

Establishment of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov, the role and representation of the interests of the Carpathian Ruthenians

Abstract

The establishment of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov has its historical and legal significance in the history of national minorities in Czechoslovakia. In the conditions of the liberated parts of Czechoslovakia, on 1 March 1945 in Presov is constituted a national-political body, which is to represent the interests of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian ethnic group, mostly in the north-eastern parts of Slovakia. The presented rigorous work examines the available factual data on the circumstances of the constitution, operation and subsequent activities of this national-political representative of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian minority in Czechoslovakia up to its definitive extinction. In the context of historical development, part of the work focuses on the historical context, which records the ethnogenesis of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian minority, the integration of the ethnic group into the state bodies, as well as the war conditions, which resulted in the loss of Czechoslovakia and the annexation of the Sub-Carpathian Russia to Soviet Ukraine. Within the scope of the research, the author deals also with related issues directly related to the activities of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov and its representatives. In this spirit, the activity of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov is closely related to education, culture and also the church. Last but not least, this doctoral thesis concentrates on the existence of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov for the period 1948 to 1952, which was typical of the promotion of the interests of the ruling Communist Party, including the accompanying ukrainianization and bourgeois nationalism. As a result of the prepared and approved constitution of 9 May 1948, this doctoral thesis also deals with the moods and tendencies of representatives of the Ukrainian National Council in Presov, who have sought constitutional rights for the Ukrainian minority living in Czechoslovakia. The Ukrainian National Council in Presov, as a result of its activities, actively defended and represented the desirable interests of the Rusyn-Ukrainian ethnic group in Czechoslovakia during the post war period.

Keywords: Ukrainian National Council in Presov, UNRP, Rusyn-Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Czechoslovakia, National Minorities in Czechoslovakia, Ukrainianization, National Revival of Rusyns, Carpathian Ruthenia