

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis has been an analysis of the trial of General Heliodor Píka, who was convicted for abusing his service power and military treason and executed in 1949. Since he was a distinct personality in Czechoslovak history and his trial was one of the first post-war show trials, it will be necessary to characterize the period of 1950's in the former Czechoslovakia. Here we focus primarily on the political situation. Information on the Píka's trial I gained from a direct participant, Mr. Karel Vaš, who, according to an extant material, featured in the position of the investigating prosecutor. Therefore I would also like to present briefly his life story, mainly to put us into the context of his time in post-war Czechoslovakia. At this point it should be emphasized I used the method of oral history with subsequent analysis of archival sources. Therefore the aim of the work is not to evaluate the personality and deeds of Karel Vaš, but to offer a comprehensive view of the above issues embedded in the context of his time.

Keywords:

World war II, Heliodor Píka, Karel Vaš, Communist Party, The Military Counterintelligence OBZ, Soviet Union.