This article examines the development of soldierly masculinities in the Red Army in 1942-1943. The period served as a critical juncture between initial crisis and fully mobilized national war effort, in which rhetoric, identity, and experience had yet to adapt to the reality of total war. By comparing individual soldiers’ writings and Soviet media sources, this article argues that the interaction of soldierly and official masculine norms that shaped their evolution over the course of the war. The article focuses on how individuals developed a masculine subjectivity that responded to links with home, frontline experiences, and official discourse as their senses of self evolved in wartime. Studying masculine subjectivity in the seemingly stifling context of Stalinism at war reveals the important role masculinity played in the legitimating and contesting of power that replaced direct challenges to political or military authority. Such a study of masculinity in the Stalinist context likewise affirms the larger theoretical and methodological value of focusing on the reception and adaptation of masculine discourses alongside their production.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Russian history, masculinity, subjectivity, discourse, Red Army, World War II

Kaynakça

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EndNote

ISNAD

Tam Metin (1.042)
In August 1942 the German VI Army had pushed all the way to the banks of the Volga River, near the industrial heartland of the USSR. The carnage of the Battle of Stalingrad finally came to an end in February 1943, when the German Sixth Army Commander, Gen. Friedrich Paulus, surrendered the remaining ninety thousand troops of his army to the Soviet Forces. In June 1942, Nazi Germany was looking forward to victory.