

The review of the article *The Role of the Repressive Structures of the Soviet Union and its Local Divisions and Collaborators in the Crimes of 1944 – 1953* by I. Petravičiūtė

A few general remarks about the article. I think there are too many publicist phrases in the article; it could be “dryer”.

I think it is too much stressed that the terror could be not that absolute and brutal, if more Lithuanians would have worked in the repressive structures. Most often it was vice versa, i.e. not having secure rear and wanting to prove their loyalty, local hangers-on of the occupants often overdid.

It is obvious that conclusions are formed using the sentences that make up the body. It is not allowed to give in the conclusions anything that does not result from the data provided in the body; however, it is more pleasant to read the same facts expressed in different, more succinct sentences.

I have the following remarks about separate propositions and expressions: I do not understand why it is written at the beginning of the 1st page (I have numbered the pages myself) *Conclusions*, although the conclusions are given at the end. A chapter in the same page is named *The Prerequisites of the Reoccupation of Lithuania*; however, these prerequisites were very complicated and most of them were determined by the situation of the Second World War. The chekists in that situation were just a particular force, not the main at that time, and, to my belief, this part of this chapter should be excluded.

The previously mentioned chapter at the end of the 2nd page ends by the phrase “...as lawful institutions for the country’s administration”. I think that the word “lawful” has to be eliminated because this term most often is used when an institution is elected or appointed by a set procedure.

It is written in the same page that in 1953 MVD and MGB were unified “in order to concentrate the repressive structures in the same hands”. The main aim of this unification, however, was to make the above-mentioned structures completely controlled by the Communist Party, or, to be precise, by the Politbureau of Central Committee.

I think that in the last paragraph of the chapter *Repressive Structures in the Post-war Lithuania*, which is in the 3rd page, it would be better to write that despite certain disagreements, work of both commissariats (ministries) was coordinated by a certain person. Further (separating the sentence): “The significance of both institutions in the repressions executed in several years was not equal”.

In the same page instead the “Smetona’s order” I would write, “At the same time most part of Lithuanians who lived in Independent Lithuania...” Not all people liked the Smetona’s regime, however, even those who did not like it defended the independence in one way or another.

The last sentence of the chapter in the 6th page should be “...instead of the liquidated district and community divisions and operational stations were established”.

I would expunge the words “the ministry of fear” that are in the same page at the beginning of the new chapter, because they were already used. In general, I would write the first sentence as, “The system of internal affairs – NKVD (MVD) until 1947 was the power apparatus used by the state mostly for physic repressions, because until that year the internal army and the border service belonged to it (the latter until 1949)”.

The things that are written about 2N bureau in page 7 should be written in the chapter about MGB. It is also necessary to explain the phrase “radio games”, because people who are not experts in this sphere will not understand it.

In the same page it goes “...transformed to the fight against the supporters of the independence of Lithuania ...”; the sentence should be supplemented by the phrase “and dissentients in general”, because, let’s say, the so-called revisionists were aiming at the transformation of the Soviet Union and not at the independence.

In the same page it should be written not “the prisons of Lithuania” but “the prisons located (or established) in Lithuania”, because they did not have any relation to the state of Lithuania, which did not exist at that time.

It is written in the page 8 that there were five prison camps but only four are listed in parenthesis.

In the same page at the end of the chapter it is written that MVD divisions were not established when the districts were established. I think that it should be added, “they were replaced by the divisions of militia”.

In the same page, in another chapter there is a sentence that goes “...communists who have the experience in chekist work”. I think it should be corrected by adding “mostly communists” because 5-7% of chekists were not members of the Communist Party.

Kobulov is B. (Bogdan) and not A.

At the end of a chapter in page 9, I think it should be written not “in the party and state apparatus” but “in the party and governing apparatus”, because the republics of the union were not states.

In the new chapter in the same page I think the sentence “After it until 1953 Lithuanians were not allowed to head this institution” should be expunged. First, among Lithuanian communists at that time there was not a single chekist of the necessary level who could be suitable for the position of peoples commissar (minister) (maybe only A. Guzevičius suited); second, from the above quoted sentence it seems as if a Lithuanian in this position would have been better than a Russian.

The first sentence of the second paragraph in page 9 I would write as: “Russians constituted the majority not only among the commanding employees but also in the whole MGB apparatus”.

I think that the last sentence of this chapter is not good; it is formed so that it seems that Lithuanians were straining after the work in MGB apparatus. This was not so – party committees of the oblasts were not constantly executing both directing to MGB school and directing to operational work.

At the end of the first paragraph in page 11, I think it should be written “denationalized Minister of Internal Affairs, J. Bartašiūnas”, because he was related to Lithuania only by his Lithuanian origin.

The sentences of the new chapter in page 12 I would rewrite in the following way: “A very important role in the repressive system was played by the system of global observation of NKVD (MVD) and NKGB (MGB). The reports of the agents were the basis on which any person could be included in the “operational records” and constantly spied upon. The persons who were included in these records on other basis (e.g. after reviews of the archives of the forbidden organizations) also were spied upon by the agents”. After “...Social layers of Lithuania” I would put a full stop. Further I would write: “The global spying made the prerequisite for the collaboration of part of the society”.