

ІСТОРИЧНІ НАУКИ

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Kapting S.

*Ph.D. student, Department of History
Pomeranian University in Slupsk*

REPATRIATION OF BELARUS POPULATION FROM POLAND TO BELARUS SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC FROM 1944-1946

This article highlights the issues of Belarusians relocation from the territory of Poland to the BSSR from 1944-1946 associated with a change in the Polish-Soviet border. It also points out the difficulties encountered in this regard. The aim of the work is to study the reason why this resettlement could not be carried out in full, as was originally planned by the USSR authorities.

Keywords: *resettlement, Belarusian population, Poland, BSSR, USSR, border, Great Patriotic War, migration.*

The agreement between Poland and the BSSR, signed on September 9, 1944, provided for the voluntary resettlement of the Belarusian population from Poland to the BSSR, as well as the Polish population from the BSSR to Poland. At that time, Belarusians compactly lived in the newly formed Bialystok Voivodeship, and Poles in the western part of modern Brest, Grodno and parts of Minsk regions. In the Bialystok Voivodeship, 12 main repatriation points appeared: Augustow, Bialystok, Belsky, Belopodlassky, Valilovsky, Zambrasky, Knyshinsky, Lapsky, Lomzhinsky, Semenitsky, Sokulkovsky, Tekhanovetsky. [1] Due to the small number of Belarusian populations in the regions of Sokolenov, Avoletov Sobulovoved, and Bialystok was united with Lomzhinsky.

The repatriation apparatus included 284 representatives. Ivan Denisovich Varvashenya becomes the head. The main task was to carry out agitation among the Belarusian population of Bialystok region about resettlement from Poland to the BSSR. About 100 active communist workers of the central office were additionally sent from the BSSR to Poland, who conducted a census and agitation. By November 1944, about 470 conversations were held among the Belarusian population about the essence of resettlement. [2] In addition, the military councils of the first and second Belarusian fronts sent over 100 political instructors to the SNK of the BSSR, who became part of all 12 main repatriation centers.

The Polish authorities could not influence this campaign simply because the representatives of the

BSSR held these conversations without representatives of the Polish authorities. In addition, the census of the Belarusian population was carried out with great inaccuracies. For example, in the Lapa repatriation pass, the authorities of the BSSR received lists of the population from the heads of communes, and their reliability was checked selectively, and often did not reflect the existing picture, but in the Belopodlyassky point, the authorities of the BSSR considered not people, but farms, which was a more accurate reflection of the existing state of affairs. [3]

It is important to note that ethnic Belarusians did not want to register and leave Poland. This fact was stated by the provincial authorities. Thus, the Bialystok voivode Dybowski, in his reports for January, February, September 1945, reported that "Belarusians of the Belsk region do not want to register to travel to the BSSR. Some of them declare that they are Poles of the Orthodox faith." [4]

Representatives of the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR in the Bialystok region registered 36,197 Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian farms with a total number of 136,526 people, among whom (72%) were ethnic Belarusians. [5]

At the same time, a census conducted by the Polish authorities showed that 127,363 Belarusians lived in the Bialystok Voivodeship. [6] Nevertheless, one should be critical of the calculation of the Belarusian population by both the Soviet and Polish sides. It can be assumed that the number of the Belarusian population on the territory of the Bialystok Voivodeship was more than indicated in the documents.

The lack of designation of the exact borders between Poland and the BSSR, as well as their temporary nature, gave rise to rumors among the Belarusian population that if you turn to the governments of the BSSR and the USSR, the Bialystok voivodeship may eventually remain part of the BSSR. September 14, 1944 6 thousand Belarusians from the city of Beloveza sent a letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party, in which they expressed a desire to live in the BSSR and asked the party and government of the BSSR to annex the city of Bialovieza to the BSSR. [7] Unfortunately, this wish remained only in dreams. The government of the USSR together with the Polish authorities on July 27, 1944, signed an agreement on the Soviet-Polish border. This meant that the government of the BSSR did not have the authority to resolve issues related to changing the borders of the republic, which, in its own right, gave rise to an illusion in the government of the BSSR in the summer and autumn of 1944 that the majority of Belarusians of the Bialystok voivodeship wanted to move to the BSSR as soon as possible. As a result, on September 19, 1944, the Central Committee of the Communist Party held a meeting "on the evacuation of the Belarusian population from Poland to the BSSR, and Polish citizens from the BSSR to Poland." As a result, the government of the BSSR and the Central Committee made a joint decision, which provided for the placement of repatriates on the territory of the BSSR. The settlers intended to settle in the following regions: Baranovichi 20,000 farms, Vileika - 15,000 farms, Pinskaya 13,000, Minsk and Mogilev 6,000 each, Vitebsk - 5,000, Polesskaya -3,000, Gomel - 2000. [8] In general, it was planned to accept about 70 thousand farms. But in the end, such a number of farms for resettlement turned out to be really unconfirmed, and significantly differed from the predicted figures, since the firm intention of the Belarusians to resettle in the BSSR was formed only in late 1944 - early 1945. At the beginning of October 1944. By order of L. Beria, V. Abakumov and L. Tsanova were sent to the Bialystok Voivodeship, who reported to P. Ponomarenko that the majority of Belarusians, Russians and Ukrainians expressed a desire to move to the USSR. [9] This information was not

subsequently confirmed, which led to the fact that on November 31, 1944, the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (B) again considered the issue "On the progress of the evacuation of the Belarusian population from the territory of Poland, as well as Polish citizens from the territory of the BSSR" and heard a report on this issue Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR K. Kiselev and the chief commissioner I. Varvasheni, who reported that Belarusians in Poland met with great enthusiasm the agreement between the BSSR and Poland on the evacuation of the population. [10] They stressed that on the basis of letters and telegrams addressed to the Main Directorate, entire villages of the Bialystok Voivodeship expressed a desire to resettle in the BSSR. In reality, it turned out that a huge number of Belarusians wanted to stay in the Bialystok Voivodeship, mainly as a result of attachment to their place of residence and their property. Repatriation was used by only a small part of Belarusians and only in those areas where they were a minority and where they were repressed by the Polish underground. [11] On February 6, 1945, the Presidium of the BSSR Supreme Council adopted a resolution "On the assignment of Soviet citizenship to people who move to the BSSR from Poland." Regardless of whether they had Polish citizenship, when crossing the border, they became Soviet citizens. [12] Various means of agitating the population were used. Stories about "happy life in the BSSR" were carried out by representatives of the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR and other propagandists. However, the local population of the Bialystok Voivodeship did not particularly trust this kind of information. For them, the most reliable source was letters from those close to them who had already moved to the BSSR and managed to settle there. In addition, some of the settlers managed to return to Poland again. They told their relatives, friends and neighbors about the real state of affairs in the BSSR. These stories were the best campaign against moving to the BSSR. According to I. Kruglik's report, it was not even the return to Poland from the BSSR that was alarming, but the fact that the Belarusians, with their stories to their fellow villagers about the reasons for their return, were conducting counter-

propaganda against the return to the BSSR. In Belsky, Belopodlyassky districts, among those who have already applied for resettlement, there are those who decided to refuse. [13]

The government of the BSSR also tried to use the clergy of the Bialystok diocese in propaganda for the resettlement of the BSSR, since it had considerable authority among the Orthodox Belarusian population, most of whom were its parishioners and which included 60 parishes. However, the Orthodox Church in Poland not only refused to participate in agitation, but also

launched propaganda against resettlement. From the report of I. Kruglik to Kiselyov in November 1944 "... Recently the clergy have launched an intensified propaganda against the resettlement of the Orthodox population in the BSSR" Archpriest of the Bialystok Epipriarchate I. Gushkevich by all possible means prevented the resettlement of his parishioners to the BSSR. [14]

The change in the Polish-Soviet border continued until 1948. As a result, 39 villages and 6,191 inhabitants were annexed to Poland, [15] most of whom were ethnic Belarusians.

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Каптюг С.А.

РЕПАТРИАЦІЯ БІЛОРУСЬКОГО НАСЕЛЕННЯ З ПОЛЬЩІ В БРСР У 1944-1946

Дана стаття висвітлює питання переселення переважно білоруського населення з території Польщі в БРСР у період з 1944-1946гг., пов'язаний зі зміною польсько-радянського кордону. У статті мова йде про те, які труднощі зустрічалися в зв'язку з цим. Метою роботи є дослідження питання - з якої причини це переселення не вдалося здійснити в повному обсязі, як це спочатку було заплановано владою СРСР.

Ключові слова: переселення, білоруське населення, Польща, БРСР, СРСР, межа, Велика Вітчизняна війна, міграція.

Каптюг С.А.

РЕПАТРИАЦИЯ БЕЛОРУССКОГО НАСЕЛЕНИЯ ИЗ ПОЛЬШИ В БССР В 1944-1946

Данная статья освещает вопросы переселения преимущественно белорусского населения с территории Польши в БССР в период с 1944-1946гг., связанный с изменением польско-советской границы. В статье речь идет о том, какие трудности встречались в этой связи. Целью работы является исследование вопроса – по какой причине это переселение не удалось осуществить в полном объеме, как это изначально было запланировано властями СССР.

Ключевые слова: переселение, белорусское население, Польша, БССР, СССР, граница, Великая Отечественная Война, миграция.