

**Review by Vytautas the Great University Professor Liudas Truska of the work by
Stasys Knezys,
The System of Criminal Occupational Policy – The Role of Military Structures
and Collaboration with them**

Knezys has researched thoroughly the literary and especially the archive sources and presented a qualified analysis of the Lithuanian Army liquidation during the first Soviet period (1940-1941). At the same time, the work is a notable contribution into the history of the Lithuanian Army.

Another matter is the extent to which the content of the work corresponds to its title. To my mind, the subject asks for a analysis of the activities of the USSR NKVD – NKGB institutions in the occupied Lithuania, as well as of the collaboration of the locals with them (getting employed in those institutions, becoming agents and informants). Certainly, the NKVD – NKGB undoubtedly paid special attention to the armed forces of the Republic of Lithuania, and Knezys writes exactly about that.

The statement by Knezys that the Lithuanian government was not intending to resist the occupation in June 1940 (p. 2) is basically well-founded, however, I should still think that the decision adopted by the Defence Council in May 1940 on military resistance to the possible USSR aggression (see Galva G. Ernestas Galvanauskas, Chicago 1982, p. 403-404; Musteikis, Fragments of Recollections, Vilnius, 1989, p. 46) should not be totally ignored.

Knezys makes a thorough and argumentative analysis of all the stages of Lithuanian Army liquidation, starting with the dismissing from service of high commanders and then passing to that of lower-rank officers, the establishing of political control in the army, the handing-over of the leadership in the army to the Moscow henchmen, the disbanding of the Homeguard Union, the establishing of political-repressive structures in the army, the moral compulsion exerted on the soldiers, the arrests of the officers, at first solitary and later growing to mass arrests, and the deportation of the officers to the labour camps and prisons. However, may all of these actions taken with regard to the Army of the Republic of Lithuania be considered criminal? The work under review does not provide an answer to the question. The Commission will have to do that. Basing itself on the conclusions drawn by Knezys, it will decide whether the actions made by the USSR military structures were of criminal nature.