

SUMMARY

The doctoral dissertation is entitled: *Legal and Philosophical Analysis of the Crimes of Ukrainian Nationalists in the Region of Rzeszów in the Years 1944—1947*. It is the study of the genocide of Poles perpetrated by Ukrainian nationalists. Unlike contemporary Ukrainian historiography, we consider this nationalism as a Ukrainian Nazi movement, not as a Ukrainian national and anti—Communism movement. The following methods are used in the dissertation: historic, analytic and synthetic, metaphysical, comparative.

The number of Poles murdered during the Second World War and years directly after the war by Ukrainian nationalists, in particular by members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), is estimated to be at least 150 thousand. There is a need to establish factual argument based on many reliable primary sources. Only ascertainment of the truth can preserve the memory and facts of what happened as well as is providing the basis for lasting and real reconciliation between the nations of Poland and Ukraine.

In the first chapter we analyze the genesis of the above mentioned crimes, and show the impact that Dmytro Doncow's nationalistic ideology had on the Ukrainian minority in the Second Polish Republic. The objective of this ideology was the creation of a Ukrainian state at any cost, even through extermination of other nations.

In the second chapter we focus on crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists in the region of Rzeszów between 1944 and 47. We attempt to demonstrate that the genocide on this area resulted directly from the radical Ukrainian nationalistic ideology. We study the Polish reaction, that is, the defense of the region from terrorism carried out by the OUN and UPA.

In the third chapter we present the acts of the Polish state as a result of the crimes of genocide due to Ukrainian nationalistic ideology. These were, among

others, the removal of the Ukrainians from Rzeszów Province and the sentences passed on the perpetrators.

In the Second Polish Republic the radical Dmytro Doncow's ideology was very popular with many Ukrainians, especially the young generation, social elite and Greek—Catholic clergy. During the whole inter—war period Ukrainian nationalists conducted many terrorist and anti—state acts such as political murders, robberies and arson.

During the Second World War, Ukrainian nationalists collaborated with The Third German Reich. It showed significant ideological similarity between the Ukrainian and German Nazism. Ukrainian nationalists are co—responsible for the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity in German—occupied Poland.

The Ukrainian genocide of Poles commenced in Volhynia at the beginning of 1943, hence the UPA started to be formed there. A few months later, the OUN and UPA spread its genocidal activity also throughout the south—eastern provinces of Poland: Lwów, Tarnopol, Stanisławów. Most of the victims were attacked by deception, sometimes even in churches during services. The UPA tortured the victims in a very sadistic way; also infants, children, pregnant women and old men were exterminated. The murders were carried out based on the Polish nationality of the victims.

Most of the terms frequently used for crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists, such as “slaughter” or “ethnic cleansing”, do not have legal significance. In accordance with the Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, these crimes should be correctly defined as genocide. Professor Ryszard Szawłowski finds that due to the particularly drastic cruelty, the genocide committed by Ukrainian nationalists ought to be named, in Latin, *genocidium atrox* (“atrocious genocide”).

The activity of Ukrainian nationalists between 1944 and 47, among others the murder and anti—state acts, were precisely and strictly forbidden by the Polish

Criminal Code of 1932 as well as by the laws adopted in Poland by the communist authorities after the end of the German occupation. In communist—Poland many sentences, including death sentences or many years imprisonment, were passed on Ukrainian nationalists. There is no legal possibility to overturn those verdicts. Moreover, crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists are still prosecuted by the Institute of National Remembrance—Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation.