

The Conference is dedicated to the Year of Remembrance of Defence of Freedom and Great Losses and the victims of occupation, terror and the war between the totalitarian regimes.

Opening: 29 June 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius

Type: political, scientific, commemorative

Participating states:

Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and USA

Conference participants:

Famous eye-witnesses to historical events, historians, political scientists, NGOs, communities, history teachers, foreign diplomats, students, and journalists

Languages: Lithuanian, English, Russian



International Conference

BALTIC STATES AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE USSR-GERMAN WAR IN 1941

29-30 June 2011
Vilnius



ORGANISERS:



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



GENOCIDE AND RESISTANCE RESEARCH CENTRE OF LITHUANIA

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BALTIC STATES AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE USSR-GERMAN WAR IN 1941

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The year 2011 marks the 70th anniversary from the outbreak of the war between the Nazi Germany and the communist Soviet Union, which counts as the most brutal conflict in history. This was an ideological war claiming tens of millions of lives. Against their will, the Baltic States turned into the arena and victim of the mortal combat between the two totalitarian regimes. In the summer of 1941, the Nazi occupation replaced the Soviet occupation in the Baltic States. The Nazi terror and genocide of the Jewish nation stood in for the Soviet repressions and horrors. The Third Reich did not recognise the right of the Baltic States to statehood and treated the occupied territories as the “vital sphere” of the German nation, which had to be colonised, germanised and annexed to the Third Reich in the aftermath of the victorious war. The Nazi occupation of the Baltic States and Belarus, otherwise called *Ostland*, exposed itself in the loss of their national statehood for long decades, hundreds of thousands of violent deaths of civilians and prisoners of war, complete extermination of the Jewish community, confinement of tens of thousands of people of different nationalities in prisons and forced labour camps, deportation of tens of thousands of people to the Reich for forced labour, losses of economies, transport and culture soaring in billions as well as ruined towns and burnt villages.

The Conference will explore the issue of the Baltic States’ statehood in the international sphere during the Second World War, efforts to restore the national statehood and local governance with the eruption of the Nazi-Soviet military conflict, mass deportations of Lithuania’s residents on the verge of the inevitable battle, civilian massacres and military actions carried out by the retreating Soviets, on the one hand, and Nazi propaganda, crimes of the Nazi occupational regime in Lithuania and Belarus, the Holocaust and collaboration with the Nazis, ethnic relations under the conditions of war and occupations, the fate of the displaced Suvalkai residents, on the other, as well as the problems relating to the realisation and evaluation of the crimes committed by the totalitarian regimes.



• PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 29 June 2011
March 11 Hall

Chairs:

Mr Algis Kasėta, Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Dr Arūnas Bubnys, Director, Genocide and Resistance Research Department, Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

10.00-10.40

Opening

Welcome by *Mrs Irena Degutienė*, Speaker of the Seimas
Welcome by *Prof Vytautas Landsbergis*, Speaker of the Supreme Council – Reconstituent Seimas, Signatory to the Independence Act of Lithuania, MEP

10.40-11.00

Vengeance of retreat: Soviet war crimes in Lithuania at the end of June 1941

Speaker: *Ms Birutė Teresė Burauskaitė*, Director General, Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

11.00-11.20

Beginning of the Soviet genocide: 1939-1941

Speaker: *Mr Arimantas Dumčius*, Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

11.20-11.40

“...Lithuania’s residents were very friendly towards us.” Reports on the Wehrmacht march from the German army newspapers

Speaker: *Dr Joachim Tauber*, Director, Institute for Culture and History of Germans in North-East Europe, Lüneburg, Germany

11.40-12.00

June Uprising of 1941 in Lithuania

Speaker: *Mr Alfredas Rukšėnas*, Chief Specialist-Programme Coordinator, Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

12.00-12.20

How Lithuania’s provisional government saw political opportunities for Lithuanians?

Report of *Dr Kęstutis Ignas Skrupskelis*, Professor Emeritus of the University of South Carolina, USA, read out by journalist *Mr Vidmantas Valiušaitis*

12.30-13.40

Coffee (lunch) break

Chairs:

Mr Arvydas Anušauskas, Chairman of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence
Mr Algirdas Jakubčionis, Associate Professor, Faculty of History, Vilnius University

13.40-14.00

The 1941 Nazi propaganda in the Baltic States: forms, methods, and tendencies

Speaker: *Prof Dr Julija Kantor*, Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, Sankt Petersburg

14.00-14.20

Belarus in 1941: occupation, collaboration and resistance

Speaker: *Dr Jevgenij Greben*, Associate Professor, Head of the Philosophy and History Department, Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University in Minsk, Belarus

14.20-14.40

Activities of the alleged and true German spies in Latvia from June to July 1941

Speaker: *Dr Ritvars Jansons*, Researcher, Museum of the Occupation of Latvia in Riga, Latvia

14.40-15.00

Establishment of governmental authorities in Estonia at the start of the Nazi occupation in 1941

Speaker: *Dr Meelis Maripuu*, Research Fellow, Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, Estonia

15.00-15.20

Collaborator: traitor, patriot or killer? Reflections on collaboration

Speaker: *Dr Aharon Shneyer*, Senior staff member Hall of Names Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Israel

15.20-16.00

Discussion

Thursday, 30 June 2011
Conference Hall

Chairs:

Prof Juozas Skirius, Faculty of History, Vilnius Pedagogical University
Mr Arūnas Streikus, Associate Professor, Faculty of History, Vilnius University

10.00-10.20

Deportation of the Lithuanians from the Suvalkai Region in 1941 and their destinies

Speaker: *Dr Bronius Makauskas*, Chief Specialist-Programme Coordinator, Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

10.20-10.40

Twists and turns in the history and memory of the 1941 genocide of Lithuania’s Jews in view of new investigations, old stereotypes and public discourse

Speaker: *Dr Saulius Sužiedėlis*, Professor Emeritus of Millersville University, USA

10.40-11.00

Lithuanian press during the first months of the Nazi occupation

Speaker: *Mr Antanas Leparas*, Student of Doctoral Studies, Department of Modern History, Faculty of History, Vilnius University

11.00-11.40

Coffee break

Chairs:

Prof Zenonas Butkus, Faculty of History, Vilnius University
Mr Povilas Jakučionis, Chairman, Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees

11.40-12.00

Restoration of Lithuania’s statehood in the international sphere in 1941-1945: Lithuanian political projections and diplomatic speculations

Speaker: *Dr Algimantas Kasparavičius*, Associate Professor, Senior Research Fellow, Lithuanian Institute of History

12.00-12.20

Standpoint of the Swedish government towards the Baltic States’ statehood in 1940-1941

Speaker: *Mr Jonas Öhman*, translator and documentary film producer, from Sweden

12.20-12.40

Nazi and Soviet crimes: challenges for understanding and evaluating

Speaker: *Mr Ronaldas Račinskas*, Executive Director, Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Regimes in Lithuania

12.40-14.00

Discussion