Word as a weapon. Soviet propaganda on the continuation war (November 30, 1939 – March 12, 1940)

When the wars and campaigns run by the Soviets and their unexecuted plans are reviewed, four models of the Soviet aggression, in which word and propaganda played a significant role emerge. They are as follows: the model of liberation-protection, redressing the historical injustice, brotherhood assistance in reaching the just deal and a mixed model which combines the first three.

In each of the models a word is used at different levels. Words are used to direct army, party and security system executioners. The words used depend on the addressee. We can differentiate true words addressed to the public opinion, to the international opinion, and to the citizens of the conquered countries. Sometimes the words used satisfied the needs at different levels.

The best example of the liberation-protection model is the Soviet aggression on Poland on September 17th, 1939. The Soviets pretended that they intended to protect the life and goods of the people of West Ukraine and West Belarus. The Soviet government allegedly intended to take all measures to free the Polish nation from the unfortunate war which was caused by its leaders, and to enable Poland to live in peace.

The second model of redressing the historical injustice is a justification of the imperial inclinations by using the invented reasons mainly with a historical context. The Soviet imperialism believed that the old, enforced frontiers are the natural stand point for the claims.

Finally, the third most important model of brotherhood assistance in reaching the ideals was fully used during the invasion in Finland, called the „winter war”. Its main purpose was to prepare all components of the dependent country before the aggression. The elements of this model had already been identified in the Lenin period. In 1939 the Finnish government was created upon inspiration of the foreign power just for its imperial policy. The so called “winter war” was a Phryric victory of the Soviets. The Soviet Union had actually suffered significant losses, as 131 476 soldiers of the Red Army were killed, deadly wounded or lost, 188 671 were wounded, 58 370 were sick and 17867 suffered from frostbites. The Soviets also suffered huge losses in all sorts of equipment; they lost 600 airplanes and 2000 tanks. The year 1991 showed that the Bolshevik or post-Bolshevik system, once touched by a breeze of freedom, collapsed like „a house of cards”, because it was built on lies. Although the current situation in Ukraine lets us show the mutation of these models, it allows us to believe that the Putin’s neostalinism will end the same way.