

Regional Cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe in the Concepts of the International Peasant Union

Abstract:

In its program, the International Peasant Union recognized the following tasks as the most important: halting the expansion of communism, fighting for freedom and democracy,

expanding economic cooperation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and seeking new forms of action. Union leaders assumed that after the fall of communism and the independence of the peoples of this part of Europe, it was necessary to proceed with strengthening intra-regional and continental cooperation. The creation of three regional federations was envisaged. It was assumed that they would co-create a structure covering the entire European continent. According to the adopted concepts, they were supposed to constitute unity in political, economic, social and cultural terms. Regional federations were expected to be a kind of key to restoring the political and cultural unity of the Old Continent. As a result of these assumptions, Central and Eastern Europe was supposed to be a bridge between the East and the West. It was also supposed to protect this region against the threat of the Soviet Union and Germany.

Keywords: The International Peasant Union, Central and Eastern Europe, independence, cooperation, federation.