

Review

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Evacuation in the Regional Dimension: Publication of Documents from the Chelyabinsk Archives Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Victory

Abstract

Documents collection “The Way to Victory: Evacuation of Industrial Enterprises to the Chelyabinsk Region in the Days of the Great Patriotic War of 1941–45” has been prepared by the United State Archive of the Chelyabinsk Region to commemorate the 75th anniversary of

the Great Victory. The review notes that the team of authors has managed to establish the number of enterprises evacuated to the Chelyabinsk region. Published documents allow us to count 329 enterprises under the jurisdiction of 27 People's Commissariats. Of greatest value are full-text publications of 66 declassified documents, all fairly voluminous, that reveal most diverse aspects of the evacuation process in office memoranda, letters requesting assistance in launching production, materials of the party and state inspections revealing difficulties of the evacuation process for both arriving and receiving side. The documents show problems that were to be faced and measures that were taken. The published documents are presented as colour scanned copies, allowing the readers to study the content of documents, as well as their other attributes: signatures, marginalia, resolutions, etc. (and even colour of the paper or formatting of the printed forms). All this transmits unique spirit of the era to the reader. The reviewed documents collection of the United State Archive of the Chelyabinsk Region is an example of passionate attitude and professionalism, it makes declassified archival materials on tragic pages of the Russian history available to researchers and wide audience and solves an urgent scientific problem by filling the gap in the historiography. At the same time it offers a qualitatively new level of understanding of problems of evacuation and shows military economy in its regional dimension.

Keywords

Historical sources, archive, evacuation of industry, Great Patriotic War of 1941–45, Ural, Chelyabinsk, Soviet rear.

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