

Translation of:

<http://www.bernardinai.lt/straipsnis/2012-06-14-viesi-klausimai-akademikams-del-1941-m-lietuvos-ivykiu-vertinimo/83951>

Public Questions for Academics on Assessing the Events of 1941 in Lithuania

On June 11 of this year [an open letter](#) by a group of people called academics was published in the media which judged the attempt by the Lithuanian government to honor the memory of leader of the Lithuanian Provisional Government Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis to be a great moral error.

J. Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, a noble patriot and statesman, was forced to lead the nation under extraordinarily difficult political conditions, and his actions cannot be understood based merely on the clichés of the current ideological conjuncture. The letter explains and judges these actions simply and tendentiously, divorcing them from the specific historical context of the events of that time.

We, the signatories below, unambiguously state that the destruction of the Lithuanian Jewish community is to be condemned without reservations as a great and, unfortunately, irreparable crime, for which there can be no moral or political justification. The condemnation of this crime, however, does not provide any basis for judging the tragic events of 1941 according to simplified ideological schematics, through the application of moral double standards.

The authors of this letter ask:

Do the Lithuanian people not have the right to defend their freedom and resist Soviet occupation and annexation?

After the Soviet terror lasting an entire year and the deportations of June, 1941, was there a force able to halt the spontaneous uprising by the nation at the beginning of the war?

How should Lithuanian citizens have acted in those circumstances: bid farewell with flowers to the army of the occupiers, local Communist collaborators and the murderers of Pravieniškiai, the Panevėžys doctors and Rainiai? With gun in hand to stop the Wehrmacht, thus opening the possibility for the further deportation of Lithuanian residents to Siberian death, and for the withdrawing occupiers to leave even more innocent, murdered victims in Lithuania?

Is it correct from the historical perspective and is it honest from the moral perspective to judge the facts of the past after more than half a century self-righteously, knowing full well that the actors at that time acted under unique historical circumstances and, as often

happens in history, were in principle unable to foresee the consequences of many of their decisions and actions?

An honest answer to these questions would help dispel the ideologized and conjunctural [in the Soviet sense of *konyunktura*, referring to a prevailing set of beliefs and the group(s) which adhere to them —Trans] view of our history. Only honest and sincere consideration and judgment of the complex events of the past can truly reconcile the people and peoples who suffered from them and assuage the pain of the tragic losses experienced.

Signatures:

1. Arūnas Bingelis
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3. Alionidas Budrius
4. Antanas Buračas
5. Edvardas Čiuldė
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7. Valdas Daraškevičius
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9. Algirdas Degutis
10. Algirdas Endriukaitis
11. Bronislovas Genzelis
12. Lukas Grinius
13. Jonas Jasaitis
14. Jurgis Jonaitis
15. Justina Juodišiūtė
16. Santa Kančytė
17. Laurynas Kasčiūnas

18. Vytautas Keršanskas
19. Linas Kojala
20. Juozapas Labokas
21. Bronius Leonavičius
22. Sigitas Marčiukaitis
23. Domantas Markevičius
24. Marius Markuckas
25. Linas Virginijus Medelis
26. Kęstutis Milkeraitis
27. Jolanta Miškinytė
28. Romualdas Ozolas
29. Vytautas Paulaitis
30. Mindaugas Peleckis
31. Vilius Petkauskas
32. Martynas Pilkis
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34. Jonas Punys
35. Vytautas Radžvilas
36. Arimantas Raškinis
37. Gailius Raškinis
38. Vytautas Rubavičius
39. Angonita Rupšytė
40. Nijolė Sadūnaitė

41. Arnas Simutis
42. Vytautas Sinica
43. Eugenijus Skrupskelis
44. Viktorija Skrupskelytė
45. Reda Sopranaitė
46. Linas Stankevičius
47. Nerijus Stasiulis
48. Paulius Stonis
49. Alfonsas Svarinskas
50. Petras Dovydas Šidagis
51. Arvydas Šliogeris
52. Jolanta Šrapnickienė
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54. Daiva Tamošaitytė
55. Tomas Taškauskas
56. Laimutis Telksnys
57. Živilė Marija Vaicekauskaitė
58. Vaidotas Vaičaitis
59. Zigmas Vaišvila
60. Gediminas Zelvaras
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