



Viktor Krieger: *Secret Criminal Proceedings Against the Last Volga German Government During the Years 1944-46*. Lincoln: American Historical Society of Germans From Russia 2005, 45 s., Spiralbindung, Schutzdeckel, A4 Format. *In Englisch*. Zum ersten Mal werden Umstände, Verlauf und Ergebnisse des geheimen Strafprozesses gegen die Führung der Wolgadeutschen Republik untersucht. Es handelte sich um 7 hochrangige Partei-, Staats- und Wirtschaftsfunktionäre, die sich im Zwangsarbeitslager Bogoslovlag, Gebiet Sverdlovsk befanden. Sie wurden beschuldigt, ein „Führungszentrum“ der konterrevolutionären Organisation auf den Territorium der Wolgarepublik gebildet und einen bewaffneten Aufstand vorbereitet zu haben. Die Ausführung stützt sich auf die Auswertung der erst unlängst freigegebenen Ermittlungsunterlagen. Ein Kapitel ist der juristischen Rehabilitierung in den späteren 1950er Jahren gewidmet. Mit biographischen Skizzen über die angeklagten Personen, S. 30-34. Fotos und Dokumentenabdrucke, S. 35-45

Auszug (Seite 7):

2. Criminal Prosecution of the Volga German Leadership

Among the hundreds of criminal proceedings against German forced laborers during the war and during post-war years, one of the most important ones is doubtlessly the one against former leading functionaries of the ASSR of Volga Germans. Particularly, we are

dealing with the following personalities, who served their forced labor stints in the Bogoslovlag:

- **Alexander Heckmann**, Chairman (1938 – 1941) of the Council of People's Commissars (*Sovet Narodnykh Komissarov – Sovnarkom* or SNK), i.e., unofficially dubbed the premier; three times deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, of the RSFSR and the ASSRdWD.
- **Heinrich Korbmacher**, Third Secretary (1938 – 1941) of the Provincial Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) [*Vsesoiuznaia Kommunisticheskaia Partiiia (bol'shevikov) – VKP (b)*] and deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Volga German Republic.
- **Friedrich Fritzler**, People's Commissar (Minister) of Agriculture (1938 – 1941), and deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the German Republic.
- **Johannes Maier**, People's Commissar of Finance (1937 – 1941) of the ASSRdWD.
- **Jakob Weilert**, Second deputy chairman of the SNK (1938 – 1941) of the German Republic.
- **Wladimir Hergert**, Administrative Secretary (1939 – 1941) of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the ASSRdWD.
- **Robert Grosch**, Chairman (1940 – 1941) of the Industry Council of the Volga German Republic.

These men were all accused by the secret police of activities hostile to the State. The most serious accusation was that of leading anti-Soviet counter-revolutionary organizations within the former Volga German Republic and maintaining contact with the German *Wehrmacht*, plus having planned an insurrection behind the backs of the Red Army. The package of materials resulting from the investigation include in several volumes thousands of pages. [This refers to a 5-volume investigation file covering the four accused first. This can be found in the State Archive of the Administrative Organs of the Sverdlovsk Region (*Gosudarstvennyi Arkhiv Administrativnykh Organov Sverdlovskoi Oblasti – GAAOSO*), f. 1, op. 2, d. 28234, volumes (toma) 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4 (criminal case A. Heckmann, H. Korbmacher, F. Fritzler and J. Maier). Information provided by the last three accused can be found in a separate proceedings, within the same archive: GAAOSO, f. 1, op. 2, d. 17207, toma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (criminal case Adolf Dehning, W. Hergert, R. Grosch and seventeen other persons)] First to be arrested, on April 24, 1944, was Heinrich Korbmacher. For several weeks he denied all accusations rigorously. Two years later, while in a Moscow prison, he described the continuation of the proceedings as follows: