

*I. Nemchynov*

*Doctor of Philosophy Sciences, Professor,  
Professor at the Department of Philosophy,  
National Pedagogical Dragomanov University*

## **“IDEA OF EUROPE” IN THE “SLAVOPHILE” HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS OF THE FIRST HALF OF XIX CENTURY**

From the middle of the XIV century – the time of the Council of Florence and the fall of Constantinople – the attitude of Moscow’s, and then Russia’s ideologues in Europe remains unchanged – if not directly hostile, at least, more or less negative.

In the first half of the nineteenth century in Russian (especially “Slavophile”) historical consciousness dominated a certain image of Europe, which during the XIX century transformed into “idea of Europe”, appealed by “Slavophiles”, and still appeal by their ideological descendants today. The purpose of this article we see in attempt to analyze the genesis and essence of this idea in the context of the emergence of Russian historical and philosophical thinking.

The background for the construction and opposition of “Russia” and “Europe” may be different. Europe for “Slavophiles” is primarily the rationality. If the West is only capable for reflection, Russia can synthesize a variety of cultural forms at the level of real

life. This synthesis is universal life.

According to “Slavophiles”, Europe has exhausted its possibilities, its eternal guidance. Russia, however, has not declared itself back then. In the middle of the XIX century it was the time for Russia to replace Europe. The logic of history built by “Slavophiles” is arbitrary, mythical and poetic in nature.

Modern Russia seems to be willing to completely remove aliases. Russian “patriots” continue to sculpt a negative image of Europe, waiting for the opportunity to take revenge for the defeats of all their predecessors. Time after time their rhetoric becomes more brutal and range of ideas impoverishes. However, their services are still in demand, as Russian government is always interested in mobilizing public using the image of a common external enemy. And Europe as “idea of Europe”, proposed by Odoievsky and “Slavophiles” and reduced to the nationalistic level by their followers, best suits for this purpose.