography developed for a long time in the context of Russian (or Soviet) historical science, at the present stage it is important to convey to the world public a renewed view of the Central European Middle Ages, in which Rus (not Russia) with its political center in the Dnieper region played a prominent role. For this, it is important to publish scientific articles not only in Ukrainian, but also in English. In the future, foreign historians can also be involved for broader discussions (Font, 2022). The introduction of the military history of the Ukrainian Middle Ages (even on the example of the history of Galician-Volhynian state) into the scientific discussion at the international level indicates that scientific discussion stops propaganda.

Consequently, the scientific novelty of the work also consisted in an attempt to overcome stereotypes and refute false statements with the help of objective historical sources. Therefore, the work not only examines the past, but also emphasises the relevance of the topic for the present, namely in the context of the need to overcome stereotypes and manipulation of history in the

conditions of a hybrid war. Considering these aspects, the study makes a significant contribution to the study of the history of the military development of Ukrainian lands.

Moreover, the work calls for a wider discussion of the topic at the international level. This will contribute to a deeper understanding of history and overcoming national and political barriers in the study of the past.

The lack of medieval sources of Rus'ian origin became the main limitations for the coverage of this research question. The greater influence of European culture on the military art of Ukrainian lands in the 13th-14th centuries can clearly be traced through the inclusion of additional materials.

Conclusions and Implications

Therefore, the detailed analysis of the military activities of Rus' in the 13th and 14th centuries provides convincing proof of its strong links with European chivalry customs. In scrutinising specific chronicle narratives, instances of chivalric practices become unmistakably evident within the Rus'ian elite. Notably, one of the preeminent practices is the adept utilisation of mounted shock combat, a formidable combat method prevalent in the 13th century. Significantly, Rus'ian princes and boyars exhibited a level of proficiency and wielded combat equipment comparable to their European counterparts. The Battle of Yaroslav in 1245, subjected to rigorous analysis, provides a vivid demonstration of effective resistance against the foremost Polish and Hungarian knights of that era.

The mastery of mounted shock combat demanded meticulous training, implying that the Rus'ian military elite underwent a thorough and analogous chivalric education. This educational process not only refined their combat skills but also provided profound insights into the ideals and etiquette of European chivalry, facilitating a nuanced understanding of ideological norms prevalent in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Moreover, the medieval military elite emerged as a pivotal political force in Rus, emphasising prolonged and substantive interactions with the European milieu. This refutation stands in stark contrast to outdated Soviet notions depicting the political system of Rus as "closed." It also contradicts contemporary Russian narratives that perpetuate myths surrounding the perpetual dependence of Ukrainian lands on Moscow. These myths, encompassing a singular development paradigm with the Russian people and a proclivity towards unified governance, are effectively dispelled through a meticulous examination of the medieval era. This thorough investigation aims to challenge specific aspects of current Russian propaganda and provide a more precise interpretation of the historical relationship between Rus and the wider European context.

Suggestions for Future Research

In light of the current study's focus on specific aspects of the development of knightly culture in the Galician-Volhynian state, there are several important and unexplored dimensions that warrant further investigation. The insufficiency of research on this expansive topic underscores the significance of exploring additional avenues. Here are two promising directions for future research:

1. Examination of Historical Sources

- Further research should prioritise the search for additional historical sources that can provide nuanced insights into the models of adopting European military practices in Rus.
- Given the limited availability of historical records, the practice of reinterpreting existing sources becomes crucial. Embracing the latest historiographical concepts can offer fresh perspectives on medieval texts, potentially unveiling new layers of knowledge.

- This approach not only enriches our understanding of the prevalence of European chivalric practices in Rus but also contributes to the broader discourse on medieval history.

2. Counteracting Historical Narratives and Ethnic Identity

- The study of Rus' history holds contemporary relevance in countering Russian propaganda, particularly amid the Russian-Ukrainian war, where appeals to a shared past and a historical unity are employed.

- Future research should delve into specific episodes from the histories of Kievan Rus and the Galician-Volhynian state to elucidate the divergent paths of development in Ukrainian and Russian lands.

- By a systematical exploring of these historical nuances, researchers can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the formation of Russian and Ukrainian ethnic groups, thereby offering valuable insights into the complex interplay of historical narratives and contemporary identity politics.

To summarised, the current study has illuminated certain critical facets of the knightly culture in the Galician-Volhynian state, yet the broader landscape remains largely unexplored. By focusing on these proposed directions for future research, scholars can contribute to a more thorough comprehension of the intricate dynamics shaping the military and cultural history of Rus.

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