

Cultural politics of Soviet government and its influence on the activities cultural institutions of Galicia in World War II (1939-1941)

Olha Zadorozhna

Department of History, Theory and Practice of Culture, Lviv Polytechnic National University, UKRAINE, Lviv, S. Bandery street 12, E-mail: hyrskaoa@gmail.com

In this paper, it was considered the influence of the Soviet occupation regime on the activities of cultural institutions in Galicia in 1939-1941. It is important to study the prerequisites and consequences of the Soviet occupation of Western Ukraine, especially in Galicia, and to clarify the content and methods of propagation policies of the totalitarian regime and its influence on the cultural institutions, as they occupy an important role in the development of human society and national-patriotic education of the population. In recent decades, special attention is paid to the study of the cultural politics of occupation regimes in Ukraine, which allows to do a comparative analysis and to complement previously made conclusions.

Key words – cultural policy, cultural institutions, the Second World War, the occupation regime, the Soviet government, propaganda, ideology.

I. Introduction

Reunion of Western Ukraine and northern Bukovina from Soviet Ukraine has created new conditions for cultural life. The totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union saw the culture as one of the most important means to strengthen ideological communism. From this angle it should be considered the complex events of Soviet government in the developing of the education, art, science, and others. [1, p.8].

The Soviet troops advent on the territory of Western Ukraine led to a new socio-political situation in the region. There were those who gladly welcomed "brothers from the East", but soon they were impressed of the ban to hang Ukrainian national symbols. In October 1939 there were banned Ukrainian, Polish and Jewish social and political organizations and their assets subjected to repression. [9].

II. The cultural policy of the Soviet government in Galicia (1939-1941)

The creation of a new interim government was accompanied by an unprecedented propaganda, which represented the Soviet regime as the defender of national and social interests of the Western Ukraine population. Its goal was to adapt the population to the new socio-political reality, Soviet propagandists have used a variety of means of ideological influence on men: distorted information and biased coverage of facts, omission, half-truths and just lie. Media withheld important events, falsely interpreted the situation, putted on shortcuts. All the facts, messages, which were undesirable for the totalitarian regime, ignored or falsified. The result of total Soviet propaganda and censorship was the termination of the "Education", "Alma Mater", "Ukrainian Conversation", and other social and educational community. All legal press finds

itself outside the law, its output stopped. In September 1939, almost all publishers have been eliminated or transferred to service the needs of the Red Army and the new government [5, p.110; p.120]. The same thing was awaited on the Scientific Society of Shevchenko - a unique organization, which brings together leading scientific potential of Ukraine in the interest of self-affirmation and enrichment of the spiritual culture of the native people. It was the first modern Ukraine Sciences Academy, whose creative heritage - more than a hundred volumes of various academic publications, established under twenty committees, that covered the main range of the social sciences, a unique archive and library of works on Ukrainian studies. At the initiative of the SSSR it was established the Bacteriological and Chemical Institute, three museums [8, p.26-27]. Soviet government restricted the activities of society and as a result after the general meeting in January 1940, according to the protocol general meeting of the Scientific Society of Shevchenko in Lviv "Dissolution" it was issued a ruling on its closure and dissolution [7, p.72; 6, p.79-84]. The SSSR's institutions and assets transferred Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev. Instead, it was created six "institutions" of the Academy: archeology, history, ethnography, language, literature and economics. All city libraries were merged into one under the Katsnel'son [1, p.114]. In Lviv it was organized according to the decision of People's Commissars of the USSR "The organization of museums and libraries in the Western regions of Ukraine" May 8, 1940, the State Regional Library for adults in Lviv, State Regional Library for Children in Lviv, the municipal libraries with departments of children's Literature in the cities of Lviv, Zolochiv, Brody, Peremyshlyany, Yavoriv, Rava-Ruska, Gorodok and other regions particularly in Volyn, Ternopil [1, p.94].

It was rebuilt in a new way academic institutions and education. Actually education has become an area of life the transformation of which brought many political dividends Soviets. It was quickly restored schools [2].

It should be emphasized that the number of Ukrainian schools has increased, Polish - decreased. Education in all schools and universities were free, Ukrainian language became dominant. In 1940 it was operated 6913 schools, including 6,000 Ukrainian, and others - Polish and Jewish. There were opened 15 universities and was reorganized Lviv University and given the name of Ivan Franko. The radical transformation of the social and political life, the elimination of all recognized ideologically hostile parties, cultural and social organizations. [3]. In the new organizational forms the scientific activity was developed. Regulation of People's Commissars of the USSR on January 2, 1940 in Lviv from Scientific Society of Shevchenko established branch of the Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences - Literature, Linguistics, Folklore, archeology, history and economy of Ukraine. They combine the best scientific societies, so that there was scientific schools of traditional and scientific ethics.

Two years that preceded the Nazi occupation and did not change significantly in artists' work. They "by inertia" has kept the main artistic guidance produced by youth. Organization of Soviet Composers' Union of Ukraine, which was adopted by most of the composers active in Galicia, in the beginning was rather foreign bureaucratic and almost touched the essence of creativity. The first years repression of the Bolshevik regime against conscious Ukrainian intelligentsia in Galicia are less affected of musicians. Some

radical changes occurring in the organization of cultural and civic and educational centers that by Soviet standards were subject only managing cultural and concert organizations. Thus, the determined decision from the top three Conservatories were joined (Galician Musical Society, Polish – named by K. Shymanovsky and Higher Music Institute of Lysenko) in one, Lviv State Conservatoire of Lysenko, where, of course, also joined teachers from all three schools. At the same time, and it was founded Lviv Philharmonic, the stationary orchestra, choir, various instrumental and vocal groups, which eventually made it possible to write Galician artists more significant in scope and are designed to "powerful" means performing, works with hope for their swift implementation.

In the Red Army occupied Eastern Galicia in 1939, immediately began a radical reform of cultural and educational institutions, among which the latter were ranked by theaters. The goal was to subject them to a single task: promoting well-known ideological dogmas totalitarianism [6]. In December 1939 with the merger of Western Ukraine into the USSR Big City Theatre was renamed the Lviv Opera and Ballet Theater, subordinated to the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine. It was reorganized orchestra, choir, ballet company, among the opera soloists it were appeared the new names - graduates of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odessa Conservatory. M. Pokrovskoho, M. Honcharova were invited as the first conductors. From different cities came professionals: directors, choreographers and artists. Season 1940-1941 became creative start in the Lviv Theater. In a poster of the first season included the opera "Eugene Onegin" by Tchaikovsky, "Natalka Poltavka" by Lysenko and others. The war interrupted the creative work. V. Blavetskyi directed to put a Ukrainian opera M. Hulak - Artemovskiy "Cossack beyond the Danube" In the middle of July 1941 Ukrainian Lviv Theatre opened theater season 1941 - 1942 "Zaporozhets beyond the Danube." Y. Stadnyk staged the opera, conductor was L. Turkevych. According to the regulations of People's Commissars of the USSR "The organization of theaters, bands, houses of folk art and theater and music venues in Lviv, Drohobych, Volyn, Rivne, Ternopil and Stanislavski Regions" on December 19, 1939 the Ukrainian State Drama Theatre was organized with room of the "People's home" with theater "Rozmaytosti", Polish State theater, giving it room theater "Novosti", Jewish State Drama Theatre - st. Yahellonska, № 11 [1, p.68-69].

In 1940, it was established the State Regional Historical Museum in Lviv, the State Regional Ethnographic Museum, the State Regional Art Gallery with branches: Sobieski Castle in the village Podgortsah Odessa region and villages Roslavyskoho in Lviv, the State Regional Museum of Art Crafts in Lviv, Regional State Memorial Literary Museum of Franko in Lviv, the Municipal Ethnographic Museum in Yavoriv and History Museum in Sokal [1, p.94].

III. Conclusion

In general, after the elimination of restrictions imposed by occupation regimes in Poland and Romania, there was progress in many areas of cultural life. Thanks to the efforts of the Western intelligentsia the cultural potential of Ukraine markedly has increased. However, the approval of an autocratic regime on Western Ukraine became common administrative, acting methods of

leadership culture, comprehensive control over the activities of the Communist Party in intellectuals, which increasingly fettered their initiative, independence [1, p.9].

However, the population is faced with a number of negative phenomena that undermine Soviet government: it was forbidden to teach religion in schools, closed the Greek-Catholic religious schools. All religious organizations were dissolved, and their property was confiscated. The ideological and organizational pressure control were the main components in relation between the government and the actors of culture. Attempts to limit the spiritual life only focus on the ideology of Marxism-Leninism impoverished cultural processes and choked creative thinking of artists, and for many of them closing their way to work. Uniformity choked culture, inhibited its development. The rough atheistic pressure exerted on the adult population, which remained deeply religious. All this has caused tensions in society and dissatisfaction.

References

- [1] Kulturne zhyttia v Ukraini – Cultural life in Ukraine, Coll.Doc-t., Naukova Dumka Publ., Kyiv, 1995, 748p.
- [2] S. Kondratiuk "Stanovlennia i kharka kter radi anskoi vldy v Zakhidnii Ukraini (veresen 1939- cherven 1941)" ["Formation and nature of Soviet rule in Western Ukraine (September 1939 - June 1941)"] . Halychyna. Naukovyi i kulturno-prosvitnii kraieznavchyi chasopys –Galicia. Scientific, cultural and educational Lore Journal vol.5-6, p.p. 347-352, 2001.
- [3] V. N adolska "Poshyrennia na zakhidnoukrainski zemli radi anskoi natsionalnoi polityky v 1939- 1941 r.r.," ["Distribution at Western Soviet national policy in 1939- 1941,"] in Proceedings of Vseukrainskoi naukovoii konferentsii "Druha svitova vi na idolia narodiv Ukrainy," ["The Second World War and the fate of the peoples of Ukraine"], June 23-24 2005, Kyiv, Ukraine. Kyiv: Sfera Publ., 2005. pp.61-63.
- [4] M. Litvin, O. Lutskyi, K. Naumenko, 1939. Zakhidni zemli Ukrainy [1939. Western lands of Ukraine]. Lviv: Instytut ukrainoznavstva i m. Krypiakevycha NAN Ukrainy Publ., 1999.
- [5] T. Stepanchikova "Lvivskii yevreiskii derzhavnyi teatr (1939-1941)" ["Lvov Jewish State Theatre (1939-1941)"], Visnyk Lvivskoho universytetu – Bulletin of Lviv University, vol. 3, pp. 35-51, 2003.
- [6] N. Antonjuk, Ukrainiske kulturne zhyttia v "Heneralnii hubernii"(1939-1941): za materialamy periodychnoi presy [Ukrainian cultural life in the "General Government" (1939-1944): based media] Lviv: National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv Scientific Library of Stefanik, Research Center periodicals Publ., 1997.
- [7] O. Romaniv, "Naukove tovarystvo im. T. Shevchenka: tradytsii ta perspektyvy rozvytku" ["Scientific Society of Shevchenko traditions and prospects of development"]. Khronika Naukovoho tovarystva im. T. Shevchenka za roky 1989-1990 – The Chronicle Scientific Society of Shevchenko for the years 1989 and 1990. Lviv, 1993., pp.26-27.
- [8] Y. Hayvas, Volia tsiny ne maie [Liberty haven't a price]. Toronto: Sribna Surma Publ., 1971.