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**SOVIET OCCUPATION OF EASTERN GERMANY IN 1945–1953:  
SOVIET AND FOREIGN HISTORIOGRAPHY**

*In the article the basic stages of the research of problems of the Soviet occupation of eastern Germany in 1945–1953. The works of Soviet, Russian, German and American historians on this subject are analyzed. The peculiarities of approaches of Soviet historical school and Western scholars to the subject are shown.*

**Keywords:** *Soviet occupation, occupation policy, reparations, German question, East Germany, GDR, Soviet Union, SMAD.*

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the communist regimes in East European countries began a rapid transformation in all spheres of functioning of society. However, they are faced with problems due to the peculiarities of historical development in the 1945–1989. East Germany was among the first in Eastern Europe has chosen to build a socialist system. Its example is unique. In one state faced two systems – capitalist (in West Germany) and socialist (in East Germany). This was due to the fact that the establishment of a new system of social and economic relations was influenced from the outside – in conditions of occupation a country by troops of the victorious powers.

For Ukraine, which is also undergoing a process of transformation of economy and society, is interesting to study the German experience. In addition, the post-war history of both countries somehow intertwined. It is impossible to imagine the full picture of the postwar restoration of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR without reparations. Analysis of the economic transformation of East Germany helps to identify the peculiarities of the Soviet economic policy of the 1920s – 1940s, better understand the Stalinist model of socialism and the reasons for its crash. The study of Soviet occupation policy and its consequences is important for the development of modern Ukrainian-German relations, to overcome mutual historical grievances, to find consensus and reconciliation.

Studying the occupation policy and its economic component acquires in our eyes a particular importance, as Ukraine has faced occupation of its territory troops of the aggressor. With the problem of military occupation and reconstruction of destroyed country had to face the Ukrainian authorities and society in Donbas. Relevant in this situation is the need to not repeat mistakes that were in 1945: during the implementation of strategic planning military operations, the economic aspect of the occupation was pushed into the background, placing the civilian population to the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.

In research problems can be divided into three main periods: 1) 1945–1953 – the period of study current events; 2) 50's – late 80's. of XX century – the period of ideological confrontation between Western scientists and scientists-Marxists, restrict access to sources; 3) since the late 80's. of XX century to this day – the period of reconsideration of events based on new archival sources and cessation of confrontation.

At the first stage is difficult to talk about historiography in the literal sense of this word. Estimates of occupation policy in Germany depended on the policy changes USSR and GDR, international crises initial period of «cold war». The highest activity in understanding the events demonstrated the political leaders of the Soviet Union and East Germany – I.V. Stalin, V.M. Molotov, V. Peak, A. Hrotevol that expressed their attitude to the problem in articles and public speeches [1–4]. They are characterized by a pronounced ideological orientation, intolerance to alternative points of view and the lack of a detailed analysis of events. Actually there was no historical works devoted to Soviet occupation. For Marxist, as well as for Western historiography typical at this stage the opposition of policy that was pursued by the occupation authorities in West and East Germany.

At the second stage of research joined not only heads of the state, but also scientists. It should be noted that the study of Soviet occupation policy is not encouraged because the majority of works was only indirectly related to this topic [5–15]. The Soviet occupation of Germany was usually seen as the broader themes: «German Question» or the history of the GDR. In the first case, the emphasis was on diplomatic negotiations between the allies, the implementation of the Yalta and Potsdam agreements in different areas of occupation and accusations against the Western Allies in violation of the commitments [16–20]. Works on the history of the GDR were extremely politicized, economic development of the postwar period considered to be incomplete. In the work «History of the GDR» the authors of those chapters – V.D. Kulbakine and S.I. Viskov – argue that since autumn 1946 economic management the guidance of future GDR carried out independently, the Soviet intervention in it limited to assist local authorities (restoration of destroyed in previous years, sharing experiences, supply of raw materials and industrial equipment, food) [21]. Works which appeared at this time were based on a study of only a narrow range of sources, were set estimates. The peculiar result of this stage of historiographical reflection summed monograph of S.I. Viskova and V.D. Kulbakine «Allies and the German Question», which most fully represented Marxist assessment of Soviet occupation policy [22]. The authors for the first time attempted to compare it with the policy that was pursued in Germany by Western allies. They conclude that the USSR complied scrupulously with the Potsdam agreements, while the USA, Britain and France systematically violated them.

On the third stage of the study of the theme was made possible familiarization with new sources. The introduction of publicity, freedom of speech and press posi-

tively affected on the research problem. There were a total of [23, 24] and specialized studies that consider the occupation policy as a whole or its individual aspects [25–28]. There were as the general work [23, 24], and specialized studies that consider the occupation policy as a whole or its individual aspects [25–28]. Special attention in Russian historiography deserves three works [29–31]. In the research A.M. Filitova for the first time in Russia examined diplomatic aspect of occupation policy within the «German question», traced the evolution of Soviet policy towards Germany in the 1945–1990. M. I. Semyryaha published Russia's first monograph directly devoted to Soviet occupation policy, formulated its main aspects: the mechanism of functioning of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany (SMAG), the transformation of the political system, agrarian reform and the nationalization of the economy, denazification and mass repression, cultural and educational policy, relations with Western allies in the «German question», Berlin issue. The Book of Semyryahy primarily was devoted to the political events of SMAG, so a number of economic issues (measures in finance, transport, trade and supply), was not considered in it. Also deserves the attention monograph of P.M. Knyshevskoho in which considers the problem of collection by the Soviet Union reparations from Germany after the Second World War. Knyshevsky marked a variety of problem aspects, from the dismantling of industrial plants in Germany to the fate of the so-called «displaced cultural values», but many details (steps of the reparation policy, transport routes, use of equipment in the Soviet Union, alternative forms of collection reparations) were thus not disclosed [31].

In Western historiography recently also appeared works about the Soviet occupation policy and its individual areas. The American historian M. Neimark is a follower of the old western concept during the times of «Cold War» about permanent revolutionary expansion of the USSR. In his work devoted to the Soviet occupation zone, he examines in detail the process of «sovietization» of the political and cultural spheres of East Germany. The author argues that the goals of Soviet policy in sphere of economy were only in an attempt to restore the economic potential of the USSR via reparations, expropriation of property and the establishment of the planned economy of the Soviet type in Germany [32]. Y. Foyttsik in his study for the first time in German historiography gave complex analysis of SMAG, traced the changes in its structure and staffing, functions of individual units and reconstructed the mechanism for making important decisions [33]. He came to the conclusion that the SMAG was not so much the body, but an instrument of soviet occupation policy because all important decisions were taken in Moscow. The German government and political parties only served as a liaison between the Soviet administration and the population. The fundamental principle of soviet policy was the establishment of its own security; it's explained all decisions that were made – both, political and economic. The author did not violate the practical aspect of soviet occupation policy, which is the implementation of political decisions. In the monograph of J. Fish

traces the evolution of allied views on the issue of reparations from 1941 to 1945 and was given a comparative analysis of the allied reparation policy after World War II with respect to all countries of «axis», but reparations from East Germany paid not enough attention [34]. R. Karlsh wrote a research devoted to Soviet reparations from Germany [35]. He considered such aspects as the relations between Soviet and German governing bodies on issues of reparations, transition from the policy of dismantling to the maintenance and development of German industry, alternative forms of collecting reparations, turned to the fate of Soviet nuclear project in East Germany – AO «Bismuth». Solidarity with other German historians, R. Karlsh estimated the value of exported by the 1945–1953 to the Soviet Union on account of reparations equipment, industrial raw materials and finished products at 14–16 billion dollars. The author stressed on the fact that the main burden of reparations went on East Germany (from 20 to 49% of GDP per year), while West Germany was more favorable terms (from 6 to 14,5% of GDP). That is what he explains further significant backlog of economy East Germany from West Germany. Some works devoted to the reconstruction of the economic system in the Soviet occupation zone (SOZ) and the German Democratic Republic, the expropriation of industry, land reform and collectivization of agriculture, they have attempted a comparative analysis with similar sectors of the economy of the Federal Republic of Germany [36–38]. In German historiography considerable interest to the study of the political aspect of Soviet occupation and German aspect of the problem, while the activity of SMAG, the role of the Soviet Union in the events that took place in this period remained virtually unexplored. A large number of works devoted to the problems of transformation of the political system of East Germany, the history of political parties and public organizations [39–44]. The attention of Western historians to the problems of political repression of Soviet concentration camps in Germany to the state security of East Germany does not weaken. A considerable part of this work condemns «socialist past», the material selected tendentiously, statistical data is rather approximate [45, 46].

Thus, the history of the Soviet occupation zone and Soviet occupation policy is one of those areas of science that are actively developing. Quite thoroughly studied the political aspect of Soviet occupation, partly – the economic aspect, but there is still no research that would comprehensively presented the Soviet occupation policy in economy of East Germany, the impact of measures of SMAG in industry, agriculture, finance, transport, trade and supply.

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**РАДЯНСЬКА ОКУПАЦІЯ СХІДНОЇ НІМЕЧЧИНИ В 1945-1953 рр.:  
РАДЯНСЬКА ТА ЗАРУБІЖНА ІСТОРИОГРАФІЯ**

*У статті визначено основні етапи дослідження проблеми радянської окупації Східної Німеччини в 1945–1953 рр. Проаналізовано праці радянських, російських, німецьких та американських істориків з цієї проблематики. Показано особливості підходів радянської історичної школи та західних дослідників до цієї тематики.*

**Ключові слова:** радянська окупація, окупаційна політика, репарації, німецьке питання, Східна Німеччина, НДР, СРСР, СВАГ.

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**СОВЕТСКАЯ ОККУПАЦИЯ ВОСТОЧНОЙ ГЕРМАНИИ  
В 1945–1953 гг.: СОВЕТСКАЯ И ЗАРУБЕЖНАЯ ИСТОРИОГРАФИЯ**

*В статье определены основные этапы исследования проблемы советской оккупации Восточной Германии в 1945–1953 гг. Проанализированы труды советских, российских, немецких и американских историков по данной проблематике. Показаны особенности подходов советской исторической школы и западных исследователей к данной тематике.*

**Ключевые слова:** советская оккупация, оккупационная политика, репарации, немецкий вопрос, Восточная Германия, ГДР, СССР, СВАГ.