

By Associate Professor of Vilnius University Dr. Algis Kasperavičius

**Review of Conclusions by Associate Professor Dr. Algirdas Jakubčionis on
Occupation, Annexation and Sovietisation of Lithuania**

The work under consideration discusses a relevant and broad topic, which is interesting not only to historical researchers, but also to a significant proportion of the Lithuanian public. The author did not aim to produce a comprehensive and detailed presentation of the problem; instead, he presented a certain conspectus – carefully thought-over and weighted conclusions. They are supported with extensively quoted documentary sources, memories by contemporaries and historical research. A certain portion of official and semi-official documents, newspaper information of 1940 and memories are enumerated in the diligently compiled annexes. In my opinion, the work by Associate Professor Dr. Algirdas Jakubčionis could be a relevant chapter in the manual of Lithuanian history of modern times, i.e. it could be incorporated into a history manual without practically any amendments. The text is unambiguous, conclusions are justified, in cases where facts have not been established beyond a reasonable doubt the author presents a list of possible options. For example, page 18 On Participation of Lithuanian Inhabitants in the Election of the “People’s Seimas” on 14-15 July 1940. It is maintained that the author does distinguish between the concepts of annexation and occupation, which for the reasons of conjuncture some contemporary politicians get mixed, to be more precise, they avoid using the concept of annexation, and refer only to “occupation”. The work is well structured it contains practically no misspellings. However, certain statements raising doubt should be brought into attention. E.g. in pages 4 and 5 we read: “in the eyes of democratic countries Lithuania has become a country connected with the Soviet Union”, “the attention of democratic countries was concentrated on France”, however, in both cases the reference was not only to the democratic countries, except, of course, the USSR. Page 10: term “for a few days” is unsuitable, while in page 19: “after a few days”. Page 15: it should be made clear which constitution is being referred to, page 16: the statement that on 1 July 1940 J. Paleckis was a member of the CC of LCP is doubtful. Quoted inaccuracies are minor; they could be amended on the spot. I would like to bring forward a problem, which is slightly more controversial. In the annexes which

are all referred to as “Documents” (which is not altogether the case), speaking about the recollections of witnesses No 24 and No 25 that were publicised in Volume III of the Lithuanian Archive prepared by Nazi collaborators, they sound very prejudiced: it looks as though all voters came to vote driven by fear, except for Jews “ Jews, who simply drew people to vote” etc. The said memories exaggerate a conscious unwillingness of Lithuanians to vote and a visible hostility towards Jews, which (of that intensity) could hardly exist in mid-July of 1940. Hardly reliable also seem evidences supplied by Liudas Dovydėnas who changed his coat several times, and found in Annex 25. Without doubt, the latter comments do not oblige the author to delete such recollections, however, this should probably be worthwhile considering.

Anyway, all comments do not change a positive assessment of conclusions by Associate Professor Dr. Algirdas Jakubčionis, the benefits of his work are not subject to doubt.

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