

The work presented by the student as a competition must not be published or submitted to any other similar competition. If such is found, the participant of the competition will be automatically removed from the competition.

General information about the project:

The history competition is held for the fourth time under the auspices of the Institute for International Cooperation of the Association of German Public Universities (IIVU International) and the German Körber Foundation (Körber Stiftung) and with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany in the countries of the Eastern Partnership: Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine.

Georgian Association of History Teachers (GAHT) and Soviet Past Research Laboratory (SovLab) are partners of the project on the Georgian side.

The new project, which is called: "History teaching guide-methodological recommendations for the

development of critical thinking", - is a critical study of examples of history-based propaganda in school textbooks, additional literature, history teacher training programs, development of appropriate recommendations and implementation of relevant changes in history teaching. There are thematic trainings planned for teachers as well as consultations for participant students.

The theme of this year's competition was "Faking history - a tool of propaganda". At the initial stage, a group of history teachers will be selected who, after passing thematic trainings and participating in research, will help interested students in selecting competition topics and preparing relevant papers.

The project is implemented under the patronage of Tbilisi State University (TSU) and Caucasus International University (CIU).

The project is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

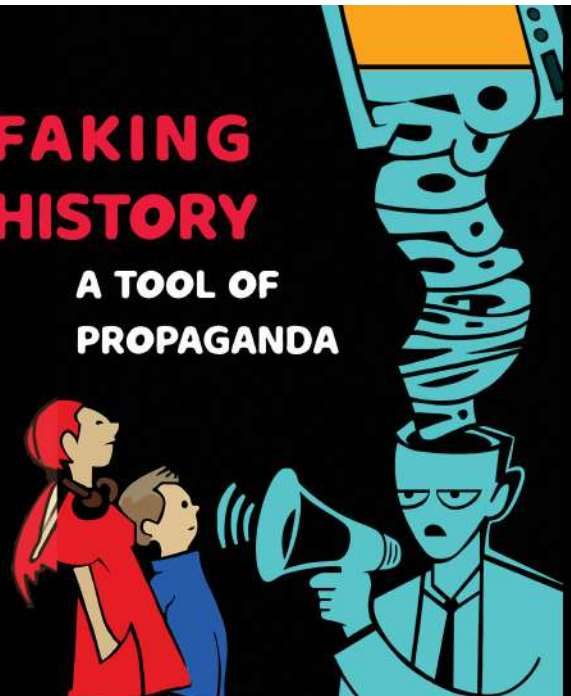


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FAKING HISTORY

A TOOL OF PROPAGANDA



"Faking history - a tool of propaganda"

concept

History, by its very nature, has rarely been free from objective or subjective influences. Falsification of history is one of the widespread methods of propaganda, during which the interested party, in order to achieve political goals, denies historical facts and revises the past. For this purpose, historical documents and statistics are falsified and unreliable sources are presented as legitimate. Manipulation of history is mostly aimed at political goals - mobilizing the public, creating an image of the enemy, demonizing the opponent, creating the illusion of strength, etc. The government, as a rule, controlled the writings and thoughts of the chroniclers, and since the author was himself, the depiction of facts and events should be acceptable and desirable to him. The falsification of history, its beautification and the interpretation of the ruling regime's ideology have been widely known since ancient times. This was true in all countries, as almost all governments sought to create a version of the past favorable to them.

As for propaganda based on history, history, at first glance, is an ordinary field of humanitarian science, which means to know and study the past, to present a picture of it as close to reality as possible. But, at the same time, history is a fierce weapon in the hands of states to realize their own political goals and strategic interests when it plays the role of ideology.

As long as politics exists, this kind of communication between the government and the target audience is constantly being formed. Propaganda should be simple to attract many people and should consistently hit the target. The goal of repetitiveness, constant bombardment of specific areas of the brain, is to convince a person, for example, to take the flag in his hands, go out into the street, or at least, fight with the neighboring states. For this

reason, the state is looking for an audience with low level of knowledge and low thinking and critical analyzing skills. Therefore, raising the quality of education is a tool that creates great problems with the threat of spreading and influencing propaganda.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the recent escalation in Karabakh and the frozen conflicts in Transnistria and Israel separatist regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, have shown the dangers of political (mis)use of history in military conflicts and reinforced the importance of school history education so that schoolchildren are protected from political manipulation and can think independently and critically.

You, the future generation of Georgia, have a chance to participate in the history contest and make a modest contribution to the fight against propaganda through the falsification of history. The aim of the current project is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of history teaching in schools. To this end, develop a regional educational guide with recommendations for a teacher training/retraining module that will support a source-based approach to teaching history. One of the main goals of the project is to study the issue of history-based political propaganda in school curricula and, based on this, to propose guidelines for working with propaganda in schools.

Do you want to discuss these difficult, but relevant and interesting issues? Then just ask your parents, grandparents, neighbors, family friends, acquaintances to share with you examples of using history for propaganda purposes. Collect them, search for information in libraries, state or family archives and take part in the history contest "Faking history - a tool of propaganda".

You have a chance to enjoy traveling to the past, making new discoveries, understanding new information. You can critically evaluate this or that historical event that has been used for propaganda purposes.

You can submit your work to the history competition and win a prize, or a chance to participate in a history camp held every year in a European country!

Terms of participation

Who can participate?

16-21-year-old pupils and students of general educational schools and higher education institutions of Georgia. The work can be presented both individually and in groups. There can be a maximum of 3 participants in a group.

In what form can the work be presented?

- Essay (1,000-5,000 words);
 - Photo collection (maximum 5 photos);
 - poster;
 - Animation/short video (5-10 minutes).
- Photo collection, poster and animation/short video must be accompanied by a description, maximum 1000 words.

In which language should the paper be presented?

The official language of the competition is Georgian. However, papers can also be sent in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages. The organizers provide the translation themselves.

From which websites can the application form be downloaded?

- <https://historycompetitions.ge/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCompetitionInGeorgia/>

<http://www.dvv-international.ge/georgia/profile/>

<http://soviab.ge/ka>

<https://www.facebook.com/georgian-Association-of-History-Educators-290228457853388/>

How and in what form can the work be sent? What is the deadline?

The work should be sent along with the attached application form to our web portal: <https://historycompetitions.ge/>

The paper can also be sent by post to the following address: Georgian office of DVV International, Kipshidze Street N 20, flat. 3.

The deadline for sending papers is May 15, 2024, midnight.

The winning papers will be published in the collection.

In case of additional questions, contact us on the Facebook page of the project:

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoryCompetitionInGeorgia/>

If plagiarism is detected, the participant will be removed from the competition. The organizers of the contest reserve the right, in case of high public interest, to publicly distribute information about it!