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**THE REPRESSIVE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS  
THE SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENTSIA OF THE JEWS IN ODESSA  
IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE XX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

*-Abstract-*

*The article deals with the history of repressive actions of political regimes in Odessa towards the scientific intelligentsia of the Jews in the first half of the XX<sup>th</sup> century. A wide array of historical sources and academic literature is used. An analysis for causes and merits of the repressions towards the representatives of the traditional Jewish intellectual community was performed. Short biographical data of victims of shootings, expulsions, deportations, and convictions is mentioned.*

*Keywords: Odessa, scientists, Jews, power, political repression, totalitarianism.*

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In the first half of the XX century Odessa was under the control of various political regimes and each of them established relations with the scientific intelligentsia in a different way<sup>1</sup>. Undoubtedly, the policy of the Soviet government was characterized by the greatest antipathy towards intellectuals. The distrust of the political regimes towards the scientists was emphasized in speeches of state and party leaders of different coloring and quality and in the documents of various character throughout the period. The inevitable conflict between the representatives of the scientific intelligentsia of the Jews and the Soviet government was based on the very essence of the totalitarian state and the nature of the Jewish problem. In

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<sup>1</sup> *Istoria Odesy* / Editor in chief of V. N. Stanko, Odesa, 2002, p. 275–425.

practice, this resulted in mass purges of scientific institutions, staff and dismissal of many scientists because of the social origin, politics, and disagreement with the proclaimed ideas and afterwards to the arrest of many of them, followed by the physical destruction. It became a norm to fake criminal cases about the existence of various scientific organizations and institutions ostensibly created for carrying out counterrevolutionary struggle.

Among an ample quantity of works devoted to the theme of political repressions, the research of repressive actions towards the scientific intelligentsia of the Jews of Odessa is given short by the scientists. In this context, only isolated works are devoted to the Jewish scientists<sup>2</sup> or to the particular periods of the repressive actions of political regimes in the first half of the XX<sup>th</sup> century where we can find the mentioning of this theme<sup>3</sup>. Altogether, the synthetic research of the announced problem does not exist in the historiography.

<sup>2</sup> E. P. Petrovskiy, *Z istorii istorichnogo fakultetu Odeskogo universytetu u 1930-ti roky: dekan Izrail Davydovych Sieroglazov*, *Zapysky istorichnogo fakultetu*, 15 (2004), p. 509–520; L. Shevchenko, *Naum Isakovych Mezhberg*, *Znevazhena Klio*, Kyiv 2005, p. 345–351; V. Chaplin, *Zapiski «muzejnoj krysy»*, *Migdal-Times*, 84–85 (2007); V. V. Levchenko, *Trychi zasudzhenni Emmanuil Oksman (1899–1961): do 110-richchia vid dnia narodzhennia*, *Pivdennyi zahid. Odesyka. Istoryko-kraieznavchyi naukovyi almanah*, 7 (2009), p. 242–257; V. V. Levchenko, E. P. Petrovskiy, *Isaj Pavlovich Shmidt (1895–1975): pervyj rektor Odeskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta*, *Pivdennyi zahid. Odesyka. Istoryko-kraieznavchyi naukovyi almanah*, 14 (2012), p. 266–290; V. V. Levchenko, E. P. Petrovskiy, *Professor Isaj Pavlovich Shmidt (1895–1975): odesskie jetapy zhizni, intelektualnyj i industrialnyj potencial regionov Rossii*, 2 (2012), p. 12–19; V. V. Levchenko, *Odeskyi istoryk-ukrainist Oleksandr Petrovych Pogrebenskyi (1905–1979): naukova rehabilitaciia*, *Istorychna ukrainistyka v Odeskomu universyteti: vyznachni vihy, personazhi, dorobok*, Odesa, 2013, p. 96–111 and other.

<sup>3</sup> M. I. Myhailuca, M. B. Burundukova, *Represii u vuzah ta tehnikumah Odesy 1937/1938 navchalnyi rik (Za materialamy Derzhavnogo arhivu Odeskoi oblasti)*, Odesi – 200, I (1994), p. 82–84; V. Fajtelberg-Blank, V. Savchenko, *«Professorskaja kontrrevoljucija» v Odesse*, *Porto-Franko* 42 (1999); V. I. Marochko, G. Hillig, *Represovani pedagogy Ukrainy: zhertyvy politychnogo teroru (1929–1941)*, Kyiv, 2003, 304 p.; E. P. Petrovskiy, *Kadrova sytuaciia na istorychnomu fakulteti Odeskogo derzhavnogo universytetu v 1930-h rokah*, *Problemy istorii Ukrainy: fakty, sudzhennia, poshuky*, 13 (2005), p. 260–273; V. A. Smirnov, *Represii 30-tyh godov sredi evrejskoj intelligencii v Odesse*, *Odesa i evrejskaja civilizacija: VI mezhdunarodnaja nauchnaja konferencija*, Odesa, 5–7 November 2007 year / Resource access: <http://www.migdal.org.ua/migdal/events/science-confs/6/17483/>; V. V. Levchenko, *Stanovlenie iudaiki v kontekste transformacii istoricheskoi nauki v Ukraine (1917–1930-e gg.)*, *Materialy Shestnadcatoj Ezhegodnoj Mezhdunarodnoj Mezhdisciplinarnoj konferencii po iudaice*, 2 (2009), p. 475–482; D. P. Ursu, *Uchenye Odessy – zhertyvy ideologicheskikh kompanij 1946–1953 godov*, *Pivdennyi zahid. Odesyka. Istoryko-kraieznavchyi naukovyi almanah*, 10 (2010), p. 114–173; V. V. Levchenko, *Stanovlenie iudaiki v Odesse v 1920–30-e gg.: centry, personalii, tradicii*, «Mama gorodov izrailevyh...», Odesa, 2011, p. 79–86; V. V. Levchenko, *Evrejskoe vysshee obrazovanie v Odesse (1917–1930-e gg.): istorija, opyt, tradicii*, *Iudaika v Odesse*, 2 (2013), p. 6–27 and other.

The purpose of the article is to research the factors of repressive actions of political regimes in Odessa in the first half of the XX century; to determine relations of the government to the scientists; to analyze the motives, directions, forms and methods of ideological work of special organizations on creating public opinion about carrying out political terror against the Jewish scientists.

Historically, the problem of the relations between the government and the representatives of the Judaic religion has deep roots. Even in the Russian empire the Jews were limited in many rights<sup>4</sup>. There were various obstacles to enter universities and engage in research and pedagogical activity at high school (teachers of Judaic religion were not supposed to work in high schools)<sup>5</sup>. At the turn of the XIX–XX centuries in the scientific environment of Odessa the names of the Jewish scientists were mentioned only sporadically, and as a rule these people were forced to change their religion.

Despite the difficulties created by the imperial government, at the end of the XIX century some Jews managed to join the teaching staff of leading high schools of the Russian empire, including the Odessa ones. For this purpose they had to join the Orthodox religion. For example, in the Imperial Novorossiysk University (1865–1920), only after the change of religion, the positions of private-assistant professor were occupied by a historian M. I. Mandes<sup>6</sup> (1894)<sup>7</sup> and a mathematician V. F. Kagan<sup>8</sup> (1897)<sup>9</sup>. Though another mathematician – S. I. Shatunovsky<sup>10</sup>, without changing the religion and with no full high education, but thanks to scientific researches and the support of famous professors, at the age

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<sup>4</sup> D. I. Raskin, «*Evrejskij vopros*» v dokumentah vysshih gosudarstvennyh uchrezhdenij Rossijskoj imperii XIX – nachala XX v., Istorija evreev v Rossii. Problemy istochnikovedenija i istoriografii, Sankt-Peterburg, 1993, p. 60–77; G. Bjekon, *Polozhenie evreev v Rossii posle razdelov Polshi*, Glavy iz istorii i kultury evreev Vostochnoj Evropy, Tel-Aviv, 1995, p. 248–253; V. V. Goncharov, *Pravovoe polozhenie evrejskogo menshinstva v Ukraine k. XIX – n. XX vv.*, Etnichna istorija narodiv Jevropy: Nacionalni menshyny. Etnoarheologija, Kyiv, 1999, p. 19–23 and other.

<sup>5</sup> A. E. Ivanov, *Vyshshaja shkola Rossii v konce XIX – nachale XX veka*, Moskva, 1991, p. 228.

<sup>6</sup> Mandes Myhajlo Illich (1866–1934) – historian of antiquity. A graduate of History and Philology of the Novorossiysk Imperial University (1891). He taught at the Novorossiysk Imperial University (1894–1901, 1907–1920), Nizhyn Historical and Philological Institute (1901–1907), Odessa University for Women (1907–1920), Odessa Institute of Education (1920–1930) and other.

<sup>7</sup> S. E. Berezin, *Novorossijskij universitet na pravom flange ideologicheskogo fronta grazhdanskoj vojny. Prolog: konec XIX veka*, Novik: trudy po voennoj istorii, II (2009), p. 166.

<sup>8</sup> Kagan Veniamin Fedorovyč (1869–1953) – mathematician, founder tensor differential-geometric school in the USSR.

<sup>9</sup> O. Yu. Notkina, *Veniamin (Beniamin) Fedorovyč (Falkovyč) Kagan*, Profesory Odeskogo (Novorosijskogo) universytetu, 3 (2005), p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> Shatunovsky Samuil Josypovyč (1859–1929) – mathematician, his works belong to the rationale basic mathematical concepts.

of 45(!) was allowed to take the Master's examination, and in 1905 as a private-assistant professor he was admitted to lecturing at the university<sup>11</sup>. In the beginning of the XX century, despite numerous obstacles from the authorities, the participation of the Jews in the scientific and pedagogical lives of Odessa was gradually increasing.

In 1917 after the February revolution which had liquidated the shameful "line of settled way of life" and had created unprecedented possibilities for the Jewish culture to rise, for the first time in its story there was an absolute freedom for cultural and social development<sup>12</sup>, including the development of a network of national high schools. At first, the liberal laws of the Provisional government and then of the Ukrainian Central Rada policy made it possible for the scientists of Judaic religion to join the scientific community. For example, I. G. Klauzner<sup>13</sup> became the first Jewish scientist at the high Odessa school (without changing his religion), at the age of 43 he was selected as a "freelancer" (non-staff) teacher of the History and philology faculty of Odessa high female courses<sup>14</sup>.

The situation in this area changed considerably with the establishment of the Soviet government. And if the first half of the 1920s can be characterized as the period when the state supported the education system in Yiddish while implementing the policy of indigenization, increasing the popularity of the Soviet school in Yiddish in the Jewish environment and funding it from the budget, the next years can be called "the period of decline" which resulted in gradual elimination of high schools and research establishments, in the realization of the policy "merger of the nations", the policy of Russification and repressive actions.

In the mid-twenties, the employees of the security forces not only exercised control over the activities of the scientists, but also organized show trials. So, in November, 27, 1926 on a charge of "indoctrination of students towards Mensheviks» the officers from Odessa district department of the State Political Directorate of the Ukrainian SSR arrested L. G. Hoffmann<sup>15</sup>, the secretary of Odessa Regional Studies Commission of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences

<sup>11</sup> A. P. Nechajev, *Shatunovskij Samuil Josypovyč*, Profesory Odeskogo (Novorosiiskogo) universytetu, 4 (2005), p. 409.

<sup>12</sup> *Očerki po istorii evrejskogo naroda* / Edited by S. Jettingera, Tel-Aviv, 1972, p. 637.

<sup>13</sup> Klauzner Joseph Gedaliah (1874–1958) – historian, shidnoznavec, hebraist, semitolog. One of the founders of the Academy of the Hebrew Language. Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1947).

<sup>14</sup> D. P. Ursu, *Klauzner Josyp Lvovyč (Josyf Gedalin)*, Odeski istoryky. T. I (pochatok XIX – seredyna XX st.), Odesa, 2009, p. 162–164; D. P. Ursu, *Odessa v evropejskom i kulturnom prostranstve (XIX–XX vv.)*, Odesa, 2014, p. 79–98 and other.

<sup>15</sup> Hoffmann Lev Georgievich (1896/7–1938) – historian, secretary of the commission of the Odessa regional studies at Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He was arrested on November 27, 1926 and January 27, 1938. April 20, 1938 sentenced to death. December 17, 1956 rehabilitated

(UAS). In January, 7, 1927 by the resolution of the Special Meeting of the United State Political Administration of the USSR he was sent to Vyatska province for three years where he lived in the town of Halturinske being under surveillance. After serving his term, in November, 4, 1929 he was deprived of the right to live in big cities and regional centres of RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR and sent to a certain residence for a period of three years<sup>16</sup>.

Since the early 1920s, in the atmosphere of ideologically-theoretical and political dictate there was a formation of a new generation of scientists - representatives of the Soviet system. Acting as sincere supporters of the ideals of communism, they worked selflessly developing various problems of a science on the basis of new methodological positions. These scientists were convinced that the Marxism-Leninism (or dialectic materialism) was the unique universal methodology of scientific research. Among these scientists it is necessary to mention the Jewish historians such as S. H. Belov<sup>17</sup>, A. I. Buzhevich<sup>18</sup>, J. Y. Merzon<sup>19</sup>, N. I. Mezhberg<sup>20</sup>, I. D. Seroglazov<sup>21</sup>, I. P. Schmidt<sup>22</sup> and others<sup>23</sup>.

In the second half of the 1920s, the Marxist ideology became dominating in Soviet science and social life. In the late 1920s, when the totalitarian system was being implemented, there was an aggravation of the struggle between the Bolshevik government and academic organisations. Changes of the general aim of science at the turn of 1929–1930 resulted in reorganization of research institutes of history of the Jews. So, after two years of existence, on August, 1, 1930, by the resolution of the Council of People's commissioners of the Ukrainian SSR concerning a network of research establishments, the Odessa section of the Jewish

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<sup>16</sup> Galuzevyj derzhavnyj arhiv Sluzhby bezpeky Ukrainy, Odesa, Fond PS, spr. 28591-p, ark. 54, 78, 146.

<sup>17</sup> Belov Solomon Haimovich (1888–1949) – the historian of Jewish literature and theatre. Fellow of Jewish Soviet literature and language at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. In 1936 he arrested and soon released.

<sup>18</sup> Buzhevich Abraham (Abram) Iosev-Berov (Josipovic) – historian, Fellow Museum of Jewish Culture named after Mendel-Moyher-Sforyma and Odessa Museum of Local History.

<sup>19</sup> Merzon Jacob Yekusovych – historian. He taught at the Odessa Institute of National Education (1924–1930).

<sup>20</sup> Mezhberg Naum (Naim) Isakovich – historian. Deputy Head of the Odessa istpartu (1927). He taught at the Odessa State University (1933–1935).

<sup>21</sup> Seroglazov Israel Davidovich – historian. He taught at the Odessa State University (1934–1939). In July 1938 he was arrested, imprisoned for 5 years. In November 1955 rehabilitated.

<sup>22</sup> Schmidt Isay Pavlovich (1895–1975) – historian. Rector and professor of Odessa State University (1933–1936).

<sup>23</sup> V. V. Levchenko, *Stanovlenie iudaiki v kontekste transformacii istoricheskoj nauki v Ukrainie (1917–1930-e gg.)*, Materialy Shestnadcatoj Ezhegodnoj Mezhdunarodnoj Mezhdisciplinarnoj konferencii po iudaike, 2 (2009), p. 480.

culture department of the UAS stopped working, and the majority of its staff was transferred to the Institute of the Jewish proletarian culture<sup>24</sup>. Some scientists had an alternative choice of a research institution – the cabinet of the Jewish Soviet literature and language at the UAS. Such possibility was used by Odessa scientist S. Belov – in 1936 he became a researcher of the Cabinet of studying the Jewish Soviet literature, language and folklore. With the growth of the Stalin terror, the Institute of the Jewish proletarian culture was closed in early 1936 and some officials were arrested on charges of Trotskyism. At the end of the same year, in the reduced variant, the Institute was restored under the name of the Cabinet of the Jewish language, literature and folklore at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. The problems of the cabinet were narrowed to studying problems of the Jewish grammar, literary language (Yiddish), lexicology and translation.

At the turn of the 1920–1930s they started to confiscate from libraries books which, according to the bodies of political education, “were not necessary for the majority of readers”. To look through the funds of the Jewish libraries special commissions were formed; their specialists of different areas of knowledge were to select everything that, in their opinion, could be «unnecessary and harmful». As a result of such "cleanings" all Jewish literature of the XIX century was as a rule destroyed. The more resolute method of intervention of the Soviet government representatives in the development of culture of the Jewish people was a liquidation of the Jewish academic library in Odessa at the end of the 1920s. In June, 1934 as a result of the party government struggle against «bourgeois-nationalist influence» the Ukrainian Mendel-Mojher-Sforim museum of the Jewish culture became the following "victim"; it was closed but continued working until August, 9, 1940.

In the 1930s, all signs of Jewish public life and national culture were forcibly minimized. The policy of the Soviet government was aimed at the destruction of institutes of the traditional Jewish community and led to its restructuring and in some regions even to complete disintegration. It greatly affected the political and cultural processes in the society of that period and amended the whole history of life of the Jewish civilisation. After the liquidation of the centers of Jewish Studies in the early 1930s educational institutions, libraries and clubs were closed as well. Since the mid-1930s in the Ukrainian SSR, and in Odessa as well, the process of liquidation of research establishments of the Jewish culture began, and by the end of the 1930s practically all of them had been closed. In 1938, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine declared that the educational institutions of all national minorities were the centers of «bourgeois-nationalist influence and considered their existence as inexpedient and harmful».

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<sup>24</sup> Biuletyn Narodnogo komisariatu osvity Ukrainskoi socialistychnoi radjanskoi respubliky, 35 (1930), p. 12–13.

Due to these circumstances, a lot of Jewish historians left Odessa and the USSR, among them were: I. M. Brover<sup>25</sup>, O. L. Weinstein<sup>26</sup>, L. O. Piper<sup>27</sup>, O. P. Pogrebensky<sup>28</sup>, M. L. Rubinshtein<sup>29</sup>, S. L. Rubinshtein<sup>30</sup>, T. M. Hait<sup>31</sup> and others<sup>32</sup>. As a result, during the political repression of the 1930s, lots of Jewish scientists were arrested and condemned: Sh. H. Vishnepolsky<sup>33</sup>, L. G. Hoffmann, Sh. A. Livshits<sup>34</sup>, B. M. Melamed<sup>35</sup>, S. M. Merher<sup>36</sup>, T. Y. Molchadsky<sup>37</sup>,

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<sup>25</sup> Brover Israel Moiseevich (1903–1986) – historian. Graduate student of Odessa Kharkiv section of scientific research department of history Ukrainian Culture in the Odessa Institute of National Education (1927–1930).

<sup>26</sup> Weinstein Osyp Lvovych (1894–1980) – historian. He taught at the Odessa State University (1934–1935) and Leningrad State University (1835–1951). In 1951, during the campaign to combat cosmopolitanism dismissed from the university. Fellow of the Leningrad branch of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (1855–1980).

<sup>27</sup> Piper Leonid Orestovych (1897–1938) – philosopher. Professor of Odessa Institute of National Education (1925–1930). February 3, 1938 sentenced to capital punishment, April 14 of that year shot. Rehabilitated June 4, 1956.

<sup>28</sup> Pogrebensky Oleksandr Petrovich (1905–1979) – historian. Graduate the Odessa Institute of National Education (1927).

<sup>29</sup> Rubinshtejn Mykola Lazarevich (1897–1963) – historian. Graduate student of Odessa Kharkiv section of scientific research department of history Ukrainian Culture in the Odessa Institute of National Education (1927–1930).

<sup>30</sup> Rubinshtejn Sergii Lazarevich (1989–1960) – philosopher and psychologist. Professor of Odessa Institute of National Education (1921–1930). Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1943).

<sup>31</sup> Hait Tatiana Markovna (1900–19??) – historian. Graduate student of Odessa Kharkiv section of scientific research department of history Ukrainian Culture in the Odessa Institute of National Education (1927–1930).

<sup>32</sup> V. V. Levchenko, *Dejatelnost uchenyh-istorikov evreev v nauchno-issledovatel'skikh uchrezhdenijah Odessy 20-h gg. XX v.*, Pivdennyi zahid. Odesyka. Istoryko-kraieznavchyyi naukovyi almanah, 17 (2014), p. 286.

<sup>33</sup> Vishnepolsky Shulim Hryhorevych (1900–1938) – naturalist. Head of the Department of Political Economy of the Odessa State University (1933). Dean of the Faculty of Geography (1936–1937). He was arrested on November 30, 1937. He was shot 10 October 1938. August 9, 1960 rehabilitated.

<sup>34</sup> Livshits Shmuel Abramovich (1892–1938) – mathematician. Associate Professor of the Odessa Institute of Communications Engineers. He was arrested on January 12, 1938. March 23, 1938 was sentenced to capital punishment. August 17, 1956 rehabilitated.

<sup>35</sup> Melamed Boris Moyseevych (1896–1978) – philosopher. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Berlin (1920–1924). Since the late 1920s, he taught at several universities in Odessa. February 23, 1938 arrested, and in December 1939 was sentenced to 5 years in labor camps. In 1950 Associate Professor of Philosophy and Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of the Odessa State University named after I. I. Mechnikova.

<sup>36</sup> Merher Selman-Aron Moiseevich (1899–1979) – taught at the Odessa Institute of Education (1929–1930). Artist Museum of Jewish Culture (1939). April 14, 1951 entered into a forced labour camp for 10 years. In 1955, all charges dropped.

<sup>37</sup> Molchadsky Tovii Yakovych – social science. Taught at the Odessa Institute of Education (1927–1930). Repressed in the 1930s, sentenced to serve a sentence in a forced labour camp for 3 years.

E. H. Oksman<sup>38</sup>, I. D. Seroglazov, L. G. Strizhak<sup>39</sup>, M. B. Tunkelroit<sup>40</sup>, S. S. Fliaks<sup>41</sup>, I. Ya. Chernyavsky<sup>42</sup> and others<sup>43</sup>. Almost all of them were arrested on charges of counterrevolutionary activity, participation in Trotskyism or subversive and terrorist organizations, espionage for "fascist" Germany or other European intelligence services, preparation of anti-Soviet insurrection in order to separate the Ukrainian SSR from the Soviet Union. As a result of fictive charges they were subjected to unlawful punishment. In the second half the 1950s, during the Khrushchev thaw, all of them were rehabilitated.

After 1944, the repressions towards the history scientists did not stop. In the prime of totalitarian structures in the second half of the 1940s, the government resorted to the mass ideological brainwashing of historians by drawing the scientists themselves. The victimization peak of history scientists of Odessa fell in the 1949–1953 period. Many scientists were fired, the others could not work because they were driven out of the University, and some of them had to leave the city or commit suicide. Here is a typical example of the fate of professor

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<sup>38</sup> Oksman Emmanuil Hryhorevych (1899–1961) – historian. Graduate student research department of the Odessa Historical and Archaeological Museum (1925–1928). October 22, 1930 arrested. February 18, 1931 sentenced to 10 years to labor camps. September 16, 1937 again arrested and sentenced to re-sentence. May 16, 1949 he was arrested for the third time and the sentence on 29 June that year sent into exile to exile. November 10, 1955 rehabilitated.

<sup>39</sup> Strizhak Leyba Genrihovich (1886–1938) – historian. Lecturer of Ancient History and Middle Ages of the Odessa pedagogical institute. Sentenced to capital punishment, he was shot in March 1938.

<sup>40</sup> Tunkelroit Morduh Bentsyonovych (1896–1938) – historian. Taught at the Odessa Institute of Education (1927–1928). Arrested on November 26, 1937, April 10, 1938 sentenced to death.

<sup>41</sup> Fliaks Samuil Samuilovich (1904–1987) – educator. Professor, Head of the Department of Pedagogy of the Odessa pedagogical institute. He was arrested on January 20, 1938. March 2, 1939 to imprisonment for 10 years in prison (April 23, 1939 is replaced by imprisonment in labour camps). November 3, 1955 rehabilitated.

<sup>42</sup> Chernyavsky Iosif Yakovych (1896–1938) – Arrested April 10, 1938, six months later – on October 3 he was also sentenced to death, given in pursuance of October 19.

<sup>43</sup> *Odeskyj martyrolog: Dani pro represovanyh Odesy i Odeskoi oblasti za roky radjanskoi vlady*. T. 2 / Compilers: L. V. Kovalchuk, G. O. Razumov, Odesa, 1999, 800 p.; V. A. Smirnov, *Repressii 30-tyh godov sredi evrejskoj intelligencii v Odesse*, Odessa i evrejskaja civilizacija: VI mezhdunarodnaja nauchnaja konferencija, Odessa, 5–7 November 2007 year / Resource access: <http://www.migdal.org.ua/migdal/events/science-confs/6/17483/>; V. V. Levchenko, *Stanovlenie iudaiki v kontekste transformacii istoricheskoj nauki v Ukrainie (1917–1930-e gg.)*, Materialy Shestnadcatoj Ezhegodnoj Mezhdunarodnoj Mezhdisciplinarnoj konferencii po iudaice, 2 (2009), p. 481 and other.

M. M. Rozentalia<sup>44</sup>. The former professor of the Leningrad State University, the head of the department of Medieval History of the Odessa National University, a prominent expert and a wonderful lecturer, was removed from teaching and department heading in 1949 because of writing the theatre and literature reviews in which the party leadership found the display of cosmopolitanism<sup>45</sup>. Under the pretext of unsolicited dismissal after a serious conversation with the chancellor<sup>46</sup> the professor S. Y. Borovogo was dismissed<sup>47</sup>.

From 1946 until 1952, E. L. Klem (1898–1953) worked as a lecturer at the department of History of the Odessa Pedagogical Institute. During the Second World War she served as a medical assistant and interpreter in the Separate Coastal Army. She was taken prisoner and stayed in a women's death camp in Ravensbrück, where she took part in the international conspiratorial organization and headed the Ukrainian underground group. After the war, she returned to Odessa where she was often called out to the security services where they pressed her for admission of high treason, recruiting by counterespionages of the countries which were in the war. Because of that, the administration of the University was constantly cutting down her «hours» of studies, and at the beginning of 1953/54 E. L. Klem was left out of work. She could not bear such humiliation from her colleagues so on the 31 of August of 1953 she committed suicide and left a death note: «I can't live any more. I don't know where my fault is. Probably, it is in the fact that my father was Serb who had become a Russian communist... or in the fact that I was a prisoner of war. All my life I do loved my Motherland. I loved my work, I was happy to realize that my work serves to improve the communist society, I always thought that to work means to live and to fight: not to work means not to live. Now I'm thrown away from my department and from my work; nobody even cared to explain me why. Can it really be true that I'm such a contemptible creature that nobody could inform me personally – nobody talked to me. I leave this world. I ask to fulfil my will: to remit my own savings (5300 roubles) from my

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<sup>44</sup> Rozental Mykola Mykolaiovych (1892–1960) – historian. History Department of History and Philology of St. Petersburg University graduated May 10, 1914, and was left to prepare for a professorship in the Department of General History. He taught at the University of Leningrad (1924–1931). In 1931, he has been criticized and removed from teaching. March 3, 1935 arrested, 17 March 1935 sent to Irgiz Aktobe region. In 1936 it was revised, September 1, 1936, he started working at Odessa University (1936–1938, 1942–1954).

<sup>45</sup> P. Maiboroda, E. Petrovskiy, *Akademichni tradycii i borotba na istorychnomu fronti: shtryhy do biografii profesora M. M. Rozentalia*, Pivdennyi zahid. Odesyka. Istoryko-kraieznavchyi naukovi almanah, 9 (2010), p. 163–176.

<sup>46</sup> S. Borovoi, *Vospominanija*, Moskva, 1993, p. 317–326.

<sup>47</sup> Borovoi Saul Yakovych (1903–1989) – historian. In 1924 he graduated from the Law Faculty of the Odessa Economic Institute. He taught at the Odessa Credit Economic Institute.

savings book to the account of the Odessa Pedagogical Institute. E. L. Klem, the 31 of August of 1953»<sup>48</sup>.

Some of Stalin's campaigns in the struggle against the scientific intelligentsia broke the destiny not only of their victims and accusers. The destinies of many scientists, who happened to be in the maelstrom of those events, were perverted. They were pursued by the fear to make a mistake; the fear to be accused for their political views (mainly from the past) on the bases of fabricated cases. Quite often it was their fear and not their activity that determined their scientific views and the further of their life. Groundless accusations and political repression against Odessa Jewish scientists resulted from deliberate falsification by the Soviet government. Many of the charges were exculpated from them after the XX Congress of the CPSU. Some of innocent victims were rehabilitated. Despite this, as a result of repressive actions of the Stalin regime there were destroyed talented specialists, the scientific directions were deformed, research institutions and universities were rendered lifeless. Studying a considerable layer of narrative, epistolary heritage, oral history, etc. has led the researchers to the conclusion that the whole scientific community was a target of repression, therefore repression cannot be limited by passionals, by lists of people who were shot or imprisoned or exiled, by "broken" biographies of outstanding scientists and thinkers and so forth. The whole scientific community became a target of repression, as well as its mentality and philosophy, its life in all the forms. So we should talk not only about the repressed scientists, but also about the repressed ideas and directions, research institutions and centers, books, journals and collections, intellectual heritage of the scientists, secret archives, etc.

The representatives of the Jewish scientific intelligentsia of Odessa were repressed in the first half of the XX century. And the scope of the repressive actions affected dozens of the scientists – talented and highly educated people. They were devoted to science and saw in it the sense and meaning of life. But divergent methods of different political regimes (mainly of the Soviet government) limited their rights to engage in scientific activity, to communicate with their colleagues, to pass the knowledge to the next generations of scientists.

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<sup>48</sup> V. Chaplin, *Zapiski «muzejnoj krysy»*, Migdal-Times, 84–85 (2007).