

FEATURES OF NEGATIVE SIDE OF LEGAL LIFE IN UKRAINE IN TIMES OF REVOLUTION OF 1917-1921

Ukrainian society and its public and legal institutions are in the state of transition from post-totalitarianism to democracy with a market economy and rule of law. There is a grounded parallel between the Revolution of Dignity and War for Independence of 2013-2014 and political and legal situation in Ukraine of 1917-1921. In order to prevent repetition of negative outcome as a hundred years ago, it is necessary to adequately analyze historical events.

During the revolutionary process of 1917-1918 except for crimes against persons and property, the most common type of offense was desertion, which in most cases was almost unpunished according to criminal law. Deserters were given a chance to atone at the front line. In many cases, they created regiments on their own in places of concourse with the purpose not to move to the front.

Deserters could not be the driving force of the revolution, as it was quite clearly showed by regiment named after Polubotok.

Bolshevik terror against property classes with social and political slogans was actually nothing more than rampant of uncontrolled crime, sanctioned by authorities. During the Bolshevik terror in January-March 1918 in Ukraine the concept of the rule of law was almost gone. This period was characterized by the maximum number of crimes against persons and property.

The counter-revolution in Ukraine was “brought on German bayonets” and caused a widespread attempt to bring order and restore legality in the country by the German and Austro-Hungarian military law, drumhead courts-martial and non-judicial punishment in the form of contributions.