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THE STUDY OF THE ISSUE OF TRIALS IN THE USSR AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION DEDICATED TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GENOCIDE OF PEACEFUL SOVIET CITIZENS DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR OF 1941-1945 (ON THE BASIS OF «GROWTH POINTS» ASKINO SECONDARY SCHOOL №1 REPUBLIC OF BASHKORTOSTAN)

Abstract: The article discusses general theoretical approaches and methodological methods of studying the issue of genocide of peaceful Soviet citizens during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 on the basis of a rural comprehensive school. The concept of genocide is revealed from the point of view of school academic subjects History, Social science, Russian language and Literature. For students of rural schools, material from the history of the occurrence of genocide has been prepared, which allows binary lessons. A detailed analysis of the trials that were carried out in the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and the Russian Federation was carried out. From various sources, about fifty documents and materials on this topic have been studied. The results of the trial and the proceedings on the disclosure of cases of genocide, including the present time, were identified. Regulatory acts are given that allow you to regulate and prevent the re-occurrence of genocide from the point of view of the policy of Nazi Germany in relation to the civilian population in the occupied territories. Particular attention was paid to the Nuremberg and Kharkov processes, studied in the course of these school subjects in almost any school. The work was written through the "Growth Point" line in the framework of the training of students in grades 8-11 for the All-Russian Research Competition "Without a statute of limitations".


Key words: genocide, Great Patriotic War, World War II, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, education, History, Social studies, Special Military Operation, middle school, court process, Nuremberg tribunal, Kharkov process, Nazism, fascism, concourses, slavery, military tribunal, crime, neo-Nazism, terrorism.

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Introduction

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As you know, a person is a biosocial being, driven by both innate instincts and social needs. At the same time, it is the highest stage in the development of living organisms [1]. But it's most important distinguishing feature is the possession of reason, the ability to think and reflect, feel emotions and empathize with others. Therefore, all these elements dominate the animal instincts that are inherent in each of us.

However, unfortunately, people are able not only to be empathetic to each other, but, on the contrary, for their own benefit, they are ready to destroy the human race, dooming innocent people to death. Often, they do this at the expense of religious, ethnic, racial beliefs [2]. It is well known that this phenomenon is called *genocide*.

What is the nature of the genocide, trials against foreign criminals on charges of war crimes in the USSR and the Russian Federation?

To answer all these and other questions, we offer our own theoretical and methodological techniques for studying this issue in the school course of History, Social science, Russian language, literature on the basis of the Digital and Humanitarian Profile "*Growth Point*" Askino Secondary School №1 Republic of Bashkortostan [3].

2. The purpose of the study. In this regard, the purpose of this work is a theoretical study and methodological analysis of trials in the USSR and the Russian Federation, dedicated to the disclosure of the circumstances of the genocide of Soviet civilians during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

The topic is *especially relevant* in our difficult time, because at the moment, innocent people are being killed on the western border with the Russian Federation.

Tasks. (1) Study and analyze various sources related to the concept of genocide; (2) To theoretically and methodically characterize the trials in the USSR and the Russian Federation, dedicated to the disclosure of the circumstances of the genocide of peaceful Soviet citizens; (3) Reveal the results of legal proceedings to solve cases of the genocide of peaceful Soviet citizens.

The *practical significance* of the article is to fully understand how the trials took place in the USSR and the Russian Federation and on their basis to draw a conclusion about what legal acts exist in our time

that regulate and prevent the recurrence of such a danger.

3. The concept of genocide. According to [4], genocide is the extermination of certain population groups, entire nations in peacetime or wartime for racial, national or religious reasons. Moreover, the process of genocide is described as the gravest crime against humanity.

The authors of [5] understand genocide as actions committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, any national, ethnic, racial or religious group as such.

According to the UN (United Nations) Convention of 1948 source [6], genocide is described as actions aimed at the destruction (in whole or in part) of entire population groups on racial, national, ethnic or religious grounds. That is, modern international law considers genocide as an international crime.

From the above concepts it follows that genocide is the deliberate extermination or partial destruction of certain groups of the population according to certain characteristics. It should be added that in the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation of June 13, 1996 №63-FZ (The federal law) in Article 357 "*Genocide*", genocide is defined as actions aimed at the complete or partial destruction of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group by killing members of this group, causing serious harm to their health, forcible prevention of childbearing, forced transfer of children, forced resettlement or other creation of living conditions designed for the physical destruction of members of this group.

4. History of the genocide. The destruction of about 2 million Armenians in Western Armenia and other parts of the Ottoman Empire, organized and systematically carried out by the Young Turk rulers, is considered the first genocide of the 20th century [7]. It was under the influence of the above events that the definition of "*genocide*" began to take shape in international legal practice.

The Polish lawyer-criminologist Rafael Lemkin in October 1933 at the 5th Conference on the Unification of International Criminal Law [8] proposed to declare actions aimed at the destruction or destruction of racial, ethnic, religious and social communities a barbaric crime under international law. In addition, he divided these actions into two groups, which, despite the common goal – the destruction of these groups of people, use different methods for this: 1) aggression against individuals or social persons as

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members of this community, expressed in encroachment on people's lives or in undermining the economic basis of their existence (barbarism); 2) destruction of cultural values (vandalism) by: a) transferring children of one group of people to another group; b) forced and systematic seizures of characteristic elements of the culture of a given group of people; c) prohibition to use the native language even in personal relationships; d) systematic destruction of books in the language of the group, destruction of museums, schools, historical monuments, religious and other institutions, cultural objects of the group or prohibition to use them.

In addition, Lemkin proposed a draft international convention on responsibility for the listed crimes, which at that time was not further developed. Two years later, the Romanian professor Vespasian Pella, influenced by the idea of Rafael Lemkin, proposed a draft code of responsibility for these crimes, and in addition, he proposed the creation of an international court that would protect the rights of a citizen from the pathological excesses of the nation state. However, the League of Nations (International organization) limited itself to the development of the Convention on Liability for International Terrorism in 1937.

The term "*genocide*" itself was coined by Rafael Lemkin in his book "The Basic Rule in Occupied Europe" (1944). This work was devoted to the criminal actions of Nazi Germany and Hitler's plans to destroy the peoples of occupied Europe in order to seize their territories. In this work, Lemkin formulated the concept of genocide as "*the destruction of a nation or ethnic groups*", which differed significantly from the "*destruction or destruction of racial, ethnic, religious or social communities*", put forward by him in 1933.

The first official mention of the term "*genocide*" is associated with the Nuremberg Tribunal [9], which began its work in 1945. In the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal itself, two categories of acts were recognized as crimes against humanity: 1) Associated with inhuman acts (murder, extermination, enslavement, exile and other cruelties committed against the civilian population before or during the war); 2) Prosecution on political, racial or religious grounds for the purpose of or in connection with any crimes subject to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, whether or not those acts were in violation of the internal law of the country where they were committed.

Thus, without using a special term, the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal fixed those signs and elements that are the basis of the elements of genocide, and most importantly, recognized such acts as a crime under international law.

Later, in an official document, the definition of genocide was first heard in the indictment of the Nuremberg Court on October 18, 1945 – "*the*

extermination of racial and national groups, the extermination of the civilian population of a part of the occupied territories with the aim of destroying certain peoples and classes, certain national, ethnic and religious groups".

The Russian Federation has ratified all international treaties regulating human rights, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of December 9, 1948. The Russian Federation also withdrew the reservations to the mentioned convention, made by the USSR, when it was signed. The composition of the crime of genocide and responsibility for it are enshrined in Article 357 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, since the specificity of this act lies in the fact that it is regulated by two systems of law: national and international.

But, despite this, in recent Russian history there are vivid examples of genocide. Beginning in the 1980s, anti-Russian sentiments began to gain strength in the republics of the North Caucasus. With the active assistance of the local population, under the guise of national-cultural societies, future separatist formations began to be created.

5. Recognition and responsibility. Despite the fact that the term "*genocide*" owes its origin to the international crimes committed during the Second World War, the crime of genocide was not incriminated by the defendants in the Nuremberg trials. The reason for this was the lack of recognition and normative consolidation of the concept of "*the crime of genocide*" both at the level of national legal systems and at the level of international law.

The first international document that defined genocide and declared that this act is a crime was Resolution №96(I) of the United Nations General Assembly of December 11, 1946. The definition of the crime of genocide given in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (International treaty) to formulate the corresponding offense.

Article 6 of the Statute, containing this wording, proclaims: "*For the purposes of this Statute, «genocide» means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, any national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: 1) murder members of such a group; 2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of such a group; 3) deliberately creating for any group such conditions of life that are calculated to completely or partially physically destroy it; 4) measures designed to prevent childbearing in the environment such a group; 5) the forcible transfer of children from one human group to another*".

6. The policy of Nazi Germany towards the civilian population in the occupied territories of

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the USSR. This is the process of relations between the German administration and the civilian population in the territories of the USSR occupied by Nazi Germany during the Great Patriotic War, which provided for the genocide of Soviet citizens and their use in slave labor.

The policy of Nazi Germany towards Soviet citizens was carried out in accordance with the famine plan and the general plan "Ost" [10], which implied the partial destruction of the civilian population, often called the genocide of the Slavic, as well as the Jewish part of the Soviet people, the eviction and enslavement of the broad masses of the Slavic population, and also the final solution of the Jewish question on the territory of the USSR.

In order to provoke hatred towards the civilian population of the USSR and justify bullying and its destruction in any possible form, ideological propaganda clichés were used that all Slavs are "subhuman", "Russian pigs", "communists", "slaves" for whom there is, and cannot be, mercy.

The key method of fulfilling the plan to enslave the Soviet civilian population was the deportation of the civilian population to work in Germany, where the same methods of intimidation and bullying were used against Soviet forced laborers as in the occupied territory of the USSR.

The results of the Nazi policy were the loss of the civilian population of about 14 million people, due to a humanitarian catastrophe, bombing, war crimes of the Nazis, deportation of civilians to work in Germany, increased mortality, hunger, and the blockade of Leningrad [11].

7. Open trials against foreign war criminals on the territory of the USSR from 1943-1949. Of course, the USSR did not tolerate the policy of Nazi Germany and soon retaliated against the antics of the Nazis.

In 1941-1942, as mentioned earlier, the troops of Germany and its allies occupied a significant part of the territory of the USSR. War crimes took place in these territories: massacres of civilians, Soviet prisoners of war, forced deportation of local residents to Germany, destruction of settlements and cultural values.

In 1942-1943, a legal framework was formed in the USSR for putting foreign military personnel on trial for these acts and the process of collecting evidence was organized. So, in 1943, open trials began to take shape. It was a series of public trials against military personnel from Nazi Germany, Romania, Japan and Hungary on charges of war crimes.

All the accused were tried under Article 1 of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated April 19, 1943 №39 "On punishment for Nazi villains guilty of killing and torturing the Soviet civilian population and captured Red Army soldiers, for spies, traitors to the motherland from among

Soviet citizens and for their accomplices". The trials took place in various Soviet cities.

A total of 19 open trials of foreigners accused of war crimes took place between 1943-1949. The smallest number of convicted foreigners (3 people) was at the Kharkov trial [12], and the largest (22 convicted foreigners) was at the Poltava trial.

As a result of all trials, 252 foreigners were convicted, of which the overwhelming majority were German military personnel. Some of the convicts were sentenced to public hanging, the rest received hard labor. The trials were open and were held in special large halls, where journalists, as well as ordinary citizens, were admitted. In a number of cases, the processes were broadcast to the street.

8. Pre-trial investigation and general characteristics of the processes. Without the formation of regulatory legal acts, open processes could not take place. Moreover, it would be impossible to accuse and sentence the accused to trial; it would not be possible to collect evidence against the defendants. Therefore, to begin with, we reviewed some documents.

(1) In November 1942, by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (the highest body of state power), an Extraordinary State Commission was established to establish and investigate the atrocities of the Nazi invaders and their accomplices and the damage they caused to citizens, collective farms, public organizations, state enterprises and institutions the USSR.

(2) On April 19, 1943, the Decree "On Punishment Measures for Nazi Villains Guilty of Killing and Torturing Soviet Civilians and Captured Red Army Soldiers, for Spies, Traitors of the Homeland from among Soviet Citizens and for Their Accomplices" appeared".

(3) At the international level, the issue of prosecuting war criminals was discussed at the negotiations between representatives of the Anti-Hitler Coalition [13] in October 1943 and was reflected in the Moscow Declaration of the USSR, USA and Great Britain "On the responsibility of the Nazis for the committed atrocities". After the victory over Germany in the second half of 1945, international acts on war crimes were adopted.

(4) In August 1945, in London, representatives of the countries of the Anti-Hitler Coalition (USSR, USA, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and Provisional Government of the French Republic) signed an agreement "On the prosecution and punishment of the main war criminals of the European Axis countries". A published list of specific individuals accused of war crimes was attached to the text of the agreement.

(5) In December 1945, the Allied Control Council for Germany (the supreme authority in occupied Germany) passed Law №10 "On the

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punishment of persons guilty of war crimes, crimes against peace and against humanity".

On February 13, 1946, the United Nations decided to extradite war criminals at the request of other states. With regard to Soviet collaborator citizens who committed war crimes, the Decree of April 19, 1943 was also applied. However, Soviet citizens who committed war crimes (including those abroad) in a number of cases were tried not under the Decree of April 19, 1943, but under Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, responsibility for counter-revolutionary activities) and similar articles of the criminal codes of the Union republics.

This article provided for the maximum punishment not by hanging, but by shooting. Cases of collaborators were considered by the military boards of the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics of the USSR. Their decisions were sent for approval to the commission on judicial affairs of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks – the governing body of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

As part of the pre-trial investigation, the accused were interrogated repeatedly. Moreover, the interrogations were conducted by different officials. In particular, before the trial, the defendants of the Novgorod process [14] were kept separately and a separate investigator and translator worked with each of them. The protocols of interrogations and confrontations for the Novgorod process were drawn up in Russian and German. During the preliminary investigation, the defendants of the Novgorod trial were interrogated by representatives of the prosecutor's office.

The defendants were provided with lawyers from among Soviet citizens. The processes took place in specially selected buildings that could accommodate a large number of people. It was practiced to broadcast court hearings through radio amplifiers to the street. The processes were widely covered in central and local Soviet newspapers, as well as in foreign publications. Witnesses (including minors) were publicly interrogated during the trials. The basis of the evidence base was the acts of the Extraordinary State Commission. Many defendants pleaded guilty and asked the court for leniency. Lawyers often pointed out that their clients were simply following orders.

9. Nuremberg trials (tribunal). The idea of trying those who start wars and commit war crimes in the course of them is not new. For the first time such a process took place after the end of the First World War. On May 23, 1921, the trial of 45 German citizens accused of war crimes began in Leipzig. But in the "*Leipzig Tribunal*" the cases of only executors were considered, since the names of the German generals and admirals who gave orders, for the execution of

which their subordinates went to trial, were deleted from the list.

From this point of view, the Nuremberg Trials, conducted by the International Military Tribunal between November 20, 1945 and October 1, 1946, were unprecedented. For the first time, the first persons of the whole state, accused of committing war crimes and genocide, were on trial (the word itself was also first openly heard in Nuremberg). All this gives the right to call the Nuremberg Tribunal the main court of the twentieth century, which put an actual end to the history of World War II and sent its main perpetrators to the gallows.

Long before May 1945, none of the three leading Allied Powers (USSR, Great Britain and the USA) doubted that the leaders of Germany would have to answer for all the atrocities committed by their connivance or direct order. In the Soviet Union, the creation of an International Military Tribunal was discussed back in October 1942, at the level of foreign ministers of the countries of the Anti-Hitler coalition, this issue was agreed in November 1943, and at the level of the leaders of the three powers – in February 1945 at a conference in Yalta.

But formally, this tribunal, which went down in history as the first major trial of this kind, was created only during the London Conference [15], which took place from June 26, to August 8, 1945. And on August 29, the first list of war criminals was made public, which included 24 people – the same ones who three months later entered as defendants in the "*600 Room*" of the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg.

The most logical place for the Nazi war criminals to be tried would be Berlin, and that was exactly what the Soviet Union insisted on. However, the allies, relations with which by that time had already begun to gradually deteriorate, insisted on holding the process in the American zone of occupation. The formal reason for the transfer was the presence in Nuremberg of the Palace of Justice, which was practically not damaged during the war years, connected by an underground passage to a prison in which the accused could be kept, while in Berlin there were no such opportunities.

Another argument was the fact that it was Nuremberg that was the "*city of party congresses*" of the National Socialists, and the trial of them here acquired a symbolic character. Nevertheless, Berlin became the formal headquarters of the International Military Tribunal. It was here that on October 18, 1945, in the building of the Allied Control Council, the first and only meeting of the Tribunal took place, at which the indictment in the case of 24 defendants, signed on October 6, 1945 by the prosecutors of the four Allied Powers, was handed over to its members. And all other hearings and sentencing took place in Nuremberg.

The International Military Tribunal itself consisted of four members and their deputies, as

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provided for by the Charter, one from each leading power of the Anti-Hitler coalition. The Englishman Geoffrey Lawrence, a British lawyer and judge, was elected chairman of the tribunal at a single meeting in Berlin. The main accusers were on a separate list – also one each from Great Britain, the USSR, the USA and France. As a rule, there were two deputies, although the Soviet side managed to introduce four more assistants to the deputy chief prosecutor into the tribunal.

There were 24 defendants, of which only 23 were present in the hall: Reichsleiter and the head of the Party Chancellery of the National Socialist German Workers' Party – Martin Bormann (a German statesman and politician), appeared before the court in absentia, since there was no exact data about his death, nor about the place where he may be (his remains were discovered and identified only in 1972). Each of the defendants was entitled to a lawyer, and in total they were represented by 27 lawyers, assisted by 54 assistants and 67 secretaries.

The main prosecutor from the Soviet Union was the current prosecutor of the Ukrainian SSR, Lieutenant General of Justice Roman Rudenko [16], the future Prosecutor General of the USSR. Colonel of Justice Yury Pokrovsky was appointed his deputy.

According to [17], four assistants also worked in the group of the chief prosecutor from the USSR, including State Counselor of Justice III class Nikolai Zorya (who mysteriously died during the process), State Counselor of Justice II class Mark Roginsky, lawyer, future chairman of the Supreme Court of the USSR Lev Smirnov and State Counselor of Justice II class, already famous by that time writer Lev Sheinin [18].

Major General of Justice Iona Nikitchenko, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union, who was granted the right to open the first meeting of the Nuremberg Tribunal, became a member of the Tribunal from the USSR, and Colonel of Justice Alexander Volchkov became his assistant.

Before Nuremberg was designated as the site of the International Military Tribunal, the future defendants were held in the so-called "Camp Ashkan", at the Palace Hotel in the commune of Mondorf-les-Bains in Luxembourg. Here, from May to August 1945, 86 high-ranking German prisoners of war were kept and regularly interrogated, including Hermann Goering [19] and Karl Doenitz [20].

During the preparation of the Nuremberg Tribunal, all of its defendants were transferred to a prison connected by an underground passage to the Palace of Justice: they remained there until the sentence was pronounced and carried out. 24-hour security guards in the prison were carried by the soldiers of Delta Company, 26th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, and US Army. They also carried out the delivery of the defendants to the courtroom and back, guarded them during the sessions.

The International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg worked for 11 months – from November 20, 1945 to October 29, 1946. On September 30 of the same year, the tribunal began the announcement of the verdict, which ended on October 1. In less than a year, 403 public meetings of the tribunal and 216 court hearings were held, at which 240 witnesses spoke, and about 300,000 affidavits were read out. Everything that was said and held during the work of the tribunal was recorded in the minutes, and its total volume was 16,000 pages.

All accusations against Nazi criminals brought before the Nuremberg Tribunal fell into one of four sections.

(1) The first had to do with the plans of the Nazi Party and the waging of aggressive wars.

(2) The second dealt with crimes against peace with the formulation of the participation of the defendants in "the planning, preparation, initiation and conduct of aggressive wars, which were also wars in violation of international treaties, agreements and obligations".

(3) The third section was called "War Crimes" and included all crimes committed in violation of military laws and customs during the Second World War.

(4) The fourth – "Crimes against humanity" – concerned the acts of the Nazis against their own people and all those who, according to Nazi ideology, were classified as "subhuman".

Of the 24 defendants on October 1, 1946, twelve people, including Martin Bormann in absentia, were sentenced to death by hanging. Many convicts petitioned to replace it with execution, but they were denied this. Three people received life sentences; two people were sentenced to 20 years in prison, one to 15 years and one to 10 years. Three more defendants were ultimately acquitted, although representatives of the Soviet Union tried to challenge this decision of the tribunal.

The head of the German Labor Front, Robert Ley [21], did not live to see the verdict: he committed suicide less than a month before the start of the process. And Gustav Krupp (a German industrialist and oil tycoon) was declared terminally ill, and therefore, his case was suspended and then terminated due to the death of the accused. In addition, the SS (Nazi paramilitary guard units), SD (Reichsführer security service) and Gestapo (Nazi state secret police), as well as the leadership of the NSDAP (German Workers' Party) were found guilty of criminal activity, but the cabinet of ministers and the military command Germany – no (which also caused a protest from the USSR).

Half a month passed between the announcement of the verdict and its execution: the execution was scheduled for October 16. Three hours before his execution, Hermann Goering managed to commit suicide by taking potassium cyanide. The rest were led

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one by one to the sports hall of the prison at the Palace of Justice, where gallows were set up on platforms.

The sentenced were executed by two American servicemen: Sergeant John Woods, who had been a professional executioner since 1920, and military policeman Joseph Malta, who volunteered to help him. The execution was completed within two hours, after which the bodies of the executed and the body of Goering were taken to the Munich crematorium, and the ashes were poured into the Isar River two days later.

The execution of the condemned put an end to the work of the Nuremberg Tribunal, but not to court cases against other Nazi criminals. Over the next three years, the Nuremberg Military Tribunal, created by the US military command (it was attended only by American judges and prosecutors), conducted 12 more trials against Nazi doctors, members of the Einsatzgruppen – the units responsible for the extermination of Jews and all opponents of the Nazi regime in the occupied territories, German industrialists and members of the military command. As a result of these hearings, 24 people were sentenced to death, 118 to prison, and 35 defendants were acquitted.

10. Kharkov process. On December 5, 1943, the Kharkov trial began over German war criminals who took part in war crimes on the territory of Kharkov and the Kharkov region during their occupation. This is the first open Soviet trial of foreign war criminals.

It should be added that the first trials in history of German war criminals and their accomplices were held by Soviet military tribunals in 1943. On July 14-17, 1943, the Krasnodar process was carried out against Soviet collaborators who took part in war crimes on the territory of Krasnodar and the Krasnodar Territory [22].

The hearing in the course of the Kharkov process began on December 15, 1943 at the military tribunal of the 4th Ukrainian Front. According to [23], three Nazis were tried: Captain Wilhelm Landheld, SS Untersturmführer Hans Ritz, senior corporal of the German secret field police Reinhard Retzlav and Soviet collaborator driver of the "gas chamber" Bulanov M.P., accused of mass extermination of residents.

On December 18, 1943, all the defendants were found guilty of committing crimes under the first part of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 19, 1943, and sentenced to death by hanging. The next day, in the presence of more than 40,000 Kharkov residents, the criminals were hanged in the Blagoveshchensk market, where the invaders had previously carried out mass executions themselves.

Some of the materials of the first Soviet tribunals for German war criminals and their accomplices were

presented at the Nuremberg Tribunal as evidence. The Kharkov process created a legal precedent, later fixed by the Nuremberg Tribunal: *"The order does not exempt from liability for genocide"*.

The Kharkov process received a significant response not only in the USSR, but also abroad. US Ambassador to the USSR Averell Harriman [24] in a report to the State Department noted that the trial clearly indicates that the Soviet authorities will persistently seek to bring to justice the leaders of the Third Reich and the high command *"for the crimes and atrocities committed in their name and by their order"*. According to him, American journalists who covered the course of the trial were confident in the guilt of the convicts, satisfied with the observance of the court and the prosecution of procedural norms. Harriman recommended that this judicial precedent be used to carry out extensive explanatory work against war criminals.

11. Lawsuits in the Russian Federation against the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War.

Despite the fact that many years have passed since the end of the Great Patriotic War, even now there are trials of Nazi crimes against peaceful Soviet citizens. In our time, this issue is very acute.

So, on November 15, 2022, Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation [25], at a meeting of the organizing committee "Victory" (Network publication "Sterlitamak worker" of November 16, 2022) spoke about the importance and importance of preserving historical memory. According to him, Western states are falsifying historical truth, planting myths and actually rehabilitating Nazism. The consequences of their work can be seen today in all territories abroad, where neo-Nazi groups wear swastikas on their sleeves; their fighters decorate themselves with Nazi tattoos and glorify the fascist regime.

It should be added that today, for example, on March 15, 2022, the Rostov Regional Court ruled in a trial on an application to recognize the actions of the German invaders in the region during the Great Patriotic War as war crimes and genocide of the peoples of the USSR.

"To recognize the established and newly revealed crimes committed during the Great Patriotic War on the territory of the Rostov Region by the Nazi occupation authorities and their accomplices against at least 181 thousand Soviet citizens who were representatives of the civilian population, and at least 200 thousand prisoners of war, war crimes and crimes against humanity, the genocide of Slavs and other national and ethnic groups that were the population of the USSR", – Judge Elena Slavgorodskaya told the online publication News Agency News in Russia and the World – TASS (Telegraph agency of communications and messages, dated March 15, 2022).

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The verdict of the court noted that the ongoing genocide was part of a plan that Nazi Germany intended to get rid of the entire local population of the Soviet Union through expulsion and extermination in order to colonize the liberated territory by the Germans.

Let us point out one more meeting of our days. On April 22, 2022, a trial began in Orel in the case of the genocide of civilians in the Oryol region during the Great Patriotic War. The court considered a lawsuit filed by the prosecutor's office of the Oryol region on behalf of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation Igor Krasnov after the declassification of documents by the Federal Security Service [26].

The prosecutor of the region Alexei Timoshin in the online publication "*Komsomolskaya Pravda in Orel*" (dated April 22, 2022) asked to recognize the actions committed by the Nazi invaders and their authorities in the period 1941-1943 as crimes. During the occupation, the Nazis, together with their accomplices, exterminated at least 422 thousand people, and at least 57 thousand local residents were driven to hard labor in Germany.

The first session of the Oryol Regional Court took place on April 22, 2022. Then three people testified and reported on the facts of the atrocities of the Nazis in the period 1941-1943. So, Nina Makashova, an eyewitness to those terrible events of the war, spoke about the forced evacuation of the inhabitants of the village of Uspenskoye, Oryol region, the arson of the settlement and the execution of several people, including the woman's uncle. This story was confirmed by another witness, Anatoly Pisarev, according to an eyewitness.

Telling students the real stories of people who survived all the hellish moments of the war, we at the lessons of literature at school and after school hours, set additional tasks in the form of memorizing poems [27]. This allows children to better understand the tragic events of the war days. For high school students, such classes allow them to better prepare for writing the final essay of the Unified State Exam with the obligatory indication of an argument based on real stories of eyewitnesses of those days.

The hearing resumed after a week-long pause. The second meeting took place on April 28, 2022. The court heard the testimony of experts: Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Viktor Livtsov, Candidate of Historical Sciences Alexander Saran and a representative of the search movement "*Fiery Arc*" (youth search association).

So, Viktor Livtsov spoke about the horrifying facts about hard labor in Germany. Of the 56,490 people who were driven away, just over 37,000 returned. Orlovtsy were forced to sign "*voluntary*" labor obligations. Civilians self-mutilated due to hellish slave conditions. Alexander Saran spoke about the "*goals*" set by the accomplices of the Nazis in the

occupied territories. The Nazis planned to destroy at least 3-4 million Russian people a year. The chairman of the search movement told the court about the place where civilians were shot in the village of Pogoreltsevo, Shablykinsky district, in May 1942. In the cellar, the searchers found 14 corpses, including the remains of children with kindled skulls. Nearby, in the pit, were shell casings testifying to the execution.

Studying the real stories of surviving civilians during the war, we use dictation during extracurricular time in Russian language lessons [28]. As a rule, students write dictation in the middle level, and high school students are already weaning, since this is not provided for in the curriculum. Therefore, so that graduates and high school students do not lose their dictation writing skills, we are introducing this technique into the learning process. This allows students to consolidate the acquired skills and techniques for writing essays at the final exam in the format of the Unified State Exam.

As part of the third meeting, which took place on May 5, 2022, previously classified information about the punitive policy of the German invaders in the Znamensky district was made public and the testimony of witnesses was heard - underage prisoners of fascism, a resident of the Uritsky district Vasily Nikolaevich Govrichev and a resident of the Bolkhovskiy district Anatoly Semenovich Bukhantsev. The court also listened to Klavdia Ivanovna Mironenko, who was driven to a concentration camp from the territory of the Oryol region.

During the third hearing, Anatoly Bukhantsev spoke about the miracle of escape from the gas chamber. The lethal equipment failed, so ten-year-old Tolya and dozens of others survived. "*The Nazis committed inhuman atrocities. It was impossible even to just stand in their way: they could remove the machine gun and shoot. They felt like full and unpunished masters, sparing neither people nor nature*", – recalled Anatoly Semenovich.

At the final meeting on May 6, 2022, the demands of the Prosecutor of the Orel Region Alexei Timoshin to establish the fact of the genocide of the population of the peoples of the Soviet Union were fully satisfied. The prosecution authorities, interacting with other departments, have done a colossal amount of work. Numerous facts of the extermination of civilians on the territory of the Oryol region were confirmed by testimonies, expert comments, documents from the archives and inspections of the places of executions.

12. Conclusion. Thus, having collected, studied, analyzed, theoretically compared about 50 sources from school and district libraries, as well as electronic materials from the Internet, we found out that genocide is a particularly dangerous, terrible crime,

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not only against humanity, but also against the whole world, generally.

We believe that such crimes cannot be justified. These crimes are punishable by the court even decades after they were committed. We are obliged to preserve the cultural heritage of the peoples, live in peace and harmony, and in no case allow the re-emergence of this nightmare that can destroy millions of innocent people.

In our time, this task is also in the first place, because now the same picture is happening in a neighboring country. Russo phobia develops; neo-Nazis walk around with a certain swastika on their forearms and destroy those who, in their opinion, are not human.

These are bandits terrorizing the civilian population of Europe and Russia. Over the past year alone, neo-Nazis have committed several terrorist acts in different regions in our country. In the zone of the Special Military Operation, our soldiers and peacekeepers are risking their lives in order to completely destroy the progressive neo-Nazism and liberate European countries from the fascist regime.

This article is a huge painstaking work and was written as part of the preparation of high school students to participate in the Republican stage of the All-Russian competition of research projects "Without a statute of limitations" among students in grades 8-11 of the Republic of Bashkortostan [29].

The competition was organized and supervised by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bashkortostan [30] in accordance with the Calendar of events for the 2022-2023 academic years in our region.

Through our work, we show that every person must remember that any crime is punishable. And genocide is no exception. People shouldn't kill each other. We must all live in peace and harmony.

In the future, we intend to further study the sources of historical memory about the dramatic events in the life of the civilian population on the territory of our country during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, as well as present the results of our research to the public in the form of projects of students and scientific articles by teachers of a general education organization.

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