

The social vector of Ukrainian historiography in the study of the Second World War

The value of the Second World War for the history of humanity, scientific and socio-political interpretations of factors, occasions and consequences of this disaster formed public negative attitude both to its perpetrators, and to the core of this occurrence. Two totalitarian systems, Hitlerism and Stalinism have created the basis for Imperial assault, genocide, fratricide, bullying, violence, heist, humiliation, condonation of human rights on the territory of sixty-one countries of the world. More than one generation of scientists study and comprehend this disaster to avoid its recurrence.

A brief definition “Military troubled years 1939-1945” which is used by researchers to specify one of the worst period with its devastating consequences in the human history – the Second World War means the vast information aspect, that contains a topical historical truth of million citizens, a significant percentage of whom were Ukrainians. However, Ukraine has not still received its own steady point of view on tragedy that befell millions of its inhabitants even it had huge losses in this war. The reasons for it is a complicated way, which domestic historical science has passed in the conditions of a totalitarian system and also complex social-political processes, which form today’s ambiguous perception by different social groups of events of that time. Some interpretations both on scientific level and the level of political elites and ordinary citizens which determine public opinion and form historical memory can be committed and sometimes even speculative. Unlike the global and, in particular, European practice of atonement and reconciliation, memory of victims, condemnation of

corresponded political regimes and ideologies, for example the term “War” carries another, significant feature, in addition to general tragic vision in neighboring Ukraine, Russian and Belorussia. In particular, “Victory” received in war acts as a basic fundamental for approval of ideological myths, designed to combine multi-ethnic society in terms of the Federal state structure and contributes to the strengthening of imperious hierarchy.

Recently domestic historiography of the Second World War was greatly enriched by researches forwarded to study the fate of ordinary citizens. Whole classes and certain specific categories are taken into account. The works devoted to the Ukrainian farmers, Eastern workers, prisoners of war, children of war, people with disabilities and et cetera (A.Perekhrest, T.Pastushenko, S.Galchak, G.Golysh and et cetera). Such differentiated approach is based on the study of specific features, peculiar to each social group. It allows to understand a much broader range of manifestations of military troubled years as a whole. A general trend representing the war as public-political and social-personal tragedy is noticeable beyond the personal fates of particular people. The relevant sections are published in certain research monographs and general academic writings, where social aspects and realities of everyday life of population, survival strategies of citizens, psychological factors and et cetera are reflected from the position of anthropocentrism.

Thus, we see a stable trend to study the events of the Second World War has formed through the prism of social history in independent Ukraine. Scrupulous work with sources should determine the equal place in historical researches to the feat as well as to the tragedy. Only then, the theme “Human and war” can be objectively studied and accepted by society.