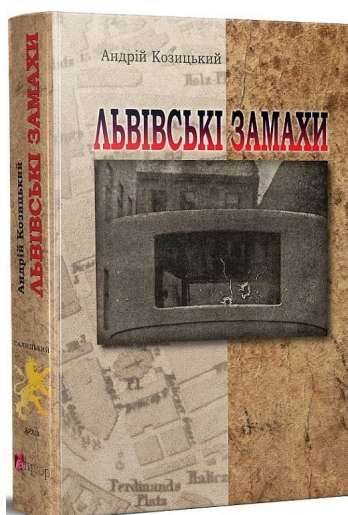


The Review of: Andrii Kozytskyi's *Lviv Assassinations Attempts*, (Lviv: Apiori, 2021), 468, ISBN 978-617-629-805-5. Peer-reviewed by Ruslan Zabily, Volodymyr Moroz, Volodymyr Muravs'ky, Mykola Posivnych.

Рецензія на: Андрій Козицький, *Львівські замаху*. (Львів: Арпїорі, 2021), 468, ISBN 978-617-629-805-5. Рецензенти Руслан Забілій, Володимир Мороз, Володимир Муравський, Микола Посівнич.



The study of everyday history plays a key role in shaping our understanding of the past. Unlike traditional historiography, which mostly focuses on political, economic or military events, everyday history examines the lives of ordinary people, their living conditions, customs, religious, political views, and cultural practices. This approach allows you to get a more complete picture of the social structure, values and interactions in the societies of the past.

Everyday history also provides an important tool for analyzing cultural and social heritage. The study of such aspects as fashion, food, holidays, household objects, interactions, and rituals allows you to trace the transformations of societies over the centuries and understand how historical processes affect modern life.

Thus, the study of everyday history is essential for building a multidimensional and balanced understanding of the past. It not only complements the traditional approach to history, but also expands our understanding of the complexity of human experience, opening new perspectives for the analysis of social processes.

Political and contract murders, as forms of violence, have a significant impact on people's interactions, historical processes and public consciousness. Studying these events in the context of everyday history allows for a deeper understanding of political culture and social correlations in different eras. This approach allows us to look at political and contract murders not only as separate tragic episodes, but also as an integral part of political and social life.

First, political and contract assassinations are often the result of certain social and political tensions that reflect conflicts between different groups in society. Analysis of these events helps to better understand the nature of these conflicts, their causes and consequences. For example, political assassinations can be a reaction to authoritarianism, a struggle for power, or an attempt to protect certain social or ideological interests. Studying such cases allows us to see how violence becomes a tool to achieve or maintain power or protect interests.

Second, political and contract assassinations affect the social structure and evolution of political systems. For example, assassinations of political leaders can change the political course of the state, cause social upheaval or even initiate large-scale conflicts. Examining political and contract assassinations through the prism of everyday life allows us to trace how these events affect ordinary people, their behavior and perceptions of political stability and security.

In addition, public assassinations play a significant role in the formation of collective memory. Events of this kind often become symbols of certain historical eras, defining the nature of social relations and forming stereotypes about the government, opposition and society in general. Studying this aspect allows us to understand how violence affects national identity and social cohesion.

An important aspect is also the analysis of the reaction to political, public and contract murders on the part of society and power structures. How does society perceive such actions? How do they affect the legitimacy of state power or the authority of political movements? Studying these questions in the context of everyday history allows us to understand the mechanisms of social stability or disorder, as well as to determine which social groups become the main initiators or victims of assassinations.

Therefore, the reviewed work being a study of public assassinations as part of everyday history is important for developing a deeper understanding of political culture, social conflicts, and interactions between government and society. Such an approach helps not only to better understand these events themselves, but also to trace their impact on long-term social and political processes.

Lviv is a city with a multisided history, where the interests of various ethnic, social and political groups have intersected over the centuries. The history of Lviv is marked by particular complexity, since at least three main national groups lived and interacted here, and sometimes competed for influence and power: Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews. Studying the history of political murders in Lviv in this context is important for understanding not only inter-ethnic relations, but also political processes that had a decisive impact on the fate of the city.

First, political assassinations in Lviv often reflected the struggle between different national groups for control of the city. Polish and Ukrainian communities, in particular, competed for political dominance in the conditions of changing state borders and political regimes. For example, during the interwar period, when Lviv was part of Poland, Ukrainian nationalist movements resorted to radical methods, including political assassinations, in an attempt to win political rights and autonomy for the Ukrainian population. These events show how political violence was used as a tool in conflicts and how national struggles took shape through acts of coercion and sabotage.

Second, Lviv is a city that provides a unique opportunity to analyze the impact of political and contract killings on relations between different groups. Assassinations were not only attempts to achieve political goals, but also had a lasting impact on the social fabric of the city. Such events often aggravated inter-ethnic relations, reinforced

national stereotypes and led to tensions between communities. Studying the reaction to political, social and contract murders by different national groups allows us to understand how these events affected the interaction and coexistence of different communities in Lviv.

Third, public murders in Lviv had a significant impact on the development of political movements and ideologies. For Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews, political violence was often perceived as a reaction to repression or political oppression by the state. The study of specific cases of murder allows to trace the radicalization of political struggle in the conditions of conflicting interests. The work we review is the analysis, which is important for understanding how ideas, attitudes and ideologies evolved in such conditions, and how these events shaped the political and/or social consciousness of each of the groups.

Thus, studying the history of political, social and contract murders in Lviv the way the reviewed book does, is important not only for understanding local inter-ethnic conflicts, but also for analyzing political struggles and ideological processes in a broader historical context. This work provides an assistance to better understand the complexity of the relationship between different national groups as well as the mechanisms of radicalization of political activity and its impact on society in general.

Concerning the classification of this book as “popular science edition”¹, we should differentiate popular science publications from scientific ones in the following ways:

Style and Language

Popular science publications employ an accessible language and style designed for a general audience that may lack specialized knowledge in a particular scientific field. In contrast, scientific publications employ specialized terminology and a scientific writing style intended for specialists in a specific field. For instance, the book’s content follows a popular science style and includes titles such as:

- “Murder on Castrum Square”
- “For the Blood of Kaganets”
- “Three Bullets for Two”
- “A Bomb for the President”
- “Revenge of Poor Shevchyk”
- “Victim of Stabilization”
- “A Shot in Defense of Millions”
- “The End of a Loyal Patriot”
- “The Provocateur’s Last Tour”
- “The Fiasco of the Disappointed Renegade”
- “There Would Be a Forest, But There Would Be an Ax”².

¹ Андрій Козицький, “Львівські замахы”. (Львів: Арпіорі, 2021), 3–6.

² Ibid, 6.

Simultaneously, the language in the text, although accessible to general readers, contains rather intricate nuances and profound historical and historical-regional information. It undeniably carries a scientific undertone.

Depth and Detail

Popular science publications typically lack detailed research or statistical information. However, scientific publications provide comprehensive research details, including methodology, data processing, and analysis. In this case, the book aligns more with the characteristics of a scientific text, particularly concerning the depth of scientific detail.

Review and Evaluation

Scientific publications undergo a process of scientific review known as peer review. Popular science publications, on the other hand, usually avoid such a mandatory review and can publish materials without strict scientific scrutiny. This book was peer-reviewed by researchers who are recognized specialists in the field of local history, general history, and the history of Ukraine in general. They are Ruslan Zabily, Volodymyr Moroz, Volodymyr Muravsky, Mykola Posivnych.

Target Audience

Popular science publications are intended for a broad audience interested in scientific topics but lacking specialized education or in-depth knowledge in a specific scientific field. Scientific publications are geared towards academics, researchers, and other specialists with specialized education, aiming to expand their knowledge in a specific field.

It is also worth noting the rich source base of this publication, encompassing a wide range of published and unpublished historical documents, memoirs, rare editions, scientific literature, journalistic literature, reference literature, and more.

As outlined in the summary, this publication caters to both a general and professional audience, allowing us to readily incorporate Andriy Kozytskyi's book into our professional, namely, scientific and educational endeavors, particularly in the context of law enforcement bodies implementing Poland's national policy in Galicia during the interwar period.

In general, the combination of styles in this book represents a contemporary approach, shedding light on aspects of the work that can't be found in purely scientific or entirely popular science publications. The book is remarkably clear; the author often employs specialized terminology and intricate concepts while simultaneously rendering scientific assertions in an understandable manner through accessible language and examples. The text of the book is engaging, especially for experienced readers.

The amalgamation of styles renders the book captivating the audience with a plethora of interesting facts, illustrations, stories, and more. Furthermore, the book

breaks down barriers between the scientific historical community and intellectuals working in other fields. This approach has already been used in some of the most famous bestsellers in the world, which concern not only humanities, but also all sciences. Examples:

1. "A Brief History of Time" by Stephen Hawking³,
2. "The Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe" by Simon Singh⁴,
3. "The Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters" by Matt Ridley⁵.

In order to expand the understanding and perception of the text even by wider circles of readers, the book also includes historiographical digressions, which further enhance its scholarly character.

In general, the topic of research on assassinations and political murders is popular in the historiography of both, the world and Ukraine. Among the world's best-selling scientific and popular science books are those focusing on targeted assassinations and attempts. Notable examples include:

1. "Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II" by William Blum⁶,
2. "Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations" by Ronen Bergman⁷,
3. "Zamordowani. Najślynniejsze zabójstwa polityczne w historii" by Jean-Christophe Buisson⁸,
4. "Większe zło Polityczne zabójstwa, krwawe zamachy, kościelne spiski" by Arkadiusz Stempin⁹.

However, the book, which is being reviewed, possesses an intriguing feature. It is not aligned with any specific side of the conflict, political situation (as in Blum and Bergman's works), a particular public movement (as in Mirchuk's books), or an idea (as in Knysh's publications). Instead, it is firmly rooted in the city itself – the very location where historical development made the events described in the text possible.

³ Stephen Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*. (New York: Bantam Books, 1998).

⁴ Simon Singh, *The Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*. (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005).

⁵ Matt Ridley, *The Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*. (New York: Harper Perennial, 2006).

⁶ William Blum, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II*. (Monroe: Common Courage Press, 2008).

⁷ Ronen Bergman, *Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations*. (New York: Random House, 2018).

⁸ Jean-Christophe Buisson, *Zamordowani. Najślynniejsze zabójstwa polityczne w historii*. (Poznan: Filia, 2013).

⁹ Arkadiusz Stempin, *Większe zło Polityczne zabójstwa, krwawe zamachy, kościelne spiski*. (Warszawa: Agora, 2022).

Furthermore, each chapter delves into great detail regarding the urban environment in which the assassination or attempt occurred. This is presented both in the historical context and in its modern setting. As a result, it not only enhances the historical and regional understanding of the event's backdrop but also stimulates the reader's imagination, particularly if he or she is a resident of Lviv.

The "Location/Context" formula is consistently applied in each chapter, as the urban setting where a targeted assassination occurs can be pivotal to comprehending the event. It can indicate whether the killing was premeditated or impulsive, or if a specific location was chosen to influence the political situation or provoke a public reaction.

Certain areas within the city may carry political symbols or meanings that could be connected to public assassinations. For example, a square, an organization's building, or a monument might be selected to evoke a symbolic or psychological response.

Targeted assassinations in an urban environment can significantly impact the public and political climate. Regarding the interpretation of the word, the main distinction between public murder and political assassination lies in the broader scope of actions aimed at creating chaos and instability, while political assassination concentrates on eliminating political figures or individuals with influence over society or the political process.

According to Britannica, the primary objective of a political assassination is to sow panic, fear, and destabilize the political system to bring about specific transformations or provoke a response from the authorities¹⁰. Political assassination involves the deliberate killing of a person in a political office or with political influence, with the goal of changing the political situation, altering the government, dismantling political opposition, or influencing the political agenda. Hence, the book's title is aptly chosen.

The question of justifying political assassination in the fight against tyranny is a complex issue and the subject of active discussions in historical, religious, ethical, political, and philosophical contexts. However, this debate is not reproduced in this edition. Instead, the author presents a formula¹¹ that aligns best with historical and regional approaches.

Additionally, one of the book's appendices is unique in its essence. It is titled "Political Murders and Assassination Attempts in Lviv"¹² and is presented in the form of concise, chronicle-style vignettes. These entries provide condensed information, allowing readers to focus on key aspects while offering supplementary details. Such an approach aids readers in quickly grasping the main ideas and enhances their comprehension. These brief entries are easily digestible and create a sense of internal tension, similar to a war chronicle. They act as quick informational doses that capture

¹⁰ "Assassination," *Britannica*, August 1, 2024, accessed August 19, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/contempt-law>

¹¹ Андрій Козицький, *Львівські замаху*. (Львів: Априорі, 2021), 3–5.

¹² *Ibid*, 418.

the reader's attention and stimulate their desire to learn more, thus maintaining interest and promoting further exploration of the book's contents.

Thus, Andrii Kozytskyi's book *Lviv Assassinations Attempts* is a valuable scientific source for studying the political history of Western Ukraine and the peculiarities of targeted assassinations in the city of Lviv. The author analyzes in detail the motives, methods and consequences of the assassination attempts that were carried out in Lviv in the interwar period. The work contains thorough historical research based on academic, popular, archival, and media materials, which makes it indispensable for students, historians and researchers of socio-political processes. Using the book in the educational process contributes to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of political violence and their impact on society. The scientific apparatus and presentation style meet academic standards, which increases its value as a source for research. For the reader's own erudition, the book opens up new aspects of the history, politics and psychology of radical actions.

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