

Trials of Nazi Criminals in the Occupation Zones and their Influence on Czechoslovak Retribution – Abstract and Key Words

The theme of the presented dissertation thesis is the phenomenon of the so-called Zone trials, ie the trials of Nazi criminals, which took place just after the end of the World War II in the territory of the individual occupation zones of divided Germany in the exclusive (possibly shared) jurisdiction of one of the four occupying powers (France, the Soviet Union, the United States of America and the United Kingdom). The first goal of this thesis is to analyze the trial programs implemented in each of the occupation zones and on the basis of these partial analyzes to obtain a generalized characteristics of each of the programs. The second goal is to compare each of the individual Zone trial programs. The third goal is to answer the question of whether and, if so, to what extent, the Zone programs of trials of Nazi criminals and Retribution trial programs implemented in the territory of Czechoslovakia were mutually influenced.

The first chapter discusses the historical basis of trials against persons suspected of committing war crimes and other crimes under the international law, as well as the theoretical background and circumstances that led to the emergence of trial programs in the independent jurisdiction of each of the individual Allied powers.

The second to fifth chapters then deal with each of the Occupation zones of divided Germany individually. Zone trials programs are then examined in two ways. Firstly, they are analyzed in general, especially in terms of applied substantive and procedural law, the number and composition of defendants, the general nature of proceedings, the ratio between acquitted and convicted, the type of sentences imposed and subsequent pardon policy.

The second component of the study of Zone trials programs is the in-depth analysis of selected specific trials, which were either particularly important for the program or which were an example of a wider group of trials that were typical for the program.

The sixth chapter is devoted to the comparison of the previously analyzed Zone trials programs. The comparison is made on the basis of predetermined criteria, which should take into account key aspects influencing the final form of the trials programs. Thanks to this chapter, it is possible to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the approach of each of the Zone powers to the issue of punishing Nazi criminals.

Finally, the last chapter examines the similarities between the Czechoslovak retribution trial program and Zone trials programs. The aim of this chapter is to find out whether there was a direct or at least indirect influence between these trial programs.

Keywords: Zone trials; Trials of Nazi criminals; Occupation zones of the divided Germany.