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Abstract

The thesis *The Soviet Annexation and Occupation of Estonia* discusses different understanding and explanations of events, which are connected with Estonian loss of sovereignty in 1940 and after. The thesis aims to show, how differently the two once “fraternised” nations may regard their common history and how a burden of different apprehension of history still influences their relations today. The thesis does not intend only to describe the events, but merely to point out the differences of interpretations in works already written, concerning backgrounds of their origin. The first part focuses on analysis of Soviet, Estonian, and contemporary Russian authors. The next part is dedicated to collective memory and to specificities of Estonian and Soviet/Russian interpretation of the events. In the Estonian case, idealisation of national heroes is emphasised, in the Soviet/Russian case is examined the way of its development. At the end a particular example of conflict between two interpretations is presented: clashes between Estonians and Estonian Russians because of meaning of the Liberation of Tallinn Monument, which passed in 2007 and expressed itself even in the relations between the two countries.