

## Review

### ***Of occupation/annexation and sovietisation of Lithuania, an essay by Dr. Algirdas Jakubčionis***

The essay is actually comprised of two principal sections that reveal preparation for occupation in the first half-year of 1940 (aggressive foreign policy and military training), and arrangement of conditions for annexation and initial sovietisation. The author does not stress the notion imposed in the Lithuanian historiography section that preparation for occupation started in August 1939 after the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop secret protocols, and the military training – in October 1939 once Lithuania and the Soviet Union executed the mutual assistance agreement. In the author's opinion, the state organization was ultimately terminated after the People's Seimas had passed its resolutions and the process of annexation was concluded in Moscow, when the Soviet Union pronounced Lithuania's accession into the USSR.

The author has revealed and assessed a variety of approaches towards occupation and annexation of Lithuania: from the peaceful socialist revolution approach to that claiming that in 1940 Lithuania was invaded, annexed, and illegally incorporated into the USSR.

The author admits correctly that in the second half-year of 1939, the USSR created international grounds for occupation of the Baltic Countries. The author makes an assumption that the plan of occupation of the Baltic Countries might have been adopted in February 1940, and implementation of the military plan to occupy Lithuania started in spring 1940. The military invasion to Lithuania was segregated into three stages: aggression by military bands, attack on Lithuania from Byelorussia (the military operation was replaced by an entry of troops into the country), and provocations by the Lithuanian border.

The author further assumes that the complex situation in Lithuania was first of all exploited by the opposition forces to replace the Government and that even the ultimatum was seen by the opposition as a possibility to annihilate A.Smetona's regime rather than the impending doom of the country. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union employed a situation like that to its advantage, escalated the tension, divided the political elite of Lithuania, and started the occupation.

Referring to archive and memoir resources, the author claims that it was only when a new government was set up and J.Paleckis was elected president that the destruction of the political and social structures of Lithuania, restriction of the people's rights, and liquidation of the course of living really started. However, the author sees that ultimately the state structure of Lithuania was destroyed for inside reasons (no civil society), as well for brutal fraud to enforce the occupation and the LCP actions directed against the state and the interests of the population: the LCP acted as the key executor of the Soviet Union plans.

In his essay based on a selection of principal documents (a total of 34 documents as supplied in the annexes), the author has virtually revealed the reasons for occupation and annexation of Lithuania. What is missing is the finalization of the annexation

procedure – official registration of the accession to the USSR (authorized delegation and its creation, the declaration and the signing thereof), and transformation of the People's Seimas into the Supreme Council.

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