To the Question of the Attitude of the Population of Zhovkva District to the Bolshevik Occupation in 1939 – 1941

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The article analyzes the attitude of the population of Zhovkva district to the Bolshevik government. It is specified that with the coming to power of Soviet government there also occurred the positive changes that have provided the support of the population for this power. At the same time, the causes of discontent of the rest of the people with the Soviet government are found out.

Key words - Soviet authority, repression, deportation, occupation regimes

I. Introduction

The political changes that occurred in the period 1939 - 1941 years, a affected Galicia people, and these events could be considered as an implementation by the particular occupation regime methods of the fighters for Ukrainian national idea. It was towards the new government produced the tactics and methods of the fighters for Ukrainian national idea. It was easier to solve, when considering which were the priorities to be considered by the different social groups. The question of the occupation regimes of World War II is now in sight of many history researchers. Let us note that the subject of Soviet government repeated repeatedly was explained by the fact that to day's politicians, historians, and sociologists have different interpretations of the events of World War II, the ambiguous attitude towards the leaders of the national movement in Zhovkva is also observed. However, such controversial questions are much easier to solve, when considering which were the priorities of the occupied territories' population to meet local poor farmers' needs, saving them from poverty. Thus they willingly deprive of the wealth of their wealthy neighbors.

The Soviet government had made so positive changes in most of the industry: local plans to re-opened enterprises, textile factories, tanneries, started working three brickyards and paper factories. People were willing to accept the fact that medical care had become free of charge, they were pleased that eight reading houses, two cinemas, etc. had been opened.

II. Main

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Since the beginning of the German-Soviet War, Polish soldiers retreated, to power in Galicia Bolsheviks came. They started to change people's lives for the better. Bolsheviks came, we were first keeping silent, but as soldiers retreated, to power in Galicia Bolsheviks came. This indicates that the SoViet authorities began to meet local poor farmers needs, saving them from poverty. They thus willingly deprive of the wealth of their wealthy neighbors.

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But many inhabitants also understood that this development was a result of the struggle for power and the desire to preserve their identity. It was more said on this subject in the works by I. Havyryliv and T. Hryvul [5].

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“The wise people and those who stood for Ukraine were eliminated. Maryna Sol was killed. Even speaking of Ukraine was forbidden” [9].

Only in the first months of their stay at the new location the Soviet were rather loyal towards the established values of the citizens. However, already in 1940-1941 those disagreeing with the policies of the government were arrested, hundreds of them were eliminated. The new government, having sensed the resistance of Galicia to the ecolgy, to the colectivization of farms and the prohibition of national parties and public organizations, immediately launched an offensive to Ukrainians. The repressions started, the most common form of which was deportation. In Zhovkva district it was planned to evict 283 estates (1572 persons) [10].

As Vasil Roman recalls, in his village Matsoshyn at night on May 22, 1941 six families were taken to the northern districts of the USSR. The repressions by which the Bolsheviks tried to force people to obey their authorities, to refuse national and traditional beliefs, caused hatred of the local population, and therefore – resistance [11].

Conclusion

Thus, the attitude of the population of Zhovkva district (as one of the significant districts of Galicia) to the Bolshevik government in 1939-1941 was ambiguous: the new government was supported by the CPWU former members and their sympathizers, and some people who got plots of land, a considerable part of the population resisted to the Soviet authority.

References

[1] It was taken into account that the borders of Z hovkva district of the Lviv Region (Western Ukraine), which is situated at the Polish border and was formed in 1991 from Nesteriv, Kulykiv, Velykyi Mosty and Maherv regions.


[8] Interview with Lyubov T ymtsiv, born in 1924, as taken in Zhovkva 12.06.2012 // Personal archive of the author

[9] Interview with John Ma vdryk, born in 1925, was taken in Zhovkva 7.05.2012 // Personal archive of the author
