

Bociurkiw, Bohdan Rostyslav. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Soviet State 1939-1950. Edmonton-Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 1996. xvi, 310 p. illus., ports, map, bibliog. ISBN 1-895571-12-x \$44.75 CDN including shipping. CIUS Press 352 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8

In 1946 the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which had been established 350 years earlier in 1556, was liquidated by Stalin's Soviet government. This study focuses on the period 1939-50 in the history of the church in relation to the USSR government. As the title suggests the Nazi German occupation period of 1941-44 is not covered.

The Western Ukrainian territories where the Ukrainian Catholic Church flourished was occupied by the Soviet Red Army in September 1939 when Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia were allies and divided Poland's territory between them. Most of the Ukrainian populated area of Poland came under Soviet domination but some were under Nazi rule. On this territory there were about 2,321 priests, 2,454 churches/parishes and 3,444,910 Ukrainian faithful.

Professor Bohdan Bociurkiw, who taught at the University of Alberta and Carleton University of Ottawa, is a political scientist who is a noted expert on the Ukrainian Catholic Church which he calls Ukrainian Greek Catholic. The word "Greek" here does not signify ethnic nationality but the fact that it followed the Byzantine or Eastern Rite which is virtually identical to that of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church except that it recognizes the Pope as the Head of the Church. The Orthodox Church looks to the Metropolitan of Constantinople (Istanbul) as its senior member.

This book is the most authoritative study of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the decade studied and is partly based on new archival resources which became available after the USSR self-destructed on December 25, 1991. The book has an excellent bibliography and maintains the highest standard of scholarship.

The tragic story of how Moscow almost completely destroyed and suppressed the Ukrainian Catholic Church is typical of the methods used to destroy the religious and moral fiber and the character of the Ukrainian people. It is a clear, well balanced account which describes the consequences of the Lviv Sobor of March 8-10, 1946 which eliminated the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine and the USSR and united the remnant to the Russian Orthodox Church. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church had already been destroyed and banned by the Soviet Russian occupation of Ukraine. This book is well printed by CIUS Press with a gloomy photo of St. George's Cathedral in Lviv on the book jacket. ■