

## SUMMARY

The Hlinka Guard was a militia maintained by the Hlinka's Slovak People's Party (the only allowed Slovak political party during the existence of wartime independent Slovak State) in 1938 – 1945. The HG, following the footsteps of its pro-Nazi „sisters“, had a strong influence on Slovak policy likewise the Iron Guard in Romania or the Arrow Cross Party in Hungary. Though the HG was officially subordinated to Hlinka's Party it often acted like a sovereign political subject. Historians rightly consider the Guard to be a flagship of national socialism in Axis Slovakia. Monograph focuses on its activities in era of German occupation of Slovakia (1944 – 1945) when HG's competencies were markedly enhanced and it became a leading force of Slovak collaboration. The aim of book is to analyze the HG's role in context of Nazi occupational strategy in the wartime Europe.

Fascist, national socialist and related organizations have stood in focus of author's interest since he started studying history. The passion gradually developed into his profiling research field. Out of all evolution phases of totalitarian regimes he is fascinated mainly by their ends – by dynamic periods defined by a short outburst and even faster downfall of political ultraradicalism; by periods which radically reshaped human nature and which, for many people, became a life-time trauma. History of the HG in last months of the Hlinka's Slovak People Party's regime is a „deep well“ of social phenomenons mentioned above.

The monograph is based on a very broad heuristics, especially on primary sources from Slovak, Czech and German archives. Documents were precisely synthesized, particularly with the help of analytical, comparative and analogical method.

Monograph does not seek to reflect history of the HG, „restarted“ after the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising, as a baneberry but as a product of occupational strategy conducted under the auspices of Berlin which had been tested in other European countries before.

Three main chapters (*Politics, Military Deployment, Persecutions*) discuss how Germany misused the HG for its own war goals. Thanks to an original framework the book might be useful for comparative purposes of *fascist studies*, history, politology or other social disciplines too.

Through these heuristic categories the monograph tries to explain domestic and international correlations and to answer the question what actually the HG was, which influences determined its character after transformation in Autumn 1944 and what memento it left in national history. The author reflects the ques-

tion of collaboration with the Nazi regime, an effort to implement Nazi visions of *Neuordnung* in Slovakia, the future hypothetical destiny of Slovakia under the *Hakenkreuz* and the regime of ruling Hlinka's Slovak People's Party.

An innovative conception, in terms how the book reflects and interprets history of the HG in short period before the end of the WWII, attempts to conceptualize and contextualize the issue of collaboration, contrary to traditional or revisionist approaches which are still dominating in Slovak historiography.