

Professor Wolfgang Benz

Review of the essay by Liudas Truska

**Spread of Antisemitism in Lithuania During the Years of Soviet Occupation  
(1940-1941)**

The study by Liudas Truska is a very detailed and very well supported with documents essay that carries out a debated with the common negative resolution that has been brought from generation to generation up to this day. As much as possible the author tries to examine the roots of this resolution, analyses its origins and seeks explanation of the Lithuanian animosity towards Jews.

The situation and fate of the Lithuanian Jews can be compared to their situation and fate during the summer of 1941 in Latvia and Estonia as well as in Bukovina and Besarabia, where they were accused of collaboration with occupation authorities, too. Denunciation of being communists was prima facie evidence of guilt and called for response with nationalist anger and antipathy. The particular value of the essay by L. Truska is that he has analysed and denied individual claims. This research conforms to the state-of-the-art research level, is based on detailed resource material, and has exhausted literature resources to the fullest.

The conclusions are just as convincing as separate arguments. All the author has to do is to agree that the reprimands by Lithuanian nationalists towards Jews had no solid base and that they had issued no proclamations urging directly to start pogroms and killings or that there are no resources to support it. Another credible statement is made about the moral crisis of the Lithuanian nation, when during the retreat of the Soviet troops the Jewish minority was made scapegoat. A situation like that could be easily employed by the German occupants, which was, with all the notorious results, just the case in Lithuania.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benz

Antisemitism Research Centre,  
Berlin University of Technology

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