ТАМАШ КРАУС

Отношения между историографией и политикой памяти. Тезисы в зеркале споров об оценке советско-германского пакта о ненападении.¹

Кто несет ответственность за войну?

The relations between historiography and the politics of memory. Theses in the mirror of the debates on the evaluation of the Soviet-German Treaty of Non-aggression.

Who is responsible for the war?

The lecture discusses the historiography and some aspects of the contemporary politics of memory (Erinnerungskultur) of the beginning of the Second World War. In the European Union and the United States the officially supported “historical concept” is that the outbreak of the Second World War was the consequence of the Soviet-German Treaty of Non-aggression (Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact) concluded on 23 August 1939. This concept explains the outbreak of the war through the pact of the leading circles of the “two totalitarian dictatorships”. Today in Eastern Europe politicians and historians go even further to transfer the main responsibility for the outbreak of the war onto Stalin. However, the most important historiographical direction also focuses on the antecedents of the Soviet-German Treaty of Non-aggression. The followers of this school simultaneously stress the responsibility of the great powers, whose leaders concluded a treaty with Hitler in September 1938 (the Munich Treaty, which was the consequence of the policy of appeasement) and that of the small states, whose leaders made separate “deals” and agreements with Hitler. For example, even prior to the outbreak of the war, the Polish politics held the Soviet Union and not Germany to be the main enemy. Unfortunately, there are always historians, who cannot resist the pressure of power elites, who – with ever increasing apparatuses and capital – appropriate history for the sake of (geo) political interests. In reality, the Soviet-German Treaty of Non-aggression on behalf of the Soviet Union expressed that the Soviet Union did not want to bear alone all burdens of a war with Nazi Germany.

¹ Конференция Института всеобщей истории Российской академии наук по случаю 80-й годовщины начала Второй мировой войны. (2-3 октября 2019 г.) Отредактированная версия лекции