

## CONCLUSIONS

Summarizing, it should be noted that the formation of the German information space in the territory of the Reich Commissariat “Ukraine” and in the area of military administration and its transformation took place in three stages, which were very different from each other.

In the initial period from June 1941 to March 1942, when Hitler’s leadership realized that the war with the USSR would be complicated and long-lasting, the Nazi information policy aimed at convincing the population of the occupied regions of Ukraine and nationalist Ukrainian groups that the German war was over liberation from Bolshevik rule. Admittedly, she has had some success during this period. Some peasants and intellectuals believed that it was thanks to Germany that Ukraine would free itself from the Bolshevik regime and be able to independently build its own state and develop Ukrainian culture. The peasants were waiting for a solution to the painful land issue, and that is why the “agrarian reform” promoted by the Hitler administration attracted a large part of the peasants. During the same period, the occupation authorities created favorable conditions for the activities of the intelligentsia: educational institutions operated; theaters were opened showing performances of works by Ukrainian writers, mainly those whose works were banned in Soviet times; cultural and educational organizations were created and operated, including “Prosvita”, in almost every oblast, district or city periodicals were published. In the press and cinematography, Nazi Germany was positioned as a highly developed cultural country, and so in the first months of the war there were willing people among the local population who went to the Reich voluntarily. A small part of the population, under the influence of Nazi propaganda and their own ideas about preserving their lives and the lives of their family members, deliberately went to cooperate with the German occupation administration.

Significant changes in the information policy of the German occupation power occurred in the second period – March-April 1942 – when the situation on the fronts for the German army worsened, the propaganda activities of representatives of the resistance movement, nationalist military groups increased. The German authorities immediately intensified the occupation regime, persecuting all those suspected of cooperating with the guerrillas, who did not want to go to work in Germany, who sabotaged the orders and orders of the local authorities, and so on. During this period, the propaganda slogans of Hitler’s power changed dramatically. They no longer promised a happy life in their own state, no word was heard about the implementation of the

“agrarian reform”; instead, educational, cultural and educational institutions were closed; the theaters worked mainly to entertain the Wehrmacht and the Volksdeutsche, became frequent raids in theaters and cinemas by locals and young people for forced labor in Germany, and increased violence with the locals as a result of the destruction of German soldiers and guerrillas. This situation could not leave people indifferent. The moral and psychological condition of the population was extremely difficult, the moods among the locals changed and people began to support the guerrillas and participate in the resistance movement organized by the OUN and UPA and the Soviet guerrillas. The main topic of German propaganda at this stage was the intimidation of local residents by punishment for cooperation with the guerrillas and the Soviet authorities. Despite the fact that since May 1942 the German army had been defeated by the Red Army, the newspapers maintained an optimistic mood among the population through reports of the benefits of the German army, the loss of the Soviet Army, and the defeat suffered by USSR allies on all fronts of the world.

The third period of information policy of Hitler’s Germany was accompanied by difficult military and political conditions – defensive battles of the German army. Since the summer of 1943, under the pressure of the Red Army and as a result of the subversive activities of the guerrilla units, the Nazi leadership had to change its tactics and information policies on the territory of the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and in the area of military administration. The content of the propaganda was filled with slogans calling on the local population not to respond to the guerrillas’ calls for support of the Soviet authorities, in periodicals and leaflets it spoke about the massacre of the Bolsheviks with prisoners of war and their families, with those who remained in the occupied territories, in the occupied territories will be denied the opportunity to work on their own land, etc. In particular, the activity of the occupying power on the deployment of “agrarian reform”, which had long been promoted by the German authorities but had not been implemented, intensified. In 1944, retreating, the Nazi troops urged the population of the Reich Commissariat and zones of the military administration to destroy all farms and retreat with the Wehrmacht troops.

The formation of the German information space in the occupied territories of Ukraine was accompanied by counter-propaganda by the Political Directorate of the Red Army. The Soviet leadership also applied methods and means of informational influence on the personnel of the German army and the population of the occupied territories.

The information-military confrontation between the two warring parties led to considerable pressure on the moral and psychological situation of the

occupied territories, so the reaction in the behavior of the residents of the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and the zone of military administration was different. Much of the population was oppressed by the new regime and held a passive expected position, others went to guerrilla units and promoted and subversive activities among the local population – among the occupying German officials.

Under the influence of Nazi propaganda and in the circumstances, most Ukrainians were forced to obey the invaders and passively obey German orders. However, a small part of the population actively, consciously cooperated with the invaders, and today historical science calls this phenomenon “collaboration.” At that time, this phenomenon was quite clear. Most of the Ukrainian collaborators were mostly USSR citizens, repressed by the Soviet authorities. However, there were not many of them than among the Russians or other nations of the occupied countries.

In our view, the reasons for supporting part of the population of the Nazi occupying power were also the desire to at any cost free themselves from the Soviet regime and the collective farm system, which deprived the Ukrainians of all that they had.

In spite of the powerful information policy and active propaganda, the information space formed by Hitler’s leadership was weakened by the brutal and careless policies of the Nazi administration in Ukraine. In pursuing a powerful information policy, the occupation administration could not hide the crimes it committed against the Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish, Roma, Tatars and other national minorities. This further increased the resistance of the local population against the occupying power. It should also be noted that Hitler’s German policy toward the Slavic peoples was a major factor influencing the population of the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and the zone of military occupation.

The study of the impact of German information policy on the population of the occupied territories and its behavior on propaganda depended on the following factors: different nature of German propaganda depending on the period of the war and the territory in which it took place; the strengthening or weakening of Nazi propaganda also depended on the activity of Soviet counter-propaganda; attitude of the population of Ukraine to the Soviet regime, formed in the pre-war period and at the beginning of the war.

Thus, it is impossible to determine the influence of the information space on the consciousness of the population of the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and the zone of military administration quantitatively, faster by the state of the population and their occupation. In Western Ukraine, for example, the intelligentsia and the military, mostly concerned with the idea of creating an

independent state, were ready to cooperate and seek their own. In the central and eastern regions of Ukraine, the intelligentsia, while trying to survive in difficult circumstances, only partially supported the occupying power. The rural population was influenced by Nazi propaganda only because they believed in the destruction of the collective farm system, the acquisition of their own land, and the ability to have an independent farm. It seemed to a very small part of the population that Germany, as a European country, would help Ukraine to raise economic and social development and elevate culture to a high stage, but these ideas were quickly dispelled by the genuine Third Reich policy.

It must be acknowledged that Nazi propaganda in the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine and in the area of military administration really contributed to the creation of a technologically powerful information space, in the formation of which the most modern mechanisms, means and methods of dissemination of information to the population were used at that time. The influence of this space is confirmed by the fact that some part of Ukrainian society really cooperated with the German occupation administration. But this collaboration was different in level and category.