

Lost in the Schemes of Lie

This week the first night of a sort of a Russian-make film "Nazism Baltic Style", packed with propaganda and lie and directed towards bringing up "the fifth column" in the Baltic states, took place.

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Both Soviet and modern Russian security services, like other intelligence services of other countries, in all times have used one and the same model of the "legend" – when into the structures of the enemy country, state or organization, the internal agents, informers, and other "confidential" people with the corresponding biographical legends are being infiltrated. That legend must be very detailed, even real facts are constructed so thoroughly that the counter-intelligence service of the enemy could not trace back their source or at least should not have the opportunity to check their authenticity. In other words, this is a very convincing lie, based on the elaborated details. Those things have been known to all since of old.

In our times a considerably newer scheme of applying the "legend" seems to be used only in Russia, even though it was invented by Doctor Joseph Goebbels in Nazi Germany and subsequently employed by the Soviets for implementing the annexation of the Baltic states and their occupation. This scheme is very simple but simultaneously very effective, and it is strange that nobody has made use of it later.

This scheme is based on the "legend-shrouded" propaganda and is designed for creating the agency of influence, increasing in geometrical progression. And in this scheme it is of no importance whether those agents of influence would be loyal to the state which created them. It would be even better if they would criticize from time to time the policy of the state or at least express their doubt in it.

In creating the scheme of the agents of influence, the most important thing is that those agents would feel some doubt in the state where they live, so that they, irrespective of their nationality, would not become the patriots of that state and spreading the "legends" prepared in advance in the "centre" would increase the number of doubting and not loyal citizens like them. Then one may manipulate with such citizens, they may be controlled easily, pouring oil on the flame from time to time. It is not necessary even to recruit them or set them some specific tasks relating to the ruining of the state. When such citizens make the critical mass in the state, the state would just stop existing or would become the controlled puppet in the composition of another bigger structure.

One of the most evident instruments of creating such a scheme is a rather rough at first sight but at the same time convincing legend – a documentary "Nazism Baltic Style", produced in Moscow.

As it is customary for the works of such genre, a film, produced by a film company "Third Rome", is packed with an uncovered lie; however, it would be naïve to think that the lie does not work. Only after the attentive preview, focusing attention on details and illogical comments (also on the authors of those comments) one may catch the creators of that legend in a lie. But for the majority of the audience, which do not know so well history, that lie will remain unnoticed.

The film is based on the real story about the Latvian SS legion. It is clear that the film authors even did not make any attempt to explain the audience the difference between the SS-men – war criminals and soldiers-volunteers Waffen SS, who with honour fought against bolshevism in the fronts. The authors of the film, naturally, do not inform that volunteers from the whole of Europe fought in the ranks of Waffen SS; even the ever peace-loving Swiss, even the Englishmen, the official enemies of Nazi Germany, even the same Russians as well as Indians, Tatars, etc. However, the film authors attempted to refute a decision adopted in the USA that SS legions from the Baltic States should not be identified with the structures of Nazi Germany. It was that decision that saved the lives of many citizens from the Baltic states. The authors also plead the Nuremberg Tribunal that recognized SS the criminal structure. It is true, one forgets that the said decision contains proviso that it does not apply to those who did not commit crimes and also to those who were recruited into SS not on their own will.

The film authors also did not focus more profoundly on the fact that the Latvian SS legion was formed at the time when the result of the war was in general apparent – after Stalingrad and Kursk. It should be expected since in the opposite case the potential agents of influence could start pondering over the reasons which made young people of different nationalities to get clad in the uniforms with an eagle on the left sleeve.

One of the “historians” of the film, he is also the Russian member of the Saeima of Latvia, explained seriously that the Latvian SS legionaries had never defended their own country, and as if they committed crimes in the territories of the alien state, therefore it was not possible to speak of any patriotism. It goes without saying that the fact that Latvian legionaries already after the capitulation of Nazi Germany continued fighting with Bolsheviks in the Courland Pocket near Riga is not noted, and, probably, simply an implication is made that Riga is also a Soviet city. Naturally, it is not mentioned that Latvian legionaries in their own country fought with Bolsheviks for the whole 9 months.

As a matter of fact, a lie about the Latvian pilot Cukurs who as if with the shout “Let me drink my fill with blood” torn to pieces little children in the Jewish ghetto and about Arajs Zondercommandos, which as if became the basis for the Latvian SS legion, offends the ear of people who are not even familiar with history. Simply due to the fact that at the time of forming the legion, there was no any ghetto. Therefore that lie is skillfully concealed – it is simply said that those criminal people served in the legion... Do understand that all here are such. Incidentally, as regards Cukurs, the Latvian archives do not contain any documents at all – only implications that he may be involved in the imprisonment of Jews in the Riga ghetto. A known fact is that Cukurs after the war was shot without any trial in Uruguay.

The film also tells how the 15th and 19th Latvian SS divisions participated in the Leningrad blockade and met in the Volkhovsk Front. Those facts were refuted even by Russian historiography, but the film authors have nothing to do with the works of historians even of their own country.

As a matter of fact, as regards the historians. It is the Latvian historian Janis Dzintars in the role of the most objective source comments the history of Latvian legionaries in the film. This figure in Latvia was convicted of the genocide of the Latvian nation, and Latvia requests Russia to extradite him to Russia. Russia, naturally, does not intend to do this, in that country all those of the type of Raslanas, Makutinovich and Dzintars taken all together have found asylum.

The film also tells of the ostensibly conducted medical experiments in the Salaspils concentration camp. This also should persuade the viewer that all Baltic people are fascists and criminals. No archives contain such data.

The viewer is also attempted to be persuaded that the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto was suppressed in the cruelest manner... by the Latvians, not the Russian SS-men under the command of the SS General Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski and the subunit of the Wehrmacht.

And, certainly, the holocaust. A decree of 29 June 1941 of the RSHA chief Heinrich Heidrich is also cited. Here the instruction is given not to hinder the local residents to deal with Jews and Communists. However, nowhere the report of 15 October of the same year by the Chief of the German Police of SD Security V. Schtalecker, even known to the Vizintal Centre, is made any mention of. In the report it is spoken that it is necessary to make an impression that as if the “liberated residents at their own initiative committed the rudest crimes against Bolshevists and Jews... not disclosing at that the role of German structures.” Moreover, the slips of the newsreel of the war times do not have anything in common with the Baltic state – the historians after having looked attentively the film stated that those slips of mass murder were shot in Poland.

In the film, the mention is made also of Lithuania. It is said that in our country not a single SS division was formed, but at the same time it is firmly established that the two SS regiments were formed of the former SS policemen. In 1944, the two regiments meant almost the division, i.e. approximately 7-8 thousand people. For Lithuania, it is quite an impressive number, but the authors of the film did not make difficult to explain where those people were lost and why nothing was heard about them by anybody.

To what extent Russians and the Red Army were loved in Lithuania, the viewer had to be convinced by the slips where happy Vilniusites with flowers in their hands meet the Soviet soldiers-liberators. If you look attentively to those actually historical slips, it would become evident that they were shot in 1939 at the time of ceding Vilnius to Lithuania. But those flowers, shown in the news-reel were intended not to the Russians at all but rather to the Lithuanian army entering the capital.

In general, the occupation of the Baltic states in 1940 is represented in the film as the “revolution.” It is stated that as if 80% of the Latvian population spoke against the “profascist” regime of Karlis Ulmanis, and, on the other hand, as if all Latvians were the fascists. To make this statement more weighty, several journals of that time, published by the radical Latvian organizations “Perkonkrusts” and “Ugugunkrusts”, are demonstrated. And, of course, again it is forgotten that the same “fascist” Karlis Ulmanis, immediately after the uprising of 15 May 1934, prohibited all the radical organizations and suppressed any manifestations of extremism and anti-Semitism.

However, the most disgusting in the film has become the assertion that deportations carried out in 1940 – 1941 in the Baltic states by the Soviets had only one goal – to avoid the civil war... It is only not clear who and with whom had to fight. Probably, women, children and old people, who made more than a half among those deported.

“It should be said that Russia more than once taught Latvia not to politicize its own history”, said the Latvian historian Ritvars Jansons to the request to comment the “facts” discussed in the film. “Unfortunately, the film “Nazism Baltic Style”, created by the Russian state controlled channel TVC is

the most evident example of such politization. Why did the film appear only now? The 16th of March when the 15th and 19th Latvian divisions met in the fights at the river Velikaya is commemorated in Latvia as the day of legionaries. Russia also previously used that date for propaganda purposes. The goal is evident – to show Latvia as the state where Nazism is being revived, and the Latvians as murderers of Jews. As a matter of fact, the film is similar to the analogous propagandist film of the year 1963. This year the Russian machine of propaganda makes special efforts also because in November in Riga the congress of the NATO states should be organized where presidents of the states would participate. Moreover, our President is the real candidate to the post of the General Secretary of UNO. The statement of the MIA of Russia points to the fact that the parade of the Latvian legionaries (which, however, was prohibited by the Latvian authorities) does not correspond to the last resolution of the General Assembly of the UNO on racism and xenophobia.”

Each September in France and Luxembourg the official events are arranged that are dedicated to all the co-citizens that perished which were enlisted to the German army. Russia does not make any protests in this respect and does not shoot any propaganda film. The audience is not that, it will not understand...

Nothing is left but to state that a question about the legionaries is politicized also in Latvia itself. The mentioned film was demonstrated last year in the Latvian Parliament by the local Parliamentarian Nikolai Kabanov, who in this film tells that the Latvian legionaries as if defended Latvia only for two weeks.

The official first night is March 23. The “fifth column” in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia enjoys another portion of filth.