

**HISTORICAL COURIER. 2022. No. 1 (21)****The Theme of the Issue:  
History and Memory: the Potential for Interaction**

*From the Editor*

In the last decade, the set phrases “historical memory”, “state policy of memory” have appeared in the information and scientific space. The discourse of memory, on the one hand, suggests that society needs to rethink, revise, reassess the historical past, but at the same time it also indicates that with the help of the historical past, the authorities are trying to consolidate society and build an identity for it.

The collapse of the USSR led to a reassessment of the era. Although in the Soviet era, as in any other, along with the events that consolidate society, there are also those that remain painful, give rise to feelings of injustice, cause controversy and ambiguous assessments.

Unfortunately, it should be noted that today historians are commissioned with not so much a “truthful” vision of the historical past but rather with a “glorious” one, which implies the use of “memory erasure” technologies and the imposition of official standards in this area. An attempt to construct an exclusively positive identity inevitably leads to formation of a deformed historical memory. With regard to many “painful” subjects, the course is taken to taboo, denial and mythologization. This line of forgetfulness was very aptly outlined by Pavel Polyan, who proposed a metaphor – “historiomor”, meaning by this the triumph of politics, propaganda and anti-historicism (forgetfulness) over history proper.

History today is under a lot of pressure from politics, forcing the past to be adjusted to today’s present. I would like to hope that the the battle will be won by history, not by politics.

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