

Bartłomiej Ługowski

Administration of rural communes in the Lublin District of the General Government 1939 - 1944

Summary

The subject of the work is the description of the administration of rural communes in the Lublin District of the General Government (hereinafter: GG) in the years 1939 - 1944. The main purpose of the work was to present the position of the rural commune as the lowest tiers in the territorial administration structure of the Lublin District of the General Government. An important part of this work is also to characterize changes in the political shape of a rural commune introduced by legal acts issued by the occupation authorities.

This dissertation consists of a list of abbreviations, introduction, factual introduction, five chapters, ending, five annexes and list of sources and literature. The factual introduction describes the Lublin Province on the eve of World War II. In addition, the period of military administration in the areas occupied by the Wehrmacht was described.

The individual chapters are distinguished on the basis of the factual criterion. The first chapter is general and introductory. Its subject is the description of the structure of the occupation administration in the General Government. It characterizes the principles on which the public administration of the Third Reich and the General Government was based. Then, the construction of the central and territorial administration was characterized. The structure of the Government of the General Government, the district governor's office and the county's office are described. General information on the commune administration is also provided.

The subject of the second chapter is the outline of the legal system in force in the General Government. At the beginning, the issue of the continued validity of Polish law in the territory of the General Government was presented. Then the focus was on the legislative activity of the occupation authorities. The occupational hierarchy of sources of law is presented. There are described the competences of central and local authorities to enact legal acts. The most important functions of the law introduced in the General Government by the occupation authorities were also discussed. Moreover, Government gazettes appearing in GG have been characterized in detail.

The third chapter deals with organization and functioning of the commune council in the Lublin District. The status of commune administrators, village administrators and clerks employed in the commune council was described. Then, the internal structure of commune council was presented. The acts of generally applicable law and the office regulations regulating the functioning of these councils were indicated. This chapter also presents changes in the commune administration model caused by the displacement action in the Zamość region.

The following chapters concern the main topic of the work. The fourth chapter presents the administration of economic and financial affairs of rural communes in the Lublin District. This chapter is divided into four main sections: 1. The construction and maintenance of roads, Scharwerk duties, means of transportation, and construction and reconstruction matters; 2. Industry and trade; 3. Tax matters and commune budgets; 4. Agricultural matters.

The last chapters of the work concerns the competences of the administration of rural communes in the Lublin District in matters of population and public order: 1. Provisioning and social services; 2. Security and public order; 3. Population registration, tasks of the commune administration towards the Jewish population imposed by the German occupation authorities and religious affairs; 4. Education and culture; 5. Recruitment for forced labour in the Third Reich and the Baudienst; 6. Public health and sanitary matters.

The ending includes the summary of the thesis itself as well as the most significant conclusions arising therefrom. Annexes were also developed for the purposes of the work.

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