



Dear Readers,

For the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, the victory in the Second World War was not what it was for the free world, viewing the end of the conflict from the position of victors in a just war.

The ideologues of Soviet expansionism who used a proven propaganda cliché of „social liberation” to legitimise it, added a further element to it – „liberation from fascism”. It took the place of murderous German occupation, and in reality meant conquest, annexation, violence and subjugation. This continued until the collapse of the Soviet bloc and seemed to have come to a definite end together with the existence of the USSR.

History has come full circle again: recent years have seen a resurgence of the propaganda myth of the „Great Patriotic War”. War, conquest, annexation, brutality, murder,

deportation, electoral manipulation and, ultimately – crushing the resistance of its own population by strengthening control over it, require a justification of apparent depth, much more serious than just the glorification of barefaced violence. A false image of „our glorious past” is perfectly suited for this purpose. Its impact increases where there is a lack of positive models and shows most fully how difficult it is to overcome the totalitarian past along with the mental patterns it left behind.

I invite you to read the next issue of the magazine „Institute of National Remembrance Review”, devoted to the analysis of propaganda narratives concerning the myth of the „Great Patriotic War”.

President of the Institute of National Remembrance



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