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## **CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE NAZI "NEW ORDER" (THE OCCUPATION OF THE TOWN OF BERDYCHIV IN 1941-1944)**

Cultural and educational features of the Nazi "new order" are described in the historic documents. It's particularly interesting to follow the evolution of the occupants' attitudes to the education of native citizens of Berdychiv.

At the beginning of the occupation, an announcement was published about admission to male and female gymnasiums in the town of Berdychiv. The newspaper *Nova Doba* on July 19, 1941 states: "Pupils of the former Soviet secondary schools of all nationalities, except Jewish, are accepted" [14].

Secondary school for boys was accommodated in a former Teachers' Institute (49, Bilopilska Str.) and for girls – in the school No. 21 (7, Pushkin Str.) [14]. In addition, there were reports about the opening of the seven-year school [8].

The main task of the new German authority was to create a new school similar to the German school system [8]. The educational aim was revealed in an editorial article on January 23, 1943: "In the past we were taught astronomy and philosophy. What is the use of them now? Isn't practical craft better than scientific knowledge which cannot be helpful to start anything (business)?"[10]. This statement proves the racial policy of Hitler which was aimed only at unpaid manual labour but not intellect which was the privilege of the superior race: Aryans.

On the pages of the newspaper we can see the instructions concerning the decoration of schools: the slogan "Glory to Ukraine", and in the centre is Hitler's portrait. The pages of the newspaper appeal to learn German in contrast to Russian, which was to be superseded.

But since 1942, the general secondary school education was changed into 4 years of elementary school by the Reich Commissariat. In this regard, on July 1, 1943 in Berdychiv district the resolution "on compulsory education in public schools" was adopted. It stated that all children at the age of 7 are subject to compulsory education in public schools. The course of study lasts 4 years. Paragraph 4 of the resolution noted that "in school and out of school, the pupils must behave politely, with respect to the German authorities, to meet all the requirements of the German authorities and the local Ukrainian institutions" [7].

According to data submitted in January 1943, there were 41 elementary schools in Berdychiv district and 8 schools in Berdychiv, among them only one was a seven-year school. It was noted that the percentage of pupils who visited them was low. This is

confirmed by an article from January 23, 1943, "We are not satisfied with anything. When the Germans opened schools last autumn, our children did not go to them "[9].

This sentence confirms indirectly that the loyalty of the population to the Nazi "new order", and especially after the Battle of Stalingrad, decreased greatly.

In the same issue the editor published an article which describes the methods used by Ukrainian police. They demanded from the native population foodstuffs, vodka and money. It is interesting that the author explained bribes as the legacy of the Jews which means that bribery was a holdover of the Jewish-Bolshevik past [9].

During the occupation period, Berdychiv had a working "Apollo" theatre [2, p. 127]. Besides a paid municipal library on the premises of the Historical Museum (23, Carmelite Str.), a home for the disabled was opened. This was done for propaganda purposes to communicate "we are not conquerors but liberators." Therefore, some cultural and educational institutions continued their work during the occupation period.

In 1942 the Nazi leadership began to implement the basic idea of the plan "Ost" i.e., German colonization of population.

According to the order of the Reich commissar of Ukraine from October 15, 1942 to the South of Zhytomyr and in the northern part of Berdychiv district an area which was called "hehevald" was allocated. It was planned to be settled by immigrants from "volksdeutsche" only [1].

However, despite Nazi rule, the population resisted this process which can be confirmed by the announcement of the local commandant of Berdychiv Fokstein, which was published in the newspaper *Nova Doba* No. 7 on January 9, 1942. It stated that 10 hostages were arrested for damage of a military telephone cable.

According to the order of the District Commissioner, there were restrictions for the native population to be outside.

1. Restaurants should be closed at 8 p.m.
2. Cinema and theatre performances should be finished at 8:30 p.m.
3. Being outside between 9 p.m and 3 a.m. was banned [7].

With the failures of the German army, gradually the mood of the newspaper became more and more aggressive, and since the beginning of 1943 in most articles of the newspaper the retreat of German troops is described as a part of the strategic plan of German command. The issue from February 10, 1943 states, "To maintain a successful war the German army fights at the fronts demonstrating heroic and victorious battles. Some unconscious citizens, without realizing it, wrongfully concluded that the Germans are retreating. Such people forget the simple truth confirmed by history, where the German soldier stepped his foot there would never be an enemy"[6].

The economic policy of Nazi occupants towards the territory of Berdychiv corresponded to the objectives that were formulated by A.Rozenberg to Hitler on March 16, 1942. "German policy objectives particularly in Ukraine are determined by the Fuhrer: identification and military use of natural resources in certain areas of German settlements, no artificial intellectualization of native population, preserving only its labour force, finally no interest in other domestic events" [3 p.40].

The first step to implement the above mentioned instructions was the use of a forced labour of civil population. On July 8, 1942 Gebietskommissar Helner ordered the compulsory attendance of the citizens to the Labour Exchange.

“All those citizens of Berdychiv and its suburbs who are not employed but are capable of working must take part in mandatory work.

That’s why citizens from the age of 15 to 50 must come to the department of local household for work at 7 a.m. every day from July 13. They must have spades.

Those who oppose working, will be fined up to 100 Krb. or taken to the Work Camp” [14].

According to the order of the Reich commissar of Ukraine the number of Ukrainian citizens who could be employed or hold positions in commerce was limited. It proves that there will be no place in administration for Ukrainians in future.

Occupants forced citizens to hand in warm items for the German army. For example, Gebietskommissar’s assistant Schmidt ordered that those who steal, commit sabotage or damage things which are assigned for German army would be punished to death.

To simplify the process of removing goods for the Germany, on December 30, 194, the Berdychiv town administration adopted the resolution *On inventory of household goods* [11].

Thus, all these facts prove the goal of German economic policy in occupied Ukraine: to plunder and to sack [4; c. 30].

Among the endless tragedies that besot Ukraine in World War II, Nazi occupation was a phenomenon that quickly became a terror to the entire population and forced deportation of young people of working age to Germany. It’s significant that on the eve of the attack on the Soviet Union, Nazi leadership did not plan to use labour forces from the occupied territories in the German industry. On the contrary, they planned mass extermination of the population.

But since 1941, after the military situation had changed, the decision to use workers from the Soviet Union was approved by the Nazi leaders.

Hermann Goering wrote: “Qualified German workers should be engaged in manufacturing weapons; to row shovel and hollow stones is not their problem, it is the Russians” [5, c. 30]

Initially, the authorities conducted recruitment campaigns, promising all sorts of benefits for those who go to work in Germany. The population agreed under the burden of unemployment and hunger. But the reality of travelling was far from what had been promised. This is confirmed by a letter from Berdychiv citizen Lydia Polishchuk to her aunt, “.. Now I work in the camps. My feet are frozen and swollen. We are given 300g of bread once a day, cabbage and turnips twice a day to eat.. ”[1, p. 143].

These letters resulted in that the flow of those who wished to go to Germany exhausting quickly, and then Germans proceeded to forcible recruitment.

On May 12, 1943 the newspaper *Nova Doba* published a proclamation of compulsory labour of Ukrainian Youth born from 1923-1925. There is an interesting note in this appeal: "Work not for payment, work not for earning". [12] Work was an obligation, the failure of which meant an appropriate sanction of power.

Later numerous raids were arranged. General commissar's appeal to commissars of Zvyagel, Berdychiv and Zhytomyr mentioned: "... in Berdychiv forced supplying of labour resources from the cinema visitors is still continuing" [1, с. 132].

In total during the period of occupation more than 11 thousand people were cast away to Germany from Berdychiv.

Everything mentioned above is the essence of Nazi economic policy which meant economic exploitation of occupied nations and territories.

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