

Abstract

The paper is dealing with the changes in the place of Stalinism in the historical policy of the Russian government after the year 2012, that have taken place due to the mass protests, declining state's legitimacy, and emerging need to create a new official unifying narrative. The challenges for historical policy and the ways it reacted to them are examined by analyzing speeches of the politicians and influencers supported by the state, activities of state organizations, and evolution of memorial legislation, as well as the influence of the historical policy on the schoolbooks. The conclusion is made, that two main challenges with including Stalinism in the official narrative were the problematic role of Stalin in the Second world war and its relation to the Soviet state and Soviet ideology. Change in the official reaction to these challenges was connected to the changes in the place of Stalinism in official rhetoric.

Key words: historical policy, Stalinism, Putin's Russia

