

УДК 94(47)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-2-558-571

Dmitry A. Belov

Central Museum of the Armed Forces, Moscow, Russian Federation

Evgenii P. Vorobiev

Moscow State Technical University of Civil Aviation, Moscow, Russian Federation

The Role of Stalin in the Formation of Official History of the Tsaritsyn Defense during the Civil War in Russia

Abstract

The article presents results of comparative analysis of the texts of original publication of Professor V. Melikov's scientific monograph "Heroic Defense of Tsaritsyn: 1918" and its 1938 version published in view of the 20th anniversary of the defense of Tsaritsyn during the Civil War. J. V. Stalin's editorial revision of the text is probably the only evidence of his active intervention in late 1930s in the formation of the official view on the defense of Tsaritsyn and his own role in it, as well as that of K. E. Voroshilov and M. S. Budyonny. The study allows to identify main points and accents of editorial treatment of censorship and of Stalin himself as main participant in the event and unofficial editor of the new publication. Stalin's editorial changes expunged names of most command officers from the text. All information on the military operations of the Steel division and its commander, D. P. Zhlob, who was arrested and executed during the prepress, was removed. Stalin also edited and deleted the "cult of personality" flattery to himself and his comrade-in-arms S. M. Budyonny. At the same time, the censorship, namely the editorial board of the People's Commissariat of Defense of the USSR, promptly updated the text by inserting documents and materials on the ongoing trials for counter-revolutionary activities of persons mentioned in the monograph as participants in the events. Political repression of early 1938 resulted in their neutralization as "enemies of the people." Thus, editing of V. A. Melikov's monograph by I. V. Stalin and the censorship was an example of the gradual transformation of scientific publication into instrument of political and ideological strife in the context of oncoming new wave of terror.



Keywords

Historical source, defense of Tsaritsin, censorship, V. A. Melikov, J. V. Stalin, historiography, Civil War in Russia.

Download the article: [pdf](#)

References

VOITIKOV, S. S. "Voroshilov komandovat' armiei sovershenno ne mozhet": pirrova pobeda Trotskogo nad Stalinym, ili kak Trotskii vyzhil Voroshilova iz Tsaritsyna na Ukrainu (1918-1919 gg.) ["Voroshilov is unfit to command the army": Trotsky's Pyrrhic victory over Stalin, or how Trotsky drove out Voroshilov from Tsaritsyn to Ukraine: 1918-1919. In Russ.]. IN: Novyi istoricheskii vestnik, 2014, no. 1, pp. 120-150.

VOITIKOV, S. S. Noveishaya istoriografiya deyatel'nosti I.V. Stalina v gody grazhdanskoi voiny [Modern historiography on Stalin's activities in the days of the Civil War. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik RGGU. Seriya: Istoriya. Filologiya. Kul'turologiya. Vostokovedenie [The RSUH/RGGU Bulletin. Series: History. Philology. Cultural Studies. Oriental Studies], 2017, no. 8, pp. 122-129.

GANIN, A. V. Byvshii general A. V. Nosovich i beloe podpol'e v Krasnoi Armii v 1918 g. [Former General A. V. Nosovich and the White underground in the Red Army in 1918. In Russ.]. IN: Zhurnal rossiiskikh i vostochnoevropeskikh istoricheskikh issledovaniy, 2017, no. 2, pp. 6-35.

Written by Кирилл

Monday, 09 August 2021 04:59

MELIKOV, V. Geroicheskaya oborona Tsaritsyna. [The heroic defense of Tsaritsyn. In Russ]. Moscow, Voenizdat publ., 1938, 304 p.

MELIKOV, V. Geroicheskaya oborona Tsaritsyna (1918 g) [The heroic defense of Tsaritsyn: 1918. In Russ.]. Moscow, Gosvoenizdat publ., 1940, 370 p.

About the authors

Belov Dmitry Alexandrovich, PhD in History, Central Museum of the Armed Forces, senior researcher, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-903-479-58-29, dbelov@list.ru

Vorobiev Evgenii Petrovich, PhD in History, associate professor, Moscow State Technical University of Civil Aviation, assistant professor, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-999-973-12-88, vorobyev@bk.ru

Submitted 22.12.2018, published (for citation):

BELOV, D. A., VOROBIEV, E. P. Rol' I. V. Stalina v formirovanii ofitsial'noi versii istorii oborony Tsaritsyna v gody Grazhdanskoi voiny v Rossii [. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2019, no. 2, pp. 558-571. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-2-558-571

Written by Кирилл

Monday, 09 August 2021 04:59

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .