

Kovalev V. I., Gubkin, Russian Federation

Peculiarity of Agrarian Reforms in the Stary Oskol District of the Kursk Region in the Days of Occupation

Abstract

The article attempts to study the solution of the agrarian question by the occupation authorities in the Stary Oskol District of the Kursk Region from July 2, 1942 to February 5, 1943. The occupation authorities tried to solve the agrarian question by using peasants' dissatisfaction with forced collectivization of the agriculture in the Soviet Union to outreach to rural population. However, due to short duration of the occupation, transit from Soviet collective farm system to communal land use and then to individual land use was carried out only to minimal degree. In the initial period of the occupation in order to survive in immediate battle area fraught with food shortages and confiscations of agricultural products by the German and Hungarian command peasants had to cooperate with the occupation regime. Material life standards of the rural population changed only slightly, therefore the majority of peasants felt no desire to cooperate with occupation authorities. Most documents used in the article are introduced into scientific use for the first time. Thus, the article expands traditional views of national historiography on the occupational regime and its reforms in agriculture and allows reach a new understanding of the issue. It is the first attempt to study reforms in the agriculture of the new political regime and examples of economic collaboration of some peasants during the occupation of the Oskol District of the Kursk Region.

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Written by Kovalev V. I.

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