

## Collaborations during the WWII

Age: 15-16 years

During the Second World War there was a phenomenon which is called “collaboration”. Up to nowadays this topic is still problematic, because there are different and often opposite opinions regarding the forms, reasons and participants of collaboration. So it testifies the ambiguity and contradictory of the War time reality. This phenomenon existed in all countries which were involved in the WWII.

Collaboration, however varied it may be in its forms and motivations, always amounted to support for Nazi Germany, at the very least in terms of the management of the war. In 1968, the historian Stanley Hoffmann distinguished two forms of collaboration: “state collaboration”, which can be voluntary or involuntary and which aims to maintain public order and economic life, and “collaborationism”, which is intentional and individual, motivated by conviction or ideological agreement.

The phenomenon of collaboration could have several types of reasons or even combination of them:

(1) Political: One of the impact reasons of collaboration was a discontent of the prevailing political regime. Such actions looked like an alternative and a chance to change the situation.

(2) Ideological: The real propensity to the ideology or a part of ideology of the Nazi regime.

(3) Private economic interests: Some people have seen in collaboration the only way to improve their social conditions.

(4) Pressure and force: In some cases there was no other opportunity for people to save their own lives and the lives of their relatives.

Further are given several cases of collaboration in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine:

Russian Liberation army (Russkaya osvoboditel'naya armiya, ROA, so called Vlasov army): The ROA was organized by former Red Army general Andrey Vlasov, who agreed to collaborate with Nazi Germany after having been captured on the Eastern Front. The soldiers were mostly former Soviet prisoners of war but also included White Russian émigrés, some of whom were veterans of the anti-communist White Army from the Russian Civil War. Vlasov didn't shared Nazi Germany ideology but used collaboration as an instrument to fight Bolshevism. The size of the corps counted 125,000 people.

Belarusian Home Defence (Bielaruskaja Krajovaja Abarona, BKA): The BKA was the name of the collaborationist volunteer battalions formed by the Belarusian Central Council (1943-1944), a pro-Nazi Belarusian self-government during World War II. The BKA operated from February 23, 1944 to April 28, 1945. The 20,000 strong Belarusian Home Defence Force was formed under the leadership of Commissioner-General Curt von Gottberg, with logistical help from the Germans.

Ukrainian Liberation Army (Ukrayins'ke Vyzvol'ne Viys'ko, UVV): The UVV was formed by the German Army in 1943 to collect the Ukrainian volunteer units that came into being during World War II. It was composed of former Ukrainian volunteers (so called Hiwis), Ostbataillon, and other Soviet prisoners of war (POWs). Headed by Ukrainian general Mykhailo Omelianovych-Pavlenko, the unit grew to the size of 50,000 by 1944 and peaked at some 80,000 towards the end of the war.

“From the point of view of historical science, it is almost impossible to accurately and unambiguously assess the phenomenon of collaborationism. The historian should soberly and as objectively as possible analyze every real case of cooperation of a specific person with the Germans during the war years, identifying the conditions that pushed him to such a difficult step.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://history.wikireading.ru/165214>



French collaborators.

“In November 2003, a representative scientific conference devoted to the study of the phenomenon of collaborationism in European countries was held in the town of Lüneburg (Germany). In his speech, one of the organizers of the conference, Dr. Joachim Tauber, noted that collaborators - in the historical sense, this is always the losing side. And indeed, if we condemn collaborators and use this word, putting negative content into it, we thereby state the fact that they were in the camp of those who were defeated. For otherwise, if they were in the camp of the winners, then we would define them differently today, and the story itself would turn to them the other side.”<sup>3</sup>

Questions:

- 1) What do people mean if they talk about collaboration?
- 2) What were the reasons of collaboration? What reasons which weren't mentioned above may have existed in real life?
- 3) Why the phenomenon of collaborationism is evaluated until nowadays in contradictory ways?
- 4) Suppose what forms of collaboration may have existed?
- 5) How the phenomenon of collaboration could have been estimated by Soviet government and why?

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.google.by/search?q=collaboration+in+ww2&tbn=isch&tbs=rimg:CZabRDmw7yyhIjVvKZR3ErmKsRD0Q9v-GhjHnNMBm161HnlyXVxSkYX4FdIntQHINDb-GQCoe0QQpXvqafTPlyol-ioSCZWRIHcSuYqxEXIR0YAQ1bH1KhIJEPD2\\_14aGMcRxCnLMPPr2kOUqEgmc0wGbxrUeerHtTeHIYRekGCoSCXJdXFKRhfgVEU\\_1HSemC7tGLKhIJ2We1Acg0Nv4RJlx3tBLHsjkqEgkZAKh7RBClexFWtuWR78qslCoSCepp9M8jKiX6ESZcd7QsX7I5&tbo=u&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiE4fyDjufeAhXFk4sKHRBuCZMQ9C96BAGBEBs&biw=1284&bih=657&dpr=1#imgsrc=cl1cUpGF-BVGnM:](https://www.google.by/search?q=collaboration+in+ww2&tbn=isch&tbs=rimg:CZabRDmw7yyhIjVvKZR3ErmKsRD0Q9v-GhjHnNMBm161HnlyXVxSkYX4FdIntQHINDb-GQCoe0QQpXvqafTPlyol-ioSCZWRIHcSuYqxEXIR0YAQ1bH1KhIJEPD2_14aGMcRxCnLMPPr2kOUqEgmc0wGbxrUeerHtTeHIYRekGCoSCXJdXFKRhfgVEU_1HSemC7tGLKhIJ2We1Acg0Nv4RJlx3tBLHsjkqEgkZAKh7RBClexFWtuWR78qslCoSCepp9M8jKiX6ESZcd7QsX7I5&tbo=u&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiE4fyDjufeAhXFk4sKHRBuCZMQ9C96BAGBEBs&biw=1284&bih=657&dpr=1#imgsrc=cl1cUpGF-BVGnM:)

<sup>3</sup> <https://history.wikireading.ru/165214>