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Review of the conclusions by Stasys Knezys, he System of Criminal Occupational Policy – The Role of Military Structures and Collaboration with Them

The author presents the conclusions in over ten parts. The introduction to the Lithuanian Army and its situation till the Soviet occupation serves as a preface. Knezys also briefly discusses the Soviet garrisons that were based in Lithuania and the deployment of additional troops on 15 June 1940. The work is distinguished from the outset for laconic statements and their motivated presentation by basing them on the facts. From the methodical aspect, when the author either discusses the documents attached in the annexes or makes a reference to them in the text, the conclusions also correspond to the requirements.

Knezys starts the conclusions with a statement on the neutralisation of the Lithuanian Army that is based on:

1. the transferring to the reserve of officers considered unreliable by the new regime;
2. the replacing of commanders;
3. the establishing of political control;
4. the gradual handing over of the leadership to the Soviet officers. All the statements made by Knezys are validated by figures and documents. The distinguishing feature of the next chapter is the analysis of moral coercion carried out by the Soviets in the Lithuanian Army, pioneered by Knezys. The coercion manifested itself by making the soldiers obey the orders of the occupants against their own beliefs and coercing the officers to sign acts of re-certification in which they made a pledge of loyalty to the new regime.

In the next chapter Knezys discusses in detail the incorporation of the Lithuanian Army into the Red Army by referring to the sources. Simultaneously the author reveals the liquidation of the army, the activities of the liquidation commission and the liquidation of the army assets. Knezys notes an important fact that the Lithuanian Army lost assets worth a minimum of 240 million litas of those times. Thus, it may be said that the first part of the conclusions comprises the forcible reformation of the Lithuanian Army and its incorporation into the Red Army, and the liquidation of its assets. In the second part the author discloses the activities of repressive structures in the 29th territorial riflemen corps. Knezys discusses in a chronological order the formation of the NKVD Special Department, as well as its workers and the goals the department was to reach. The author analyses the formation of agency network, the national composition of the network, the leadership of the corps and the compiling of the list of suspects. The section on the activities of the Military Tribunal, the Military Prosecutor's Office and the Special Assembly is of considerable value. The author presents more accurate, as well as new data on the number of the repressed till June 1941, the June arrests and the further fate of the officers. Finally, Knezys discusses the soldiers' attempts to return home and remain in Lithuania as the war starts in Lithuania.

The resume made at the end of the conclusions is a very successful piece of the work making the text more concrete and clear and well-structured, which allows for a better understanding of the material.

The literature list attached at the end is exhaustive.

The documents attached are presented in 53 annexes. Each of the sources they contain reflects crucial facts on the elimination of the Lithuanian Army and the essence of establishing of the Soviet system. The annexes are connected to the text, which adds to their value. In addition, they illustrate the text and may serve as a separate material for the studies or for learning the fate of the Lithuanian Army. The last annexes, containing the calculations on the losses incurred by the Lithuanian Army in 1940 made by the Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1996, are of especially big value.

Conclusions drawn by Knezys, meeting the entire requirements, is a valuable study. In my opinion, it may be published as a separate work.

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Nov. 07 2000