

Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte (JWG) 2004/1:

Zwangsarbeit im Nationalsozialismus in den besetzten Gebieten

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Abstracts

I. Abhandlungen und Studien

Ela Hornung, Ernst Langthaler und Sabine Schweitzer, Landarbeit unter Zwang. Ausländische Arbeitskräfte in der deutschen Landwirtschaft am Beispiel des Reichsgaues Niederdonau 1939-1945

Until recently, forced labour in agriculture was seen as the 'lighter' version of forced labour in German economy during the Second World War. In contrast to this, we can show with our analysis of the former province of 'Niederdonau' the peculiarities of rural forced labour: the wide range of different types of relationships between peasants and forced labourers. According to these findings, the variety of peasant-labourer-relationships on the micro level was a constitutive element of the system of forced labour in German agriculture on the macro level. On the one hand all those involved on the farm had to cope with the contradictions of the forced labour program that arose from the polycratic structure of the Nazi state. On the other hand they adapted the guidelines from above to their local living conditions. Many practices of peasant 'resistance', e.g. having dinner together with forced labourers from Poland or the Soviet Union, stabilized the contradictory system of forced labour in German agriculture.

Lutz Budraß, "Arbeitskräfte können aus der reichlich vorhandenen jüdischen Bevölkerung gewonnen werden." Das Heinkel-Werk in Budzyn 1942-1944

Ever since the publication of Raul Hilberg's work on the destruction of the European Jews, Heinkel's factory at Budzyn has been treated as a mediocre example for a subsidiary of a major Germany firm in the so-called Generalgouvernement, and it has not been seriously studied yet. Nonetheless, the Budzyn works stand out by some characteristics: they were fairly large, employing a substantial proportion of the Jewish slave labour force in occupied Poland. They were - different to most industries there - geared towards a highly sophisticated industrial production of aircraft. The most striking feature of the Budzyn works on labour camp, however, was that a high proportion of its Jewish slave labourers survived the so-called "Erntefest" massacre in November 1943, which victimized most of the other Jewish slave-labourers in the District of Lublin. This article attempts to trace the origins of the Budzyn project which originally - in 1942 - was seen as a nucleus of "Ultra", a gigantic aircraft factory, matching Ford's famous Willow Run facilities in size and output and providing the aircraft for the return of the Luftwaffe to the western theatre of war as an active force. The intentions of Erhard Milch, the Luftwaffe Field Marshall who framed the project, and Ernst Heinkel, the Aircraft Producer who designed it, are studied. Particular reference is given to the decision making process leading to the employment of Jewish slave labour and finally the failure of this project, which existed roughly one and a half year, but turned out neither an aircraft nor a single part of it.

Tanja Penter, Arbeiten für den Feind in der Heimat - der Arbeitseinsatz in der besetzten Ukraine 1941-1944

The article examines the German policy towards the local workforce in occupied Ukraine (and its quantitative dimensions) in World War II. It devotes special attention to the question, how the workers were recruited and to what extent the German authorities used instruments of terror. The conditions of life and work of different groups of the local workforce are examined: urban and rural population, industrial workers, employees of German offices, women, youth, Soviet prisoners of war and prisoners of workcamps. Central questions of the "Zwangsarbeiter"-research, which until now merely concentrated on foreign workers, who

had been deported to Germany during World War II, are applied on the population of the occupied Ukrainian territories.

II. Diskussion

Jochen Streb, Die politische Glaubwürdigkeit von Regierungen im institutionellen Wandel. Warum ausländische Fürsten das Eigentum der Fernhandelskaufleute der Hanse schützten

One of the most important problems of economic history was and still is to find out why some nations were able to become rich and others were not. A new approach to answer this question is historical institutional analysis especially promoted by Avner Greif. In this paper the working of historical institutional analysis is demonstrated by the basic dilemma of a strong government that is, on the one hand, needed to protect the property of private economic agent. On the other hand, however, a strong government might also be a crucial obstacle for investment and economic growth because it can use its power not only for protecting but also for seizing private assets. In modern states, this dilemma is solved by institutions like democracy and separation of power that efficiently limit government's possibilities to misuse its power. In the Middle Ages princes found other institutions that increased the credibility of their promise not to confiscate the property of foreign merchants. This will be shown by analyzing the coordinated multilateral reputation mechanism deployed to foster the foreign trade of the German Hanse.