

Review of the Study by Dr. Vytautas Tininis “Forcible Mobilisation. Forcible use of Lithuanian people in the USSR armed forces before the end of 2nd World War in August 1944 – May 1945”

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The work by Dr. Tininis comprises the three following parts: 1. Extended conclusions (p. 1-6); 2. Brief conclusions (p. 6-7); List of literature and sources (p. 7-11). From a formal point of view, the research (the analysis) is missing. However, I would still consider the first part of the work a research, though not exhaustive.

I have made the following major remarks concerning the work by Dr. Tininis:

1. In the work under review, unlawfulness of the mobilization of Lithuanians into the USSR Army is based on The Fourth Hague Convention of 1907 prohibiting the recruiting of inhabitants of a usurped (occupied) land to an occupational army. However, a whole age has passed from the adoption of the document. Were the regulations of the Convention not amended in the later international humanitarian law documents, for instance, in the Geneva Conventions of 1949? It should be also noted that Dr. Tininis is referring to an amateur researcher Kazys Ėringis when writing about the Hague Convention. I should think that more reliable sources ought to be used in the documents of an international commission.
2. International law prohibits the mobilization to an army of inhabitants of an occupied land. However, Lithuania was an annexed land. Does it not change anything? This problem should be discussed as it is totally ignored in the present version of the text.
3. The work under review discusses forcible mobilization of Lithuanian people to the armed forces of the USSR during the period from August 1944 to May 1945. And what about the period after May 1945? Was the mobilization of Lithuanian people to the USSR Army not carried out then and wasn't it unlawful? The issue is again totally ignored in the work.
4. In the work under review, declarative statements not proved by sources are made (p. 3) and unnamed archive documents referred to (footnote 17). The brief conclusions include the following statement: “it is supposed that approximately 25 thousand forcibly mobilized Lithuanian men were killed in the fights of the Red Army units with Hitler's Germany in 1944-1945 (p. 7). In my opinion, documents of an established international commission should state argumentatively and not suppose.”

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