

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

State the objective of the project

Francoists and the Polish Communists were aware of the fact that they owed the army their strength. It guaranteed power, but she could not give legitimacy. Therefore were expanded the military and civilian structures capable to take power and to maintain it, not only by violence, but also by the conviction of society. Regimes have to offer something what could be believed (credenda) and admired (miranda). This role was supposed to fulfill by distributed image of the "New Poland" and "Estado Nuevo," in whose place at the top of the social pyramid was reserved for single-party – Polish Workers' Party (PPR) and the Falange Española Tradicionalista y de las Juntas de Ofensiva Nacional Sindicalista (FET). The aim of the research is to determine the way, how was presented elite leadership, which was assigned importance in the new socio-political conditions. Research will decide how the authorities perceived their own past, and more specifically how they justified their existence and politically usefulness. Work has therefore to recreate propaganda assumption in presenting both parties and his changes towards unstable interpretation of history determined at the highest levels of government. The image of the ruling group is selected from textbooks for teaching history for primary schools. In fact it was one of the most important ways of political socialization, used for distributing vision of socio-political situation approved by the regimes. In the case of the many arguments used in contemporary historical narrative it comes to another aim, namely to define verbal strategies and their reconstruction. Both parties deliberately manipulated the presented will of unification with society and the joint suffering. At the same time protecting arguments were raised, designed to impress, that it is only the elite of the communist or fascist movement have a predisposition to govern, i.e. to make binding decisions on citizens and the state.

Research to be carried out

This research is theoretical. It is carried out in order to obtain new knowledge. The character of the research is reflected in its planned results, the main being a reliable monograph on presenting a propagandist policy of the communist party (Polish Workers Party) and the pro-Franco regime party (Falange) over the first decade after respective regimes were set up. The monograph will present the results of original theoretical and empirical research. A couple of articles are developing alongside the thesis. They will deal with contradictions in the primary view on the governing groups as set during the party meetings and the final picture presented in school textbooks. Moreover, the results from successive stages will be presented at national and international conferences and workshops. I would like to draw audience's attention to extensiveness of propaganda in school textbooks in the face of party decisions, which to some extent proves an overproduction of sources. The results of the analysis aim at improving knowledge chiefly on propaganda in totalitarian states and comparative research on school textbooks. The work will contribute to explaining the effectiveness of propaganda in both countries. This will further contribute to understanding the views defending both dictatorships as expressed from time to time in contemporary societies.

Reasons for choosing the research topic

Interest in that problem was inspired by a unique opportunity to compare propagandist fascist and communist narrations after 1945 as a comparative view on history of Iberian Peninsula and one of the countries from the former Eastern Bloc. Uniquely similar historical circumstances allow to make the comparison but at the same time exclude Portugal from the research. Established during the war, regimes in Spain and Poland were created as a result of a severe crisis, similar experiences, and trauma. They strengthen their position against a grave post-war situation which allows to assume the premises for propaganda were similar, ideological assumptions on education and influencing young people were parallel and it is highly likely that they interpreted the past of ruling elites in a likewise manner. The reason for taking up the research, was also a need to prove or deny the hypothesis that in the case of presenting a "black propaganda" referring to the real and potential enemies, a conviction of particular social groups to the new government through its affordable and clear presentation, was a more important challenge for propaganda creators.