

Title: The Meaning of *russkii* and *svoi tsar* in Gogol's *Taras Bul'ba* (1842)
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It is a commonplace in Gogolian scholarship to speak of the 1842 redaction of *Taras Bul'ba* as 'Russified,' i.e., an expression of Russian nationalism and, by extension, a sign of Gogol's retreat from Ukrainian patriotism as attested in the original 1835 *Mirgorod* tale (cf. Bojanowska 2007: 255; Maguire 1994: 281; Fanger 1979: 97-98, 192-193; Karlinsky 1976: 77). This view buttresses the thesis that Gogol is an exclusively Russian writer because he transferred his national loyalties to Russia. This paper challenges not only such interpretations but also the uses to which the novel is put in shaping Gogol's 'national' persona. It centers on a contextual analysis of a few key words that serve as the cornerstone for this Russocentric exegesis: *russkii* (*russkaia zemlia*), and the phrase *svoi tsar*. The paper proves that the word *russkii* does not mean "Russian" but "Ukrainian" and that *svoi tsar* has no connection to Russian (i.e., Muscovite) tsars but is an allusion to Ukrainian self-rule (Barabash 1995: 141) in the form of "Ukraine-Rus'," an idea that was inspired by *Istoriia Rusov*. As a result, the notion that the 1842 redaction represents the distinctive qualities (*osobyie svoistva*) of the "Russian soul" and of "Russian feeling" (*russkoi dushi, russkogo chuvstva*) (cf. *Polnoe Sobranie Sochinenii* 1937: Vol. 2, 725-726) is undermined.

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