Abstract

The year 2018 is the 80th anniversary of the international conference on refugees held on July 5-16, 1938 in a French town of ?vian. Despite great significance of the refugee problem in the modern world, the history of the ?vian conference remains on the periphery of historical science. There are no studies of the topic in Russian scholarship; the Western historiography on the conniving indifference of the world powers towards Nazi anti-Semitic policies, which resulted in the Holocaust, is scarce. The object of this study is the 1938 international ?vian conference on refugees and its reflection in sources and scholarship. The subject of the study is previously
unpublished German documents on the ?vian conference stored in the fond of the ‘Chief Directorate for Imperial Security’ in the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA). The purpose of the article is to give a new interpretation of the role of Germany in the ?vian conference drawing on German documents on the ?vian conference from the fonds of the RGVA and to show the historical significance of the conference for the Nazis’ turn towards the Final Solution to the Jewish Question. The tasks of the article are to use traditional methods of historical research to study new German sources on the topic of the study. The documents have been translated in Russian in order to put them into source and literary context and to provide their scientific interpretation. For the first time in Russian historiography, the article notes that at the ?vian conference the German Jews submitted a memorandum with a 4-year plan of emigration of 200,000 Jews from Germany, but their action-oriented proposals were buried in platitudes. The conference participants’ speeches demonstrated the unwillingness of the majority of countries to open their borders to refugees from the Third Reich. The study concludes that the failure of the ?vian conference opened the door to the Holocaust. The significance of the study is due not just to the 80th anniversary of the ?vian conference, but also to the urgency of the refugee problem in Europe and worldwide.

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**Keywords**

?vian conference of July 5-16, 1938, refugees problem, situation of Jews in Nazi Germany, Jewish emigration, Holocaust, materials from the fond of the ‘Chief Directorate for Imperial Security’ of Nazi Germany from the Russian State Military Archive.

**Reference**


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