

Third all-Ukrainian History Competition of School Students Research Papers "On the Tracks of History"

“20th Century. The Fate of the Individual” 2001 / 2002

Report

The number of research papers: 705

The number of participants: 1137

The competition was carried out by All-Ukrainian Association of Teachers of History, Civic Education and Social Studies "Nova Doba" with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and financial assistance of the Körber-Stiftung, Germany.

All the research papers were examined in two stages:

In the first stage two people conducted the check-up – one history teacher and one history scholar. On examining some part of the papers they compared their results and decided on the best papers for the second stage of the assessment.

The final choice about the winning papers was made on April 20, 2002 by the Assessment Board consisting of prominent Ukrainian history scholars, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and members of the Association "Nova Doba" from all over the Ukraine. The work of the Board was directed by the head of the Curatorial Committee of the competition "On the Tracks of History", the president of History Institute of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences of Ukraine, Doctor Stanislaw Kulchytskyi.

Prize-winners of the Third All-Ukrainian Competition of School Student Research Papers "On the Tracks of History" were determined as the result of the Board's work (Protocol № 4, April 20, 2002).

1st prize - 3

2nd prize – 6

3rd prize – 10 + 1

4th prize – 20

The Assessment Board determined the peculiarities of the competition "20th Century. The Fate of the Individual" on the basis of the results and the analysis of the school student research papers:

1. The distinctive feature of many competition papers was that students tried to find the object for their research in the most recent history. For example the fate

- of the individual in the Afghan war, the Chernobyl tragedy, post-Soviet syndrome etc. This to a great extent proves the independence of such school student research papers and the students' sense of the historical process.
2. Students actively used oral sources while preparing their historical research.
 3. The analysis of historical materials was, in most cases, made not on the basis of conformational ideas or traditional viewpoints but rather on the contrary – the objective analysis of the collected historical sources was the basis of personal conclusions.
 4. There was a wide description of facts of everyday history in the competition papers which is new and interesting for Ukrainian historiography.
 5. The archival documents used in the papers were of private origin. The archival base of student research was not that wide because there is no permission for school students to work in State archives.
 6. The distinctive feature of almost every paper was the emotive charge. Though the academic discipline as a rule considers it the subjective aspect of the research process of historical facts, it is very difficult for young people to analyse and describe harsh moments of history with strict academic phrases.

The youth Conference and the Award Ceremony of the Competition winners and their supervisors is planned for September 27-28, 2002 in Lviv.

Pedro Kendzor
Competition co-ordinator