
CONFERENCE ARTICLE

STUDYING THE PERIOD OF WORLD WAR II BASED ON ORAL HISTORY SOURCES

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the study of life experiences and testimonies of people during the Second World War using oral history methods. The aim of the research is to analyze frontline battles, labor activities in the rear, life in captivity, and the post-war period based on historical sources and eyewitness accounts. The article highlights the advantages of the oral history method, its role in historiography, and its significance in illuminating human aspects of historical events. The results confirm that testimonies and oral sources contribute to a more complete and objective understanding of historical events.

KEYWORDS

Second World War, oral history, frontline life, captivity, testimonies, local history, soldier's fate.

INTRODUCTION

In the study and reconstruction of the past within the discipline of history, written sources hold significant importance. Scientific literature, archival documents, statistical data, and other written materials constitute the primary sources for historical research. However, any written source may reflect the author's perspective and can be influenced by political or social contexts, which means that a certain degree of subjectivity is almost inevitable. Therefore, in modern historiography, it is necessary to use different types of sources together in order to provide a more comprehensive and objective account of historical events.

One of such sources is oral history. Oral history is a method of studying historical information based on individuals' personal memories, life experiences, and testimonies. Through this method, it is possible to obtain important insights into the impact of historical events on human life, the social environment, everyday life, and individual experiences.

From the second half of the twentieth century, oral history began to develop as an independent academic field. Especially in the 1970s and 1980s, this method started to be widely applied in historiography. The British historian Paul Thompson played a significant role in the development of the oral history school. In his well-known studies, he emphasizes that oral history allows the life experiences of ordinary people to be incorporated into the process of historical research.

The Second World War is one of the largest and most tragic events in human history. This war affected the fate of millions of people and brought significant changes to the political, economic, and social development of many countries. Therefore, the use of various types of sources is crucial when studying the history of the war.

As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "We must understand our history, including the difficult trials of the war years, and accurately convey it to future generations. Every individual's memory, every family's story is valuable to us and illuminates the authenticity of history." From this perspective, the oral history method is of great importance, as it allows historical events to be explored through the memories of war

participants and witnesses, highlighting their human dimensions .

American historian Alessandro Portelli also reflects on the significance of oral history, noting that oral testimonies reveal not only the factual aspects of historical events but also how individuals perceived and experienced these events .

This study employed the oral history method. During the research process, interviews were conducted with World War II participants residing in various districts of Jizzakh region, as well as with their children, grandchildren, and relatives. Through these interviews, valuable information was collected regarding wartime events, frontline battles, life in captivity, and the post-war period.

Proper organization of the interview process is of crucial importance in oral history research. Respondents' personal memories, perceptions of events, and emotional experiences were carefully documented. Additionally, oral history materials were cross-checked with written sources whenever possible to ensure their reliability.

Furthermore, personal documents, military award certificates, service cards, and other materials preserved in family archives were examined. These materials served as important sources corroborating the oral history data.

The research yielded valuable information about several war participants living in Jizzakh region. For instance, data about Jorakhon Usmonov from Savat neighborhood was recorded through the memories of his relatives. According to this information, he was conscripted to the front in 1942 and, for his bravery in battles in the territory of Belarus, was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union in 1944.

Similarly, valuable information was collected about Eshonqul Ismoilov. Interviews conducted with residents of G'allaorol district revealed that he was drafted to the front in 1942, participated in battles for the liberation of Ukraine and Belarus, and demonstrated bravery in the fighting for the Polish city of Poznan .

The interviews conducted with war participants during the research also provided valuable information. In particular, conversations with Mamasharif Sodiqov and Akhmad Mirzayev offered important insights into the frontline battles, soldiers' daily lives, and the relationships among comrades-in-arms.

During oral history research, information was also collected about individuals who were in Nazi concentration camps. In particular, data related to Vera Tolpeyeva proved crucial for studying the forced labor system during the war.

In conclusion, the oral history method serves as an important scientific source for studying the history of the Second World War. Using this method, it is possible to uncover the human aspects of historical events, personal experiences, and elements of local memory through the recollections of war participants and their relatives.

By conducting a comparative analysis of oral history materials with written sources, it becomes possible to provide a more complete and objective account of the Second World War.

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