

Review on the Study by Mindaugas Pocius “ Suppression of the Anti-SovietResistance in 1944-1953: the use of illegal suppressive measures and its aftermath (conclusions)”

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The entitling of the Part I of the Conclusions is a kind of ambiguous. It may seem suggesting there were some legal measures the soviet repressive institutions used, as opposed to the illegal ones, to suppress the resistance. It is a mistake. Any such measures applied in Lithuania were illegal, as any nation has rights to resist. Therefore, the author should have revealed all the measures and techniques employed by the soviets, or only those that were illegal to his opinion. It is not made clear whether all the measures were applied at once, since the very beginning, or they gradually developed with new ones being introduced from time to time. It would be good to note, whether the application of these measures discontinued in 1953, or not. It is only the analysis of the clandestine shock troops that falls within a chronological framework.

The work reveals no historical sources. The conclusions are divided by the author into the introduction, the three parts and the summary. The introduction provides an exhaustive list of the subjects that would not be covered. The author has chosen to cover only three measures out of the thirteen listed. The rest would seemingly be covered in the Part II of the Conclusions by a different author (The Actions of Military and Paramilitary Units in Suppressing the Armed Anti-Soviet Resistance).

The text lacks a balance. On one hand, the torture and the damaging of the dead bodies of the armed resistance members is covered, while on the other hand, there is a lack of analysis, presentation of regional differences, whether they existed or not. The view disclosed should have been more detailed, based on particular facts.

The most valuable part of the works is the copies of the documents annexed to it. The documentation supplements the conclusions and make them more versatile. The documentation facilitates the understanding of the functioning of the soviet repressive machine in suppressing the resistance of a nation. The documentation may serve as an independent material as well.