

Pashkov V. The Nazi regime and Academic community of Germany

The article considers the political and administrative measures of the Nazi regime to establish control over the academic life of German universities. Academic self-government contradicted the Nazi political order, so the universities were quickly incorporated into the administrative system of the new government, and their autonomy was abolished.

In parallel, the new authorities made direct ideological interference in the curricula and subjects of scientific research, reformatting them in the spirit of the doctrine of National Socialism. After the reform, university disciplines and studies began to serve the ideological needs of the ruling regime and substantiate Nazi policies. Control over the content of curricula and the activity of teachers was placed on the party committees of the NSDAP established in universities.

In order to purify the universities from the non-Aryan spirit, the Nazis conducted political purges among students and scientists. Their victims were Jews and opponents of the Gittler regime. From 1933 to 1939 years the number of students in German universities was reduced from 128 000 to 58 000, and the work lost up to 20% of teachers.

At the same time despite the repressive nature of the Nazi regime, most teachers began to cooperate with the new government. The universities turned into public platforms for Nazi policies and ideology. The other side of political purges was the mass entry of professors and associate professors into the Nazi Party as a manifestation of political loyalty. By the end of the 1930s, half of the teachers were members of the NSDAP. Since the basis of Nazi ideology was biology and racial theory, the highest level of membership in the party was found in medical faculties that tended to these disciplines. Up to 70% of the teachers of these faculties had a party ticket. The smallest - about 30% - this figure was at the technical and natural faculties, which traditionally tried to distance themselves far from politics.

As a result of the long domination of Nazi ideas in the academic sphere, the quality of higher education and research at universities in the Third Reich has been constantly falling, and political cleansing has led to the emigration of a significant part of talented scientists.

On the other hand, the new rules, imposed by the Nazi regime, quickly took root in the educational system. Universities began to train professionals loyal to the Fuhrer and the state, although the quality of their training fell.

Key words: the higher education, political cleansing, ideological campaigns, conformism, The Third Reich, the academic community, National Socialism.