

mõjutusi Kuramaa hertsogkonna põhikorralduse jaoks, siis on mõistetav koostajate kaalutlus seda ühendust kajastavaid dokumente kogumikku mitte lisada.

Kõnealune raamat toob lugejani terve rea olulisi allikaid Kuramaa hertsogkonna põhikorralduse ajaloost. Koostajad on dokumente täiendanud arvukate asjatundlike, paljudel juhtudel arhiiviallikele tuginevate märkuste ja kommentaaridega. Raamat peaks huvi pakkuma kõikidele Baltimaade varauusaja perioodi uurijatele, eriti aga muidugi poliitilise ajaloo eriteadlastele ning õigusajaloolastele.

Lõpetuseks on ehk kohane nimetada, et Tartu Ülikooli ajaloo instituudi uusima aja õppetoolis on valmimas samalaadne allikapublikatsioon varauusaegse Eesti-, Liivi- ja Saaremaa kohta (*Eestimaa, Liivimaa ja Saaremaa konstitutiivsed alusdokumendid 1558–1796*).

ANDRES ANDRESEN

*Eesti NSV aastatel 1940–1953: sovetiseerimise mehhanismid ja tagajärjed Nõukogude Liidu ja Ida-Euroopa arengute kontekstis*, koost. Tõnu Tannberg, Eesti Ajalooarhiivi Toimetised, 15 (Tartu: Eesti Ajalooarhiiv, 2007), 506 lk. ISBN 9789985858585.

Recent years have seen a rising interest in historiography on Soviet Estonia. If there were early intentions of settling the score or dating the collapse of the Soviet system – like backward looking prophecy – to its very beginnings in the region, sound scholarly historical research is now dominating the scene. The publication edited by Tõnu Tannberg clearly supports this observation. It consists of fifteen contributions that are based on a project financed by the Estonian Science Foundation. Contributing scholars are from Estonia, Germany and Russia (in case of the latter, their texts were partly published already in other languages).

The book covers the period of Stalinism in Estonia, but avoids exposing the term, which is only highlighted in Anu Raudsepp's and Tiit Kreegipuu's contributions on cultural issues. Instead the term Sovietization is preferred, although Tõnu Tannberg stresses the breach of Stalin's death also for Soviet Estonia, leading to Beria's plans of a "new course", which the editor has described elsewhere. Even Olaf Mertelsmann's analysis of

the notion of Sovietization refers to Stalinism only marginally. Although not explicitly discussed, it seems that Sovietization stresses first of all the expansive nature of integrating the Soviet Union's neighbors into the Soviet system and thus tends to push aside aspects of inner development of USSR. Whether Mertelsmann's attempt of a general typology is convincing cannot be discussed here. Aigi Rahi-Tamm gives an account on the research of repressions in Estonia and stresses the public and judicial interest as point of departure since the late 1980s. Furthermore, she outlines the broad historical research and the importance of the topic as part of the genocide debate.

Two articles deal with the first year of Sovietization: Ago Pajur describes the liquidation of the Estonian army in 1940 and its partial take-over into units of the Red Army. Priit Pirsko describes extensively the transformation of the Estonian archives until 1941 and pays special attention to the role of the former director of the Central Archives, Otto Liiv.

The following contributions focus on the period from the second occupation until Stalin's death. Kaarel Piirimäe gives an instructive overview on Soviet politics in Eastern Europe from 1944 to 1949. He supports the thesis that the decisive caesura was the last phase of the war and not only with the reaction of the Western Allies, as for instance with George Kennan's "long telegram". In other words, there was no other Soviet concept available than obtaining full control of the societies by force. Elena Zubkova looks into the special issues of Sovietizing the Baltic states since 1944, which were regarded as a "zone of problems". She stresses the change in 1947 when "careful" measurements were replaced by a harsh fight against "local nationalisms". David Feest shows in his contribution on "enrooting" of the Communists in Estonia that dealing with local nationalism initially was ambiguous, but when the problems of collectivization were projected on the local communists, the "Estonian affair" ended such politics referring to national specifics.

Tõnu Tannberg analyzes Moscow's control mechanisms in Soviet Estonia with a special focus on institutions, such as the Estonian Office of the Communist Party and the Second Secretary of the Estonian Central Committee on the one hand and the *nomenklatura* on the other (where he notices a significant decline in Moscow's control in 1953). Further institutional aspects are tackled by Valdur Ohmann, who describes the changes within the structure of the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and by Pearu Kuusk, who looks at the department for the fight against "bandits" within the ministry. He describes the fight between state institutions and

the resistance movement until 1947, when responsibility shifted to the Ministry of State Security.

Two contributions deal with culture and education: Tiiu Kreegipuu surveys Soviet cultural politics in Estonia and addresses also the limits and problems of controlling all cultural activities. Anu Raudsepp analyzes history teaching in Estonian schools with regard to the implementation of the history of the USSR instead of Estonian history and the teachers' education. Furthermore, Kaja Kumer-Haukanõmm describes the US policy concerning Baltic refugees, and Olaf Mertelsmann has another article dealing with the shift from market to commando economy in Estonia, where tries to point out that all positive elements of Estonian development are due to the impact of the periods before 1940. All contributions have English or German summaries, and Tannberg's introduction is fully translated into English.

All in all, looking at the subtitle of the book, it seems that mechanisms of Sovietization are given more space than its consequences. This may be explained with the editor's argument that the period since 1953 needs more research. It might, however, also be due to the fact that many of the contributions focus on institutional aspects and on historical research in a classical sense. Aspects of cultural and every-day life history, for instance, would have deserved more space in a publication dealing with Stalinism. As these are extensively researched in neighboring disciplines in Estonia, the limitation of this volume, however, has its right in concentrating on mechanisms of implementing and exercising power in Soviet Estonia. The broader comparative perspective, also announced in the title, is addressed only in a few contributions. However, as such issues still require much work apart from the top level of Soviet politics, one may conclude that the publication serves as an important step toward perspectives on the fringes of the Soviet hemisphere that are broader in time and space.

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