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DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN THE CITY OF GORKY IN 1941–1949

Abstract: The paper analyses the number, birth rate, mortality, and migration of the population during the observed chronological period. It also examines the evacuation and mobilisation of citizens in enterprises in the city of Gorky during the Great Patriotic War. The features of demographic processes in war and post-war times are outlined.

Keywords: Demography, population, numbers, birth rate, mortality, infectious diseases, city, village, migration, evacuation, mobilisation.

The Gorky region whose centre is the regional city of Gorky played a significant role already in the pre-war years as a stronghold of state defence and was a large industrial region with developed transport routes. It occupied an area of 89.2 thousand km². On 1 January 1941, it included 62 districts, 17 cities, 26 urban-type settlements, and 909 rural councils¹. The Gorky region was one of the most populous regions not only in Russia, but also in the USSR. According to the 1939 census, the population of the region was in the third place in the USSR after the Moscow and Novosibirsk regions². With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, during the battle

¹ Административно-территориальное деление и органы власти Нижегородского края-Горьковской области (1929–1979), справочник, Горький 1984, 9–10.; Государственный общественно-политический архив Нижегородской области – ГОПАНО. Ф. Р-3. Оп. 1. Д. 2120. Л. 143–143. об. – стат. дан. о числе районов на август 1941г.

² Всесоюзная перепись населения 1939 год.: Основные итоги, Москва 1992, 23–24.

for the capital of our Motherland, the city of Moscow, the region turned into the nearest front-line rear area, supplying the front with equipment, weapons and other necessities. However, as before 1991 documents in the archives were classified as “secret”, the demographic processes taking place in the territory of the Gorky region and in the regional centre were studied by learned historians in fragments, reflecting only some aspects of this problem. Research into the topic is currently ongoing.

The goal of the authors of this paper is to use documentary sources and published works to trace changes in the demography of the population of the Gorky region and the regional centre of Gorky, and identify its features in the war and post-war periods of Soviet history.

On the eve of the Great Patriotic War, there were three million 800 thousand people in the Gorky region, of whom a third lived in cities and industrial settlements, and two thirds in rural areas. The city of Gorky had more than 643,689 inhabitants³.

With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, complex demographic processes took place – the population decline due to mobilisation, migration of the population from rural areas to cities, labour recruitment in the industry, recruitment of young people into educational institutions of the labour reserves, evacuation, placement and treatment of wounded soldiers in the hospitals of the Gorky hospital base, a decrease in the birth rate and an increase in mortality associated with diseases and the deterioration of people’s lives in general. All this, naturally, influenced the ratio of urban and rural populations. Each of these processes had its own characteristics.

One of the features that also influenced the change in population in the cities and villages of the Gorky region were the administrative-territorial transformations carried out in 1939–1945. This implied the transfer of part of the territory and its population to the newly formed Kostroma and Vladimir regions, including in 1943. Murom went to the Vladimir region. By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 10 June 1943, the city of Gorky was turned from a regional city into a city of republican subordination and retained this status until the summer of 1958⁴. After the city of Gorky was subordinated to the republican level, population statistics were collected separately and were closed. For this reason, it was earlier difficult to accurately calculate the population of the city of Gorky and the urban population of the Gorky region as a whole for the period concerned. After the access to archive funds was enabled in 1991, historians now have such an opportunity.

Let us observe, to the degree possible, the above main demographic processes of the population in chronological order.

According to the calculations of historian N. V. Chernysheva for 1941–1945, compared to the pre-war period, in 1941 the share of townspeople in the Gorky region increased to 1367.1 thousand people (33.8%), in 1943 to 1396.1 thousand people (39.9%), and in 1945 to 1354.9 thousand people (44.0%). It should be noted

³ Алексей Гордин, Галина Серебрянская, Наталья Сакович, “Горьковская область в годы Великой Отечественной войны”, *Вопросы истории* 5 (2015) 61–72.

⁴ Административно-территориальное деление, 10.

that almost a half of the townspeople lived in Gorky (e.g. in 1945: 47.3%). Slightly more than a half of Gorky residents lived in the countryside⁵.

What processes most influenced the population increase in cities and the regional (republican) centre of the Gorky region during the war period? According to researcher N. V. Chernysheva, those were migration processes. This historian provides data indicating that changes in the size and composition of the population of Gorky could not but affect all demographic processes, including the urban population⁶.

Let us trace the main trends in population changes in the Gorky region and the city of Gorky during the war period.

The statistical analysis showed that the peak of the population decline in the Gorky region occurred in 1942. The main reason was the mobilisation of Gorky residents into the ranks of the USSR Armed Forces. During the war years, 884,504 people were mobilised (including conscripts who served by the summer of 1941)⁷. In general, those were people drafted from rural areas, since a part of the urban population worked in defence enterprises, and highly qualified workers were part of the reserve. It is still unknown how many reserve soldiers remained in Gorky factories. But it is known that in 1942, 142.8 thousand people worked in the industry of the Gorky region, and in 1943 – 146.3 thousand⁸.

Another reason for the population decline in the Gorky region in the first years of the war was a reduction in the birth rate by almost two-thirds compared to the pre-war period. The peak of the decline in the birth rate in the region as a whole was observed in 1943⁹. In urban settlements of the Gorky region, the largest drop in the birth rate was recorded in 1944, and in rural areas – in 1943. The birth deficit during the Great Patriotic War amounted to 289.2 thousand people in the Gorky region¹⁰. Moreover, in 1941–1942, the birth rate in the Gorky region was lower than all-Russian indicators, whereby the pre-war trend was maintained, but in 1943–1945 recovery processes in the region occurred faster than in the RSFSR as a whole.

During these years, the mortality rate of the population was also high, associated with massive epidemics and deteriorating living conditions. During the war years, two stages can be distinguished in the dynamics of population mortality. In the first stage (June 1941 – autumn 1942), there was an increase in the mortality rate, especially in

⁵ Наталья Чернышева, "Демографические процессы в Горьковской области накануне и в годы Великой Отечественной войны", *Вестник Нижегородского университета им. Н.И. Лобачевского* 1 (2022) 41, 42, 45.

⁶ Н. Чернышева, *Демографические процессы*, 41, 42.

⁷ Книга памяти нижегородцев, павших в Великой Отечественной войне 1941–1945 годов. Т. 20, Нижний Новгород 2020, 7.

⁸ Галина Серебрянская, *Промышленность и кадры Волго-Вятского региона Российской Федерации в конце 30-х – первой половине 40-х годов XX века*, Нижний Новгород 2003, 464.

⁹ Центральный архив Нижегородской области – ЦАНО. Ф. 4230. Оп. 4. Д. 353. Л. 34.

¹⁰ Наталья Чернышева, Марина Свинцова, Наталья Сакович "Детская и младенческая смертность в областях Волго-Вятского региона накануне и в годы Великой Отечественной войны", *Вопросы истории* 11(2019) 108.

urban areas. In 1941, 34.6% of those who died in the Gorky region were city residents, while in 1942 this percentage was already 43.3%. In Gorky, mortality in absolute figures in 1942 increased to 26,407 people, compared to 15,661 in 1940. Compared to the pre-war period, in 1942 the mortality rate in urban areas increased by 62.1% and in rural areas by 107.6%, whereas in 1943 mortality began to decline and continued down in 1944. However, mortality, although decreasing, was still higher than the birth rate¹¹. In the Gorky region, in August–October 1941, there was a sharp increase in the infant mortality rate. In the first half of the war, the region maintained the pre-war trend of infant mortality in cities compared to infant mortality in rural areas. In the Gorky region, 66,264 babies died during the war, i.e. every fifth child¹². Infectious diseases such as typhoid, tuberculosis, septic angina, scarlet fever, dysentery, malaria and others contributed to the increase in population mortality. Typhus, brought in by the evacuated population, was particularly dreadful. By the winter of 1942, the situation with epidemiological diseases became critical. In January 1942, 438 people were registered as infected with typhus in the Gorky region, and in March their number increased to 3,538 people. Of 947 citizens of the Gorky region who contracted typhus, 618 people were residents of the city of Gorky. In 1942, the mortality rate from tuberculosis almost doubled compared to previous years. In 1940, 770 people died from tuberculosis in Gorky alone, and in 1942 – 1,503 people died¹³. The fight against this disease was multifaceted and quite difficult, especially in military conditions. In the implementation of specific measures, two assumptions were taken as a starting point: the first is that the tuberculosis incidence was closely related to social and living conditions, and the second is that tuberculosis is an infectious disease, although this was not recognised before the war. But in August 1942, the USSR People's Commissariat of Agriculture (NKZ) recommended that health authorities organise the fight against tuberculosis as an infectious disease. The set of anti-epidemic measures included: specific prevention, early detection and hospitalisation of patients, sanitation of the infectious lesion, monitoring of persons who were in contact with the patient, detection of bacilli carriers, and widespread health education. Mandatory registration of open forms of tuberculosis at the sanitary and epidemiological stations was introduced, persons with open forms of tuberculosis were not allowed to work in children's institutions and schools, special tables were allocated in workers' canteens for patients with tuberculosis, etc. Such an extensive programme was the first in the entire history of the fight against tuberculosis. It was not possible to quickly defeat this disease.

¹¹ ГОПАНО. Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 3394. Л. 163; Д. 4249. Л. 10.

¹² Н. Чернышева, *Детская и младенческая смертность*, 107, 108.

¹³ ГОПАНО. Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 4015. Л. 46; Юрий Перчиков "Некоторые проблемы исторической демографии 1942–1943 годов (по материалам г. Горького)" (доклад представлен на Третьей научно-практической конференции "Дискуссионные вопросы российской истории", Арзамас, 28–29. 05. 1998.

As a result, from July 1942, a rapid increase in population mortality was observed in all rear regions. In 1942, especially in the first half, the highest mortality rate for urban residents was recorded for all years. In the cities of the Gorky region, the indicators increased 1.6 times¹⁴. In the brief “On the state of fertility and mortality in the city of Gorky for 1942 and the first half of 1943”, the head of the City Health Department Smirnova noted: “The sharp increase in 1942 depended on material and living conditions, and a significant number of deaths are due to the evacuated population and those released from camps, tens of thousands of whom passed through the city...”¹⁵. Male mortality from respiratory diseases, primarily pneumonia and tuberculosis, predominated. Female mortality was higher than male mortality – from acute infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, atherosclerosis, due to weakening of the body and poor nutrition, overexertion and stress. Infant mortality was high due to insufficient obstetric care. In 1942, in the Gorky region, including the city of Gorky, 99,723 children were born, while the mortality rate was 162,341, of whom 37,588 were children aged under one. In Gorky, 41,050 children were born, 76,104 died and 14,355 died in infancy. The reasons were premature birth, the weakness of women in labour from malnutrition, infectious and other diseases¹⁶. Medical workers in the region, together with the public, did everything possible to suppress the spread of infectious diseases: they sent patients to hospitals where they were treated, disinfected houses and workplaces, ensured the uninterrupted operation of bathhouses, and organised bathing days for schoolchildren, students of vocational schools and factory education (FZO) schools. The city sanitary service kept under special control city enterprises, and primarily defence factories, workers’ dormitories, water supply systems, sewers, landfills, railway stations, river piers, etc. Major efforts were put in preventing the infection from being transferred to the front and from the front to the rear. Thanks to the joint efforts of government agencies and healthcare workers, since 1943, a turning point was seen in the rear areas with a subsequent decrease in the incidence of all acute infections. A similar situation was observed in the Gorky region. Compared to 1940, in 1943 the incidence of measles declined 14 times, the incidence of scarlet fever 12 times, the incidence of dysentery three times, typhoid fever two times, and diphtheria one and a half times¹⁷. The fight against infections was hampered by the shortage of sanitary doctors, epidemiologists

¹⁴ ГОПАНО. Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 3126. Л. 111.

¹⁵ Забвению не подлежит: Страницы нижегородской истории (1941–1945 годы). Кн. 3, Нижний Новгород 1995, 416.

¹⁶ Estimated by: Ю. Перчиков, “Некоторые проблемы исторической демографии”, 305; Александр Васягин, “Естественное движение населения Горьковской области накануне и в годы Великой Отечественной войны” (доклад представлен на Межвузовской V научно-практической конференции “Дискуссионные вопросы российской истории в вузовском и школьном курсах”, Арзамас, 30–31. 05. 2002); ГОПАНО, Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 4249. Л. 11, 12.

¹⁷ Наталья Сакович, “Влияние условий жизни и работы на здоровье населения: 1938–1953 гг.”, *КЛИО*, 4 (124) (2017) 145.

and bacteriologists. In connection with the outbreak of typhoid fever in Gorky and the Gorky region, a Resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR was adopted on 28 November 1944, as well as the order of the Commissioner of the USSR State Defence Committee of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture dated 2 December 1944 on taking urgent anti-epidemic measures. Among the urgent measures taken by the Gorky Regional Party Committee and the Regional Health Department was the additional staffing of medical institutions. According to the order No 664 of the USSR People's Commissariat of Health dated 15 December 1943, medical personnel from Uzbekistan, Georgia, Tatarstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kuibyshev region were sent to the Gorky region. Of 112 doctors, 82 arrived. The recall of doctors from the Gorky region by the USSR People's Commissariat of Health was stopped¹⁸. According to the RSFSR People's Commissariat of Health, in 1944, there were 820 doctors, in the city of Gorky – 666, i.e. a total of 1,486 doctors, or 80% of the pre-war number. As for the nursing staff, in the 1944–45 academic year, 1,397 people studied in only two medical schools in the Gorky region. A total of 207 paramedics and nurses were sent to the region's districts¹⁹. In 1944 dystrophy with a fatal outcome broke out in the cities and villages of the region. It was much more difficult to treat dystrophy than infectious diseases. The main medicine was a balanced and high-calorie diet, which was impossible to provide at the time. The rationing system did not make it possible to achieve a nutritious diet. However, in the city of Gorky there was a decrease in the dysentery incidence. On 1 January 1944, 44 patients with dysentery were identified, while on 1 January 1945, only six persons²⁰. Despite the reduction in medical institutions and the lack of specialists and their material support, throughout the war there was a constant struggle of medical workers to prevent and suppress epidemic diseases.

The healthcare anti-epidemic organisational forms and methods were improved. The fight against infectious diseases in enterprises took place simultaneously with meeting the everyday needs of workers, improving safety precautions and production discipline in factories, and organising socialist competition among medical institutions in the rear. Emergency anti-epidemic commissions were set up locally, and included chairmen of local councils, representatives of party bodies, health authorities, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD), military garrisons and military medical services. Members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society provided assistance to doctors. Together with the sanitary and epidemiological inspection, they continued to inspect apartments, dormitories, public baths, canteens, wells, and held lectures and conversations with the population. The city sanitary service kept water supply systems, sewerage systems, landfills, railway stations, river piers, etc. under

¹⁸ Наталья Сакович, "Социальные проблемы тружеников тыла: организация здравоохранения в Горьковской области накануне и в годы Великой Отечественной войны", Нижний Новгород 2010, 54.

¹⁹ ГОПАНО. Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 4432. Л. 38; Д. 4840. Л. 45.

²⁰ ГОПАНО. Ф. 3. Оп. 1. Д. 4840. Л. 46.

special control. Komsomol members helped medical workers. They cleared landfills, removed garbage from city streets, and carried out educational work among the population about the need to maintain hygiene and prevent infectious diseases. The role of the state in increasing the birth rate should also be noted, as evidenced by the Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet dated 8 July 1944. The document focuses on increasing assistance to pregnant women and mothers of many children. Maternity leave was extended to 77 calendar days, instead of 63 previously. Mothers who had two children at the birth of the third and each subsequent child received a one-time benefit from the government, and those who already had three children at the birth of the fourth and each subsequent child also received a monthly benefit. In addition, this Decree took into account the situation where many women were forced to give birth outside of a legally formalised marriage. Such women were given a monthly allowance and the opportunity to send their children to the children's home. Workers with infants were not required to work at night during the period of breastfeeding. For them, gynaecological offices were set up in closed clinics and outpatient clinics. The Employee Provisioning Departments (ORS) assisted them in providing additional food and necessities for newborns. The heads of the medical and sanitary units of enterprises were ordered to ensure proper control over the implementation of this resolution²¹. Back in November 1944, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR adopted the resolution "On measures to expand the network of children's institutions and improve medical and consumer services for women and children". By 1 January 1945, all premises of these institutions that were not occupied for their intended purpose were supposed to be vacated and repaired. In the six months after the decree was issued, the number of maternity beds in the Gorky region increased by 150, nurseries by 804, the number of women's and children's clinics increased by 28, 14 "milk kitchens" were opened, as well as four children's homes with 200 beds and 41 social and legal offices²². The efforts of the authorities were aimed at the future.

In addition, a tax was introduced on bachelors and childless citizens and citizens with a small number of children, in order to encourage them to enter into marriages and create large families, on the one hand, and on the other, to raise funds for single mothers and families with three or more children. However, despite the measures taken, during the war period it was not possible to achieve a high birth rate, for known reasons.

²¹ The collection of laws of the USSR and decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1938–1967, Moscow, 1956, 335 – DECREE of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 8 July 1944 on increasing state assistance to pregnant women, mothers with many children and single mothers, strengthening the protection of motherhood and childhood, on the establishment of the Honorary Title of Mother Heroine and the establishment of the Order of Maternal Glory and Motherhood Medals – https://www.lawmix.ru/docs_cccp/3096 (access date 25 August 2023).

²² ЦАНО. Ф. 3118. Оп. 3. Д. 399. Л. 11; Н. Чернышева, *Детская и младенческая смертность*, 109.

The increase in the population of Gorky, as a regional and later republican centre, occurred mainly due to processes called migration in sociology. Following the chronology, migration began with the population evacuated to the Gorky region from the front-line regions. A total of 186.2 thousand evacuated citizens arrived in the Gorky region (data as of 1 January 1943). As of 1 September 1943, 178.9 thousand were stationed there; of whom 64 thousand in cities, and 115 thousand in rural areas²³. However, during the process of re-evacuation, their number decreased: on 1 January 1944 – to 115.3 thousand people, on 1 July 1945 – to 32.6 thousand people.²⁴ In May–August 1945, the re-evacuation to Leningrad of children and adults – orphanage staff and dependents – began. It was only on 11 June 1945 that Gorky residents warmly saw off three trains with 1,018 pupils from Leningrad children's homes. In general, the issue of re-evacuation from the Gorky region has not been studied enough, so there are no accurate data on the total number of citizens who left the city of Gorky and the Gorky region for other regions²⁵.

In addition to the evacuated population of the city, the region was replenished with wounded front-line soldiers. In 171 hospitals of the Gorky hospital base, 422,949 front-line soldiers were treated during the four years of war. After recovery, approximately 138,618 people were sent to the front, and 379,034 people entered the national economy to work. In addition, in 1941–1945 in the Gorky region, 33,780 war invalids and 15,639 labour invalids were employed²⁶. Demographic processes among these categories of the population are poorly understood.

But, as statistics show, evacuated citizens and the wounded, who were in hospitals for treatment, war and labour invalids did not become the main source of replenishment of the urban population. A major role in its renewal and, first of all, in the city of Gorky, was played by the migration processes such as labour mobilisation in the industry and the mobilisation of young people to study in educational institutions of the labour reserves. Thus, under the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated 13 February 1942 "On the mobilisation of the able-bodied urban population to work in production and construction during wartime" who were to work in the industry, and primarily in defence enterprises in the city of Gorky, 29.3 thousand people were mobilised during that year. The main source of replenishment of the urban population were able-bodied collective farmers. In 1942, rural residents accounted for 22.9% of those mobilised for permanent work in the city, in 1943 – 59%, in 1944 – 61.7%. Those were mainly women, girls and boys born in 1925–1928, who were fit-for-work. In addition to mobilising internal labour resources to work in military factories in the city of Gorky, those mobilised from other regions and republics of the Soviet Union were attracted. In 1943, five thousand

²³ Г. Серебрянская, *Промышленность и кадры*, 252.

²⁴ Н. Чернышева, *Демографические процессы*, 42.

²⁵ *Побратимы*, Москва 2019, 275.

²⁶ Книга памяти нижегородцев, павших в Великой Отечественной войне 1941–1945 годов. Т.1, Нижний Новгород 2005, 173–178.

migrants from Central Asia, mainly from Turkmenistan, arrived there. Some of them arrived in the Krasnoye Sormovo plant. A distinctive feature of labour mobilisation in the Gorky region compared to all-Union mobilisation is that its greatest scope took place in 1942–1943, while in the Union it was at the end of 1943–1944. Starting from the second half of 1944, the number of those mobilised was reduced due to the resumption of an organised recruitment of labour force from collective farms and those mobilised from the front on a contract basis²⁷. For instance, only in the period from 22 June 1941 to 31 May 1942, 11,478 people were called up to the Gorky Automobile Plant through labour mobilisation, which amounted to 30% of the total workforce; in 1944, 847 people were recruited, while 1,002 people and 2,016 demobilised soldiers were employed through free recruitment²⁸. In just three years and seven months (from February 1942 to July 1945), approximately 67.2 thousand people were mobilised into industrial production in the Gorky region. This contingent significantly increased the number of city residents²⁹.

Another migration wave of the population in Gorky was associated with the enrollment of students in educational institutions of the labour reserves system, created in 1940. In 1941, 26,497 teenagers came to study in RU (vocational schools), ZhDU (railway schools) and FZO (factory education) schools. In addition to the local youth, 1,112 boys and girls, evacuated from colleges and schools from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Orel, Kalinin, Tula, Minsk, Smolensk, Gomel, Rostov-on-Don, and Veliky Novgorod, were enrolled in labour reserve educational institutions in the same year. In 40 RUs, 37 FZO schools, five railway schools, in which in May 1944 there were 30,500 people, there were many evacuated teenagers. In total, during the war years, 91,504 people were admitted to vocational schools and FZO schools in the Gorky region, and 71 thousand qualified personnel graduated, working mainly in defence enterprises of the cities³⁰. The Gorky region ranked third in Russia and the Union in terms of student graduation after the Sverdlovsk and Kuibyshev regions. Graduates of vocational schools and FZO schools made up for the labour shortage in production, ensured their uninterrupted work, while young qualified personnel – teenagers 13–16 years old, along with adults, fully performed the complex work of men, together ensuring victory in the rear.

The above migration flows that occurred in the Gorky region during the war period, both by the years of the war and by the population of the region as a whole and especially by city, are quite difficult to accurately calculate, since from 1943 the re-evacuation of citizens to their previous places of residence began. Yet to be clarified is how many residents left, how many cured soldiers went to the front each

²⁷ Г. Серебрянская, *Промышленность и кадры*, 257, 259, 260–261.

²⁸ Алексей Гордин, “Горьковский автомобильный завод. История и современность. 1932–2012”, Нижний Новгород 2012, 106.

²⁹ Г. Серебрянская, *Промышленность и кадры*, 261.

³⁰ Владимир Белоус, “Трудовые резервы Горьковской области в годы Великой Отечественной войны, *Записки краеведов. Горький*, 1985.23–28; ГАРФ. Ф. 9507. Оп. 1. Д. 211. Л. 23–26, 53–55.

year after being discharged from Gorky hospitals, how many demobilised soldiers returned, and how many arrived in factories from other rear areas of the country, and how many prisoners were in the correctional-labour camps (ITL) and NKVD systems. Historians have only fragmentary information on these migration processes.

How demographic processes in the Gorky region affected the population of the city of Gorky can be seen in the table below.

Population of the city of Gorky in 1941–1945
(as of 1 January, in thousand people)

Population	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Gorky	699,8	708,5	671,4	683,0	691,0

Compiled from: Materials of the Central Archive
of the Nizhny Novgorod Region (CANU). F.4230. Op.1. D.2087. L.10.

The table shows that in the initial period of the Great Patriotic War, the population of Gorky was growing.

In the post-war period (second half of 1945–1949), changes in the demography of the Gorky region continued, and the war left a particular imprint on them. The total number of irretrievable losses in the Gorky region during the war years, according to the “Book of Memory of Nizhny Novgorod Residents”, amounted to 340,275 people. Of the Gorky residents who went to the front, every second did not return³¹. The counting continues to this day.

Partly, the compensation for the population was a surge in the birth rate in the first post-war decade, which arose due to the fact that the generation of Soviet people born in 1920–1925 had to postpone marriage and childbirth because of the 1941–1945 war. This phenomenon is called “demographic compensation”. Its essence is that demographic events in the life of a generation, postponed for some reason that violates the natural order of their occurrence, after the disappearance of these reasons, occur with high intensity.

In 1947, 16,183 people were born in Gorky, and 10,349 died, i.e. the natural population growth amounted to 5,934 people. In the first half of 1948, 5,236 people were born in the city of Gorky, compared to 7,347 in the first half of 1947. A total of 18,638 people were born and 5,539 people died, i.e. the population grew by 13,099 people³². By 1949, there was a trend towards an increase in the birth rate and a

³¹ Книга памяти нижегородцев, павших в Великой Отечественной войне 1941–1945 годов. Т. 16, 173–178.

³² Николай Занозин, “Организация системы здравоохранения Горьковской области в 1945–1953 гг.”, *Вопросы национальных и федеративных отношений*. Выпуск 5(62), Том 10, 2020, 1052.

decrease in mortality, and as a result, in general, there was an increase in the number of residents of the Gorky region. The natural population growth of the region amounted to 46,718 people, up by 69.6% compared to the previous 1948 year, and by 75.3% compared to 1940. Compared to 1948, in 1949 the number of births in the region increased by 24.1%. In 1949, 18,638 children were born. In urban areas this figure increased by 38.9%, and in rural areas by 19.5%, but did not reach the pre-war level. The number of births could have been higher without abortions, which significantly influenced this figure³³. Thus, over six months of 1948, 3,631 abortions were recorded in the city of Gorky, compared to 2,974 in the same period of 1947. In 1949 there were 18,638 births and 9,686 abortions, which is 52% of the number of births. The number of abortions was growing. During 1949, the number of abortions increased by 1,058 cases or 12.3%. The vast majority of them took place without the permission of medical commissions³⁴. In 1950, the natural population growth in Gorky amounted to 11,400 thousand people. As a result, the general increase in the birth rate that year led to a natural increase in the population in the Gorky region to 52,977 people, which was higher than pre-war values³⁵. But the mortality rate was still high. In 1949, in the city of Gorky, a significant share (more than 39.6%) were deaths from the following diseases: pneumonia, tuberculosis, heart disease. The mortality rate from cancer was especially high. In the post-war period, there was a decrease in the mortality rate of children aged under one. Thus, in the city of Gorky, per 100 births, children under the age of one died: in 1940 – 27.0; in 1947 – 19.0; in 1948 – 10.6; in 1949 – 7.8. The cause of death was mainly pneumonia (in more than 40% of cases: in 1949 – 40.5%; in 1948 – 41.5%). On the other hand, in 1949, the number of deaths from dysentery of children aged under one increased by 18.1%, from influenza by three times, from 3.8% to 5.4% from typhoid fever and 45.6% – from toxic dyspepsia (acute indigestion). But, despite the mortality rate of the population, the birth rate exceeded it. Due to natural growth, the population gradually began to recover³⁶.

As a result, the population of the Gorky region in 1945 amounted to three million 200.9 thousand people, in 1950 – three million 310.9 thousand people, and in 1959 – three million 618.3 thousand people. According to the 1959 census in the Gorky region, the number of urban population since 1945 was growing, while from 1950 to 1959 the rural population decreased sharply. In the city of Gorky the following trend was observed: on 1 January 1945 the number of residents was 691.0 thousand people; on 1 January 1946 – 608.0 thousand people; on 1 December 1946 – 636.4 thousand; on 1 January 1947 – 647.7 thousand. As we can see, after the end of the war, Gorky saw a population decline, while from late 1946 to early 1947 the growth

³³ Юрий Голуб, “О естественном движении народонаселения Горьковской области в 1945–1955 гг.” (доклад на I Международной научной конференции “Исторические исследования”, 20–23.06. 2012 Уфа, 2012).

³⁴ Н. Занозин, *Организация системы здравоохранения*, 1052.

³⁵ The demographic situation in the Gorky region during the Great Patriotic War: <https://52.rosstat.gov.ru> (Accessed on: 21 August 2022).

³⁶ Ю. Голуб, *О естественном движении народонаселения*, 35, 36.

began again. As of February 1946, 250,729 women and 155,057 men born in 1928 and before lived there³⁷. There was an increase in the number of marriages. In 1945 in the Gorky region there were 23,898 marriages, while in 1949 their share increased by 14.9%, and in 1950 already 37,913 marriages were concluded. The number of divorces was also growing, especially in cities; in 1949, their share increased by 34.3%. Most of the divorces were in Gorky³⁸. Among the reasons for divorces included the husband's death during the Great Patriotic War. However, social reasons, primarily housing instability, were the most frequent.

The population growth was also facilitated by measures taken by the state. The work to eliminate the consequences of the war and restore peaceful life began with the restructuring of the health care system. The idea was to build the structure of medical institutions and expand their functions locally. The main goal of the reforms was to make the health care apparatus more manageable, flexible, and economical. As part of the implementation of the priority task of the fourth five-year plan to improve the provision of medical care to women and children in the Gorky region, the network of specialised institutions increased, which made it possible to improve a number of quality indicators. As a result, the coverage of hospital care during childbirth reached 100% in the city and more than 60% in rural areas. During the period observed, gynaecological beds were used, which made it possible to bring qualified care closer to the population and avoid hospital-acquired infections. An important aspect of organising patronage work was the introduction of the local principle. The joint activities of health care institutions with local executive committees and public organisations made it possible to prevent the emergence of mass epidemics in the context of the processes of migration and re-evacuation of the population. However, the incidence rate for a number of diseases, such as tuberculosis, trachoma, measles, and malaria, remained high, which was explained by the region's insufficient presence of sanitary and preventive institutions, the narrowness of their material and technical base and understaffing. In addition, the rationing system of food supply to the population, which existed before 1947, could not ensure the necessary products even according to the meagre wartime standards. Famine began in the country, especially during lean years. People weakened by hunger were most often exposed to infectious diseases. In these difficult conditions, the authorities tried to prevent a demographic catastrophe, since the city of Gorky and the Gorky region remained the country's defensive stronghold. During the Cold War, they continued to increase military production.

³⁷ Российский государственный архив экономики – РГАЭ. Ф. 1562. Оп. 20. Д. 626. Л. 2, 90.

³⁸ Demographic situation in the Gorky region during the Great Patriotic War: <https://52.rosstat.gov.ru> (Accessed on: 21 August 2022).

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ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ В ГОРОДЕ ГОРЬКОМ В 1941-1949 ГГ.

Резюме

Демографические процессы населения Горьковской области в исследуемый период протекали довольно сложно и своеобразно, особенно в период Великой Отечественной войны. В послевоенный период увеличение численности населения в г. Горьком и области до 1950 г. происходили в основном естественным путем, т.е. за счет повышения рождаемости и уменьшения смертности. Благодаря укреплению системы здравоохранения и социальных мер, принимаемых государством, удалось не допустить демографического спада из-за инфекционных заболеваний.

В статье анализируются численность, рождаемость, смертность, миграции населения в исследуемый хронологический период. Эвакуация, мобилизация граждан на предприятия г. Горького в годы Великой Отечественной войны. Указываются особенности демографических процессов в военное и послевоенное время.

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ДЕМОГРАФСКИ ПРОЦЕСИ У ГРАДУ ГОРКИ 1941-1949.

Резиме

Демографски процеси становништва Горковској области у истраженом периоду били су доста компликовани и специфични, посебно у периоду Великог отаџбинског рата. У послератном периоду, становништво града Горки и његове области повећавало се до 1950. Године, пре свега, природним прираштајем, односно повећањем рађања и смањењем смртности. Захваљујући јачању система здравствене заштите и социјалним мерама које је предузела држава, спречен је демографски пад, који су могле да изазову инфективне болести.

У чланку се анализирају бројност, наталитет, смртност, миграције становништва током истраживаног периода. Евакуација, мобилизација грађана за рад у заводима, фабрикама и предузећима града Горког у време Великог отаџбинског рата. Истичу се посебности демографских процеса током рата и у послератном периоду.