

Regional Study of Holocaust

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Abstract

An objective study of Holocaust events by Ukrainian scholars is based on the determination of their consequences and lessons of universal significance. The essence of the Nazi genocide against the Jewish population as one of the most shameful phenomena in the history of civilization is clearly crystallized in modern scientific work. Full knowledge of the real events of the Holocaust and awareness of their tragic consequences should serve as a warning and incentive to prevent the revival of such phenomena in the future. In domestic historiography, the analysis of the occupiers' repressive policies aimed at the extermination of the Jewish population during World War II allows us to form a multi-vector view of the recent history of Ukraine and identify the tragic events of the Holocaust by regional realities. The historical and scientific field created in Ukraine about the research has considerable potential for further research in the future.

Key words: historical source, classification, methodological approaches, scientific developments, monographs, dissertations, regional history.

The research space of the historical science of Ukraine is impossible to imagine without realizing the most difficult consequences of the events that became the realities of the Second World War – the Nazi genocide against the Jewish population of Europe. That is why modern algorithms of historiographical developments for the preservation of the historical memory of the Holocaust have become important guidelines for all mankind: first, a warning about the extremely short distance that can guide the society, even declaring democratic slogans to genocide, and secondly, a convincing call to unite and oppose it.

The formation of historiographical issues related to the tragedy of European Jewry during the Second World War began in the 1940s. Nowadays, objective coverage of the whole complex of available archival sources and materials has not lost its relevance and has become continuous. The numerical significance of the works that directly or briefly cover the problem

of the Nazi genocide against the Jewish population of Europe (including Ukrainian Jews) has a certain systematization both in terms of subject matter and chronology.

In Ukraine, historiographical developments are mostly divided into the following groups: foreign historiography, Soviet historiography of the 1940s and 1980s, research by diaspora historians, and modern Ukrainian historiography. In this article, the main emphasis is placed on modern research with an emphasis on the regional context.

Active research into the history of the Holocaust in Ukraine began in the 1990s. At the first stage (1991–1996) there was a process of searching for source material and determining certain scientific accents [Koval, 1991; Levytas, Shymanovskyi, 1991; Popovych, 1994: 160–164]. Researchers tried to put into scientific circulation the maximum amount of documentary material that was available at that time. In the first investigations there is a feeling of a certain emotional shock of the authors from the facts and documents that they found while working on the topic. Researchers have wondered why the mass extermination of the Jewish population became possible.

Ukraine's research field is currently expanding with the publication of documentaries and memoirs on the events surrounding the Nazi genocide against the Jewish population. A milestone in scientific and social life was the first domestic edition of the Black Book (1991) – a collection of testimonies, letters and other documents of Holocaust survivors. It should be noted that the materials for the publication were systematized and prepared in 1944–1946 by compilers V. Hrossman and I. Erenburh. However, for almost 45 years the Black Book was “unknown” to a wide range of interested USSR researchers. The publication includes documents and evidence of real events during the Nazi occupation of Ukraine [Black Book, 1991].

The three-volume edition of *Essays on Jewish Heroism* (edited by S. Averbukh) was a source-personalized supplement to Holocaust research. 1995).

In the research field there are books that reproduced the realities of southern Ukraine: a collection of documents and materials about the Jewish population in Mykolayiv region [Jewish population in Mykolayiv region, 1996], memoirs of Odessa D. Starodinsky [Starodynskyi, 1991] S. Borovoy's book on the fate of the Jewish population of Odessa [Borovoy, 1991] deserves unconditional attention.

Systematization of source materials was accompanied by the first attempts to generalize and formulate methodological issues, which was made in the articles of M. Koval “Nazi genocide of Jews and the Ukrainian population (1941-1944)” [Koval, 1992: 25-32] and M. Popovych “Jewish Genocide in Ukraine: History and Lessons” [Popovych, 1994]. It is worth noting the collective study “Jews of Ukraine (Short Essay on History)” which attempts to inscribe the events of the Catastrophe in the general context of the history of the Jewish population of Ukraine [Gorovsky, Honigsman, Naiman, Elisavetsky, 1995: Part 2].

In M. Koval's works, the anti-Jewish Nazi genocide is recognized as an integral part of the tragic events of the Second World War on the territory of Ukraine [Koval, 1992: 25-32; 1995]. The scholar does not avoid sharp questions about the participation of Ukrainian collaboration in acts of mass extermination of Jews and the attitude of the majority of Ukrainians to the Jewish population during the occupation. One of the main aspirations of the researcher is to reveal or at least identify “white spots” within this historical period. M. Koval admits that the situation of Jews during the occupation was much more tragic than that of the rest of the population. In particular, he notes: “It should be emphasized that the Jewish Catastrophe is part of the general tragedy experienced by the people of Ukraine who fell victim to Nazi murderers. If Slavs, in particular Ukrainians, were killed on political grounds, Jews were killed only because they were Jews” [Koval, 1999: 163].

Research on this issue is taking new forms in the second stage, which began in 1997. In particular, the process of in-depth study and generalization of regional issues. In this context, the research of J. Honigsman on the fate of Judaism in the Lviv region and in Western Ukraine deserves unconditional attention [Honigsman, 1998; 2003]; J. Kovba, which analyzes the situation in Eastern Galicia [Kovba, 1998; 2000: 46-48]; S. Orlyansky on the Holocaust in Zaporozhye [Orlyansky, 1999; 2003]. The latter adds new emphasis to regional studies of Holocaust events. In his works, based on the involvement of the maximum number of sources of various origins, the events that took place in the Zaporozhye region are logically connected with the all-Ukrainian situation. In addition, the works compared local specifics with the all-Ukrainian realities of the Catastrophe.

The events in Babyn Yar, information about Ukrainians who risked their lives to save Jews during the occupation, are reflected in the books of F. Levitas, M. Shymanovskyi [Levitas, Shymanovsky, 1991], I. Levitas [Levitas, 2001]. In the work of L. Sushon, the

language of testimonies and documents reproduces the “life of Jews in Hell” in Transnistria [Sushon, 1998]. Various aspects of the events of the Catastrophe in the Crimea are analyzed by M. Tiahlyi [Tiahlyi, 2001: 55–70; 2005: 28–42]. These materials allow us to trace both the tragic events and the heroism of ordinary citizens of Ukraine.

In most of the analyzed works, the authors emphasized that the Holocaust was tragic throughout Ukraine, while certain events in each region were determined by their own characteristics, which require separate research for a deeper and comprehensive understanding of the scale and consequences of this phenomenon.

A special place is occupied by the works of S. Elisavetsky [Elisavetsky, 1998; 2000: 120-124; 2001: 70-75; 2002] whose main idea is that Jews were not only victims of the war, but also took an active part in the guerrilla, underground movement and other manifestations of the Resistance movement to the occupiers. The attitude of partisans and underground fighters towards Jews is considered.

Expanding the range of subject issues and involving a new cohort of scientists in its research was accompanied by some discussion about the level of analysis and the form of presentation of the material. S. Orlianskyi has repeatedly pointed out the almost complete lack of new methodological approaches to the development of the Holocaust, arguing that “we are in dire need of researchers who can work professionally in various fields of Judaism.” under the threat of dilettantism and profanity [Orlianskyi, 2003: 43]. The opposite opinion was expressed by I. Pogrebinska, who believed that “... it is in this area that all aspects of the topic are most widely covered: from historiographical analysis, the accumulation of extensive factual material to the conceptual understanding of the topic. There is every reason to believe that in recent years a Ukrainian school of researchers Shoah has been formed on the territory of our country. This scientific field uses modern methodological approaches and is deeply integrated into international research on this topic” [Pogrebinskaya, 1999: 97]. S. Yekelchik assessed the current realities and prospects of Ukrainian historians' study of the Holocaust as follows: [Yekelchik, 1998: 22]. In this context, a certain step forward was the articles of the Crimean researcher M. Tiahlyi [Tiahlyi, 2001: 55-70; 2005: 28-42] on the consequences and effectiveness of anti-Semitic propaganda carried out by the German occupation authorities; A. Podolsky's work on reflections on the Holocaust [Podolsky, 1998: 86-94; 1999: 26-38].

Crystallization of the research field was certainly facilitated by information and reference works of domestic historians, among which we highlight the works of O. Kruglov [Jewish genocide in Ukraine during the occupation... 1995; Kruglov 1997; Collection of documents and materials... 2002]. They became a kind of attempt to classify and generalize documentary and research material. At that time, works of this level were considered innovative in the post-Soviet space. O. Kruglov is credited with publishing a large number of new sources. The researcher translated and processed 204 German documents, which are recognized as the property of Ukrainian researchers and are actively involved in the work.

In the second half of the 90s of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century research of certain issues reaches a new level - the search for forms of objective analysis and generalization of material in the dissertations of scientists of Ukraine begins. In 1996, A. Podolskyi defended his dissertation on the Holocaust [Podolsky, 1996]. The next dissertation research on this topic was conducted by F. Levytas. The scholar attempted to summarize factual material on the Holocaust in Ukraine, as well as to highlight the participation of Jews in the Resistance movement [Levytas, 1997]. The author argues that the policy of the Soviet leadership before and at the beginning of the war did not allow the organization of the evacuation of the population and thus contributed to the scale of the genocide.

The funds of the State Archives of Vinnytsia region became a solid basis for the source analysis of the history of the Holocaust by researcher F. Vynokurova, which was comprehensively reflected in her dissertation [Vynokurova, 2003]. The study analyzes the main provisions and directions of the Nazi policy of total physical and psychological extermination of Jews, the organization of ghettos and labor camps, shows various forms of opposition of Jews to the occupiers. Collected and classified archival documents crystallized a large number of “living evidence”.

The genocide against the Jewish population of the South of Ukraine during the German-Romanian occupation of 1941–1944 became the subject of N. Sugatska's dissertation research. The author focuses on the events of the Catastrophe in the southern part of the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and the Governor-General of Transnistria. A separate section of the study is devoted to the attitude of the population of the occupied territories to the anti-Jewish policy of the occupiers [Sugatska, 2006].

At the beginning of the 21st century in Ukrainian historiography, there is a growing interest in issues related to the role, place, social base and scale of collaboration, the participation of collaborators in the Holocaust and the attitude of the Ukrainian population to the events of mass extermination of Jews. These questions have long been silenced because most documents were inaccessible to researchers, and the very formulation of these questions was considered “inconvenient” for Ukrainian historians. An analysis of the achievements of modern historiography in covering the problems of collaborationism during the Nazi occupation was carried out in the article by O. Marushchenko [Marushchenko, 2003: 47-62]. The author noted that this problem remains one of the most complex and least studied in domestic historiography. Due to the lack of a source base, researchers have some difficulty in carrying out an objective analysis of this complex phenomenon. This, in turn, hinders the creation of a full picture of the Holocaust in Ukraine.

We would like to note that in the late 20th - early 21st century there is an understanding among the general scientific and social community that objective, comprehensive coverage of such a complex phenomenon as the Holocaust should help to remove mutual prejudices and accusations between the two peoples. Over the centuries, their historical path has had both positive and negative realities and, accordingly, “their mythology”, which future generations should get rid of. By publishing the sources and objectively analyzing the events that took place in specific periods of time, it is necessary to recreate a real historical field for future scientific and unbiased developments.

Attempts to approach the coverage of these and other issues with new accents were made in the articles of J. Kovba “Collaboration of Ukrainians and the fate of Jews in Ukraine during the Second World War” [Kovba, 2000: 46-48], B. Zabarka “Transnistria: The pain of our memory” [Zabarko, 2002], I. Gusev “Once again about saving children from the ghetto of Transnistria” [Gusev, 2003: 18-21], V. Nakhmanovych “Problems and prospects of the Ukrainian Holocaust” [Nakhmanovych, 2002: 3-4].

The intensity of regional research has also accelerated in Ukrainian Holocaust studies. The events in Mykolayiv and Kherson regions are analyzed in the article by I. Shaikin and M. Ziabko about the genocide in the Jewish agricultural colonies of the South of Ukraine [Shaikyn and Ziabko, 1999: 152–186]. A large amount of factual and statistical material in this region is contained in S. Elisavetskyi's article “The Holocaust in the South of Ukraine”

(1941-1944). Nikolaev, Kherson, Zaporozhye regions” [Elisavetsky, 2002: 11]. The events in the Odesa region during the Second World War were recreated by M. Yakupov and V. Shchetnikov. In the monograph, they cover the creation of ghettos and concentration camps by the Nazis and the extermination of the Jewish population [Yakupov and Shchetnikov, 2004]. M. Kozyreva's scientific article [Kozyreva, 2002: 153–156] is devoted to certain aspects of the participation of collaborators in the mass extermination of the Jewish population. Attempts are being made to place the Catastrophe in the general context of the events of the Second World War in the South of Ukraine. In this regard, the collective monograph “Mykolayiv Region during the Great Patriotic War: 1941–1944” is noteworthy, in which a separate section is devoted to the events of the Holocaust [Mykolayiv Region during the Great Patriotic War, 2004]. This is one of the first attempts to summarize the documentary material and shed light on the objective picture of the tragic events in the region. The collective work “Fates of Jews of Mykolayiv Region during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945” deserves special attention, one of sections of which is devoted to events of the Holocaust in Mykolayiv Region. The author of this section, V. Shchukyn, not only covers in detail the tragic events at the sites of the execution of Jews, but also raises the question of preserving the historical memory of the Holocaust [Shchukyn, 2012: 48-85].

In general, the first decades of the 21st century were characterized by both the deepening of already identified and the search for new areas of research. In our work we emphasize the most, in our opinion, significant for two peoples history, namely - the activities of the Righteous Among the Nations, who during the Nazi occupation, risking their own lives, saved Jews from death. In 2016, the Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies “Tkuma” published a guide edited by I. Shchupak, which contains organized information on the Ukrainian Righteous Among the Nations [Righteous Among the Nations, 2016]. Researchers N. Suhatskaia, L. Tashlay, V. Shchukyn created a guide containing stories of saving Jews in Mykolayiv region, information about the Righteous, as well as memories of Jews who survived the Holocaust [Righteous Among the Nations. Righteous Among the Nations. Righteous in Ukraine. Saviors. Mykolaiv region, 2021] . The tragedy of the Holocaust through the prism of real events is revealed in another edition of 2021 – “Righteous Among the Nations. Ukraine” [Ioffe, Yevsiukov, 2021]. Scientific crystallization of this topic indicates its unconditional relevance in the future.

Thus, the reproduced historiographical picture of the Holocaust is considered by us as an integral part of the general historiographical process in a specific spatio-temporal dimension. In the context of the development of Ukraine's statehood, the issue of a comprehensive study of little-known pages of history related to the Nazi anti-Jewish genocide during the Second World War has become important in the research field. Domestic historiography of the Holocaust in Ukraine shows the attention of historians to various aspects of the problem. The tragic realities of the Holocaust are considered in close connection with the process of forming a multi-vector view of the development of modern history of Ukraine. That is why there is an intensification of research in this area, which allows us to predict the emergence in the near future of new discoveries that will deepen our understanding of the topic. Research on this issue is a matter of time, given that modern historical science has mainly developed methodological approaches and experience in working with factual and source materials.

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РЕГІОНАЛЬНІ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ГОЛОКОСТУ

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Об'єктивне дослідження українськими науковцями регіональних подій Голокосту відбувається на засадах визначення їх наслідків та уроків загальнолюдського значення. В сучасному науковому доробку виразно кристалізується сутність нацистського геноциду щодо єврейського населення як одного із найганебніших явищ у цивілізаційній історії. Повноцінне знання реальних подій Голокосту та усвідомлення їх трагічних наслідків мають слугувати попередженням і стимулом для унеможливлення відродження таких явищ у перспективі. У регіональній історіографії аналіз репресивної політики окупантів, спрямованої на винищення єврейського населення в період Другої світової війни, дозволяє формувати як багатовекторний погляд на розвиток новітньої історії України, так й визначити трагічні події Голокосту за регіональними реаліями. Створене в Україні за тематикою дослідження історико-наукове поле обіймає значний потенціал для продовження напрацювань у майбутньому.

Ключові слова: історичне джерело, класифікація, методологічні підходи, наукові розробки, монографії, дисертаційні роботи, регіональна історія.