

Creation of mythology of "historical guilt" of Russia during the psychological war of the XXI century

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ABSTRACT-- *The article it is about the role of myth-making in psychological warfare. Myth-making is understood as a kind of creativity in the field of creation of myths. When studying this issue, we should bear in mind that the myth-making of the XXI century is a historical, that is, an artificial ideological product created for political and social purposes. Discusses the mythology of Russophobia, created with the purpose of introduction in consciousness of the Russian population of historical nihilism. The methods of counteraction to the spread of destructive mythology are shown.*

Key words-- *myth-making, mythology, psychological war, USSR, Russia, Russophobia, world war II, Katyn case*

I. INTRODUCTION

The article deals with the role of myth-making in psychological warfare. Myth-making is understood as a kind of creativity in the field of myth-making. When studying this issue, we should bear in mind that the myth-making of the XXI century is a historical, that is, an artificial ideological product created for political and social purposes. Unlike prehistoric (archaic) mythologies, which combined knowledge and faith, historical mythologies are created consciously. Mythmaking is considered on the example of the spread of the mythology of Russophobia. When this feeling is introduced into the consciousness of Russians, it is transformed into ethnic and historical nihilism. It occurs the destruction of the historical memory of their own homeland as an independent civilization.

Myth-making is the main method of psychological warfare. Increasingly, the media uses the concept of "hybrid war", which is a combination of all kinds of hostile actions without declaring war. Psychological and ideological components occupy an important place in it. So psychological warfare is seen as a component of hybrid warfare. At first glance, it is quite strange to refer to the concept of 'psychological war' and assert its existence, with its apparent difference from the usual concept of 'war'. We can give a general definition of this basic concept: war is a way of resolving interstate or social contradictions by achieving victory by any means of any of the parties. In psychological warfare, there is no use of open force by the warring parties. But that doesn't mean the absence of violence. In this case, the violence is hidden and applied to the consciousness of the enemy. This war can be both open and secret. That is, one of the parties may not know that a war is being waged against it. This property is inherent in the very concept of psychological warfare. In it, the achievement of victory is the destruction of the resistance of consciousness in relation to the installations of the worldview introduced into it from the outside. In the state ideology of the United States all the time after World War II dominated the position against all countries that the United States recorded as enemies, is a psychological war. Then this concept was expanded to the concept of 'information war' [9, P. 254]. Here is the definition of P. Linebarger, a psychologist and specialist in the field of psychological warfare: "psychological, or propaganda, war seeks to achieve its goals without the use of military force" [7, P. 60]. This means that psychological warfare is conducted within the ordinary life of society, and the effectiveness increases if one of the parties is not aware of the ongoing war against it. It is a part of the information war. According to the military doctrine, information warfare is a "form of armed struggle" [3, P. 97]. The military philosophy of Western civilization considers lying to be a natural feature of psychological

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warfare. It is natural that psychological warfare implies the achievement of the goal by any means. Therefore, it is important to determine the aggressor-who unleashes such a war.

P. Green determined that in psychological warfare, the concept of morality was deliberately destroyed and therefore the use of lies, slander, deceit is acceptable as a strategy and tactics to achieve victory. War begins when one side is already waging it. At the same time, the opposite side may not even know that a war of annihilation is being waged against it [2, Pp. 622-679].

Psychological war is waged for domination over consciousness to change the man's outlook. The main method of psychological warfare is the deception of consciousness. The so-called "psychological trauma" is inflicted on a person by external influence. It is the destruction of the usual picture of the world. When a person is mentally injured, the ability to fully perceive information is lost. Further, it is easier to work with such a person to introduce the necessary views into his consciousness. The use of the laws of myth-making facilitates the task of penetrating the consciousness of the necessary ideas. Installations about falsity of former belief (it is unimportant in what – in God, the country, the leader, the state, a family – and it is better all at once) have been introduced. So Linebarger wrote that it is possible to declare freely lie the authentic facts and to approve any lie as truth on the basis of that it is opposite to former statements [7, P. 62]. Constantly used substitution of concepts. For example, the common concept of 'crime against humanity' is understood differently depending on belonging to a civilization. In Russia, the key word here is the concept of 'humanity'. In the Western political tradition, humanity is understood to follow the laws of liberal political democracy, and no humanity in this case is not meant. Therefore, the most important word in this statement is 'crime'. That is the main thing not the relation to the person, and the relation to the law. Therefore, for the Russian language in this case, the correct use is the concept of 'crimes against humanity'.

In the XXI century there was quite a solid mythology of accusing Russia of crimes related to the Second world war and the post-war world. The accusations historically relate to the Soviet Union, but they are transferred to the XXI century, and Russia is already accused of them. The transfer of accusations to Russia is explained by the fact that Russia has retained many of the geopolitical achievements made in the Soviet era. The main thing is participation in the work of the UN security Council with the right of veto. In addition, the Russian leadership does not recognize the mythical accusations of the Soviet leadership in war crimes. The purpose of the charges is to expel Russia from among the permanent members of the UN security Council, to transfer Russia to the category of losers in the Second world war. But this can be done in three ways-the first is the complete isolation of Russia in the world, the second is a military victory over Russia, the third is an independent decision of the Russian leadership to abandon its geopolitical achievements. The third option seems to be the most acceptable to Russia's geopolitical opponents. And in this case, the best method of achieving the goal is the destruction of the country from within by the Soviet, and then by the Russian people.

The fact that these methods work very successfully, we can observe in the spread of the worldview of anti-Sovietism among the population of the first Soviet Union, and then Russia. The most successful project to change the worldview we see in Ukraine, where the number of people who have abandoned their ethnic and historical identity, presumably reached several million. The main external way to achieve the goal is to create the appropriate mythology. The accusatory mythology combines myths about the outbreak of the second world war by the USSR, its occupation of the countries of Central Europe, crimes against the civilian population of these countries and Germany.

In the inner space of spiritual culture, the methods of myth-making have spread since the 1980s, when the country's leadership, headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, began to pursue a policy of anti-Sovietism. In accordance with the goals of the West, it was necessary to convince the Soviet people of the criminality of the socialist system. As it seemed to Sovietologists and local anti-Communists, the era of Stalin's leadership of the country could not be better.

The first mythological anti-Soviet project was the so-called "Katyn execution" of Polish officers captured in 1939, in which Stalin and the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) leadership were personally accused. This raises the question of why this particular event was chosen. And several reasons loom. The main thing is to start reviewing the results of the Second world war with the help of the leadership of the USSR. Next,

to create an atmosphere of rejection, and then hatred between poles and Russians, imposing the Katyn case on the previous historical "grievances". In conclusion, within the USSR, and later Russia to create a sense of shame for the people of the past. So, the accusation of the Soviet leadership in the shooting of poles in Katyn was a good choice for the customers of this event.

It is possible to revise the results of the Second world war from the point of view of international law if the UN security Council takes a unanimous decision to start this process. That is, the USSR, and later Russia had to initiate it themselves. And for this purpose, it was necessary to convince public opinion of Russia to agree that in the USSR there was a "criminal Stalinist regime". The main task in achieving the goal is the equalization of the Soviet political system and the political regime of German Nazism, briefly expressed as " Stalin and Hitler-the culprits in the outbreak of the Second world war." Accusing Russia of the criminality of its political regime in the 1930s and 1950s, we can proceed to accuse subsequent political regimes because in Russia there was no "decommunization", and the "Stalinist regime" was not declared criminal. Hence, all kinds of actions (sanctions, threats, etc.) are possible on the basis of the predisposition of any Russian leadership to "crimes against humanity".

It is important that the initiative to revise the Katyn execution came from the Soviet side. The fact is that, according to the Nuremberg Tribunal, this crime was not explicitly assigned to the Nazi regime. The return to its consideration in the late 1980s in the USSR was the first step in justifying Nazism at the international level. There was a surprising situation for the uninitiated, when the crimes of the Nazi regime were transferred to its main enemy-the Soviet Union on the basis of the statement of the Nazi regime itself. Indecision and ambivalence in relation to the Katyn execution by the Russian leadership in the XXI century allows to further escalate the pressure on Russia to revise the results of the Second world war [1].

At the same time, the genocide of poles was not legally recognized [5], and later, on June 18, 2012, the European court decided that "the documents" provided under Gorbachev and Yeltsin, indicating that Stalin and the Soviet side were guilty of shooting tens of thousands of Polish officers near Katyn, turned out to be a fake" [4]. However, in the court's decision, the Nazi version of the crime remained [8]. But the falsehoods on the subject of Katyn are so absurd that it would seem that there is every reason not to recognize the USSR as a crime. Some of the myths in this case are ridiculous. So, in "Shelepin`s note", dated 1959 year, States, that executions were conducted "on the basis Decisions the CPSU Central Committee (the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR) from the 5th of March in 1940" [6]. At the same time, the CPSU as the name of the party appeared in 1962. Despite the obvious facts of true history and proven falsifications, the official Russian side took an uncertain position, and the Polish side did not speak on this issue, apparently partially satisfied with the outcome of the case. This means that the issue is not closed.

We must understand that the "Katyn affair" is only one of the myths in the expanded mythology of anti-communism and Russophobia. The main myth can be considered the accusation of the Soviet leadership in the outbreak of the Second world war. The equating of Hitler and Stalin became common among anti-Communist "patriots of Russia". One of the books on the Russian Liberation Army is called "Against Stalin and Hitler" [12]. That is, the myth has already been created. And not it is important, that Russian Liberation Army not was "between", and was unambiguously "for" fascists. Accusing Stalin of crimes makes the entire Soviet system criminal, and in the XXI century this accusation is transferred to Russia. The calculation is simple: if the people feel their historical guilt, they should give up everything that connects them with the "criminal regime", including all achievements because they are achieved by criminal means. According to the laws of the development of mythology, along with the accusation of the USSR, it is necessary to justify fascist Germany. In the works published under the name of V. Suvorov this myth was promoted in consciousness. [10, 11]. Another myth – the USSR was the aggressor because, together with its ally Germany captured Poland. Subsequent myths complement mythology about Russia as Empire of evil. The Soviet Union is accused of occupying the countries of Central Europe. It is not particularly important that each individual myth is easily exposed. It is enough that doubts will be sown in the justice of the struggle of the USSR against fascism and the post-war reconstruction of the world. In addition, as the level of intellectual development of the Russian population (historical knowledge and ability to think logically) decreases, it will be easier to introduce myths that contradict any common sense. Ultimately, it is about creating a false story based on the principle of "history is written by the winners."

Thus, it is possible to overcome the destructive influence of harmful mythologies about the past and present of Russia only on the way of historical truth. Victory in the psychological war is necessary for the existence of Russia as a state.

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