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## **АГРАРНАЯ И ТРУДОВАЯ ПОЛИТИКА ГЕРМАНИИ**

### **КАК СИСТЕМА СИЛОВОГО ТРУДА ДЛЯ ИНОСТРАНЦЕВ. 1939-1945ГГ.**

В данной статье был проведен анализ системы и практики принудительного труда в аграрном секторе экономики Германии. Специфика труда иностранных рабочих в сельском хозяйстве нацистской Германии была изучена и определена. Дана оценка процесса формирования и эволюции системы принудительного труда. Проанализированы особенности условий труда и содержания труда. Выявлены основные формы протеста и возможность выживания резервов принудительного труда.

**Ключевые слова:** политика в сфере труда, экономика, аграрный сектор, принудительный труд, иностранные рабочие.

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## **AGRARIAN AND LABOR POLICY OF GERMANY**

### **AS A SYSTEM OF FORCED LABOR FOR FOREIGNERS. 1939-1945**

In this article, an analysis of the system and practice of forced labor in the agricultural sector of the German economy was carried out. The specificity of the labor of foreign workers in the agriculture of Nazi Germany has been studied and determined. The assessment of the process of formation and evolution of the system of forced labor is given. Analyzed the features of working conditions and maintenance of labor. The main forms of protest and the possibility of survival of forced labor reserves are revealed.

**Keywords:** labor policy, economics, agricultural sector, forced labor, foreign workers.

The problem of forced labor of millions of citizens in the economy of Nazi Germany has been ignored for many years both in society and in historical science. Many of those who went through the experience of being in Nazi Germany were repressed after returning to their homeland, others chose to keep silent about their past. Only after so many years of silence did a research interest arise in the history of the labor of foreigners in Nazi Germany. It was caused by the change in the socio-political situation and the active position of the German side on the issue of compensation payments to former forced labor workers. Nevertheless, the society still lacks a clear understanding of the nature of forced labor, the position of citizens in the «Third Reich» and their fate in the post-war years. The use of labor of the population of the occupied territories was an important part of the national economy of the national socialist Germany. Forced labor of foreigners was a massive phenomenon, common in all sectors of the German economy, in all enterprises and organizations where there was a need for labor. The largest number of foreign workers worked in the agrarian sector of the national socialist Germany, by August 1944, it reached 2.4 million people. The importance of foreign labor for the German military economy cannot be overestimated. Without them, the entire German defense and civilian industry, infrastructure and agriculture could collapse, unable to withstand the needs of wartime, with fatal consequences for the German population. By the end of 1940, the agrarian sector of Germany was not able to maintain food production at the required level without foreign workers employed in it.

The system of forced labor created by the national socialists was based on the inhuman use of labor resources and terror against foreigners, especially citizens of the Soviet Union, who constituted the largest contingent of foreign workers in the Reich. In the domestic and foreign historical science in the post-war years, the term «Eastern workers», which was used by the Nazis, was established to refer to the civilian labor force that had been driven to Germany from the Soviet Union. These included «the workforce» of non-German citizenship, which was mobilized in the Reich Commissariat of Ukraine, the General Commissariat of Belarus or regions located

east of these regions and former free states of Latvia, Estonia, and which after the Wehrmacht occupied them were delivered to the German Reich, including the Bohemia protectorate and Moravia, and were used there. Before the Second World War, «Eastern workers» in Germany called all workers who came from Eastern Europe, but, above all, Polish citizens. In Germany's agriculture, foreign seasonal workers already worked before the outbreak of the war, mainly from Poland. In 1937, 10,000 people were admitted to seasonal work, in 1939, already 90,000 people. In addition, labor exchange agreements were concluded with several European countries. In 1939, Germany used on the basis of these agreements, 37,000 Italians, 15,000 Yugoslavs, 12,000 Hungarians, and 5,000 Bulgarians as seasonal workers [1, p. 290]. In Austria in the summer of 1938 there were about 400,000 unemployed. They were also available to the German economy after the Anschluss of Austria, and about 100,000 of them were subsequently forced to work in the «old Reich» area. Approximately the same amount was recruited after the destruction of Czechoslovakia from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In October 1939, the first Polish prisoners of war were sent to Germany for forced labor. By the beginning of 1940, their number had grown to 300,000. Almost 90 percent of them were engaged in agriculture. Since the treatment of prisoners of war did not comply with the Geneva Conventions, they soon received the status of «civilian workers». In addition to the Poles, civilian bonded laborers were recruited from Ukraine and Russia, as well as from France and Italy. Fritz Saukel was appointed in charge of this in March 1942. By 1944, 862,000 Soviet citizens had been transported to Germany for farming, who were civilian workers [2, p. 183]. In early 1945, foreigners accounted for a third of the total labor force in agriculture.

Of all the forced labor in the Third Reich, 43.8 percent were employed in agriculture in August 1942, which put agriculture at 47 percent of the total number of forced laborers, immediately after industry. In May 1944, the distribution of forced labor was shifted in favor of industry, 49.3 percent already worked in industry and 36.4 percent in agriculture, see table No. 1.

Table number 1 – Statistical data of forced laborers by countries [3, p. 68].

<b>A country</b>	<b>Forced laborers (number of people)</b>
<i>Poland</i>	1 125 632
<i>Soviet Union</i>	862 062
<i>France</i>	405 897
<i>Italy</i>	452 88

The development of the number of forced laborers in the German Reich shows that after Saukel took office, many new bonded laborers were deported to Germany. From 1942, when he took office, until 1943 the number of bonded laborers working in agriculture doubled see Table 2.

Table number 2 – The number of forced laborers in agriculture [4, p. 85].

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>
May 1939	110 000
May 1940	260 000
May 1941	970 000
May 1942	1 400 000
May 1944	2 800 000
May 1945	3 200 000

In 1942, with the exception of 1945, the food situation in Germany was the most important. During this time, most of the forced laborers starved because the Reich Food Ministry drastically reduced its rations. It was a shortage of food, so forced workers were forced to remain in such a state, even when they were urgently needed for military production. Since the end of 1942, the situation has stabilized again, the rations gradually began to increase. The farmer's wife held a special position in the ideology of the Nazi farmers. In addition to the official image of

women, which emphasized the role of the mother of many «hereditary» and «race-friendly» children, the rural woman was assigned the role of a working assistant, as well as a manager. Faced with an unexpected number of women's votes in elections in the years 1930-32 and a perceptible labor shortage in the mid-1930s, measures originally introduced to discriminate women in employment were increasingly weakened. Since 1937, within the framework of the mandatory prescribed for women, the so-called «slaves» in the Reich labor service, young women worked as labor workers, especially in agriculture.

In 1939, 35 percent of working women were employed in agriculture, which is much more than about 27 percent of men. In the division of labor, it should be noted that the number of women workers has decreased with the size of the company. The proportion of women workers on farms up to 5 hectares was about 67 percent, and on farms over 100 hectares the share was only about 30 percent. This suggests that women mainly work in the family business, but rarely in large companies. The official transfer of women to the private sector and cooperation in the family business was also presented here. Women's workload is higher than that of farmers, as they are often responsible for the household and children in addition to field work. Their burden rose with the further course of the war due to the convocation of many agricultural workers. The smaller the farm, the greater the burden on the farmer's wife. Due to the large workload, the birth rate did not increase [5, p. 74].

Summing up, it should be noted that the German economy had no choice but to use the involuntary labor of foreign workers. Without this, the agriculture of Nazi Germany would not have coped with its tasks and, therefore, it would have been impossible to continue the war. In addition, the authorities would not be able until 1944 to maintain the standard of living of the German population at a sufficiently high level. Thus, forced labor was not a consequence of the regime in the German military economy, but was an important prerequisite for the military operations that Germany had been conducting for almost six years.

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