

# Evaluation of History

## The restoration of Latvia's independence - an opportunity to seek an open and objective re-evaluation of the history of the 20th century

In the 20th century, Latvia experienced a number of successive occupations, now Latvia seeks to preserve the historical memory of these years. Special attention is given to those historic events during different occupation periods that could only be evaluated on the state level after regaining independence. Active work will be continued on Holocaust issues in 2003.

## Promotion of research and readiness to co-operate with international organisations

In 1998, The Commission of the Historians of Latvia was established under the direct auspices of the State President. Currently, the President of Latvia, V.Viķe-Freiberga, has actively engaged herself in the work of the Commission. The Commission's aim is to promote research into the 20th century history of Latvia and to make the results of the research known both to the Latvian and international community. Currently the Commission of Historians is working on its on-going broad research project "Crimes against Humanity Committed in the Territory of Latvia under Two Occupations, 1940 - 1956". An annual conference reflecting new findings and conclusions will take place in Latvia in 2003. Providing a contribution to the teaching of history in schools by preparing the basis for creating new teaching and learning materials is an important task of the Commission.

Latvia is considering joining the International Task Force in 2003, and co-operation with this institution on number of projects has already taken place.

## Holocaust issues included into compulsory history curriculum

The subject of the Holocaust is included in the compulsory history curriculum as a component of general education. It is included in the final exams at the end of elementary education, as well as in the final history exam of secondary schools. The subject is also discussed in classes on the history of culture, civics, and politics. Several books on the Holocaust and the history of the Jewish community in Latvia are presently available for use by students. Materials for teachers have also been prepared.

In 2002 Latvian Association of History Teachers has developed new teaching materials and will continue actively introduce them in schools all over Latvia. A number of seminars for teachers with counterparts from other countries will take place during 2003 to exchange experience and elaborate further plans..

A number of publications explaining the history of the Holocaust in Latvia have been published in recent years  
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