

Legal position of Jews in the Slovak Republic (1939 - 1945)

In this thesis, my attempt was to document the legal position of the Jewish minority in the Slovak Republic during the World War II - its development and dynamics, causes and consequences, all with respect to the historical context.

Opening chapter unweaves the history of the Jewish community up to the creation of the Slovak Republic on the remains of pre-war Czechoslovakia. Origins of the Jewish colonization and the development of the relations with the Slovak and Hungarian ethnical majority are described with aspiration to analyze the specific roots of local anti-Semitism. The last section of this chapter addresses Slovakia with the frame of the so-called Second Republic and its first attempts to adopt the anti-Semitic laws

Second chapter is aimed on the development of the anti-Semitic legislative in the years of 1939-1942 with special regards to the process of the arization of the Jewish property. This stage is significantly affected by the change of the regime following the meeting in Salzburg, where Adolf Hitler enjoined Josef Tiso to proceed with the changes in the government policy, which led to the significant hardening of the oppression towards the racial minorities. The initial religiously motivated racial prejudices slowly morphed into the „political“ rasism based upon the statutes derived from the infamous German anti-Semitic laws and found its codification in the enactment no. **198/1941.**, on legal position of the Jews, or simply „Jewish code.“

Third chapter describes cruel cataclysm of the Slovakian anti-Semitic politics – internation and deportations to concentration camps, as well as mass executions during the Slovak uprising. In this phase, more than 58 000 of Jews were arrested and/or deported and almost all of them found death in the concentration camps.

Content of the fourth chapter is the description of slow changes in the political course of the regime, leading to the slight liberalization, along with the awakening conscience and the fear of the after-war consequences caused almost complete halt of the deportations, although radical politics tried to put through its renewal. In the last section of this chapter, the regime of the labour camps established on Slovakian soil is mentioned.

The fifth and last chapter is dedicated to the restart of deportations under the direct German command and large-scale terror brought by the German army, SiPo and SD not only upon the remaining Jews (which led to another 12 000 dead, though more than 10 000 were saved with the help from the their Slovak neighbors), but also on all of those who tried (or just seemed to do so) to resist them somehow. During these months, the Slovakian government served only as German puppets, awaiting the inevitable end of the war and its own downfall in fear of retribution.

Klíčová slova

CZ: Slovenský stát, holocaust, arizace

EN: Slovak Republic, holocaust, arization