

# Abstract

## The face of churches in the area of Sokolov during the years 1945 – 1960

About 30% of ruined churches are located in the area of episcopate of Plzeň. Destroying and dilapidation of churches began after the end of the World War Two. Social and religious life of people was also destroyed. This paper deals with efficient cause of state of churches and religious life in the area of Sokolov during 1945 – 1960. Main reasons of this dissatisfactory state are transfer of Sudet Germans from the borderland after the end of the World War Two and sequential colonisation by people from the east countries and from Czech inland. The newcomers did not have relationship with local people, land and cultural relics. Hence they did not root and almost did not establish this relationship. There are also other reasons for destroying and dilapidation of churches as establishment of military territories, blocking of borderlines and opencast coal mining.

From one point of view, a destruction of church together with village is not such disaster - churches shall serve people for their religious life. The real problem appears in another situation, when a village with their inhabitants exists, while appropriate church is missing. This shows that religious life is connected with people, not with an area. Newcomers did not create their own religious life and they did not need any place for meeting neither a church. If there is not a church, there is missing a place for origin a religious life. The people in the area do not trust in one Good but they give credence to various superstitions and occult practices.

churches

Sokolov

the religious life

the episcopate of Plzeň

the Sudet Germans