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**PLACE AND ROLE OF PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS IN  
THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ISSUES «UKRAINIANS DURING THE  
FIRST WORLD WAR»**

**Summary**

The study of the problem «Ukrainians during the First World War» is based on the use of different types of historical sources, which differ in composition, origin, volume of material, degree of reliability and adequate representation of events. Therefore, published collections of documents and materials of local and foreign archives provide detailed analysis of fights, in which Ukrainians participated, disclose correlation of forces of the warring sides; the description of tactical features of battles on different fronts is carried out; the policy of opponents on the «Ukrainian question» during the War is represented, etc.

Addition to the archive materials are memoirs, diaries and letters written by government and military figures who were directly related to decision-making on military leadership before and during the war. These materials contain interesting information about the characteristics and members of the armed forces of military confrontation. The other sources of the study are also recollections of participants in

military battles and witnesses of those events, including Ukrainian soldiers. These materials are united by thoroughness of factual presentation, the presence of generalized authors assessments, and at the same time by a significant bias and reflection of subjectivity in the perception of many events, episodes and figures, because they represent their own views on the progress and outcome of the war, and therefore a more critical approach to the use of the available information is needed.

Interesting and unique facts can be observed in materials of Ukrainian and foreign periodicals and reference literature, that generally helps to recreate the real picture of Ukrainian participation in the fighting on the fronts of the war. Published statistical data, especially reports on the different types of activities of local community organizations and charitable societies that provided social assistance to the sick and wounded soldiers on the territory of Ukraine are of significant importance.

Assessing the source base, it should be noted that it is quite voluminous and varied by content. But gathering and critically analyzing the sources make it possible to reliably and objectively characterize the participation of Ukrainians in the main events of the First World War and making reasonable conclusions to approach to the study of many aspects of this problem in a new way.

***Key words:*** *the First World War, Ukrainians, published documents and materials, archives, memoirs, diaries, letters, recollections, periodicals, statistical data, reference literature, reliability and adequacy of representation of events.*