

## **1944–1948 Garwolin Country. Political and social aspects.**

Thesis of PhD concerns 1944–1948 Garwolin Country, presented in terms of political and social aspects. Due to the span of theorem, only selected aspect of politics and social issues were taken under consideration. Drafted frames consists of chronological functioning of the Garwolin Country from leaving of the Country by German military on July 1944 until the stabilization of communistic authorities, resulting in creation of the United Labor Movement on December 1948. The processes taking place within the titled aspects, in high majority are based on analysis of source data most of which were found in the following Archives: The National Archive in Warsaw and its field office in Otwock, The Central Archives of Modern Records, The Archives of History of Polish People's Movement, The Wrchives of National Remembrance Institute in Warsaw and its field office in Lublin.

Several research methods were used during the process of writing this dissertation. The methods can be divided into two groups, which follows: main methods – induction and deduction, belonging to commonly used, and detailed methods – comparative and statistical method, used within a specific field of reaserch. Depending on the reaserch needs, individual methods were used separately or were combined in process of writing the PhD thesis.

The aim of this dissertation is to show how People's Power was introduced and consolidated in power in the Country of Garwolin, and what attitude towards the changes was adopted and represented by the local society.

Thesis has been written in problem-chronological order. It consists of seven chapters. Subchapters have been separated in each chapter, but in second, third, fourth and fifth chapter additionally subchapters to subchapters were introduced.

The first chapter shows Garwolin Country in administrative structures of Poland and its area characteristics, population density and nationalities residing in its area, paying particular attention to the context of its changing post-war reality. Findings regarding personal and material losses suffered by residents of Garwolin Country during World War II inflicted by German occupier were presented as well. In second chapter Operation "Storm" and seizure of power attempts carried out by civilian and military authorities of Polish Underground State were introduced. Further, the characteristics of the creation process of national and local government administration in the area of Garwolin Country were introduced, after withdraw by the German Army on July 1944. Furthermore, the role of actions of "Initiative Group" of National Polish Liberation Committee has been defined. The third chapter applies to activities taken by Polish and Soviet state security authorities supporting the process of consolidation People's Power authority. The issue of Soviet Army and supporting them war commanders was discussed at first, including conducted repressions in relation to the Polish society, the scale of committed crimes and incurred material losses. Next, the issue of public safety authorities and Militia activities is discussed in addition to consolidation of communist governance, in particular the origins of the founding, structure, staff, forms of work and participation in repressions of the society, and problem of the Soviet advisors impact on public safety authorities is being discussed as well. The fourth chapter presents the process of creation and empowerment of communistic leadership, for whom first step was conducted in Poland land reform. According to assumptions the reform supposed to bring historical justice (sic!). Subsequent stages of empowerment by Polish Labor Party, was organization of referendum,

which main goal was to decrease the power of political opposition, next, to conduct the parliamentary elections. Rigged elections has given them, the PLP, the dominant position. It must be emphasized that the huge support was given by safety authorities and Polish People's Army. The fifth chapter discuss activities of political parties – Polish Labor Party, Polish Socialistic Party, People's Party, Polish People's Party – deciding on the face of political scene at the time, as well as on minor political parties as Democratic Party, Labor Party, Polish Peasant Party “New Liberation” and Polish People's Party – Left Wing. It is worth emphasizing that the above competition resulted in dominant position of communistic party, that is PLP. The activities of the youth organizations is discussed next – Young People's Union, “Wici” Rural Youth Union of The Republic of Poland, Youth Organization of Labour University Society, used for achieving own goals by individual political groups. Moreover, the situation of the Christian Church in which it has found in new, post-war reality, has been described. The sixth chapter is dedicated to describe anti-communistic movement, aimed at new invader. It also shows the participation of the communistic apparatus of repression in fighting the anticommunisting underground, led by Marian Bernaciak “Orlik”. The last, seventh, chapter describes living conditions in the area of Garwolin Country during first years after war, especially the matters of the health care, social assistance, victualling, and word of mouth propaganda.

Conducted research on the above aspects of life in Garwolin Country led to answers for questions stated in thesis. The process of introduction and empowerment of communism can be divided into following, each after another, or taking place simultaneously, stages. The goal of first stage was to take over territory of Garwolin Country by Soviets, as Germans proceed to withdraw their army, as fast as possible, followed by beginning to organize the centers of general and local government, political parties, as well as supporting it apparatus of terror. After introducing authorities to exercise power by the communists, stage of its empowerment and legitimization has begun. This stage of action consisted in combating the opposition in the form of a Military Underground of The Republic of Poland, and the PPP, and widely conducted propaganda activities penetrating every sphere of citizens life. The attitude adopted by the society of Garwolin Country towards ongoing changes, can be divided into four social groups, which are: the communists, opponents of the new government, people supporting ongoing changes, and people who are passive.

Conducted research led to display in microscale the ongoing processes in such a small administration units, as Garwolin Country was. It must be stated that ongoing changes on Country's territory, both political and social, are not fundamentally different from changes taking place nationwide. Also the social reaction and the attitudes people presented, reflected the typical attitudes of the general public in Poland. It must be stated that this very dissertation is the first on in Polish historiography that introduces holistic political and social aspects concerning the Garwolin Country in the years 1944–1948.

