

Abstract

The partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from Central Europe was a part of the process of reconstruction of the Soviet Union which was begun by the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union in the second half of the 1980's took the decision to reduce the number of its military troops positioned outside the territory of the Soviet Union. However, the reduction did not automatically account to a complete withdrawal of Soviet troops. This dissertation is pursuing the withdrawal of the Soviet army from the territory of Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland in the years 1989 – 1994. The change of regimes in the respective states led to the fact that the matter of Soviet troop withdrawal was a bilateral and multilateral affair rather than a unilateral act of the Soviet Union.

This dissertation presents a unique comparison of the withdrawal of Soviet military units from three former satellites of the Soviet Union. It clarifies the reasons of their stay on these territories. It shows the negotiation process of each of the afore mentioned states with Moscow, and observes the coinciding arguments used by the Soviet negotiators and their counterparts. It describes the events surrounding the threat of interrupting the Soviet troop withdrawal. It compares the duration of the transfer of the Soviet army from the observed states. This dissertation also pursues the logistic progress of the Soviet withdrawal, the proprietary and ecological settlement of both parties. At the same time it points out the coinciding and differing approaches of Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and shows the mutual interconnection of these states during the withdrawal of such a large number of people and military material.

The withdrawal of the Soviet troops represented an important chapter in the foreign affairs of these states in relation to the Soviet Union, later the Russian Federation, while an important part was played by the question: “who will pay and how much”?