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**Katyn as a place of memory: change of meanings of the memorial in the process of its reconstruction in 2017–2018**

The changes taking place in the culture of society's memory lead directly to changes of meanings in tragic places of the past. The confrontation of memories of different groups is reflected in the historical narrative of places of tragic memory. I am interested in various ways of dealing with the past, that is, with the memory of tragedies in the specific places of events. I’ll tell about the representation of the tragedy of Polish militarymen in Katyn as a place of tragic memory.

The purpose of this study is to identify new meanings and values that have appeared after the reconstruction of the Katyn memorial in 2017–2018. Key tasks are (1) to show the forms of historical narrative reflected in the complex of artifacts presented in Katyn and (2) to make a diachronic comparative analysis using the Bernhard – Kubik methodology, which helps to see new values and changes of previous meanings as a result of the memorial reconstruction.

The main sources constitute the archive of photo documents formed during my field research; «Bulletins of the Katyn memorial»; Russian-language and English-language booklets for visitors of the memorial.

I have identified the following meanings, including those that have been changed. First, the presence of Burdenko’s version (1944) without necessary comments and displacement of the narrative about the Katyn crime as a crime of the Soviet regime. Second, a formation of a hostile image of Poland in the historical perspective. Third, a formation of a sense of pride among Russian-speaking visitors of Katyn for the actions of the USSR during the liberation of Poland in the World War II and its post-war restoration. After the reconstruction the exhibition also tells a general story of the Soviet penitentiary system and its victims.