

# Summary

**T**he materials in the 161st *NZ* issue all relate in one way or another to the two main themes – the anniversary of the end of World War II and the early history of British socialism and communism.

The first section, titled «THE LAST WORLD WAR? ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II», consists of five articles. It opens with an article by sociologist Jeffrey Hass, a professor at the University of Richmond (USA), titled «*No Statute of Limitations: What Leningrad Siege Survivors Remember and How They Share Their Memories*». Hass analyzes testimonies from different categories of siege survivors, collected as part of an oral history project launched in 2000 by the European University at St. Petersburg. The researcher focuses on the processes of recollecting and relaying memories as some of the more active and interconnected forms of engaging with the past.

Next in the selection is an article by another American scholar, Brandon Schechter of the Blavatnik Family Foundation Archive, titled «*Hatred: Corrosive or Noble? Managing Emotions in the U.S. and Soviet Armies During World War II*». Schechter's study compares the functions and ideological agendas of two key institutions in the Allied armies fighting Nazism – United States military chaplains and Soviet political commissars.

Oleg Beida and Igor Petrov offer *NZ* readers an account of escape attempts from a German camp for Soviet officers. Their article, «*The Cold Summer of 1943:*

*Escapes of Soviet POWs from Officer Camp XIII D*», is based on meticulous analysis of documents of various origins – from Soviet military personnel files to German camp archives.

Mikhail Nikolaev's article deals with an exceptionally interesting socio-economic aspect of the Great Patriotic War – namely money: Soviet soldiers' salaries, the cost of food at the front lines and on the home front, and the role of money in formal and informal relationships within the Soviet army and society.

The first thematic section concludes with a piece on Southeast Asia: Kirill Kuzmin provides a brief overview of how memories of the tragic events of World War II in this region influenced Sino-Japanese relations after 1945.

Linked to the first thematic block is the latest instalment of *NZ ARCHIVE*. Asya Leiderman has prepared for their first Russian-language publication excerpts from the chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto created by Emanuel Ringelblum (1900–1944) – a Polish-Jewish historian, educator, founder of the Warsaw Ghetto Archive, and leader of the clandestine group Oneg Shabbat, whose mission was to collect testimonies about life in Ghetto.

The *NEW BOOKS* section of the 161st *NZ* issue features an extensive review by Boris Sokolov of the memoirs of Nikolai Tankov, «*A Soldier's Truth: From Bryansk to Königsberg*». Tankov served as an artillery sergeant, had a successful military career after 1945, and after retirement held undemanding sinecures in Soviet cultural organizations. His book was written in the 1980s–1990s,

which explains the memoirist's unusual openness.

Finally, Alexei Levinson in his regular column SOCIOLOGICAL LYRICISM also turns to the subject of war – although his piece is about current conflicts. He interprets survey data on the «war sentiments» of Russian citizens.

The second thematic block in issue 161 of *NZ* – curated, translated and commented on by Andrey Gelianov – is devoted to the emergence and development of British socialism in the 19th century, aiming to present this phenomenon from an unconventional angle – not as a radical eccentricity but as a natural demand for justice that became the logical outcome of evolving aesthetic views. The centerpiece of the selection is William Morris's speech «*How Shall We Live Then?*» (1889), translated into Russian for the first time. A preface introduces the text, explaining the context of its creation and its place in the evolution of the author's views.

Morris's text is accompanied by two works of his most significant predecessors, also translated for the first time, specifically for *NZ*. The first is an open letter by the art theorist and writer John Ruskin, titled «*The White-Thorn Blossom*» (1871), addressed to the laborers and landowners of England. The second is a historic address to the Irish (1823) by the social reformer and political philo-

sopher Robert Owen, which led to the establishment of Britain's – and possibly the world's – first experimental communist settlement.

The theme of British socialism – now shifting to the 20th century – is partially continued in Konstantin Mitroshenkov's extensive review of a new book by cultural historian (and frequent contributor to *NZ*) Owen Hatherley, titled «*The Alienation Effect: How Central European Émigrés Transformed the British Twentieth Century*». The book explores Continental European political émigrés of left-wing and far-left views, who found themselves in a far-from-friendly environment in Great Britain.

The theme of intellectuals' place in society and the influence of «high culture» – “particularly of philosophical-political reflection – is further explored in a published excerpt from a book of conversations with Stefan Müller-Doohm and Roman Yos, conducted by Jürgen Habermas, one of the last «classics» of German philosophy. The complete Russian translation of the book, titled “«*Es musste etwas besser werden...*»: *Gespräche mit Stefan Müller-Doohm und Roman Yos*”, will be published by the New Literary Observer publishing house as part of «The *NZ* Library» series.

The 161st *NZ* issue concludes with Alexander Pisarev's RUSSIAN INTELLECTUAL JOURNALS REVIEW.