

Chapter 1 : Soviet occupation of the Baltic states () - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

The Sovietization of the Baltic states refers to the sovietization of all spheres of life in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania when they were under control of the Soviet Union. The first period deals with the occupation from June to July when the German occupation began.

Immediate post occupation[edit] Plaque on the building of Government of Estonia , Toompea , commemorating government members killed by communist terror After the Soviet invasion of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in the repressions followed with the mass deportations carried out by the Soviets. The Serov Instructions , "On the Procedure for carrying out the Deportation of Anti-Soviet Elements from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia", contained detailed instructions for procedures and protocols to observe in the deportation of Baltic nationals. The local Communist parties emerged from underground with members in Lithuania, in Latvia and members in Estonia. The Soviets did not immediately install the virtually unknown leaders of the tiny existing Communist parties in each state, but rather put together a broadly left-wing coalition while simultaneously having Soviet emissaries present lists for cabinet installations about which even minor changes would not be sanctioned. Because of newly installed election restrictions, only the Communists and their allies were effectively allowed to run. This belied claims prior to the elections that no such action would be taken. In due course, the Soviet Union "accepted" all three petitions and formally annexed the three countries. The Soviet Union, and later Russia, used these votes to buttress its claim that the Baltic peoples had voluntarily requested to join the Soviet Union after carrying out socialist revolutions in their countries. Public tribunals were also set up to punish "traitors to the people": June deportation Memorial to deported Latvian children who died in exile, Immediately after the elections, NKVD units under the leadership of Ivan Serov arrested more than 15, "hostile elements" and members of their families. The Baltic States continued their de jure existence in accordance with international law. World War II re-occupation[edit] The Soviet Union reoccupied the Baltic states as part of the Baltic Offensive in , a twofold military-political operation to rout German forces and the "liberation of the Soviet Baltic peoples" [26] beginning in summer-autumn , lasting until the capitulation of German and Latvian forces in Courland pocket in May An insurgency continued, resisting Soviet rule via armed struggle for a number of years. The Forest brothers , as they were known, enjoyed the material support among the local population[citation needed], as well as from the British MI6 , American , and Swedish secret intelligence services. On January 12, , in an effort to end the insurgency, the Soviet Council of Ministers issued a decree "on the expulsion and deportation" from Baltic states of "all kulaks and their families, the families of bandits and nationalists", and others. In addition, at least 75, were sent to Gulag. After World War II , as part of the goal to more fully integrate Baltic countries into the Soviet Union, mass deportations were concluded in the Baltic countries and the policy of encouraging Soviet immigration to the Baltic states continued. Candidates from the pro-independence party Popular Fronts gained majority in the Supreme Councils in democratic elections. The Councils declared their intention to restore full independence. In , Baltic countries claimed de facto independence. International recognition, including that of the USSR, followed. The United States, which had never recognized forcible annexation of the Baltic countries by the USSR, resumed full diplomatic relations with the republics.

Chapter 2 : Occupation and annexation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union ()

The Sovietization of the Baltic states refers to the sovietization of all spheres of life in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania when they were under control of the Soviet Union. The first section deals with the occupation from June to July when the German occupation began.

Sovietization[edit] Resistance and deportations[edit] Between and , the Soviet Union carried out a process of sovietization which aimed to weaken the national identities of the Baltic peoples. An important factor in the attempt to achieve this was large-scale industrialisation then direct attacks on culture, religion and freedom of expression. The Soviet used massive deportations to eliminate resistance to collectivisation and support for the partisans. The Estonian Forest brothers , as they were known, enjoyed material support among the local population. The total numbers of those deported between and has been estimated at , in Estonia , , in Latvia and , in Lithuania. The deportees were allowed to return after the secret speech of Nikita Khrushchev in , however many did not survive in their years in Siberia. After the war, the Soviets established new borders for the Baltic republics. Estonia lost 5 percent and Latvia 2 percent of its prewar territory. The purpose was to integrate the Baltic economics into the larger Soviet economic sphere. The industrial plans and a transport infrastructure were advanced by the Soviet standards. The rural economy suffered from the lack of investments and the collectivization. New constructions were often poor quality and ethnic Russian immigrants were favored in housing. Lithuania also received immigrants, but to a lesser degree. Ethnic Latvians constituted 75 percent, but the figure dropped to However, absence of Russian immigration was only a part of explanation as Lithuania gained the Vilnius area, fewer Lithuanians fled west and the state lost its Jewish minority. People who moved from Russia before annexation and knew the local language were named as "local Russians", for they had better relations with locals than those who settled later. However, many of them died during the Great Purge in the s. The new regimes of were established native communists who had fought in the Red Army. However, the Soviets also imported ethnic Russians to fill political, administrative and managerial posts. For example, the important post of second secretary of local Communist party was almost always ethnic Russian or a member of another Slavic nationality. The Soviets were sensitive about the Baltic area not only because concerns about its loyalty, but also because of a number of military installations located there due to its proximity to several non Eastern Bloc states, including surveillance centres and a submarine base. The Soviet Union signed the Helsinki Accords and the following year, a monitoring group was founded in Lithuania which produced dissident publications during the s and s. The European Parliament passed a resolution supporting the Baltic cause in A new wave of Russification of education system began in the late s attempting to create a Soviet national identity. The education of Baltic children was conducted in their native languages, but the Russian language was compulsory. In addition, the Soviet authorities limited freedom of expression in literature and the visual arts. The song festivals remained a means of national self-expression. Nevertheless, intellectual life and scientific research were advanced by Soviet standards. The new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in and responded with glasnost and perestroika. They were attempts to reform the Soviet system from above to avoid revolution from below. The reforms failed to take into account that the USSR was held together by military force by repressing all forms of nationalism. The freedoms of Glasnost released long suppressed feelings of nationalism in the Baltic republics, in a development known as the Singing Revolution. Small successful protests encouraged key individuals and by the end of the reform wing had gained a decisive position in the Baltic republics. They concentrated largely on calls for autonomy rather than independence. Next, the Baltic republics declared their sovereignty: The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union condemned the Estonian legislation as unconstitutional. There was still only one legal communist party, but the availability of multi-candidate choice encouraged the popular fronts and other groups to spread their own electoral message. They saw that independence could never be restored legally by organs of the occupying powers. In particular, it declared the annexation illegal and began the transition towards an independent Republic of Estonia. On 4 May , the Latvian Supreme Soviet made a similar declaration. The Soviets had a bigger challenge elsewhere, in the form of the Russian Federal

Republic proclaiming sovereignty in June. The attempts failed, dozens of civilians were killed, and the Soviet troops decided to retreat. One day after the coup on 21 August, the Estonians proclaimed independence. Shortly afterwards Soviet paratroops seized the Tallinn television tower. The Latvian parliament made similar a declaration at the same day. The coup failed but the Collapse of the Soviet Union became unavoidable. On 28 August, the European Community welcomed the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of the Baltic states. The Russian troops stayed for an additional three years, as Boris Yeltsin linked the issue of Russian minorities with troop withdrawals. Lithuania was the first to have the Russian troops withdrawn from its territory in August. The last Russian soldier left Skrunda-1 in October, thus marking a symbolic end to the Russian military presence on the soil of the Baltic countries.

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The Sovietization of the Baltic states refers to the sovietization of all spheres of life in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania during the Soviet occupation.

Background of the occupation of the Baltic states After the Soviet invasion of Poland on 17 September , in accordance with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact the Soviet forces were given freedom over Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, an important aspect of the agreement to the Soviet government as they were afraid of Germany using the three states as a corridor to get close to Leningrad. The Soviets questioned the neutrality of Estonia following the escape of a Polish submarine from Tallinn on 18 September. A week later, on 24 September , the Estonian foreign minister was given an ultimatum in Moscow. The Soviets demanded the conclusion of a treaty of mutual assistance to establish military bases in Estonia. Latvia followed on 5 October and Lithuania shortly thereafter, on 10 October In Finland had rejected similar Soviet demands for Finland ceding or leasing parts of its territory. The war ended in March with Finnish territorial losses exceeding the pre-war Soviet demands, but Finland kept its sovereignty. On 13 June at Two Soviet bombers downed the Finnish passenger airplane " Kaleva " flying from Tallinn to Helsinki carrying three diplomatic pouches from the U. The holder was an elderly Jewish man being evacuated at the end to Kuibyshev, further east. Red Army invades[edit] Molotov had accused the Baltic states of conspiracy against the Soviet Union and delivered an ultimatum to all Baltic countries for the establishment of Soviet-approved governments. Threatening invasion and accusing the three states of violating the original pacts as well as forming a conspiracy against the Soviet Union, Moscow presented ultimatums, demanding new concessions, which included the replacement of their governments and allowing an unlimited number of troops to enter the three countries. Finally the military resistance was ended with negotiations and the Independent Signal Battalion surrendered and was disarmed. With the reestablishment of independence by the Soviet Republics leaving the USSR, these governments in exile were integrated into the new governing establishments. Sovietization of the Baltic states[edit] Plaque on the building of Government of Estonia , Toompea , commemorating government members killed by communist terror Soviet propaganda newspaper in Lithuanian language. Black text in the right square says: Political repressions followed with mass deportations of around , citizens carried out by the Soviets. The laws were worded in such a way that the Communists and their allies were the only ones allowed to run. These requests carried unanimously. The official Soviet line was that all three Baltic states carried out socialist revolutions and voluntarily requested to join the Soviet Union. The new Soviet-installed governments in the Baltic states began to align their policies with current Soviet practices.

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Etymology[edit] The term "Baltic" stems from the name of the Baltic Sea – a hydronym dating back to the 11th century Adam of Bremen mentioned Latin: Mare Balticum and earlier. This meaning is retained in modern Baltic languages , where baltas in Lithuanian and balts in Latvian mean "white". Officially its Russian equivalent "" was first used in With the advent of Foreningen Norden , the term was no longer used for Sweden and Denmark. It was divided into four autonomous bishoprics and lands of the Livonian Brothers of the Sword. After the Brothers of the Sword suffered defeat at the Battle of Saule , the remaining Brothers were integrated into the Teutonic Order as the autonomous Livonian Order. Northern Estonia initially became a Danish dominion , but it was purchased by the Teutonic Order in the midth century. The majority of the crusaders and clergy were German and remained influential in Estonia and most of Latvia until the first half of the 20th century – Baltic Germans formed the backbone of the local gentry, and German served both as a lingua franca and for record-keeping. It expanded to the east conquering former principalities of Kiev up to the Black sea. After the Union of Krewo in , Grand Duchy of Lithuania created a dynastic union with Kingdom of Poland , they became ever more closely integrated and finally merged into the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth in After victory in the Battle of Grunwald in , the Polish–Lithuanian union became a major political and military power in the region. Baltic dominions of Swedish Empire[edit] Main article: The rulers of different regions within Livonia sought to ally with foreign powers, which resulted in Polish–Lithuanian, Swedish and Danish involvement. As a result, by the Livonian confederation had ceased to exist and its lands in modern Latvia and Southern Estonia became the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia and the Duchy of Livonia , which were vassals to the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth , Osel island came under Danish rule and Northern Estonia became the Swedish Duchy of Estonia. In the aftermath of later conflicts of the 17th century, much of the Duchy of Livonia and Osel also came under Swedish control as Swedish Livonia. These newly acquired Swedish territories, as well as Ingria and Kexholm now the western part of the Leningrad Oblast of Russia , became known as the Baltic Dominions. Parts of the Duchy of Livonia that remained in the Commonwealth became Inflanty Voivodeship , which contributed to the modern Latgale region of Eastern Latvia becoming culturally distinct from the rest of Latvia as the German nobility lost its influence and the region remained Catholic just like Poland-Lithuania, while the rest of Latvia and also Estonia became Lutheran. Baltic governates of Russian Empire[edit] Territorial changes in – Note that Livonia and Estonia were lost by Sweden and annexed by Russia in this period. At the beginning of the 18th century the Swedish Empire was attacked by a coalition of several European powers in the Great Northern War. Among these powers was Russia, seeking to restore its access to the Baltic Sea. During the course of the war it conquered all of the Swedish provinces on the Eastern Baltic coast. This acquisition was legalized by the Treaty of Nystad in which the Baltic Dominions were ceded to Russia. Riga and Reval now Tallinn. After the Partitions of Poland which took place in the last quarter of the 18th century, the third Ostsee governorate was created, as the Courland Governorate presently a part of Latvia. This toponym stems from the Curonians , one of the Baltic [14] indigenous tribes. Following the annexation of Courland the two other governates were renamed to the Governorate of Livland and the Governorate of Estland. In the late 19th century, nationalist sentiment grew in Estonia and in Latvia morphing into an aspiration to national statehood after the Russian Revolution. Newly independent countries East of the Baltic Sea[edit] After the First World War the term "Baltic states" came to refer to countries by the Baltic Sea that had gained independence from Russia in its aftermath. As such it included not only former Baltic governorates, but also Latgale, Lithuania and Finland. Estonia had already obtained autonomy from tsarist Russia in , but was subsequently occupied by the German Empire; they fought an independence war against Soviet Russia and Baltic nobility before gaining true independence from to Latvia and Lithuanians followed a similar process, until the Latvian War of Independence and

Lithuanian Wars of Independence were extinguished in 1918. They were also part of what Clemenceau considered a strategic cordon sanitaire, the entire territory from Finland in the north to Romania in the south, standing between Western Europe and potential Bolshevik territorial ambitions. Some note that the events in Lithuania differed from its two more northerly neighbors, with Smetona having different motivations as well as securing power 8 years before any such events in Latvia or Estonia took place. Despite considerable political turmoil in Finland no such events took place there. Finland did however get embroiled in a bloody civil war, something that did not happen in the Baltics.

Soviet and German occupations[edit] **Map of present-day Baltic states**

In accordance with a secret protocol within the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of that divided Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence, the Soviet Army entered eastern Poland in September 1939, and then coerced Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into mutual assistance treaties which granted them the right to establish military bases in these countries. In June 1940, the Red Army occupied all of the territory of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and the Red Army installed new, pro-Soviet governments in all three countries. Following rigged elections, in which only pro-communist candidates were allowed to run, the newly "elected" parliaments of the three countries formally applied to "join" the Soviet Union in August and were incorporated into it as the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, and the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. Repressions, executions and mass deportations followed after that in the Baltics. More than 1 million people were deported by the Soviet government from the Baltic in 1941 to remote, inhospitable locations in the Soviet Union. In addition, at least 75,000 were sent to Gulag. The Baltic countries hoped for the restoration of independence, but instead the Germans established civil administration, known as the Reichskommissariat Ostland. During the occupation the Germans carried out discrimination, mass deportations and mass killings generating Baltic resistance movements see German occupation of the Baltic states during World War II. The German occupation lasted until late in Courland, until early 1945, when the countries were reoccupied by the Red Army and Soviet rule was re-established, with the passive agreement of the United States and Britain see Yalta Conference and Potsdam Agreement. The forced collectivisation of agriculture began in 1945, and was completed after the mass deportation in March see Operation Priboi. Private farms were confiscated, and farmers were made to join the collective farms. Although the armed resistance was defeated, the population remained anti-Soviet. The Baltic Way was a mass anti-Soviet demonstration where approx. 900,000 were staffed, initially by diplomats from the last governments before USSR occupation. Soviet Union recognized the independence of three Baltic states on 6 September 1991. There was a subsequent withdrawal of troops from the region starting from Lithuania in August 1991. The last Russian troops were withdrawn from there in August 1991. All three countries are parliamentary democracies, which have unicameral parliaments that are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms – Riigikogu in Estonia, Saeima in Latvia and Seimas in Lithuania. In Latvia and Estonia, the president is elected by parliament while Lithuania has a semi-presidential system where the president is elected by popular vote. Each of the three countries has declared itself to be the restoration of the sovereign nation that had existed from 1918 to 1940, emphasizing their contention that Soviet domination over the Baltic nations during the Cold War period had been an illegal occupation and annexation. The same legal interpretation is shared by the United States, the United Kingdom, and most other Western democracies,[citation needed] who held the forcible incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union to be illegal. At least formally, most Western democracies never considered the three Baltic states to be constituent parts of the Soviet Union. Australia was a brief exception to this support of Baltic independence – in 1943, the Labor government of Australia did recognize Soviet dominion, but this decision was reversed by the next Australian Parliament. The Baltic states are currently the only former-Soviet states that have joined either organization. Regional cooperation[edit] During the Baltic struggle for independence –, a personal friendship developed between the at that time unrecognized Baltic ministers of foreign affairs and the Nordic ministers of foreign affairs. The Baltic countries were more interested in gaining access to the rest of the European market. Currently, the governments of the Baltic states cooperate in multiple ways, including cooperation among presidents, parliament speakers, heads of government, and foreign ministers. On 8 November 1991, the Baltic Assembly, which includes 15 to 20 MPs from each parliament, was established to facilitate inter-parliamentary cooperation. The Baltic Council of Ministers was established on 13 June 1992 to

facilitate intergovernmental cooperation. Since , there is coordination between the two organizations. Possible explanations include the short history of restored sovereignty and fear of losing it again, along with an orientation toward Nordic countries and Baltic-Nordic cooperation in The Nordic-Baltic Eight. Estonia especially has attempted to construct a Nordic identity for itself and denounced Baltic identity, despite still seeking to preserve close relationship with other countries in the region.

The Communists have reorganized the economy, deported their opponents, and tried to re-educate the Baltic peoples in a spirit of devotion to the USSR. Since the death of Stalin they have let up somewhat, allowing a greater degree of personal free dom; but there is no indication that they would ever willingly give the Baltic nations their freedom.

This is a list of the national parks in the Baltic states of Estonia , Latvia , and Lithuania. Illustration of House Price Index in the Baltic states compared to Euro Area during the housing bubble crisis in the Baltic states The Baltic states housing bubble is an economic bubble involving major cities in Estonia , Latvia and Lithuania. The Baltic States had enjoyed a relatively strong economic growth between and , and the real estate sectors had performed well since In fact, in between Q1 and Q1, the official house price index for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recorded a sharp jump of By comparison, the official house price index for Euro Area increased by The crisis eventually hit in due to the financial crisis of resulting in fragile Baltic economies. The housing price correction had begun in Estonia by mid followed by Latvia and Lithuania in mid Subsequently, Latvia and Estonia experienced recession by first half of , while Lithuania had experienced a slowdown in its economy by the first half of The situation worsened after the September global financial crash, sending the entire region into a full-blown recession. All three countries experienced recession by The background of the occupation of the Baltic states covers the period before the first Soviet occupation on 14 June , stretching from independence in to the Soviet ultimatums in 1940 They managed to sign non-aggression treaties in the s and s. Despite the treaties, the Baltic states were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in in the aftermath of the German-Soviet pact of 1939 The Baltic Legations were the missions of the exiled Baltic diplomatic services from to Members of the Estonian diplomatic service , the Latvian diplomatic service and the Lithuanian diplomatic service continued to be recognised as the diplomatic representatives of the independent pre- World War II states of Estonia , Latvia and Lithuania , whose annexation by the Soviet Union was not recognised by the United States, the United Kingdom, or France. The legations provided consular services to exiled citizens of the Baltic states from to Baltic Chain Tour was established to commemorate Baltic Way. Tour is conducted mainly in the Baltic states of Estonia , Latvia and Lithuania , however in it started in Lahti , Finland. The joint Baltic cycling tour has a long history. The tradition began in the s and was broken in On November 4, in Riga , the presidents of three national cycling unions signed a cooperation agreement to restore the tradition of the Baltic cycling tour. Service in BALTRON provides both the crew and staff officers with an opportunity to serve in an international environment and acquire valuable experience in mine countermeasures. The German forces were deported and the leaders of Latvian collaborating forces were executed as traitors. After the war, the Soviet Union reestablished control over the Baltic territories in line with its forcible annexations as communist republics in The Red Army occupied the independent Baltic states in 1940 and, after a period of German occupation , again in 1944 As Stalinist repression intensified over the following years, 50, residents of these countries used the heavily forested countryside as a natural refuge and base for armed anti-Soviet resistance. The occupation of the Baltic states by Nazi Germany occurred during Operation Barbarossa from to The Balts hoped for the restoration of independence, but instead the Germans established a provisional government. During the occupation the Germans carried out discrimination , mass deportations and mass killings generating Baltic resistance movements. The Sovietization of the Baltic states refers to the sovietization of all spheres of life in Estonia , Latvia and Lithuania when they were under control of the Soviet Union. The first period deals with the occupation from June to July when the German occupation began. The second period covers when the Soviet forces pushed the German out, until when independence was declared. The Baltic Cup Estonian: Also Finland has participated as a guest twice. Though originally held annually the competition has been biennial since , running on even-numbered years. It is one of the oldest football tournaments for national teams in Europe after the British Home Championship , and the oldest one still organized. The human chain connecting the three Baltic capitals 1989 Tallinn , Riga and Vilnius. was a peaceful political demonstration that occurred on 23 August Approximately two million people joined their hands to form a human chain spanning The demonstration originated in "Black Ribbon Day" protests held in the

western cities in the s. The pact and its secret protocols divided Eastern Europe into spheres of influence and led to the occupation of the Baltic states in 1940. The event was organised by Baltic pro-independence movements: The protest was designed to draw global attention by demonstrating a popular desire for independence for each of the entities. It also illustrated solidarity among the three nations. It has been described as an effective publicity campaign, and an emotionally captivating and visually stunning scene. The event presented an opportunity for the Baltic activists to publicise the Soviet rule and position the question of Baltic independence not only as a political matter, but also as a moral issue. The Soviet authorities responded to the event with intense rhetoric, but failed to take any constructive actions that could bridge the widening gap between the Baltic republics and the rest of the Soviet Union. Within seven months of the protest, Lithuania became the first of the Soviet republics to declare independence. Territorial changes of the Baltic states refers to the redrawing of borders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia after World War II. The three republics, formerly autonomous regions within the former Russian Empire and before that of former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, gained independence in the aftermath of World War I and the Russian Revolution of 1917. After a two-front independence war fought against both Bolshevist Russian and Baltic German nationalist forces, the countries concluded peace and border treaties with Soviet Russia in 1920. However, with World War II and the occupation and annexation of these republics into the Soviet Union twenty years after their independence, certain territorial changes were made in favour of the Russian SFSR. This has been the source of political tensions after they regained their independence with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Some of the disputes remain unresolved. In addition, some territories that were not controlled by the independent Baltic republics were also annexed during the Soviet era. This Baltic states were under Soviet rule from the end of World War II in 1945, from Sovietization onwards until independence was regained in 1991. The Baltic states were occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union, becoming the Soviet socialist republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. After their annexation by Nazi Germany, the USSR reoccupied the Baltic territories in 1944 and maintained control there until the Baltic states regained their independence nearly 50 years later in the aftermath of the Soviet coup of 1991. Riga This is a list of cities in the Baltic states by population. The population is measured within city limits on a national level, independently, by each statistical bureau. Of the top 30 cities by population in the Baltics, 15 are Lithuanian, 10 are Latvian, and 5 are Estonian. The main objective of the agreement was joint action in foreign policy. It also included commitments to support one another politically and to give diplomatic support in international communication. The endeavour was ultimately unsuccessful, as the combined strength of the three nations and their statements of neutrality were insubstantial in the face of the massive armies of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The plans for division of control of European lands located between the two powers laid out in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact assigned the Baltic countries into Soviet "sphere of influence". In all three countries were occupied and soon annexed into the Soviet Union. There are 32 Latvian, 17 Estonian, and 24 Lithuanian buildings on this list. This is a list of the Baltic records in swimming. These are the fastest times ever swum by a swimmer representing one of the Baltic countries:

The Sovietization of the Baltic States International Workshop May Haapsalu, Estoniap. Call for Papers. After the occupation and annexation of the Baltic States in there started a long lasting process of sovietization until the regaining of independence in

Sovietization Resistance and deportations Between and , the Soviet Union carried out a process of sovietization which aimed to weaken the national identities of the Baltic peoples. An important factor in the attempt to achieve this was large-scale industrialisation then direct attacks on culture, religion and freedom of expression. The Soviet used massive deportations to eliminate resistance to collectivisation and support for the partisans. The Estonian Forest brothers , as they were known, enjoyed material support among the local population. The total numbers of those deported between and has been estimated at , in Estonia , , in Latvia and , in Lithuania. The deportees were allowed to return after the secret speech of Nikita Khrushchev in , however many did not survive in their years in Siberia. After the war, the Soviets established new borders for the Baltic republics. Estonia lost 5 percent and Latvia 2 percent of its prewar territory. The purpose was to integrate the Baltic economics into the larger Soviet economic sphere. The industrial plans and a transport infrastructure were advanced by the Soviet standards. The rural economy suffered from the lack of investments and the collectivization. New constructions were often poor quality and ethnic Russian immigrants were favored in housing. Lithuania also received immigrants, but to a lesser degree. Ethnic Latvians constituted 75 percent, but the figure dropped to However, absence of Russian immigration was only a part of explanation as Lithuania gained the Vilnius area, fewer Lithuanians fled west and the state lost its Jewish minority. People who moved from Russia before annexation and knew the local language were named as "local Russians", for they had better relations with locals than those who settled later. However, many of them died during the Great Purge in the s. The new regimes of were established native communists who had fought in the Red Army. However, the Soviets also imported ethnic Russians to fill political, administrative and managerial posts. For example, the important post of second secretary of local Communist party was almost always ethnic Russian or a member of another Slavic nationality. The Soviets were sensitive about the Baltic area not only because concerns about its loyalty, but also because of a number of military installations located there due to its proximity to several non Eastern Bloc states, including surveillance centres and a submarine base. The Soviet Union signed the Helsinki Accords and the following year, a monitoring group was founded in Lithuania which produced dissident publications during the s and s. The European Parliament passed a resolution supporting the Baltic cause in A new wave of Russification of education system began in the late s attempting to create a Soviet national identity. The education of Baltic children was conducted in their native languages, but the Russian language was compulsory. In addition, the Soviet authorities limited freedom of expression in literature and the visual arts. The song festivals remained a means of national self-expression. Nevertheless, intellectual life and scientific research were advanced by Soviet standards. The new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in and responded with glasnost and perestroika. They were attempts to reform the Soviet system from above to avoid revolution from below. The reforms occasioned the re-awakening of nationalism in the Baltic republics, in a development known as the Singing Revolution. Small successful protests encouraged key individuals and by the end of the reform wing had gained a decisive position in the Baltic republics. They concentrated largely on calls for autonomy rather than independence. Next, the Baltic republics declared their sovereignty: The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union condemned the Estonian legislation as unconstitutional. There was still only one legal communist party, but the availability of multi-candidate choice encouraged the popular fronts and other groups to spread their own electoral message. They saw that independence could never be restored legally by organs of the occupying powers. In particular, it declared the annexation illegal and began the transition towards an independent Republic of Estonia. On 4 May , the Latvian Supreme Soviet made a similar declaration. The Soviets had a bigger challenge elsewhere, in the form of the Russian Federal Republic proclaiming sovereignty in June. The attempts failed, dozens of civilians were killed, and the Soviet troops

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Chapter 7 : Sovietization of the Baltic states - The Full Wiki

Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have been subjected to an intensive campaign aimed at integrating them into the Soviet Union. The Communists have reorganized the economy, deported their opponents, and tried to re-educate the Baltic peoples in a spirit of devotion to the USSR. Since the death of.

Occupation and annexation of the Baltic states sidebar This article Baltic states under Soviet rule covers the period from the end of World War II in , from sovietization onwards until independence was regained in The Baltic states were occupied and annexed , becoming the Soviet socialist republics of Estonia , Latvia and Lithuania. Following on from occupation by Nazi Germany, the USSR reoccupied the Baltic territories in and maintained control there until the Baltic states regained their independence nearly fifty years later in the aftermath of the Soviet coup of Contents Sovietization Resistance and deportations Between and the Soviet Union carried out a process of sovietization which aimed to weaken the national identities of the Baltic peoples. An important factor in the attempt to achieve this was large-scale industrialisation than direct attacks on culture, religion and freedom of expression. The Soviet used massive deportations to eliminate resistance to collectivisation and support for the partisans. The Estonian Forest brothers , as they were known, enjoyed material support among the local population. JPG The total numbers of those deported between and has been estimated at , in Estonia , , in Latvia and , in Lithuania. The deportees were allowed to return after the secret speech of Nikita Khrushchev in , however many did not survive in their years in Siberia. After the war, the Soviets established new borders for the Baltic republics. Estonia lost 5 percent and Latvia 2 percent of its prewar territory. The purpose was to integrate the Baltic economics into the larger Soviet economic sphere. The industrial plans and a transport infrastructure were advanced by the Soviet standards. The rural economy suffered from the lack of investments and the collectivization. New constructions were often poor quality and ethnic Russians immigrants were favored in housing. Lithuania received also immigration but in smaller scale. Ethnic Latvians constituted 75 percent, but the figure dropped to However, absence of Russian immigration was only a part of explanation as Lithuania gained Vilnius area, fewer Lithuanians fled west and the state lost its Jewish minority. People who moved from Russia before annexation and knew the local language were named as "local Russians", for they had better relations with locals than those who settled later. However, many of them died during the Great Purge in the s. The new regimes of were established native communists who had fight in the Red Army. However, the Soviets also imported ethnic Russians to fill political, administrative and managerial posts. For example, the important post of second secretary of local Communist party was almost always ethnic Russian or a member of another Slavic nationality. The Soviets were sensitive about the Baltic area not only because worries about its loyalty, but there were also a number of military installations located there, such as surveillance centres and a submarine base. The Soviet Union signed the Helsinki Accords and the following year, a monitoring group was founded in Lithuania which produced dissident publications during the s and s. The European Parliament passed a resolution supporting the Baltic cause in A new wave of Russification of education system began in the late s attempting to create a Soviet national identity. The education of Baltic children was conducted in their native languages, but the Russian language was compulsory. In addition, the Soviet authorities limited freedom of expression in literature and the visual arts. The song festivals remained a means of national self-expression. Nevertheless, intellectual life and scientific research were advanced by Soviet standards. The new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in and responded with glasnost and perestroika. They were attempts to reform the Soviet system from above to avoid revolution from below. The reforms occasioned the reawaking of nationalism in the Baltic republics, in a development known as the Singing Revolution. Small successful protests encouraged key individuals and by the end of the reform wing had gained a decisive position in the Baltic republics. They concentrated largely on calls for autonomy rather than independence. Next, the Baltic republics declared their sovereignty: The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union condemned the Estonian legislation as unconstitutional. There was still only one legal communist party, but the availability of multi-candidate choice encouraged the popular fronts and other groups to spread their own electoral message. They saw that

independence could never be restored legally by organs of the occupying powers. In particular, it declared the annexation illegal and began the transition towards an independent Republic of Estonia. On 4 May , the Latvian Supreme Soviet made a similar declaration. The Soviets had a bigger challenge elsewhere, in the form of the Russian Federal Republic proclaiming sovereignty in June. The attempts failed, dozens of civilians were killed, and the Soviet troops decided to retreat. One day after the coup on 21 August, the Estonians proclaimed independence. Shortly afterwards Soviet paratroops seized the Tallinn television tower. The Latvian parliament made similar a declaration at the same day. The coup failed but the Collapse of the Soviet Union became unavoidable. On 28 August, the European Community welcomed the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of the Baltic states. The Russian troops stayed for an additional three years, as Boris Yeltsin linked the issue of Russian minorities with troop withdrawals. Lithuania was the first to have the Russian troops withdrawn from its territory in August The last Russian soldier left Skrunda-1 in October , thus marking a symbolic end to the Russian military presence on the soil of the Baltic countries.

Chapter 8 : Baltic states - Wikipedia

The Baltic states, also known as the Baltic countries, Baltic republics, Baltic nations or simply the Baltics (Estonian: Balti riigid, Baltimaad, Latvian: Baltijas valstis, Lithuanian: Baltijos valstybės), is a geopolitical term used for grouping the three sovereign states in Northern Europe on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Independence and the 20th century The collapse of the German and Russian empires during World War I allowed the Baltic peoples to establish independent states. The road to independence was similar in all three. Petersburg , all of Lithuania and most of Latvia were under German military occupation. Estonia and the eastern part of Latvia were still under Russian control. In , while the Baltic homelands were under German occupation, national councils declared independence and established governments. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk of March 3, , ceded Russian rights to the entire Baltic area to Germany, which sought to organize puppet states in the region. The Balts, however, sought genuine independence. The German collapse in late was followed by attempts to reestablish Russian control through the imposition of Soviet regimes. The new national governments managed to survive the threat from the east as well as from other quarters. In the Soviets concluded peace treaties recognizing independent Baltic states. By all three states had become recognized members of the international community of states. Estonian liberation On April 12, , the Russian provisional government, which had replaced the tsar during the February Revolution , allowed all ethnic Estonian regions to be administratively united into a single autonomous province. The Bolsheviks , however, managed to install an administration in Estonia, but it fled in February when the Germans renewed their advance. The Estonian provisional government renewed its activity after the German collapse in November but was immediately faced with a Soviet invasion. A Soviet Estonian government was established on November 29, The provisional government, however, managed to withstand the Soviet attack with the aid of a British naval squadron and a Finnish volunteer force. By the end of February , all of Estonia had been cleared of the Soviets. The Soviet Estonian government was dissolved in January Latvian liberation On November 30, , after the Bolshevik usurpation of power in Petrograd, the Latvian Provisional National Council, meeting in the Soviet-held part of the country, proclaimed an autonomous Latvian province within ethnographic boundaries. Soon afterward all of Latvia came under German military occupation. A Soviet invasion followed. On January 3, , Riga fell and a Bolshevik Latvian regime was set up. The Latvian struggle against the Bolsheviks was complicated by remaining German troops who had been empowered by the Allies to provide defense against the Bolsheviks. Baltic German barons had briefly set up a Baltic duchy on November 9, German troops took Riga on May 22, , and pushed north. An armistice negotiated under British auspices forced a return of Riga to the national Latvian government in July. By fall the Soviets had been pushed out of most of Latvia and remained only in eastern Latvia, and by early they had been cleared from this region as well. On August 11, , Soviet Russia recognized Latvian independence and concluded a treaty of peace. The armistice negotiated with the Germans during the summer of required their withdrawal to East Prussia. Before it could be implemented , however, Goltz managed to organize an anticommunist West Russian army, including German monarchist volunteers, under an obscure White Russian adventurer, Pavel Bermond-Avalov. Simultaneously, in an effort to establish communications with Germany, his army moved into western Lithuania. The Latvians, assisted by an Anglo-French naval squadron, counterattacked and defeated the effort. Subsequently, Bermond-Avalov suffered another defeat in Lithuania. By December 15 all his troops had abandoned Latvia and Lithuania. Although formal German recognition was secured in March, real independence was not achieved until the German collapse in the west in November. Like Estonia and Latvia, Lithuania was immediately faced with a Soviet invasion. The national government, protected by German forces that remained in western Lithuania on instructions from the Western Allies, succeeded in organizing an army, which began to push the Soviets out of the country. By the end of August, Lithuania had been cleared of Soviet troops. Soviet Russia signed a peace treaty with Lithuania on July 12, The Lithuanian push for independence was complicated by its historic relationship with Poland. For many Poles Lithuania had become a part of their country. Others considered that, if the Lithuanians were to set

up an independent state based on the principle of ethnic population, Vilnius should become a part of Poland. In September, however, a Polish force, breaking an armistice with Lithuania, reoccupied the city. In Poland unilaterally incorporated the city and its surrounding region. Lithuania refused to enter into any formal relations with Poland throughout most of the interwar period. The Polish-Lithuanian conflict over Vilnius prevented the formation of an effective bloc of eastern European countries between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Independent statehood

Politics After achieving independence, the Baltic countries faced the need of political and socioeconomic restructuring. Radically parliamentary constitutions were adopted in all three; the legislatures clearly predominated over the executive. In Estonia a single-chamber parliament Riigikogu was elected under a system of proportional representation. The prime minister was also chief of state. The Latvian and Lithuanian parliaments—the Saeima and the Seimas, respectively—each elected a president for their republic. Political parties and groups proliferated, and several dominant parties emerged. In Lithuania a conservative Christian Democratic Party dominated. The communist parties, outlawed in Latvia and Lithuania throughout the period of independence and in Estonia after an abortive coup on December 1, 1918, were insignificant. All three countries developed authoritarian systems. By late 1919 Smetona, who had the support of the army and the home guard, had eliminated all political parties except his own Nationalist Union and cast himself as the leader of the nation. His regime maintained power until the Soviet occupation of 1940. New constitutions were promulgated in 1920 and 1922. The latter provided for a single-chamber parliament elected for five years and a strong head of state elected for seven years by an electoral college. Until 1920 Smetona based his position solely on the Nationalist Union. The complex situation in foreign affairs, however, contributed to the appointment in 1920 of a broadly based coalition government representing the major political tendencies in the country. The multiplicity of parties in Estonia and Latvia prevented the formation of stable coalitions. Elections and changes of cabinet were frequent. The average life span of governments in Estonia between 1919 and 1920 was 8 months and 20 days. The political problems were exacerbated by the financial difficulties and unemployment brought by the world economic crisis of the 1920s. Calls for constitutional reform and stable government increased. Right-wing authoritarian groups grew in strength. In October 1920 a referendum on constitutional reform initiated by the Vaps was approved by 70%. In 1921 he legalized the regime by referendum. Constitutional reform preceded the election of a new parliament. On April 23, 1922, he was elected first president of the republic. A similar development occurred in Latvia. The country had become increasingly polarized between the far right and far left. Attempts at constitutional reform failed. He formed a government of national unity from representatives of most of the important political parties and governed by decree. On April 11, 1922, he combined the offices of president and prime minister. In all three countries the new authoritarian regimes drew their principal support from the well-to-do peasants and from the armed forces and home guards. The rural populations and business interests favoured the authoritarian regimes. Foreign trade showed a steady increase, and there was a rise of prosperity. Political repression remained mild, consisting for the most part of temporary imprisonment of opponents, especially those from the extreme left. All three regimes based their reason for existence on the need to preserve national unity and to strengthen the position of the indigenous nationalities in their homelands. All three successfully diminished the power of the far right as well as of the far left. Attempts were made to reorganize society on the basis of representative bodies of professions, patterned on the fascist model in Italy. The state-run sector of the economy was enlarged in Latvia and Lithuania.

Economy The Baltic countries entered independent statehood in 1918 as lands that had been ravaged by warfare. The industrial plant, especially in Latvia, had suffered wholesale destruction or relocation into the Russian interior. Fundamental economic reorganization in the immediate aftermath of independence became a necessity, especially in Estonia and Latvia. The agricultural structure of both countries remained semifeudal, with large estates owned by the German nobility. The industrialization that had occurred had been engendered by an imperial Russian market that no longer existed. Agrarian reform on a major scale occurred in both countries. During the struggles for independence, the governments of Latvia and Estonia had promised distribution of land to landless volunteers. The holdings of the large estates were expropriated and redistributed, and the economic power of the German nobility was thus destroyed. Tens of thousands of the rural proletariat were given land. The expropriated forests became state

property and provided an important source of revenue through lumber exports. Some of the industrial enterprises were successfully reoriented to Western exports, but many also folded. New industrial undertakings, however, also appeared. In Latvia an entirely new electronics industry appeared and developed significantly. Manufacturing of miniature cameras was introduced in Riga.

Soviet occupation of the Baltic states () For the Soviet re-occupation of the Baltic states in , see *Soviet occupation of the Baltic states* (). The Soviet occupation of the Baltic states covers the period from the Soviet - Baltic mutual assistance pacts in , to their invasion and annexation in , to the mass deportations of

Dissent and nationalism in the Baltic States: Bernini The year was , August was the month. The months to come will be always remembered for the fall of the Berlin Wall, but this August episode, which is less known, is not less pivotal for the future of Europe as a whole. The thesis of my paper is that this episode was a successful example of claiming freedom of conscience by the joined efforts of three small countries which were not allowed to express dissent during the USSR domination. I see the Baltic Way as a structural precondition of the Berlin Wall fall: To conclude, considering a geopolitics level, the paper will focus on some of the present consequences and challenges that derive from the fact that the Baltic States are the only previous Soviet Republics that have entered the European Union and are also members of NATO.

Molotov Ribbentrop Pact The three Baltic nations are unique. In terms of geography, history, culture and religion, they are the most Western of the former Soviet Republics. What also particularly intrigued me was that the Baltic States are unique as they have experimented with two totalitarian regimes along the 20th century, namely Nazism and the Soviet Union regime. The Soviet domination in particular, was long but not continuous. However, their independence was taken away 29 years later. In , Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact, a pact of non- aggression and with a secret protocol, aiming at dividing spheres of influence. The immediate consequence was the establishment of pro-Soviet governments: Soon after, in June , Hitler, with the Operation Barbarossa, occupied the three Baltic States that had hoped in vain for a restoration of their independence. After , the Soviets reoccupied the countries giving origin to sovietization. Indeed, Stalin not only forced the collectivization of private land ownership, the creation of state owned industries and the sovietization of collective farms kolkhoz , but also imposed the Russian language in . The aim was to undermine the sense of Baltic identity: Mass deportations were planned by the Kremlin soon after the invasion and started in [4]. Similarly, in Estonia the first deportation raid started on the night of June . I wondered how the Baltic States can have such strong nationalism despite the long Soviet domination, despite the harsh policy of sovietization oriented to repress any form of nationalism. Both elements can be found in the history of the Baltic States. It was a human chain, formed by a line of about two million people holding hands stretching for km from Vilnius to Tallin. It took place on 23 August, on the 50th anniversary of the day when the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed. It was organized by the Baltic pro-independence movements: Choir festivals, held every five years, would feature songs of loyalty to the Soviet Union, but after the official program the choir would often perform a familiar songâ€”a folk song, for exampleâ€”that despite neutral content would become a song of resistance, with the enormous audience singing along. The people who organized the festivals were sometimes sent to Siberia. So the Singing Revolution, the model for how to organize a resistance, was already there at these festivals. At first sight it would seem that it has same purpose of a wall of blocking something. The human chain, however, can be seen as the opposite image of a concrete wall, as it conveys a sense of solidarity. Also a recent episode was inspired by the Baltic human chain, even if the end was very different: Mikhail Gorbachev in an attempt of healing the system embarked on reforms: Rather, Baltic nationalism was a genuine and positive one. It was a strive for self-determination, the right that was taken away with the Molotov- Ribbentrop Pact. Indeed, when in all three states became independent once again, they asserted that they were simply restoring their sovereignty which had been suspended during the previous fifty years of Soviet rule. Moreover, I believe that Baltic nationalism indirectly led to the collapse of the Iron curtain, as after the independence of the Baltic States what were considered the Eastern block and the Western block of the Iron Curtain were redefined. Challenges posed to Baltic nationalism today The last part of this paper is focused on the importance of the consequences that Baltic States nationalism and dissent still have nowadays in terms of military security issues. Thus it is understandable that these are areas of immense strategic importance. Since the annexation of Crimea to the Russian Federation occurred in March , the Baltic

States have feared a similar fate. As a matter of fact, in all the three states reside vast communities of Russian speakers and ethnic Russian minorities. The growing concern over Russian interference is expressed in measures taken recently in the Baltic States. For instance, military conscription will be reintroduced from September in Lithuania after being abolished in [19]. May this be the return of the Iron Curtain? Accessed April 17, London and New York: Carocci editore, Rome , Accessed May 17, Accessed July 17, Routledge, , position Chapter one Kindle edition.