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8. ЦДАВО України, ф. 2582, оп. 1, спр. 182; спр. 187; спр. 188.

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10. Держархів Хмельницької обл., ф. Р-582, оп. 1, спр. 10; спр. 41.

11. Держархів Хмельницької обл., ф. Р-582, оп. 2, спр. 135; спр. 142; спр. 178; спр. 195.

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## **ARCHIVE CRIMINAL FILES AS A SOURCE OF INVESTIGATING A CERTAIN EPOCH**

The first archives as concentrations of religious, state, commercial, private data have originated so long ago that it is very difficult to estimate even the true age of the clay tablets, on which those data were entered. Archives are an integral system of component parts and elements, which are interconnected and have common features. The archival system of modern Ukraine tends to the definition «integral», though there is much to be done as concerns its improvement.

We share the thought of many researchers that the archival system is a derivative of the social order, political regime, national cultural traditions and is regulated by respective laws of a certain time period. It holds an essential meaning, the understanding, perception and studying of which help conceive the past, without which the present is impossible; to conceive the present to get an opportunity to avoid mistakes in building the future.

An important factor in the context of «reaching national unity and a consolidated society» is «formation of the national memory of the Ukrainian nation» by means of, in particular, «research and popularization of the historic past of the state» [6, p. 7].

Let us stop at the question of using in research of such a comparatively organized section of state archive funds as the bulk of closed criminal files, opened by the former repressive bodies of the USSR, which have been transferred from their departmental archives to the system of state archives of Ukraine in 1990-s.

«Archives of special services are not just archive documents. Their study demands a special approach, for behind every yellowed page there stands a human destiny, which is described in the dry language of the law as personal information, personal data» [7, p. 107].

Breathtaking in its sheer physical volume this bulk of sources, a basis for «new studies in national history and... research by archivists», has become «a subject of scientific conferences, theses and research activities, which, naturally, showed the leading role of this kind of sources in researching the repressive politics proper of the Soviet power» [3, p. 1].

One of potentially promising aspects in this direction is research of destinies of representatives of technical *intelligentsia* in the period of repressions of the end of the 30-s – beginning of the 40-s of the last century and its projection to the dynamics and results of the economic development of the country's regions. Materials of these files will help discover many unknown pages in history and dispose of many a rigid mythologene and stereotype of the period. The criteria of research here must be objective estimation on the background of complex use of other sources (contemporary press, memoirs and even fiction literature); careful investigation of the texts of the documents as an important element of discourse; general critical estimation of facts.

The use of the said files, document research and possible publication must be carried out only under strict conditions of abiding by the norms of the law, which forsee: «art. 16: Access to the documents of the National Archives, which contain confidential information about a person, as well as endanger one's life or inviolability of one's dwelling, is limited at 75 years from the origination of the documents, if not otherwise stated by the law. Access in earlier terms may be executed only by a permission of the citizen, whose rights and lawful interests might be breached; in case of the death of the citizen – by a permission of his/her heirs», and «art. 21: 4) there may be no distortion or falsification of data used, which are contained in the archival documents» [1].

Research may be simplified due to the unified structure of these files. Practically all of them are compiled of a certain set of documents, foreseen by the acting procedural codes of the period: 1) materials of arrest and search; court injunction for preventive measures, search warrant, search act, receipt for the possessions extracted, estate inventory, questionnaire of the detained, statements of those present at the arrest (if the person resisted the arrest); 2) investigation materials: interrogation transcripts, records of confrontations, personal statements by the accused, injunction on charges, change of preventive measures; 3) investigation documents: minutes of presenting investigation materials, accusation, verdict of the extrajudicial body, court, tribunal etc., materials of the Special sitting as for repressions against family members of the accused.

It should be separately noted, that some of the files contain papers on search activities of the repressive bodies, which may help identify personalities of the informers. Such data demand especially delicate approach to their use and publication in open sources.

The bill of parliament on access to the archives of repressive bodies of the Communist totalitarian regime of 1917–1991 (#2540) is, in our view, a rather controversial document, which may potentially become «a time-bomb» [2] and cause considerable damage to so much wanted peace and concord in our society.

Research of female destinies may be interesting in our times of gender studies. The Communist party issued orders, which in their turn caused hallucinations in the heads of the secret police personnel and made them invent «counterrevolutionary espionage, guerilla, rebel, terrorist organizations», manned

only by males, though some of the members were females. It is especially horrific to see female names in the bloodied pages of execution reports.

There have already been certain incursions into female files. The poor women often automatically «became members» of Ukrainian, German, Polish, Bulgarian, Jewish and other nationalist organizations. Without any evidence they were proclaimed foreign spies. The international counterrevolution, as the lackeys of the Stalin regime tried to convince, used its multiple subversion centres (some on the territory of what is nowadays Kirovograd region) to «carry out active struggle» against the Soviet power.

At the same time as the waves of the Great terror were spreading in the country a picture of general wellbeing was being created with optimistic films, reports on overfulfilment of 5-year plans, with myths of unanimous support for the course of the party and the government, with the «almost-victory» over capitalism.

In parallel to this world there existed another, where cargo trains took newly arrested women to severe faraway lands, where children were made to denounce their parents, where the accused were interrogated round the clock, where there were night shootings of women, whose only crime was that they had the stigma of member of family of «enemy of the people» or «traitor of motherland» [4].

Fighting for its problematic right to exist, this very «motherland» has created and cherished a complex governing and repressive establishment, which, in its turn, «consistently and systematically put through the meat-grinder of repressions all the population. Mass terror, based on principles of class segregation, was the largest kind of all, and so – the main. It has consumed all of the country -1/6 of the Earth's soil.

Beginning with the first days of the Soviets to achieve its aims the powers-that-be have created during several decades an all-consuming and precise information base for government, using audit, questioning, passportization and census. It reflected quantity and quality of population, mostly urban, mainly male. As a result, the state got an almost complete characteristic of the population. One of the main tasks of Bolshevik secret services was gathering and filing information about population. Arrests were made on the basis of this information, compiled by the untiring «warriors of the invisible front» [5].

The subject of our research is, for known reasons, rather narrow, but even then it is aimed at discovering methods, results and consequences of the war of the state against its own people. We sincerely hope, that the results of our research will make yet another contribution to the all-nation treasury of truth, treasury of memory of innocent victims of the Bolshevik experiment.

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## STUDY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF KREMENCHUG HYDROELECTRIC STATION BY THE SOURCES OF STATE ARCHIVES OF KIROVOGRAD REGION

In the times of considerably recent past every citizen of the country of Soviets had to assimilate a simple slogan, put forward by V. Lenin in 1921: «Socialism is Soviet power plus electrification of the whole country». During all the period of existence of the USSR the electrification of the country was considered one of the greatest achievements of socialism. It opened the way to an unseen industrial development, brought cheap light and unheard-of conveniences. The main source of electricity production in the USSR of the second half of the XX-th century were giant hydroelectric power stations, erected in a chain on the Dnieper from Kyiv to Kachovka.

Nevertheless, reporting successes, the then government of the USSR paid little heed to the price, that the ordinary peasants, workers and employees had to pay for the embodiment of those grandiose projects. Quietly went to archival shelves the documents, that bore witness to sufferings of the people, who had to leave their homesteads destined to be submerged by the water storage basins. Those documents could be used for research only, but publishing facts, that shed light on the dark side of building socialism was prohibited.

Builders of the bright future were not to be distracted by the problem of price: on its luminous background the problems of a man-in-the-street were considered minute and short-lived at that. Descendants of the sufferers were promised «heaven on earth» with a hundredfold rise in wellbeing in the «society of the plenty». Though years have gone by but the Communist Utopia remained