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PRINCE OF SIVERSK VASYLII SHEMIACHYCH AND HIS ROLE IN THE MOSCOW-LITHUANIAN WARS OF THE END OF THE XV – BEGINNING OF THE XVI CENTURY

Summary

The main objective of the article is a thorough study of the political and military activities of Prince of Siversk Vasyl'ii Ivanovych Shemiachych and determination of his role in the Moscow-Lithuanian confrontation of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The certain facts of the biography of V. Shemiachych were clarified also in the article and the main stages and directions of his activity were highlighted. Significant emphasis is placed on the causes and consequences of the transition of the prince to the Moscow service and the versions of this event in various documentary sources are analyzed. The question of the initiative and legitimacy of V. Shemiachych's change of allegiance is considered in detail.

On the basis of the analysis of a wide range of sources, the chronology of V. Shemiachych military campaigns is specified and the main military campaigns with the participation of V. Shemiachych are highlighted: 1500 – the Battle of Vedrosha and the capture of Putivl, 1501 – the siege of Mstyslav, 1502 – the Smolensk campaign, 1507-1508 - participated in the protest of M. Hlynskyi, 1513 – headed the campaign of the Moscow army to Lithuania, during which he made a raid on Kyiv and burned its surroundings. The special role of V. Shemiachych in the Moscow-Crimean relations is investigated: from military opposition to diplomatic support of the Khan's envoys.

The author gives considerable attention to the relationship between V. Shemiachych and V. Mozhaiskii and identifies the role of the Moscow prince in fomenting enmity between them. It is proved that the insidious tactics of Vasyl III caused the death of both Siversk princes and made it possible to annex their possessions to the Moscow state, which meant that the Grand Duchy of Lithuania

lost almost a third of its territory. It is also proved that V. Shemiachych was an essential political figure on the Moscow-Lithuanian border in the early sixteenth century, and his transition to Moscow's service played a crucial role in destabilizing the border regions.

Keywords: *Vasylii Shemiachych, Moscow-Lithuanian wars, fief prince, Novgorod-Siversk principality, Vasylii III, V. Mozhaiskii, Grand Duchy of Lithuania.*