

# Ethnopolitogenesis of Polish Hyperethnos

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## Abstract

This work is aimed to study the primary provisions of the biosocial approach to polity dynamics with regards to conflict. The primary goal of this research is to confirm the dependence of the policy dynamics from the ethnicity population dynamics. An analysis of Lev Gumilev's concept that studied this relationship is conducted. A numerical algorithm of ethnopolitogenesis is formulated, based on the Gumilev's concept. It is determined to be universal and invariant with respect to ethnic groups, types of policies, historic eras and regularity. To verify the numerical algorithm, the ethnopolitogenesis of Polish ethnic groups is analysed. This analysis indicated that Poland's ethnic makeup was developed, as a whole, in accordance with the numerical algorithm that was formulated.

**Key words:** Ethnopolitogenesis, Polish ethnic groups

## INTRODUCTION

Conflicting political dynamics is typical during the development of many countries. Different theories exist to explain these dynamics. One of these theories has received considerable recognition and links the political dynamics of agrarian states to demographic cycles. The structural-demographic theory, developed by J. Goldstone, is based on this approach [1].

The primary concept of this theory is that population increases of the elite and peasantry result in domestic political crisis. An increase in the number elite citizens leads to the exacerbation of a struggle for resources and results in a fractionation of the elite and ultimately to civil war between its factions. The increase in the number of peasantry citizens results in a reduction of peasant holdings, an increase in prices a reduction of products available for consumption, hunger and riots.

However, the beginning of crisis and disintegration of a state may be caused by degradation of both the elite and peasantry without a significant population increase.

A crisis may commence if the share of destructive elements among the elite increases and reaches a certain critical level of corrupt officials, amateurs, and criminals. A crisis is also likely if, among the peasantry, the share of beggars, malingerers and sluggards increases to a critical level. Thus, the political dynamics in its conflictual aspect may be synchronized by population quality dynamics. This enigma necessitates an analysis of these dynamics to determine the population's impact on conflictual political dynamics. The impact of population quality dynamics on conflictual political dynamics is relatively consistent with structural-demographic theory.

Population quality dynamics are inherited by human populations from animal ancestry. This testifies to the dual biosocial nature of ethnicity. In animal populations, "the heterogeneity of its constituent individuals is the most important condition of population regulation" [2, p. 49].

Quality dynamics is one of the most effective mechanisms for population homeostasis by increasing the proportion of certain individual types to reach a high population density [3]. This theory is true in human populations as well.

L. N. Gumilev is one of few historians who attempted to investigate the influence of population quality on historical dynamics. According to K. G. Frumkin, "L. N. Gumilev states the question of population quality participating in historical events, of the dependence of historical events outcome on this quality, and the most important thing – of the dependence of this quality from a share of the one

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or another human type in the total general population. The posing of such issues is referred to Gumilev's merits" [4, p. 19]. Frumkin refers here to Gumilev's types of passionaries (individuals possessing excess energy), subpassionaries (power-hungry individuals) and harmonic people (balanced energy individuals); the latter constitutes the bulk of ethnic group members [5].

In Gumilev's concept, the primary subject of macro-historical processes that is considered to be an indivisible unity and interaction of ethnogenesis and polity genesis, is ethnicity as a natural biosocial and social phenomenon. Biological hypostasis of ethnicity appears in the essence of passionary, subpassionary and harmonious types. The ratio of these personality types in relation to the entire population determines the amount of ethnic passionary energy, on which the progress and success of the population depends.

According to L. N. Gumilev, the dynamics of the relative proportions of different traits (the dynamics of passionarity) determines the process of ethnogenesis, which may be understood as the process of ethnicity development (phases of ethnogenesis) and phase transitions which divide the population. These phase transitions, or crisis periods, by which large-scale internal conflicts are characterized, lead to the weakening and occasional dissolution of the state that was originally created by the ethnicity [5]. The term 'ethnopolitogenesis', which was proposed by P. V. Turchin [6, p. 54], infers that the dynamics of passionarity determine the process of ethnopolitogenesis.

## METHODS

As a result of these amendments, a new concept based on the biosocial approach was formed. The primary provisions of this concept are as follows (the complete list and details on these provisions see: [7]):

- I. The primary subject of macrohistorical process, presented as indivisible unity and the interaction of ethnogenesis and polity genesis, is ethnicity, which is regarded as a biosocial and socio-natural phenomenon.
- II. In its development, ethnicity undergoes a series of age-phases or unstable periods of crisis, which are persistent periods and separate phase transitions.
- III. A phase is the stage which occurs during the time period of ethnic system existence by which the ethnic system retains its steady state characterized by the absence of large-scale conflicts because the proportion of passionaries and sub passionaries has altered during the phase within the optimal range for this definition of phase values.
- IV. There are three methods to bring the passionaries and sub passionaries percentages to the spectrum of optimal values for the next (current) phase (or the share of passionaries and subpassionaries optimization): death as a result of internal conflicts, a retreat from their territory as a result of aggressive policy or colonization and destruction by mass repression generally conducted by punitive authorities.
- V. The time period of ethnogenesis phases and phase transitions, including crisis periods within certain phases, are determined by universal, invariant numerical algorithms of ethnopolitogenesis, with respect to historical periods and aspects of uniformity of the polity.
  1. Expansion phase: 0 – 340-360 years.  
Consists of the following periods: incubation (0 – 100-155 years), explicit (100-155 – 340-360 years) and conflict in the middle of the expansion phase (185-235 years) (denoted it as 1a). The explicit period begins with the creation of a state by an ethnic group during the period of 100-155 years.
  2. Phase transition from expansion to acme (expansion-acme): 340-360 – 450-470 years.
  3. Acme phase: 450-470 – 630-655 years.  
Within this phase a period of conflict due to passionarity unrest is identified (540-560 – 570-585 years) (denoted it as 3a).
  4. Phase transition from acme to crack (acme-crack): 630-655 – 680-725 years.
  5. Phase of crack: 680-725 – 755-810 years.
  6. Phase transition from crack to inertia (crack-inertia): 755-810 – 840-875 years.
  7. Inertia phase: 840-875 – 1302-1334 years.  
Three crisis periods exist within this phase: the first – 880-920 – 935-970 years (denoted it as 7a), the second – 1025-1070 – 1100-1145 years (denoted it as 7b) and the third – 1175-1215 – 1260-1285 years (denoted it as 7c). These crisis periods are separated by four stable periods.
  8. Phase transition from inertia to obscuration (inertia-obscuration): 1302-1334 – approximately 1500 years.
- VI. Adversity (characterized by the violent nature of large-scale domestic conflicts) and major military defeats are primarily characterized by unstable periods.
- VII. Passionarity dynamics are synchronized by solar-climatic cycles; in particular, by the 82-year-old harmonic Gleissberg's cycle. This synchronization is manifested in the existence of a 'reproductive' ethnicity age, determined by a multiple of the number 82 (902, 1066, 1230, 1394, and 1558 years). During this age, many passionaries are born in isolated populations, and the relatively high proportion of these passionaries are born during the 82-year cycle. The year of this cycle, which accounts for reproductive age, is, as a rule, in the middle of this cycle.

- VIII. During one of reproductive stages, a large number of passionaries are born, and they form a new subethnos, which, in turn, forms the core of a 'subsidiary' ethnic group. The year, which accounts for this time period, is the starting point of ethnopolitogenesis of the subsidiary ethnic group.
- IX. Consequently, these passionaries born in a particular area belonging to an ethnic group become interconnected through the continuity of anthropological and racial type, language and culture, which ultimately forms a hyperethnos.

The goal of this research is to verify the numerical algorithm through analysis of the ethnopolitogenesis of Polish ethnic groups. This analysis must demonstrate that the distempers, major military defeats and dissipation of the state occurred primarily during of unstable time periods of Polish ethnic groups. To achieve this research objective, it becomes necessary to determine the starting points of ethnopolitogenesis for each Polish ethnic group and to consider and verify their political history through use of the numerical algorithm.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Polish language consists of four main dialects: Greater Polish (Wielkopolska), Lesser Polish, Silesian and Masovian. Consequently, the Polish ethnos includes four main subethnic groups.

The study of works devoted to the formation of the Proto-Slavic community (see, for example: [8-9]) allows us to conclude that the Polish subethnic groups were formed in the fourth-ninth centuries. The starting points of the ethnopolitogenesis of the Polish subethnic groups were determined. The starting point of the ethnopolitogenesis of the first Lesser Poland and first Silesian subethnos is 360. The starting point of the first Wielkopolskasubethnos is 401. The starting point of the Masovians-1 is 893. The starting point of the second Lesser Poland and second Silesian subethnos is 1754. The starting point of the second Wielkopolskasubethnos and Masovians-2 is 1795.

Let us estimate the ethnic ages in which the Polish ethnic groups experienced distempers and suffered major military defeats. Then, we can identify the periods in which there were distempers and defeats. The results are presented in Table 1. In the third, fourth and fifth columns, the period numeration is specified in parentheses beside the ages of the ethnic groups and in accordance with the following numerical algorithm: expansion phase – 1, conflict period in the middle of the expansion phase– 1a, acme-expansion

phase transition – 2, etc. The ethnic age attributable to the stable period, as well as the numbering of this period, is shown in italics. The presumed period number is signalled by a question mark.

Let us discuss the obtained results. Seven of the 23 cases of major military defeats and unrest listed in Table occurred during periods when all the Polish subethnos were in an unstable states (cases 6-8, 15, 17, 18, 23). One case occurred during periods when three subethnos of the four were in the unstable states (case 1). Eight cases occurred during periods when two subethnos of the three were in the unstable states (cases 5, 9-14, 16). Six cases occurred during periods when two subethnos of the four were in the unstable states (cases 2-4, 19, 21, 22). There is one anomaly (case 20). The Greater Poland uprising from 1918 to 1919 and the Silesian uprisings from 1919 to 1921 occurred when the second Wielkopolska and the second Silesian subethnos were during expansion phase. Let us explain this anomaly.

According to the numerical algorithm employed in this research, a new ethnic group forms its own state between the age of 100 and 155 years. The Polish statehood was restored in 1918. The age of the second Wielkopolska and of the second Masovian subethnos was 123 years in this year ( $1918 - 1795 = 123$ ). This age corresponds to the age of the creation by a new ethnic group of its own state. The uprising from 1918 to 1919 pursued the aim of joining of the Great Poland, which was under the control of Germany, to the reconstituted Polish state. The same purpose was pursued in the Silesian uprisings from 1919 to 1921. The eastern part of Upper Silesia was merged in Poland in 1922.

## CONCLUSION

The result of the research became the verification of the numerical algorithm on the example of the analysis of the ethnopolitogenesis of the ethnic groups of the Polish hyperethnos. The analysis showed that the distempers and major military defeats occurred mainly during the periods of unstable states of these ethnic groups. The occurred anomalies are explained within the bounds of the theory.

The following main conclusion follows from the research. The deep crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the third partition of Poland and the liquidation of its statehood in 1795 were during of the phase transition inertia-obscurtion of the second Lesser Poland, Silesian and Wielkopolskasubethnos. The transition phase inertia-obscurtion is a period of agony of an ethnos, during

**Table 1: The distempers and major military defeats during the ethnopolitogenesis of the Polish ethnic groups.**

#	The chronological framework of distemper and/or major military defeats	Age (years)		
		Lesser Poland and Silesian subethnoses-1 and 2	Greater Polish subethnos-1 and 2	Masovians-1
1	The defeat of Poland by Germany and Kievan Rus in 1031. Popular uprising in 1037*.	671-678 (4)	630-637 (4)	138-145 (1)
2	The revolt against the King Boleslaw II the Bold and his expulsion from Poland in 1079.	719 (5)	678 (4)	186 (1a)
3	The war between Wladyslaw I Herman and his sons Zbigniew and Boleslaw from 1096 to 1098. The war between Zbigniew and Boleslaw III Wrymouth from 1106 to 1107.	736-748 (5)	695-706 (4)	203-214 (1a)
4	The section of Poland after the death of Boleslaw III in 1138. Intestine strifes. The defeat by the Mongols in 1241.	778-871 (6), 872-881 (7)	737-780 (5), 781-840 (6)	248-347 (1), 348 (2)
5	The election for the Cracow's throne of the King of Bohemia Wenceslas II in 1290. The defeat of Wladyslaw I the Elbow-high by Wenceslas II in 1292.	930-931 (7a)	889-890 (7)	
6	The accession the Upper Lusatia and Wroclaw to the Bohemia from 1319 to 1329.	959-969 (7a)	918-928 (7a)	
7	The rout of the opposition in the battle of Grotniki in 1439. The defeat of Hungarian-Polish army by the Turks at Varna in 1444.	1079, 1084** (7b)	1038, 1043 (7b)	546, 551 (3a)
8	The defeat of the Austrian pretender to the Polish throne of Maximilian in the battle of Byczyna in 1588.	1228 (7c)	1187 (7c)	695 (4)
9	An armed conflict of Zebrzydowskipospoliteruszenie with the supporters of the King at Guzov in 1607.	1247 (7c)	1206 (7c)	714 (5)
10	The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth' unsuccessful wars with Sweden from 1617 to 1622 and from 1625 to 1629. The defeat of the Poles by the Turks in the Battle of Cecora in 1620.	1257-1269 (7c)	1216-1228 (7c)	724-736 (5)
11	The defeats of Poles by Bohdan Khmelnytsky in 1648.	1288 (7)	1247 (7c)	755 (6)
12	The invasion of the Swedes, the defeats of the Poles from 1655 to 1657. The unsuccessful war with Russia from 1654 to 1667. The loss of Left-Bank Ukraine and a number of other territories by the Andrusovo Armistice in 1667. The armed action of the nobility headed by E. Lubomirski in 1666, the defeat of the royal army in the battle of Matwy.	1294-1307 (7)	1253-1266 (7b)	761-774 (6)
13	The unsuccessful Moldavian campaigns of J. Sobieski from 1683 to 1691.	1323-1331 (8)	1282-1290 (7)	790-798 (6)
14	The invasion of the Swedes in 1702. The armed clashes between Warsaw and Sandomierz Confederations from 1704 to 1706.	1342-1346 (8)	1301-1305 (7)	809-813 (6)
15	The deep crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The War of Polish Succession from 1733 to 1734.	1373-1374 (8)	1332-1333 (8)	840-841 (6)
16	The rise of the Confederation of Bar from 1768 to 1772. The first partition of Poland in 1772.	1408-1412 (8)	1367-1371 (8)	875-879 (7)
17	The Kosciuszko uprising in 1794. The third partition of Poland and the liquidation of its statehood in 1795.	1434-1435 (8)	1393-1394 (8)	901-902 (7a)
18	The uprising from 1830 to 1831.	1470-1471 (8)	1429-1430 (8)	937-938 (7a)
19	The uprising from 1863 to 1864.	109-110*** (1)	1462-1463 (8)	970-971 (7a)
20	The Greater Poland uprising from 1918 to 1919 and the Silesian uprisings from 1919 to 1921.	165-167 (1)	123-124**** (1)	
21	The defeat of the Polish army by Wehrmacht in 1939.	185 (1a)	144 (1)	1046 (7b)
22	The armed clashes between supporters and opponents of the communist regime and mass repression against opponents of the regime from 1944 to 1947.	190-193 (1a)	149-152 (1)	1051-1054 (7b)
23	The economic disaster, mass strikes, the emergence of the independent trade union 'Solidarity' and the introduction of martial law from 1980 to 1981.	226 (1a)	185-186 (1a)	1087-1088 (7b)

\* Evidence of the political history of Poland taken from the [10-11], \*\* Here and below an indication of the ethnic age concerns only of the Lesser Poland subethnos as the Silesian subethnos became a member of the Czech superethnos in the first half of the fourteenth century, \*\*\* Here and below is the ethnic age of the second Lesser Poland and Silesian subethnoses, \*\*\*\* Here and below is the ethnic age of the second Wielkopolskasubethnos.

which the polity dies as a result of attacks from neighbours and the maternal ethnos is replaced by a subsidiary ethnic group (or several subsidiary ethnic groups). The second Masovian subethnos was during the beginning of the first crisis of the inertia phase in this period.

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