

**RIBBENTROP-MOLOTOV PACT AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS ON  
LITHUANIA  
CONCLUSIONS**

Approved on 22 March 2001

1. After the Red Army marches westward failed in 1918-1920, Soviet Russia temporarily stopped its territorial expansion, without, however, withdrawing its claims to the states founded and re-established after the World War I on the fringers of the Russian Empire. The appearance and existence of Lithuania and other small Baltic States was generally interpreted by the USSR as an aftermath of its temporary military-political weakness.
2. Nazi Germany, in fact, rejected the results of the Versailles Peace Conference and tried to undermine the political system in Europe by making territorial claims to neighbouring countries. Pursuing its revisionist goals, Germany cut off the Klaipėda region from Lithuania on March 23, 1939.
3. On 23 August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union concluded a Non-Aggression Treaty. The Treaty was accompanied by a secret additional protocol laying down the boundary of the respective spheres of influence in Eastern Europe: Latvia, Estonia and Finland went to the USSR, while Lithuania was “relegated” to the German zone of influence under the terms of supplementary Germany – Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty signed on 28 September 1939, Lithuania was transferred to the Soviet sphere of influence. This led to the occupation of Lithuania and its forceful incorporation into the Soviet Union, i.e. the final downfall of the statehood of Lithuania, in 1940.
4. Under the conditions of political blackmail and threats to resort to military force, the Lithuania-Soviet Union Mutual Assistance Agreement concerning the Transfer of Vilnius and Vilnius Region to the Republic of Lithuania was concluded on 10 October 1939 in Moscow. It entitled the Soviet Union to deploy its military garrisons, a contingent of 20,000 men, in Lithuania. The Republic of Lithuania, like its northern neighbours, italis lost its neutrality and independence in foreign policy.

5. Making use of a particularly delicate international situation in Europe, employing its military bases in the Baltic States and brutal political-military blackmail, the Soviet Union occupied Lithuania on 15 June 1940. Soon after, the Soviet Union annexed Lithuania on 3 August 1940 by holding unlawful elections to the so – called People’s Parliament (Seimas) and rigging the results thereof.
  
6. The occupation and annexation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union constituted a gross violation of the principles of the international law and Soviet international obligations. These acts also breached the following bilateral agreements signed with the Republic of Lithuania:
  - a) The Lithuanian-Russian Peace Treaty of 12 July 1920, according to which the Soviet Union “forever” relinquished sovereignty rights to Lithuania;
  - b) The Lithuanian-Soviet Union Agreement on Non-Aggression and Neutrality of 28 September 1926, provided to remain in force by 31 December 1945;
  - c) The Convention for the Definition of Aggression of 5 July 1933, prohibiting any type of aggression or attack in principle;
  - d) The Mutual Assistance Agreement between Lithuania and the Soviet Union concerning Transfer of Vilnius and Vilnius Region to the Republic of Lithuania of 10 October 1939, Article 7 thereof stipulates: “The implementation of this Agreement shall in no way interfere with the sovereign rights of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, especially with their constitutional, economic and social system, military measures, and in general, with the rule of non-interference with domestic affairs.”

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