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**WORLD WAR II: FALSIFICATIONS, VERSIONS, DEVIATIONS**  
**FROM THE NORMS OF OBJECTIVE RESEARCH**

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**Abstract**

The process of reviewing the events of world history in favor of a particular state is observed regularly. The deliberate distortion of various social and political phenomena as well facts is particularly acute in the history of the Second World War. There is an increased number of falsifications, through which various viewpoints of the anti-Russian kind are being imposed. In the context of the escalated confrontation between the leading world powers, the manipulation of public opinion on the problems of global development has become one of the main means of ideological struggle. Concerning the Second World War, its events are not accurately covered, too much attention is paid to hypotheses, and versions, assumptions forging the historical truth. The purpose of such a revision of history is not just to misrepresent events in their favor, but to give equal responsibility to the USSR and Nazi Germany for unleashing the war, to minimize the role of our country in defeating the aggressor. The article reveals the techniques and methods of falsifying the history of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War which is its integral part: moral and legal extrapolation, scaling of local statistics, isolation of the event from the historical context. Some features of modern myth-making approaches are analyzed: technological effectiveness, synthesis of falsification with elements of psychological and PR technologies, imposition of false ideas through emotional influence. Proposals to overcome attempts to falsify history are provided.

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## **1. Introduction**

Falsification of history is understood as a deliberate distortion of historical events, facts, and their interpretation, manipulation of sources for certain purposes. Deviation from objective coverage of the historical process is an ideological deviation. The falsification of history includes historical myth-making, which has become widespread. The content of falsifications, the approaches, and methods used indicate that historical science has become a field of confrontation, and the methods of falsification are the tools for manipulating public consciousness.

Almost all countries of the world have established national institutions that study the history of their States. At the same time, their importance in the global development of civilization is often exaggerated, while underestimating the role of others. Political patronage of domestic falsifiers and the rise of Euro-Atlantic ideological aggression have played their part. This led to the fact that the USSR and Germany were placed equal responsibility for the outbreak of the Second World War: in September 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the matter. Besides, in some states (the Baltic States, Ukraine, Georgia), the concept of "Great Patriotic War" has disappeared from the political lexicon.

The cynicism with which the children and grandchildren of the Nazis ignore the verdicts of the Nuremberg International Tribunal requires to be countered, concerning the distortion of various pages of Russian history. At present, the work on exposing the falsifications of Russia's place in the world community, objectifying the assessment of the activities of its leaders, who have made the greatest contribution to the strengthening of the country, has intensified. This is promoted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation (the Basic Law), adopted by popular vote on July 1, 2020, which intensifies the activities of all society, mainstreaming scientific research in the field of history and theory of state and law.

There is a large number of publications dedicated to defending historical truth, fighting against all kinds of deviations, myths and falsifications (Artizov & Kudryashov, 2019; Bagdasaryan, 2019; Benda, 2019; Bobrinev & Artamonov, 2020; Bocharnikov, 2019; Kargapoltsev & Lapina, 2020; Khristoforov, 2013; Kozhanov, 2017; Livtsov et al., 2017; Medvedeva, 2020; Medinsky, 2011; Miller, 2013; Morozov, 2015; Osborn, 2000; Pikalov & Golovin, 2018; Ponomareva, 2016; Samoilov & Seryakov, 2019; Seryakov, 2020; Stargardt, 2015; Zhukov, 2007; Zhukov & Fedyakina, 2015).

The information war against Russia does not stop. A large-scale, timely, and well-reasoned opposition to the distortion of the history of Russia is an urgent task.

## **2. Problem Statement**

The Great Patriotic War is a civilizational event. It has elevated Russia, which does not suit European politicians. In the Euro-Atlantic literature, the topic of falsification of the history of the USSR, the Slavic-Russian civilization as a whole, takes a leading place. A group of unscrupulous publicists has emerged in Russia. The main goal of numerous manipulations is to minimize the role of the USSR and its people in the liberation of the world from Nazism, to present the country as one of the aggressors and the culprit of the global world conflict, to rehabilitate and legalize the ideology of Nazism and nationalism.

The ideology based on the racial superiority of the German nation created in Western Europe an atmosphere of universal hatred devalued such values as the human right to a decent life, the triumph of law over arbitrariness, culture over barbarism, and education over ignorance. The Nazis massacred the population of the countries, created the Aryan area of residence of the Germans and the peoples close to them in spirit.

The article demonstrates the targeted, technological and multi-level nature of falsification of the history of the Second World War. The main directions and contents of the critical analysis of falsification are revealed. The article studies new trends relating to the criticism of the falsification of the history of Russia in domestic studies.

### **3. Research Questions**

The real effects of the events on individual countries are not always considered in shaping public policies. In particular, the role of the United States, France, Poland, and some other countries in the victory over Nazism is exaggerated. There is no objectivity in covering the participation of entire peoples, for example, the Chechens, in battles. Thus, restoring the real historical picture of global development and interaction of the peoples of the world is an urgent research task.

Nazism was opposed by the policy of the USSR, its leaders, who did everything to curb the aggressor. But Hitler had more accomplices than Stalin had allies. It was not possible to overcome the Western European short-sighted focus. Some of the events of these years have been either relatively little studied or not enough known. This article seeks to fill some gaps in the coverage of global civilizational development.

### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The primary objective of the study is to provide evidence for the collective responsibility of Nazi-infected Europe, led by Hitler's Germany, in unleashing the Second World War, and to consider the countries which contributed to the militarization of Germany and the growth of its aggressive policy.

So, the purpose of the research is to objectify the course of events, the outcome of the war, and its lessons, based on scientific principles. The article reveals the role of all the peoples of the USSR, the governing bodies of the state, the command staff, and other forces that became the sources of victory in the Second World War.

The techniques and methods of falsifying the history of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War, which is its integral part, are explored. Guided by the principle of an objective presentation of history, the author aims to reject any attempts to falsify various pages of Russian history, to defend the authenticity of the presentation of the events and results of the Second World War. The access to the archived documents makes it possible to study and discuss new subjects.

### **5. Research Methods**

The main research methods are as follows: historicism; analysis of events in chronological sequence (diachronic method); historical-comparative studies (objective comparison of historical

phenomena); forecasting of possible consequences of falsification of the historical process; moral and legal extrapolation, scaling of local statistics, overcoming the isolation of the event from the historical context.

The features of modern myth-making approaches, the synthesis of falsification with elements of psychological and PR technologies through emotional influence are analyzed.

## **6. Findings**

In the course of the global development of civilization, some countries began to form a state historical policy, aimed at, in some cases, exaggerating, in others, minimizing and falsifying the role of the peoples of different countries in the defeat of Nazi Germany and its allies.

The responsible researchers opposed the historical school of the FRG, whose representatives (Yu. Habermas, H. H. Mommsen, E. Ieckel, Yu. Hildebrand, M. Stuemer) try to whitewash Europe from the Nazi past, sharing the responsibility among Hitler and the leaders of the Nazi parties in European countries. Moreover, starting with the rejection of Nazism, modern European ideologists have passed to outright apologetics, even glorification of the Nazis and nationalists.

The materials of the Nuremberg International Tribunal are unreported. In Germany, films that glorify the "exploits" of the Nazis are released. In Italy, Germany, Spain, and the Baltic States, marches and torchlight processions of former members of the Nazi armed groups, their children, and grandchildren are held under the cover of the police. Some countries, such as Ukraine, are turning from winning countries into strongholds of nationalism and racism. Extreme politicization is characteristic of the historical school of Poland, where the Institute of Memory operates, falsifying the participation of Poland in both pre-war, military, and post-war events. In the works of Polish scientists, there are no objective studies about the Munich conspiracy, for which Hitler granted Poland the Czech Tishino region. Thanks to the struggle of Polish patriots, the country was among the winners, received the German city of Breslau (today Wroclaw). The part of the Polish territory with the city of Vilna at the suggestion of Stalin was transferred to Lithuania and the capital Vilnius appeared. Rich "trophies" were received by other European countries that began the war as allies of Nazi Germany: Romania got one region of Ukraine, Hungary – two, France got Silesia, Lorraine, the German city of Strasbourg, and the whole of Western Europe became a zone of Anglo-American influence.

There is still a myth that it was the USSR that attacked Hitler's Germany. No, the Soviet Union was attacked by a united Europe infected with Nazism. The German defense industry and its military capacity, contrary to the international agreements, were created with the money of bankers in the United States, England, and other countries. Almost all European states worked for the German war machine. Having defeated their armies, Germany received military equipment and material resources of 92 French, 30 Czechoslovak, 22 Belgian, 18 Dutch, 6 Norwegian, and many divisions of other countries. In France alone, the Nazis captured 3000 aircrafts and over 3500 tanks. The trophies were enough to equip 150 Hitler divisions (Zhukov, 2007).

All these facts remain unreported. Therefore, Europe, which almost voluntarily surrendered to Hitler, is interested in falsifying the role of the USSR in defeating Nazism and Japanese militarism, since an objective interpretation of history destroys its myth of Russia as a permanent geopolitical rival.

A large-scale educational work should be carried out not only for citizens of foreign countries but also for our compatriots. The war of 1941–1945 is not accidentally called the Great Patriotic War. More than 34 million citizens of all nationalities courageously defended their homeland, and tens of millions, including women, the elderly, and children, worked in the rear in the name of Victory. All the peoples of the country suffered greatly during the war.

About 30 thousand natives of the Chechen-Ingush Republic fought on the fronts of the war. They defended the Brest Fortress, Moscow, and Leningrad, stood to the death in the Battle of Stalingrad and the Kursk Bulge, did not allow the Nazis to break through to the Caucasus, and victoriously stormed Berlin. On the territory of Chechen-Ingushetia, the 317th Rifle Division, the 114th Chechen-Ingush Cavalry Division (as part of the 4th Cossack Cavalry Corps), the 242nd Mountain Rifle Division, the 16th sapper brigade, the 4th maneuver-air brigade, an autobattalion, a rifle marching division, several reserve units, and the 255th separate Chechen-Ingush Cavalry Regiment were formed (Bezcoalny et al., 2017).

According to the archival data (the latest figures), only from Nadterechny district military commissariat of Chechnya until 1942, 1841 people were called to the front, of which 71 distinguished themselves while defending the Brest fortress.

For the courage and heroism shown during the Great Patriotic War, 6 Chechens were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union – Baibulatov Irbaykhan (posthumously), Visaitov Mavlid Daciev Hansultan, Idrisov Abukhaji, Mukhamed-Mirzaev Khavaji (posthumously), Nuradilov Khanpasha (posthumously); three more were awarded the title of Hero of Russia – Abdurakhmanov Kanti, Uzuyev Magomed (posthumously), Umarov Movldi (posthumously) (Gold stars of Checheno-Ingushetia, 1985; Tsutsulaeva, 2018).

The fact is that among those who went to war from the Chechen-Ingush Republic, two-thirds were volunteers, and half of them were killed. Red Army soldiers of many nationalities took part in the heroic defense of the Brest Fortress, but one-third of them were Chechens. One of them, Molvdi Umarov, tied grenades, rushed into the crowd of the Nazis, blew them up and himself with the words "For the Motherland!" (Oshaev, 2004).

It is known that in the battle near the village of Zakharovka, machine gunner Khanpasha Nuradilov killed 120 Nazis and took seven more prisoners. Sniper Abukhaji Idrisov killed 349 Nazi soldiers and officers. In the sky over Leningrad, the Chechen pilot Dasha Akaev, who rose to the commander of the 35th Assault Aviation Regiment, fought valiantly. He was killed when he sent a burning plane to an enemy airfield (Ibragimov, 2017).

The heroism of the soldiers of the 255th Separate Chechen-Ingush Regiment under the command of Mavlid Visaitov, during the defense of Stalingrad, in the battles for Kiev, the Donbass, the Crimea, Rostov, Poland, and Berlin, is admired. M. Visaitov, a Chechen, was the first Soviet officer to shake hands with the commander of the advanced units of the US Army, General Bolling, during the historic meeting on the Elbe. As the best cavalryman of the Soviet Army, he received a horse as a gift from Mikhail Sholokhov (Isakieva & Kadyrova, 2020; Tsutsulaeva, 2018).

In the Chechen Republic, the memory of heroes-compatriots is honored. It was not possible to falsify the history of the Chechen people's participation in the liberation war. Nevertheless, the

ideological war, propaganda to mislead the public, and the belittling of the patriotism of the Chechen people during the Great Patriotic War have not disappeared.

Of course, some stood on the other side of the front line. However, those, who joined the enemy, should not be elevated to the rank of heroes who fought against the Bolsheviks. They did not betray Stalin, but the Motherland; they committed crimes against the state, exterminated Soviet servicemen, and the civilian population of the country. Suffice it to state that the tragedy of the Belarusian village of Khatyn, where 149 residents were burned alive, including 75 children aged 7 weeks to 16 years, at the hands of the 118th German battalion, commanded by a Polish officer, the company commander was a German. The Nazis of Ukrainian nationality burned the elderly, women, and children.

Having considered the new trends of domestic publications on the criticism of falsification of the history of Russia, we can conclude: the research of the area has intensified, many young scientists are involved in this work; new sources of information are used (accessible domestic and foreign archives), new arguments have appeared to combat disinformation and deviations from the norms of scientific analysis; the debatable nature of the issues under consideration has increased; actions and events have been studied in a broader historical format; some traditional views on events and the role of individual military leaders have been revised.

## 7. Conclusion

History is the jewel in the crown of power, the principal value of the peoples. Historical politics is broader than political science. This is a form of political confrontation between countries and ideologies. Historical science and jurisprudence should find ways to counteract falsifications, various deviations from reliable data, and warn about the ideological consequences of distorting both history as a whole and the role of outstanding personalities for the patriotic education of the population.

As a result of the short-sighted national state historical policy, the irrational reform of the system of science, education, and upbringing, numerous "works" and even "textbooks" have appeared, with unreliable data that cannot be used to form and justify a responsible political course, to educate a citizen with desired qualities and lawful behavior.

The principal requirement for historical politics is to promote the achievement of national interests in the global rivalry of the countries of the world. But this rule applies only when the national interests of a particular country are an absolute and unconditional priority for the Government.

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