

V. Stanley Vardys. *The Catholic Church, Dissent and Nationality in Soviet Lithuania*. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1978. Pp. xiii, 336. \$18.00. Distributed by the Columbia University Press.

Catholic efforts to full civic rights is examined by Vardys in deeply and broadly in the Lithuanian frame of reference, a praiseworthy attempt since Lithuania's Catholic struggle remains very closely intertwined with national dissent and constitutes a considerable part of the general Soviet civil-rights movement that in recent years has sprouted in Soviet Russia and the border republics. Thus, while focusing attention on the goals, scope, and social dynamics of Lithuanian Catholic dissent, Vardys examines it in the perspective of Lithuania's modern development which, especially since the middle of the nineteenth century, has been distinguished by a nearly symbiotic relationship between Catholicism and nationality. This closeness frequently made the defense of religious rights identical or coterminous with the promotion of nationalistic aspirations and even of political sovereignty. In order to explain this complex relationship the Catholic dissidents' goals and philosophies are examined and also analyzed against the backdrop of church-state conflict in the Tsarist empire showing by no means the always cooperative church-state relations in the Lithuanian state between the two world wars. In addition, the Lithuanian Catholic relationship to the Soviet civil-rights movement is discussed, together with the dissenting movement and its struggle for religious rights within the legal and socio-ideological environment of the USSR. Especially good is Vardys' analysis of the enormous, though frequently overlooked and minimized, Soviet involvement in atheist activities.

The examination of Soviet legal conflict is supplemented by an appendix that contains translations of the most recent constitutional and legal provisions controlling religion in the Soviet Union. Since the period examined covers the time span governed mainly by the Stalin Constitution of 1936 and by the law on religious associations of 1929, as amended, translations of these documents are produced together with the provisions of the new constitution of 1977 and the new version of the law on religious associations adopted by the Lithuanian SSR in 1976. (The Soviet Union formally adopted the new Constitution on October 7, 1977).

As Vardys points out, "The asymmetric and prejudicial Soviet allocation of freedom of communications to religious activities on the one hand and to promotion of atheism on the other is unique for modern politics." In fact, "In several Communist ruled lands, freedom of religion recently has gained ground while in the Soviet Union, generally, the new Constitution and legislation has revealed that no such improvement was contemplated" (p. x).

Most of the sources and references used by Vardys, of both dissident

The Catholic Church Dissent And Nationality In Soviet Lithuania

Vytas Stanley Vardys



The Catholic Church Dissent And Nationality In Soviet Lithuania:

The Catholic Church, Dissent, and Nationality in Soviet Lithuania Vytas Stanley Vardys, 1978 *The Catholic Church, dissent and nationality in Soviet Lithuania* Vytas Stanley Vardys, 1978 **National Minorities and Citizenship Rights in Lithuania, 1988-93** V. Popovski, 2000-11-08 This book examines the emergence of nationalism in Lithuania specifically the Lithuanian national movement known as Sajudis and its approach towards the citizenship rights of national minorities The study concentrates on the period between 1988 and 1993 when the national majority and minorities began forming and debating citizenship rights The question of citizenship rights of national minorities is not ordinarily viewed as a problem with regard to Lithuania and there has consequently been minimal attention devoted to this topic This book addresses this neglect and brings the underlying assumptions into critical perspective by analysing the Lithuanian situation not just according to the letter of the law but also in terms of how these laws were implemented and how the minorities responded to them In doing so the book explores the conflict which emerged between the growing national movement and the ideals of citizenship such as multicultural pluralism diversity and heterogeneity The book therefore has relevance to all those who are interested in postcommunist societies and in particular the tensions that frequently develop between nationalism and citizenship

Soviet Samizdat Ann Komaromi, 2022-05-15 Soviet Samizdat traces the emergence and development of samizdat one of the most significant and distinctive phenomena of the late Soviet era as an uncensored system for making and sharing texts Based on extensive research of the underground journals bulletins art folios and other periodicals produced in the Soviet Union from the mid 1950s to the mid 1980s Ann Komaromi analyzes the role of samizdat in fostering new forms of imagined community among Soviet citizens Dissidence has been dismissed as an elite phenomenon or as insignificant because it had little demonstrable impact on the Soviet regime Komaromi challenges these views and demonstrates that the kind of imagination about self and community made possible by samizdat could be a powerful social force She explains why participants in samizdat culture so often sought to divide political from cultural samizdat Her study provides a controversial umbrella definition for all forms of samizdat in terms of truth telling arguing that the act is experienced as transformative by Soviet authors and readers This argument will challenge scholars in the field to respond to contentions that go against the grain of both anthropological and postmodern accounts Komaromi's combination of literary analysis historical research and sociological theory makes sense of the phenomenon of samizdat for readers today Soviet Samizdat shows that samizdat was not simply a tool of opposition to a defunct regime Instead samizdat fostered informal communities of knowledge that foreshadowed a similar phenomenon of alternative perspectives challenging the authority of institutions around the world today **Catholicism and Politics in Communist Societies** Sabrina P. Ramet, 1990 This book is volume two of a three volume work *Christianity Under Stress* which focuses on the experiences of Christian churches in contemporary communist and socialist societies In this volume a distinguished group of experts examines the changing relationship of the Catholic

church to contemporary communist and socialist societies in Eastern Europe Latin America and Asia Catholicism has on the one hand traditionally regarded earthly life as of secondary importance as an instrument of spiritual transformation and on the other has ascribed great value to the early institutions of the church taking great interest in temporal matters that affects its institutional concerns Against the backdrop of this duality the church has changed over the centuries adapting to local and national conditions Catholicism and Politics in Communist Societies surveys these local and national adaptations in their historical contexts linking the past experience of the church to its present circumstances Organized around themes of tradition vs modernity hierarchy vs lower clergy and institutional structure vs grass roots organization this comprehensive volume presents a detailed country by country portrait of the political and social status of the church today in communist and socialist settings Contributors Pedro Ramet Arthur F McGovern Roman Solchanyk Ivan Hvat Robert F Goeckel C Chrypinski Milan J Reban Leslie Laszlo Janice Broun Eric O Hanson Stephen Denney Thomas E Quigley Humberto Belli Hansjakob Stehle George H Williams

To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause Benjamin Nathans, 2024-08-13 In the 1960s the Soviet Union found itself unexpectedly challenged from within by a cohort of dissidents who eventually achieved global fame Their struggle for the rule of law and human rights made them instant heroes in the West where they appeared as democracy's surrogate soldiers behind the iron curtain But as historian Benjamin Nathans argues theirs was a homegrown phenomenon activists built the anti totalitarian movement on fundamental concepts from within the communist pantheon And their goal was not to topple the Soviet state a feat they could scarcely imagine but to exercise a kind of containment of Soviet power from within Still the movement was in many ways improbable a half century after Lenin launched the world's first socialist society and a generation after Stalin liquidated millions of enemies of the people there was not supposed to be any internal opposition left What kind of people became dissidents and how were they able to invent new techniques of social activism eventually forming the socialist world's first civil and human rights movement To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause a title borrowed from the dissidents favorite toast pronounced with glasses raised in countless apartments across the USSR's eleven time zones tells the story of the people and the ideas that made the movement Weaving together KGB interrogation and surveillance records with diaries letters and an extraordinary number of memoirs Nathans explains how a movement grew from a chain reaction of individual acts of resistance He explains its origins in the counterintuitive idea of civil obedience the conviction that human rights could be achieved if only the Soviet regime followed its own constitution and that citizens had to act as if the constitution was the law of the land in the absence of compliance within the governing class Nathans constructs in detail the lives and struggles of numerous dissidents including Andrei Sakharov Anatoly Natan Sharansky and Alexander Volpin He describes the many show trials of activists the extra legal tactics of the KGB's Fifth Directorate the international networks of activism and journalism that fueled the movement at key moments and the gradual incorporation of dissident ideals into mainstream Soviet political culture This book offers a definitive history of the group of

dissenters who worked from within the Soviet system against the post Stalinist regime bringing to life the stories of drama
conflict tangled relationships personal sacrifice and extraordinary devotion to a seemingly impossible cause **Lithuania** V.
Stanley Vardys, Judith Sedaitis, Mrs V Stanley Vardys, 2018-02-19 This book explores Lithuania's pagan ancestry and epochal
struggles with Germanic and Russian states and examines Lithuania's struggle with the legacy of Soviet rule as it strives to
establish democracy and economic prosperity **A Reader's Guide to the Baltic States**, 1991 Russia and Eastern
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Misiunas, Rein Taagepera, 1983-01-01 Geschiedenis van Estland Letland en Litauen

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