

Brief description of doctoral dissertation

Author of doctoral dissertation: Krzysztof Pięciak

Title of the dissertation: Banditry in the Krakow Voivodeship in the second half of the 1940s.

Supervisor's academic degree, name and surname: dr hab. Zdzisław Zblewski, UJ Professor

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The doctoral dissertation examines the phenomenon of banditry - a pathology that affected the society of occupied Poland during World War II and which persisted in the first years after its termination, until the end of 1940s. The problem has not yet been analysed in the academic discourse.

The thesis is divided into six chapters. The first one describes banditry during II World War. The second characterizes acts of banditry and *modus operandi* of people and groups who commit them. The next chapter concerns places. There are subsections analysing each county of Cracov Voivodeship region, as well as historical regions. 'Dangerous places', most exposed to acts of banditry, also characterized in this section. The fourth chapter describes 'social portrait' of people who were perpetrators of banditry and criminal acts. The next chapter deals with 'border' issues: encounters of banditry and anticommunist resistance as well as banditry and officers of communist country services. The last chapter discusses 'semantic loop': usage of word 'bandit' in different contexts and meanings, changing since 1940s, and the way it affects public discourse and collective memory.

Keywords: banditry, II World War, post-war Poland, *Krakow Voivodeship*, *Cracov region*, anti-communist partisans.