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EVERYDAY LIFE IN ZHYTOMYR REGION DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION (1941-1944)

History of World War II is one of the most unexplored and falsified by the Soviet power pages of Ukrainian history.

Historians of the Soviet Union were forbidden to pay much attention to any of the social processes in occupied Ukraine, except, of course, partisan-underground Soviet movement. Thus, in the Soviet times the issues of everyday life of ordinary Ukrainians in 1941-1944 years weren't fully investigated.

Everyday life, including education and culture spheres, occupies one of the most important parts of society in every period of its existence. The events of World War II brought significant changes in usual daily life of ordinary people. This was due to the domination of German occupation regime in Ukrainian lands, particularly in Zhytomyr Region.

After the conclusion of the Riga Peace Treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland in 1920, Zhytomyr Region had become the border area for nearly twenty years. This situation affected greatly on its social and economic development and political life. No industrial enterprises appeared in Zhytomyr Region during the interwar period, that's why social infrastructure was not developed. Instead of it military construction was developed extremely rapidly [3, p. 56].

Zhytomyr was one of the first towns in Ukraine, along with Berdichev and Korosten, which suffered from bombing by Nazi aircraft. On July 9, 1941, German troops entered the town of Zhytomyr and occupied it without a single shot.

From the first days of occupation "new regime" began to create its own administration bodies. Administrative functions were performed by Hebitskomisariat which Zhytomyr, Chernyakhiv, Troyaniv and Pulyn areas were subordinated to.

General District was established in Zhytomyr. It was headed by Hebitskomisar who controlled districts, burgomisters, headmen and local police. The town of Zhytomyr was divided into four districts. Each district was governed by an appointed inspector of the district [1, p.34].

The Germans also tried to establish some kind of economic and cultural life in the town. Thus, the German authorities wanted to show that their ruling wasn't temporary.

War led to deterioration of health services and epidemiological situation. In occupied territory, the number of people suffering of typhus was 15 times higher compared with pre-war times. Nevertheless, attempts were made to provide medical facilities and set up special department for disease control.

The activity of cultural spheres was restored. Besides, the occupation authorities tolerated the activities of theaters, because they were used to meet the cultural needs of the German Army. The religious life was not limited in Zhytomyr Region. According to the recollections of eyewitnesses, in 1942 in Zhitomir Germans allowed to open most of the churches, where religious service took place [2, p.43].

Thus, it is clear that the German occupation did not give any chance to the restoration of Ukrainian statehood. However, during the occupation regime in Ukraine including Zhytomyr Region there was no fatal doom to death. Some industrial enterprises worked, schools, hospitals, universities, theaters, museums and churches functioned, the level of sanitary and epidemiological situation was acceptable.

Literature

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