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Abstracts

JÖRG SENF, «Der Menschheit die Augen geöffnet». Die sprachlich-diskursive Darstellung des faschistischen Regimes im Völkischen Beobachter Ende August 1941

This paper investigates on how Italian Fascism, and its main representative Mussolini, was portrayed during the war from the perspective of the Axis ally Germany. For this purpose, newspaper articles are examined from a text-analytical, style-analytical and discourse-analytical point of view.

Research in the contemporary press revealed one particular media event - Hitler's encounter with Mussolini at the end of August 1941 in Russia - to be discoursivized by the Völkischer Beobachter, organ of the NSDAP, in three articles: a preparatory press notice about Italian troops in Russia, an official government communication about the meeting, and a concluding comment.

As main result of the analysis emerged, beyond the nazi-specific hyperbolic style (celebration of «comradeship»), a position different from the earlier assumed «parallel marching» of Germany and Italy. Mussolini's fascist regime is now seen as an ally certainly welcome in Hitler's war for the «new European order», but expressively under German command. Italy is referred to with a certain discursive distance, focusing on extra-intentional «affinity of fate» and, essentially, on former merits of having «opened men's eyes».

Keywords:

Italian Fascism

German Press

Hitler's encounter with Mussolini at the end of August 1941 in Russia