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**CONCEPTUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RESEARCH INVESTIGATION
OF THE PROBLEMS OF ETHNICITY AND NATION IN THE CONTEXT
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STUDY**

The main contemporary conceptual approaches to investigate the problems of ethnicity and nation are analyzed. The main concepts of primordialist, instrumentalist and constructivist directions concerning the interpretation of nature and essence of ethnicity and nation are defined. It is founded out that «ethnicity» is the primary category in terms of the relationship between the concepts of «ethnicity» and «nation»; ethnicity is expressed by qualitative characteristics of the social group, which have been formed historically, and manifest themselves in language, culture, everyday life and worldview. Nation is secondary, and it appears at the stage of the ethnos' perception of necessity to form their own state and includes both the ethno-cultural and the political components.

Key words: ethnicity, nation, primordialism, constructivism, instrumentalism.

In conditions of globalization and socio-cultural transformations, the strengthening of migration flows at the beginning of the 21st century and aggravation of interethnic relations in many states against their background, the problems of coexistence of ethnic groups and nations became relevant. Ethnic and cultural diversity requires the state to find effective ways to prevent and resolve ethnic problems. In order to find ways to overcome interethnic confrontations, relieve stress in the ethnopolitical sphere, it is important to analyze the conceptual approaches to studying the problems of ethnicity and nation.

Separate aspects of ethnicity and nation and ethno-national processes were investigated by F. Bart, P. Van Den Berg, E. Smith, V. Yevtukh, O. Kartunov, and A. Kolodiy. The problems of ethnic and national identities, ethnic conflicts are

highlighted in the works by V. Andriash, O. Antoniuk, I. Kresin, I. Kuras, O. Mayboroda, H. Melehanych.

The purpose of the article is to characterize the basic conceptual approaches to the treatment of ethnicity and nation.

Currently, there are three scientific approaches to understanding the problems of ethnicity and ethnopolitics in general: primordialist, instrumentalist, and constructivist.

At the heart of the concepts of primordialist approach (primordial – main, primary), there is the thesis of the social deterministic nature of the ethnic group. Among the well-known theorists of primordialism are H. Isaacs, P. van den Berg, J. Bromley, M. Weber, K. Girts, L. Gumilev, E. Smith, E. Shilz, and S. Shirokogoroff. The main postulates of the primordialist approach to the interpretation of ethnicity are: ethnic characteristics are innate and transmitted from generation to generation; ethnic ties are more important than any other; ethnic identity is inherited and satisfies the profound natural human needs.

Instrumentalism puts emphasis upon the rational aspect of ethnic identity. This approach was formed in the 70's of the 20th. It is based on the works by D. Horowitz, K. Young, R. Brubaker, in which the key thesis is reduced to the determining role of social processes in the formation of ethnicity. According to the instrumentalist approach, ethnicity is a situational identification that depends on relationships, perceptions, feelings that are always dynamic or dependent on the situation in which the individual is.

The foundations of constructivism were laid in the works by R. Brubaker, R. Burdier, F. Bart, and E. Helner. This direction focuses on the social nature of ethnicity, which is seen as a form of organization of cultural differences in society. According to constructivists, ethnicity is the process of constructing imaginary communities, based on the belief that they are linked by natural bonds, common origin, a single culture and a historical past.

In the context of the analysis of the ethnicity problems, another problem is identified – the problem of treating the category of «nation». According to primordialists, the ethnic nucleus, culture and cultural traditions, and territory play a key role in the formation of a nation. Instrumentalists interpret and denote ethnicity and nation with one concept – ethnonim – a universal phenomenon that does not originate in the historical past, but concentrates on the present and the future. Constructivists also deny the thesis of

the continuity of the nation (territorial, cultural and political) and interpret it as a modernization, which has no predecessors of the past.

Taking account of the above interpretation of the concept of ethnicity and nation, in our view, in the ratio of the concepts of «nation» and «ethnicity» the primary category is «ethnicity», and the «nation» is derived from it and is related to the process of perception of necessity by the ethnos (or a group of ethnic groups) to form their own state. At the same time, ethnicity should be considered as special qualitative characteristics of the social group of individuals, who were formed historically under the influence of external and internal factors of existence and features of the territory of this group, and manifest themselves in the language, culture, life and outlook of the latter. Such characteristics are passed from generation to generation and allow the individual of a certain group to identify himself / herself with it, differing from among others.

Conclusions from this study and prospects for further exploration:

1. Currently, the study of the problems of ethnicity and the nation is based largely on the principles of primordialist, instrumentalist and constructivist conceptual approaches.

2. Within the framework of primordialism, ethnicity acts as a natural and innate feature of the ethnos, and the very ethnic core and cultural traditions of the ethnos are the basis of the formation of the nation. For adherents of instrumentalism, ethnicity and nation act as an instrument for the realization of the goals of social subjects in the political and social life of the functioning of social communities and are denoted by one concept – «ethnonym». Constructivists consider ethnicity as a social phenomenon, the result of the desire of a social group to construct an imaginary community for the realization of common goals, and a nation is a modern political form of community constructing.

3. In the ratio of the concepts of «nation» and «ethnicity» the primary category is «ethnicity», and «nation» is secondary and it is associated with the process of the ethnos' perception of necessity to form their own state. Ethnicity is expressed by qualitative characteristics of the social group, which was formed historically under the influence of external and internal factors of its existence and manifest themselves in language, culture, everyday life and worldview. Nation includes both ethno-cultural and political components. There can be both a proportional relationship between them, and a

domination of one of the characteristics, resulting in the formation of an ethnic or political nation by their essence.

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