

**VPU Prof. Liudas Truska. The review of the presentation *The Disruption of Cultural Life and the Expropriation of Property* by Linas Jašinauskas**

First, I want to note that the title is imprecise. It should be ‘the plunder of cultural valuables’ and not ‘the expropriation of property’. However, it is not Jašinauskas’ fault: the commission formulated the title.

The historiography part of the presentation may give an impression that a lot has been written already about the state of Lithuanian culture during the Hitler occupation and that the topic is considerably well analysed; it is not true. The author needlessly included a number of articles having no scientific value and populist in their nature in the historiography part.

While preparing the presentation, Jašinauskas used a wide selection of sources: announced documents, legal acts, statistical data, periodicals of those times, and especially archival materials. The author used not only manuscripts of the Lithuanian Central State Archive, the Kaunas Archive, Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences but also the files from the fund of the Reich Ministry for the Eastern Occupied Territories kept in Riga. Jašinauskas has good knowledge of works by researchers of the period of Nazi occupation and uses them in appropriate places. However, memoirs are ignored; let us say the book by the minister for finances of the Temporary Government and later the adviser General for Finances, Jonas Matulionis, *Neramios Dienos* (Troubled Days).

The author of the presentation has properly analysed cultural policy of the occupational German authorities in Lithuania and the development of separate spheres of culture in 1941–1944. Jašinauskas discloses a peculiar phenomenon of the cultural life during the occupational period. In those days, when periodicals, book publishing, theatres and museums went down, the education was almost thriving: the number of schools, teachers and pupils was increasing, even surpassing indicators of the last independence years. While comparing the indicators of both periods, it must be remembered that the number of citizens considerably decreased in 1941–1944.

The presenter attempts to disclose the reasons of this education “boom”. I think that the most important reason was the collaboration of the most part of the Lithuanian elite and the lack of active Lithuanian resistance. Therefore, Nazis provided Lithuanians with temporary concessions, especially in the sphere of education.

In general, Jašinauskas answered the most important questions of the topic. Minor inaccuracies and imprecise phrasings happen in the presentation. I have informed the presenter about these inaccuracies verbally.

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