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*The communist regime towards the Orthodox Church in south-eastern Poland (1944-1989)*

The aim of this dissertation is to show the activities of the communist regime towards the Orthodox Church in south-eastern Poland in the years 1944-1989. The author understands the regime as the structure of the Polish communist party, the central administration together with its subordinate local structures, as well as the security apparatus. It was they who pursued a repressive policy towards the society. This also applied to churches and religious associations.

The Polish Orthodox Church, due to the changes in the area and population during and after World War II, underwent various changes, starting from the distribution of the parish, but also the diocesan structure and staffing, which had a significant impact on the fate of the Orthodox Church in Poland in the post-war period

Chapter 1 presents the state of the Orthodox Church shortly before World War II, changes during the war and the problems of this Church in the years 1944-1951. They concerned jurisdictional issues in the Białystok region, the removal of Metropolitan Dionysius from governing the Church, the issue of autocephaly and the election of a new head of the Orthodox Church in Poland in the person of Metropolitan Makary. The author also characterised the religious and national-ethnic policy of the communist state, presenting its theoretical basis and the state structures responsible for its implementation.

Chapter 2 discusses demographic changes in south-eastern Poland related to the resettlement of the Ukrainian and Lemko population to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and those conducted as part of the "Vistula" operation. An important issue was to describe the process of decomposition of the Orthodox parishes in the region in question.

Chapter 3 is devoted to the problems related to the creation of structures of the Orthodox Church in south-eastern Poland. Attention was drawn to the policy of the communist authorities regarding the establishment of new parishes and towards the Orthodox clergy working in those parishes. An important element in the creation of the structures of the Orthodox Church in south-eastern Poland was the support of the Orthodox clergy and parishes. It took place primarily through the transfer of Uniate temples, liturgical equipment, assistance in the renovation of churches, but also direct - financial and material - supporting the clergy and parishes. The excerpt also includes a discussion of the pastoral activity issues.

Chapter 4 presents numerous disputed situations present in this area. They mainly concerned the use of temples, but also conflicts between Orthodox priests and disputes between priests and state authorities.

The dissertation is completed with an introduction and conclusion, tables and maps.

The author is convinced that this thesis will contribute to a deeper understanding of the religious policy of the communist regime in Poland towards churches and religious organisations.

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