

# 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, affected Galician people, and their attitude towards the new government produced the tactics and methods of the fighters for Ukrainian national idea. It was the population's perception of the new policy (implemented by the particular occupation regime) that dictated new goals, mobilized the residents to take certain actions. Given this the analysis of the attitude of the population of Zhovkva district [1] to the occupation regimes is **relevant**. The importance of the subject is also explained by the fact that today's politicians, historians have different interpretations of Western Ukrainian participation in World War II, the ambiguous attitude to 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 and whether these priorities were considered by the occupation regimes.

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 repeatedly was explored by modern scientists. Among them we should mention Y. Slivka, V. Maslovskiy, M. Shvagulyak [2], I. Bilas [3]. However, their scientific research is focused mainly on the study of the resistance movement in Ukraine in general, and the studies by V. Holubko, A. Seredyak focus on the separate Yavoriv district [4].

The **aim** of our study is to follow the attitude of the population of Zhovkva district to the Bolshevik occupation regime and to indicate the reasons for this attitude.

As you know, after World War I the land of Western Ukraine came under the influence of Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia. Galicia, in particular, experienced a significant influence of Poland. By the Second World War

Galicians were denied the right to decide their own destiny. Ukrainian intelligentsia had already then fought for the preservation of national identity. It was more said on this subject in the works by I. Havryliv and T. Hryvul [5].

## II. Main

Ukrainians have always sought to preserve their language, to supervise the production and social processes all by themselves. They wanted to live prosperously, free. They were tired of the pressure of the Polish authorities.

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 Soviet system. Their main task was to ensure order, to eliminate the landlords and the monastic estates and pass them into the hands of the poorest. Here are the examples of the methods of the completing these tasks: in the village Dobrosyn in October 1939 157 hectares of land and all the property of landlord Yaroshinskiy was distributed among the poor; in the village Boyanets 17 laborers received 28 hectares of land, 45 poor received 72 hectares.

Poor, of course, were pleased that they were given land. Thus they also tried to support the new government. For example, in the village Matsoshyn seizure of property from a local priest was organized by the inhabitant of the same village Hevak Stepan, who had been appointed the commandant of police by the new government [6]. This indicates that the Soviet authorities began to meet local poor farmers needs, saving them from poverty. Thus they willingly deprived of their wealth even their wealthy neighbours.

The Soviet government has made some positive changes in the industry: local plants reopened - glassworks, textile factory, tannery, started working three brickyards and paper factory. 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 [7].

These seemingly positive developments have provided support for the Soviet regime not only among the former members of CPWU, Komsomol members and their supporters, but also among a large part of the poor, which became sympathetic with communists.

But many inhabitants also understood that with the approval of education (it had been organized the activity of about 100 schools) and culture, the indoctrination took place in these areas, which included the restructuring of life according to the Marxist-Leninist ideology, the replacement of established values with new ones. That is why the population reacted to the arrival of the Bolsheviks with distrust. This is shown by the citizen of Zhovkva John Mavdryk recalls: "We heard about the repression of the people in the Soviet Ukraine. But when the Bolsheviks came, we were first keeping silent, but as they had lived here just a little – they immediately started to choose the intellectuals. And many intellectuals were taken away to Russia just in a couple of months. Some were in exile, and some killed and still no harm to them"[8]. The citizen of Zhovkva Lyubov Tymsiv adds,

"The wise people and those who stood for Ukraine were eliminated. Mariya Salo was killed. Even speaking of Ukraine was forbidden" [9].

Only in the first months of their stay at the new location the Soviets were rather loyal to ward the established values of the citizens. However, already in 1940-1941 those disagreeing with the policies of government were arrested, hundreds of them were eliminated. The new government, having sensed the resistance of Galicia to their ideology, to the collectivization of land and private farms, to 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 Matoshyn 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 by some people who got plots of land, and a considerable part of the population resisted to the Soviet authority.

### References

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