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EUTHANASIA. THE FORMATION OF THE TERM

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Introduction. The modern term "euthanasia" is defined as the painless, compassionate destruction of someone, who is suffering, and whose suffering may become unbearable in the future. The word "euthanasia" comes from the Greek words "eu" (ευ), which means "well" or "safely", and "thanatos" (θάνατος), which translates as "death". Thus, euthanasia can be translated as "a good death" or "death without suffering."

Aim: to study the historical formation of the term "euthanasia".

Results and their discussion. The first using of the term "euthanasia" belongs to the historian Suetonius, who described, how Emperor Augustus survived the "euthanasia" and died quickly and without suffering in the arms of his wife Livia. Plato wrote in *The State*, that medicine is designed to take care only of the healthy in mind and body; one should not prevent the death of the physically weak, and the bad in spirit will destroy themselves. Socrates, Plato justified the killing of very weak and seriously ill people even without their consent. However, Aristotle, and especially the Pythagoreans, were opposed to the killing of the seriously ill. Christianity, which perceives human life as a gift from God, opposed suicide from the very beginning, including those caused by suffering. Thus, Augustine, following Aristotle, condemned suicide as a manifestation of cowardice and weakness. The position of uncompromising rejection of suicide and euthanasia was not disputed by anyone until the Enlightenment, when some doctors, following Bacon, began to talk about the need to alleviate the suffering of the dying. But it was only at the end of the 19th century, in connection with secularization, that ideas about voluntary euthanasia, including those carried out with the help of a doctor, became widespread. "The term "euthanasia" was introduced by F. Bacon, according to whom "the duty of a doctor is not only to restore health, but also to alleviate the suffering and torment caused by diseases. It is already a great happiness in itself." In 1826, the German physician Karl F. Marx used the term "euthanasia" to refer to a science that "restrains the oppressive features of the disease, frees from pain and makes the supreme and inevitable hour the most peaceful." Nowadays the term "euthanasia" is used in various senses, among which the following can be distinguished: speeding up the death of those, who are experiencing severe suffering; ending the lives of "superfluous" people; caring for the dying; giving a person the opportunity to die. Before the term "euthanasia" appeared in its modern meaning, which began to be used in the 19th century, such practices and ideas could be denoted by various terms and phrases. For example, in ancient Greek philosophy, concepts such as "good death" were used (translated from Greek, "ευθανασία" means exactly that).

Conclusion. Thus, although the term "euthanasia" was not used until the 19th century, ideas and practices related to the alleviation of suffering and death have existed throughout human history.