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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUISITION POLICIES OF THE RPFJ DURING THE YEARS 1945-1952 DAMAGED THE ECONOMY OF KOSOVO

Abstract: *The requisition¹ was applied in many countries of the former RPFJ, unfortunately also to the people of Kosovo and as a measure that will remain long in their memory. Kosovo was quite damaged by the Second World War, until, in addition to the many measures taken by the government of that time, it was also burdened by the requisition, which from the first year after the Second World War (1945), used it as a predatory-economic campaign, as an administrative measure by creating its extra bodies for implementation, starting from the Local Councils of the districts, which hierarchically had to report to the Ministry of Trade and Supply of the RPFJ.*

They have also taken measures to sensitize these bodies and the rural masses in general, on whom the main burden fell. They also used the press, with the well-known calls of that period that "no palm of land should remain uncultivated". Then they took notes for each family as to how much arable land they have, how many members there are for whom food and seeds should be left for planting for the next year, while the rest must be handed over to the state, which is called "Surplus" and in the Serbo-Croatian language it means "Vishak-Otkup". For each country and even district, requisition statistics differ, as well as methods of collection, land area, prosecutors. The registration and collection of crops were not based on fair practices, as the registration and obligation to deliver surpluses did not reflect reality.

The state, through the implementation of the requisition, planned to increase the fund as much as possible, where, in addition to the mandatory shipments of grain, by means of several decree laws, the villagers were imposed

¹ Requisition means to take by obligation, with compensation, or temporarily, productions, resources, means, or other items for general or military needs in certain specific cases. Requisition can include requisition of transportation, grains, property, with payment, etc. Cf. Fjalor i Gjuhës së Sotme Shqipe N-ZH, Rilindja, Prishtinë 1981, 1645; Në gjuhën angleze Requisition (rekëi-zishën) - zaptim, përvetësim Cf. Stuart E. Man. Fjalor Anglisht – Shqip, Londër 1957, 315.

to sell the remaining grain surplus to the state enterprises at a certain price. The mandatory purchase of products was determined at a price lower than the market rate. The situation was further complicated by the need to ensure food for the settlers and their families until their final employment. The local councils had to take responsibility for supplying them with controlled items. Very complex campaign, as from the involvement of the state, implementation, legal regulation, creating a directed-imposed economy. This turned into a whole system of measures to which the state gave a "legal color" to justify the actions taken against the people. In this paper, referring to archival sources and relevant publications on this topic, some characteristic forms and methods that were applied by the political nomenclature and Yugoslav state bodies on the population of Kosovo in the first post-war years will be treated analytically.

Key words: *Requisition, Consequence, Interview, Memory, Propagande, State of the RPFJ, etc.*

IMPLEMENTACIJA POLITIKE REKVIZICIJE RPFJ TOKOM 1945-1952. GODINE I ŠTETE PO EKONOMIJU KOSOVA

Apstrakt: *Rekvizicija je primijenjena u mnogim zemljama bivše RPFJ, nažalost, i na narodu Kosova, kao mjera koja će dugo ostati u njihovom pamćenju. Kosovo je bilo znatno oštećeno tokom Drugog svjetskog rata, a osim mnogih mjera koje je poduzela tadašnja vlada, također je bilo opterećeno rekvizicijom, koja se od prve godine nakon Drugog svjetskog rata (1945) koristila kao predator-ekonomska kampanja, kao administrativna mjera stvaranjem dodatnih tijela za implementaciju, počevši od lokalnih savjeta općina, koji su hijerarhijski morali izvještavati Ministarstvu trgovine i snabdijevanja RPFJ.*

Također su poduzete mjere za sensibilizaciju ovih tijela i ruralnih masa uopšte, na koje je glavni teret pao. Koristili su i štampu, s poznatim pozivima tog vremena da "nijedna palmica zemlje ne smije ostati neobrađena". Zatim su pravili zabilješke za svaku porodicu o tome koliko obradivog zemljišta imaju, koliko članova porodice ima za koje treba ostaviti hrane i sjemena za sadnju za sljedeću godinu, dok se ostatak mora predati državi, što se zove "Višak" i na srpsko-hrvatskom jeziku znači "Višak-Otkup". Statistika rekvizicija razlikuje se za svaku zemlju pa čak i za svaku općinu, kao i metode prikupljanja, površina zemljišta, tužitelji. Registracija i prikupljanje urodu nisu se zasnivali na pravednim praksama, jer registracija i obaveza predaje viškova nisu odražavale stvarnost.

Država je, kroz implementaciju rekvizicije, planirala da poveća fond koliko god je to moguće, gdje su, pored obaveznih isporuka žita, mještanima nametnute nekoliko dekretnih zakona da prodaju preostali višak žita državnim preduzećima po određenoj cijeni. Obavezna kupovina proizvoda određena je po

cijeni nižoj od tržišne. Situaciju je dodatno komplikovao zahtjev za osiguranje hrane za doseljenike i njihove porodice do konačnog zapošljavanja. Lokalne uprave morale su preuzeti odgovornost za snabdijevanje kontroliranim artiklima. Ova kompleksna kampanja obuhvatala je uključivanje države, implementaciju, pravnu regulativu, stvaranje usmjereno-nametnute ekonomije. Ovo se pretvorilo u cijeli sistem mjera kojima je država dala "pravnu boju" kako bi opravdala preduzete akcije protiv naroda. U ovom radu, oslanjajući se na arhivske izvore i relevantne publikacije na ovu temu, analitički će se obraditi neke karakteristične forme i metode koje su primjenjivale politička nomenklatura i jugoslavenske državne institucije na stanovništvo Kosova u prvim poslijeratnim godinama.

Ključne riječi: *Rekvizicija, posljedice, intervju, memorija, propaganda, država RPFJ, itd.*

Consequences of the Implementation of Requisition

After the end of World War II, the economic, social, and psychological position of the population in Kosovo began to deteriorate. The Albanian rural population, constituting 85% of the total population and relying solely on agricultural and livestock production, was severely affected. The state compelled the villagers to surrender a portion of their produce. According to a report, in just 2 months, for April and May of 1945, were collected 2,763 tons of wheat, 753 tons of corn, 44 tons of meat, as well as 1,157 tons of potatoes, beans, beets, animal feed, etc². While suppressing resistance in the villages, the communist authorities seized the opportunity to carry out a large-scale "requisition" of food from the farmers of Kosovo. Thus, in the months of April and May, 3,763,000 kilograms of grain and 1,157,000 kilograms of meat were collected³.

The measures implemented by the executive structures to execute the plan for the reconstruction and strengthening of the state were very ruthless towards the Yugoslav population in general, but especially towards the Albanian population, which was forcibly subjected to Yugoslav rule after World War II. In no other aspect of agricultural policy towards the rural population did it express a positive connotation, as was the case with agricultural products, which the so-called authorities also used for other purposes⁴. Immediately after liberation, one of the most important tasks was the implementation of

² Pajazit Nushi, *Motivet psikologjike të mërgimit të shqiptarëve në vitet 1945-1966*. Shoqata për kthimin e shqiptarëve të shpërngulur nga trojet e veta, Prishtinë 1992, 310.

³ Noel Malcolm, *Kosova një Histori e Shkurtër*. Koha & Shtëpia e librit-Tiranë, Prishtinë 2001, 330.

⁴ Виолета Ачкоска, *Задолжителниот откуп во Македонија 1945-1953*, Институт за национална историја, Скопје 1995, 50.

mobilization and ensuring food for the army and civilians⁵. After the annexation of Kosovo, the agrarian policy of the Serbian government applied various forms of pressure on the population of this region⁶.

The political aspects of the service were multifaceted. Firstly, there is the aspect of setting prices in agriculture, then establishing criteria for the mandatory surrender of agricultural surplus to the state, and the behavior of the “people's power” authorities in practice regarding the determination and confiscation of surpluses, often not based on reality⁷. It was sufficient for the Yugoslav Communist Party at that time to label citizens as kulaks or communists⁸. The Albanian population was considered an “insecure element”⁹.

The rich landowners, as always inspired by hostile feelings towards our state, wanted to speculate and in this case, many of them hid several hectares of uncultivated land just to deliver less grain to the state. The biggest mistake of the authorities so far is this because they have transmitted the planting plan to villages and houses in the form of an order. They have obliged the houses to plant different crops on certain areas and have not taken into account the fertility of the soil and for which crop it is most suitable¹⁰.

Even in Albania, according to documents, it is clarified that in cases of suspicion towards kulak farmers who resisted, their homes were searched, measures were taken against them, and they were exposed before the entire population¹¹. Likewise, the property of political refugees and war criminals was confiscated¹². The authorities of that time and their structures showed no consideration even for those who had sacrificed their sons in the war against the occupier, nor for those whose properties had been looted and plundered by the occupier during the war. After these measures, Albanian families were visibly impoverished. The period from 1945 to 1952 posed one of the greatest challenges for the economic and existential survival of the Albanians in Kosovo, known in the people's consciousness as the “bread sorrow”¹³.

⁵ Këshilli Popullor i Krahinës, *Autonome të Kosovës dhe Metohisë 1943-1955*. Prishtinë 1955, 17.

⁶ Kristaq Prifti, *Gjenocidi dhe Komplotet Antishqiptare të Serbomëdhenjve*. Tiranë: Akademia e Shkencave e Shqipërisë, 2017, P. 175.

⁷ В. Ачкаоска, *Задолжителниот откуп во Македонија*, 38.

⁸ Izber Hoti, *Orientime dhe qëndrime politike të shqiptarëve në Kosovë*. Shtëpia botuese Faik Konica, Prishtinë 2010, 40.

⁹ Jusuf Osmani, *Vendbanimet e Kosovës 17*, Besiana (Podujeva). Prishtinë 2005, 65.

¹⁰ Rilindja, *Duhet me ba çmos që plani i mbjelljes së vjeshtës të bëhet sa më real, i drejtë dhe i zbatueshëm*, 28 Gusht 1947, Prishtinë, nr. 87.

¹¹ Arkivi Qendror i Shqipërisë (AQSH), Fond. 521, K. 19, Dok. 8, Republika Popullore e Shqipërisë, Ministria e Tregtisë, Njoftim Nr. 514/1459, nga Komitetet ekzekutive të N/Prefekturave, gjegjësisht Drejtoria Qendrore për Grumbullim, dërguar Kryeministritë-Komisionit Kontrollit, Tiranë, më 19/12/1947.

¹² AQSH, F. 491, K. 2, Ministria e Financave-Komisioni i Kontrollit të shtetit, Plan Pune, pika e katërtë e Procesverbalit Nr.67/18-19, 1946, Korçë.

¹³ Sulltane Kojqini-Ukaj, *Dhuna e Pushtetit Jugosllav ndaj Shqiptarëve në rrethin e Pejës në vitet e para pas LDB-së. Kosova*, Nr. 31-32, Instituti i Historisë, Prishtinë 2009, 167-168.

The campaign to collect agricultural and livestock products was also implemented in other parts of former Yugoslavia. The implementation of this campaign in Kosovo, beyond its economic character, also had a political aspect, and therefore, the consequences were economic, political, and national in nature¹⁴. This campaign was applied to the entire population of Kosovo, but its weight fell more heavily on the shoulders of the Albanians due to their larger population. There was torture and inexplicable mistreatment of citizens under the pretext of revolutionary war, voluntarism of local authorities, as well as various forms of violence and punishments, including even the killing of villagers, to the extent that even buying and selling became unbearable. These state measures were discouraging and left severe consequences on both the villagers and state farms¹⁵.

Propaganda and press campaigns were also exploited in conferences and meetings to boost public willingness to fulfill requisition obligations¹⁶. The behavior of colonists from all over Yugoslavia and some neighboring countries in Kosovo meant not only the mixing of citizens of different nationalities but also of different cultural levels¹⁷.

Additional pressure on villagers included ensuring food for the colonists and their families until the moment of final employment. Local People's Councils took charge of supplying items based on weekly needs, relying on the number of members in each family¹⁸. The situation was further burdened by the political and economic pressure of the military regime, directed mainly towards Albanian producers. The military urgently demanded the Ministry of Trade and Supply to deliver all quantities of food items as planned¹⁹.

The main burden of collection fell on economically stronger families, but measures to encourage collection were also applied to planned quantities through the so-called conditional trade²⁰. Besides numerous testimonies of how "magic tricks were hidden" from families under the slogan of fighting "kulaks," Albanian villagers who resisted because they had nothing to give were sentenced

¹⁴ Mehmet Gjoshaj, *Mbledhja e tepriceve në Kosovë si formë e plaçkitjes ekonomike*, Prishtinë 2009, 368.

¹⁵ Срђан П. Милошевић, *Аграрна политика у Југославију (1945–1953)*, Beograd 2015, 721-724.

¹⁶ *Jedinstvo*, 1946-1947 (aprovimi i planit të mbjelljeve).

¹⁷ Milovan Obradović, *Reforma Agrare dhe Kolonizimi në Kosovë (1918-1941)*. Instituti i Historisë, Prishtinë 2005, 267.

¹⁸ Arkivi ndërkomunal i Mitrovicës [Inter-municipal archive of Mitrovica] (ANKM). Fund (F). Këshilli Popullor i Rrethit 3, Box (B). 12, Departamenti i Tregtisë dhe Furnizimit, Nr. 3425, 12 prill 1946, Mitrovicë.

¹⁹ ANKM, F. KPRR.3, Year (Y). 1945 B. 6, Departamenti i Tregëtisë e Furnizimit, Nr. 2293. This department has requested from the Ministry of Trade and Supply of Serbia that undelivered items such as hay, straw, and beans, etc., for the needs of the army for the three months of June-August (section of this department No. 2293/45) which states: Undelivered items for the military must be delivered urgently, Prizren.

²⁰ Grup Autorësh, *"Mitrovica e Titos" 1945-1980, Pushteti popullor 1945-1955*, Instituti i Historisë, Rilindja-Prishtinë 1985, 26.

to imprisonment, mistreated, and some had their land confiscated on charges of being collaborators of the enemy or opposing the decisions of the authorities to collect surpluses²¹.

For kulaks, it was said that they should be imprisoned because “imprisonment was a means to obtain grain”²². Producers were also condemned to various jobs in camps. Grain workers served in prisons in Pozharevc, Sremska Mitrovica, Krushevc, Kosovska Mitrovica, Nish, or by mining coal in mines, constructing hydroelectric power plants, roads, and other facilities. There were also some labor camps, the most famous being near the Monastery of Dečan. The inmates of the camp were mostly farmers, although there were also political figures; from 1947 to 1952, nearly 1.000 were sentenced²³.

Stations, such as “Zhitopromet,” played a significant role in requisition by collecting various products. During the implementation of forced requisition, along with the organs of popular power, were involved the organs of Zhitopromet²⁴. “During the collection of wheat, illegal actions were taken in some popular republics against citizens who did not fulfill their obligations. These actions were carried out with the initiative of some party leaders in the field or through silent agreements, both from the courts and some executive councils, non-official individuals, and others”²⁵. The majority of criminal offenses for trade, speculation, economic sabotage, and against the general public property were presented against producers. During the submission of mandatory “surpluses” of white wheat, corn, and oil, producers would place various items such as sand, salt, and potatoes. In this period, material damage amounting to 410,422.77 dinars was reported²⁶.

The supply of bread to the people will be ensured by creating the common state grain fund. This fund was formed in the first order with the mandatory purchase of grains from farmers. For this purpose, the joint Government has drawn up the decree-law on the purchase of grains since March 15, 1947. According to this decree-law, every farmer is obliged to sell a part of the grain he produces to the state at a certain price, and according to this, to plant the land so that he can fulfill his obligations. The popular councils in time before

²¹ Fatmir Sejdiu, *Politika Agrare si Instrument i Shtypjes Nacionale në Kosovë*, Prishtinë 2001, 69-70.

²² Momçillo Pavlović, *Srpsko Sello 1945-1952-Otkup*. Institut za savremeno istoriju, Beograd 1997, 39.

²³ *Novosti*, 14. 02. 2023.

²⁴ Agjencia Shtetërore e Arkivave të Kosovës (Prishtinë) [State Agency of Archives of Kosovo] (ASHAK). F. Prokuroria Publike (PP) e Krahinës Autonome Kosovë e Metohi, (KAKM), B. 4, “Zhitopromet,” Prishtinë, 24

²⁵ M. Portmann, *Politika bujqësore komuniste në Vojvodinë (1944-1953)*, 8.

²⁶ ASHAK, F. PP e KAKM, B. 3, Rrept.bes. 8/50 te dt. 9.X.1950, Prishtinë, raport i PP e KAKM dhënë PPRPS në Beograd për ndjekjet e veprave penale, për tremujorët korrik, gusht dhe shtator 1950.

harvesting and sweeping will tell each farmer the amount he should deliver to the state warehouse.

How is the categorization done?

Cat. I. from 1 to 3 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 215 Kg.
Cat. II. from 3 to 5 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 310 Kg.
Cat. III. from 5 to 8 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 510 Kg.
Cat. IV. from 8 to 10 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 690 Kg.
Cat. V. from 10 to 15 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 530 Kg.
Cat. VI. from 15 to 20 hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 1.150 Kg.
Cat. VII. from 20 and more hectares. Obligations were given for 1 ha. at most 1.300 Kg.²⁷

For all their achievements and work, the councils had to report to the public prosecutor. In the letter no. 835/46 of 22.11. and 16.12.1946, it was emphasized that urgent measures needed to be taken so that the "surpluses" could be requisitioned and reported to the prosecutor every 7 days. The percentage of requisitioned wheat was presented based on income. The prosecutor sought additional explanations from the councils through several questions. There were various questions such as whether there was a criminal procedure against specific individuals, whether they were imprisoned and for what reason, whether they were sentenced and if so, what punishment they received, their economic situation, and whether these sentences were reflected in the population. Furthermore, the prosecutor inquired whether the measures taken were sufficient and how they contributed to the more successful requisition of wheat. It also asked whether requisition would be completed within the specified deadline and the opinion of the authorities on this matter²⁸.

Due to the non-implementation of the requisitioning of white wheat according to the economic plan for the first three months of 1947, the Regional Collection Center "Zhitopromet" in Pristina, on 11.1.1947, requested from the Local and Municipal People's Councils to verify which producers had not fulfilled their obligations, so that pressure could be exerted on them. With the threat of legal action and punishment under the law regarding unauthorized speculation and economic sabotage, they were required to deliver the unrequisitioned quantities unconditionally to the aforementioned collection station²⁹.

Below is an overview of those accused for not delivering excess white wheat from 1.08.1946 to 31.05.1947. From the submitted cases to the court – in what form the court concluded the cases:

²⁷ Rilindja, *Dekret-Ligji mbi Blerjen e Drithit*, 7 Qershor 1947, Prishtinë, nr. 77.

²⁸ ASHAK, F. PP e KAKM, K.4, PPRPS, bes. nr. 839/46, 30 dhjetor 1946, Beograd, shkresë dërguar të gjitha prokurorive publike.

²⁹ ASHAK, F. PP e KAKM, B. 4, "Zhitopromet", Ndërmarrja e tokave të Serbisë për qarkullim të grurit, Qendra Rajonale e rekuizimit Nr. 160, Prishtinë, 11.1.1947.

1) In the procedure	12
2) Completed	306
3) Procedures were halted	19
ç) Released:	17
4) Sentenced only with fines	43
5) Sentenced without fines and 6 months of imprisonment	49
6) Sentenced with fines and 6 months of imprisonment	9
Total:	51
7) Sentenced without fines, but from 6 months to 1 year of imprisonment	29
8) Sentenced with fines and from 6 months to 1 year of imprisonment	8
Total:	37
9) Sentenced without fines, but from 1 to 2 years	47
10) Sentenced with fines and from 1 to 2 years of imprisonment	19
Total:	66
11) Sentenced without fines, but from 2 to 3 years	20
12) Sentenced with fines and from 2 to 3 years of imprisonment	16
Total:	36
13) Sentenced without fines, but from 3 to 4 years of imprisonment	8
14) Sentenced with fines and from 3 to 4 years of imprisonment	5
Total:	13
15) Sentenced without fines, but from 4 to 5 years of imprisonment	1

16) Sentenced with fines and from 4 to 5 years of imprisonment	5
Total:	6
17) Sentenced without fines, but over 5 years of imprisonment	13
18) Sentenced with fines and over 5 years of imprisonment	6
Total:	19
The total calculated amount in fines is	1.175.000 din
From the total fine amount	10%
Out of all those sentenced – members of the People's Councils	10%
Albanians sentenced	178
Serbs sentenced	93
Montenegrins sentenced – none	

Figure 1. *Mirror of those accused and sentenced due to the non-delivery of excess white wheat for the economy of 1946/47 from the territory of Kosovo – from 1.8.1946-31.5.1947.*³⁰

Requisitioning in the Memory of Contemporaries

In addition to documents that depict the implementation of this predatory economic campaign, the survivors of that era also share their experiences. We will present the recollections of the interviewees below. Sokol (Zenë) Abazi, a member of the Commission for determining quantities, along with Milivoje Perović and Mustafa Haziri, spoke about the collection of “surpluses” in various forms. He mentioned instances when, as a commission, they compelled villagers to send animals, such as sheep and goats, even at night, as they suspected that they might be hiding them. When asked if there were cases when villagers did not surrender them for various reasons, Sokoli said that they had to deliver the specified quantity or borrow or buy it, given the pressure for the delivery of a large load. When asked why the “surpluses” were taken and where he thought

³⁰ ASHAK, F. PP e KAKM, B. 4, Pasqyrë e të fajësuarëve dhe të dënuarve për shkak të mosdorëzimit të tepcave të drithërave të bardha për ekonominë e 1946/47 nga territori i Kosovës – nga 1.VIII.1946 deri më 31.V.1947.

they were sent, he said that the purpose was to strengthen the state, and they also obtained testimonies from the villagers³¹.

Meanwhile, Halil Ujkani stated that during the period 1945-1952, there were 24 family members, and his father Ramadani was the head of the family. He mentioned that they had 6-7 hectares of arable land, all cultivable, and the tax was determined based on the cultivated land and the number of family members. Mostly, they were required to surrender wheat and corn. Ujkani emphasized that the tax was also determined for livestock, where they had to deliver the meat based on the number of livestock, and even the number of hens was counted, and eggs were taken accordingly. According to him, this was very painful for the citizens, emotionally distressing, and there were cases when authorities, accompanied by the police, visited homes. Ujkani declared that the "surpluses" always had to be surrendered, and families that didn't have them took them from someone else or bought them. The delivery was made at the train station in Mitrovica, where the collection warehouse was located. When asked if they knew or had heard why the "surpluses" were taken, Ujkani replied that they were told it was done to strengthen the state, and they were also required to provide testimonies. He also revealed an important detail that a portion of their land was taken and given to incoming colonists³².

Another witness, Fazli Kelmendi, stated that in the village of Lipa and surrounding villages, they were burdened with delivering "surpluses," which were handed over to the commune, sometimes in the tower of Isa Boletini and at the house of Xhafer Deva in Mitrovica. Kelmendi said that those who did not deliver the specified quantity were sentenced to prison, adding that he had to deliver 300 kg of wheat, and if necessary, he had to sell cattle to fulfill the obligation. In addition to grains, they also took livestock. In 1947, the keeping of bees was prohibited, making life even more difficult, as Fazliu called it, stating that bees were like the "mother of poverty." He emphasized that this was done in the name of brotherhood and that no testimonies were given³³.

Zef Deda, another interviewee on this issue, explained that the collection-seizure of "surpluses" in Albania occurred in two phases: the first from 1945-1948 solely by the order of the Government, and the second with the law from April 1948. He added that councils were formed for the implementation of requisitioning at the local level, and obligations began according to the laws in 1948. Deda stressed that taxes for land were generally paid in various forms; it

³¹ Interview with Sokol (Zenë) Abazi, born on 1937, from the village of Kllodërnica, Municipality of Skenderaj, with residence in Mitrovica. The interview was conducted with 14.7.2019, në Mitrovicë, Profession: Agricultural and Medicinal Technician, Brigadier in the agricultural cooperative in "Zhutovc."

³² Interview with Halil Ujkani, born on 15.4.1934, in the village of Vinarc, today the Municipality of Mitrovica, residing in Vinarc. The interview was conducted on 3.5.2021. He had completed high school in chemical engineering and worked at Trepça. During the period 1945-1952, there were 24 family members, and the head of the household was his father, Ramadani.

³³ Interview with Fazli Kelmendi, born on 20.10.1929, in the village of Lipë, Municipality of Mitrovica, the interview conducted in Lipë, on 3.12.2021.

had to be paid in cash, based on income, based on the quantity of cultivated roots, and the obligation had to be paid within legal deadlines, and they were also given testimony for everything they took from them.

When asked what happened if they did not deliver the “surpluses,” he replied that they would first warn them, call the person, and then, if the obligation was not fulfilled, they would put them in prison, seize their property, etc. Deda added that there were collection centers and agents, and obligations were assigned based on various criteria, such as property, crops, for each individual economy, with a focus on the wealthy class - kulaks. He emphasized that the greatest pressure was on the kulaks, where, based on their economic and political activity, the obligation was about 15% more than for the villagers. Those exempt from obligations were state employees, villagers who had nothing, soldiers who had not left their side jobs, etc³⁴.

The interviewees stated that they were burdened with various types of “surpluses,” ranging from essential products such as wheat, oil, corn, barley, meat, potatoes, beans, salt, oil, flowers, wood, honey, and many other things. They added that villagers made efforts to save their grains and other things to avoid starving to death, but also to have something to plant again. Therefore, they were forced to hide their produce in various and quite risky ways.

From these interviews, we understand that the requisitioning of “surpluses” was almost the same, although it varied in terms of land fertility. Villagers were forced to surrender the “surpluses” and suffer hunger just to avoid mistreatment by those in power. All those who lived through that time today recall it as a difficult period, uncertain about having bread for the day they were living, not to mention tomorrow. The inadequate and unrealistic requisitioning policy towards social strata created distinct regional differences regarding the tax burden, while the behavior of the authorities left a negative impact on the well-being of the people in Kosovo.

Summary

Was the requisition a solution or a consequence?

The people of Kosovo after the Second World War experienced severe measures by the so-called popular power bodies of the former RFPJ. The requisition-campaign for the forced acquisition of agricultural and livestock products was also a psychological campaign, which is popularly known as malnutrition. The entire requisition policy is regulated by by-laws, regulations, ordinances, decisions, letters, provisions, etc, because there was no specific law.

³⁴ Account from Zef Deda, born on 20.1.1926, Velipojë-Albania, dated 19.7.2022, occupation farmer, held positions as head of the locality in Velipojë, then secretary and cooperative director in Velipojë.

For each year, different plans have been drawn up from the previous years, regulations, ordinances and instructions have been changed in order to fulfill and increase the state funds, through requisitioning of agricultural and livestock products.

Certain bodies which have functioned hierarchically, i.e. such plans compiled for requisitioning have gone to districts, the districts to districts and then these to local popular councils. For the realization of these plans, conferences, campaigns, propaganda, and competitions between districts were organized, just to fulfill the plans and vice versa, and all this was under the supervision of the Public Prosecution (public prosecutors).

The constant pressure, villagers tried to amortize the all-embracing pressure with passive resistance of the state measures and escape in the possible ways to fulfill the obligations. Pressure, imprisonment and political persuasion for the first time faced reality, which means that they did not help to fulfill certain unrealistic plans that were often changed. This organization represents an interest and influence of the state in filling the fund with reserves using this policy. The implementation of the requisitioning policy had no result, but turned into a consequence: violence, arrests, punishments, imprisonment, divisions, conflicts, loss of the will of the villagers to plant, weakening of family economies and even population migrations. This difficult situation for the producers, mainly Albanians, was extremely aggravated by the military regime in which only Kosovo was found.

Compared to other measures, it was the most difficult, as it endangered entire families for the basic needs of life. All these reasons show that compulsory acquisition and purchase has become an obstacle to the development of agricultural production. The new Yugoslav state had one goal - to strengthen at the expense of the population, especially the rural population, while agricultural and livestock products were considered a strategic element for psychological and economic pressure.

Based on the applied measures, we draw the following conclusions:

1. The accusations, arrests, and sentences were numerous: multiple-day to multi-year imprisonments; fines; fines and imprisonment; confiscation of property; labeling as enemy elements; deprivation of civil rights, etc.
2. The violence exercised against the producers, and consequently against their families, was unbearable.
3. This was exercised by the local authorities, which consisted of the Local People's Council, the Popular Front, the intelligence service, Prosecutors, etc.
4. By the District authorities
5. By the County authorities,
6. Illiterate producers were punished without having the opportunity to appeal.
7. Those who drafted appeals were punished under the pretext of gaining money illegally.

8. Appeals mostly ended negatively, causing producers to hesitate to appeal, saying, "whether you appeal or not, it's the same."
9. This violence was exercised with the aim of enforcing the requisition of white grains and other products to instill fear,
10. To punish producers who had the courage to refuse,
11. To weaken the rebellious spirit,
12. To divert people's attention from strengthening resistance against the new occupier, thereby directing them towards working the land and other tasks they were ordered to perform,
13. Weakening the economic power of the producers,
14. Confronting extreme poverty,
15. Forcing the population indirectly to engage in unauthorized activities such as speculation, blackmail, illegal trade, etc.

Zaključak

Da li je rekvizicija bila rješenje ili posljedica?

Narod Kosova nakon Drugog svjetskog rata doživio je teške mjere od strane tzv. narodnih vlasti bivše RFPJ. Kampanja rekvizicije za prisilnu nabavku poljoprivrednih i stočnih proizvoda bila je također psihološka kampanja, koja se u narodu poznaje kao malnutricija. Cijela politika rekvizicije regulisana je podzakonskim aktima, propisima, naredbama, odlukama, dopisima, odredbama itd, jer nije postojao konkretan zakon. Svake godine su se sastavljali različiti planovi, propisi, naredbe i upute su se mijenjali kako bi se ispunili i povećali državni fondovi kroz rekviziciju poljoprivrednih i stočnih proizvoda.

Određeni organi, koji su funkcionisali hijerarhijski, sastavili su takve planove za rekviziciju, koji su slani okruzima, od okruga do okruga, a zatim do lokalnih narodnih vijeća. Za realizaciju ovih planova organizovane su konferencije, kampanje, propaganda i takmičenja među okruzima, samo da bi se ispunili planovi, a sve to pod nadzorom javnog tužilaštva.

Neprestani pritisak, seljaci su pokušavali da amortizuju sveobuhvatan pritisak pasivnim otporom državnim mjerama i bijegom na sve moguće načine kako bi ispunili obaveze. Pritisak, zatvaranje i politička ubjeđivanja prvi put su se suočili s realnošću, što znači da nisu pomogli u ispunjavanju određenih nerealnih planova koji su se često mijenjali. Ova organizacija predstavlja interes i uticaj države u punjenju fonda rezervama koristeći ovu politiku. Provedba politike rekvizicije nije imala rezultata, već se pretvorila u posljedicu: nasilje, hapšenja, kazne, zatvaranje, podjele, sukobi, gubitak volje seljaka za sadnju, osipanje porodičnih ekonomija i čak migracije stanovništva. Ova teška situacija za proizvođače, pretežno Albance, bila je izuzetno otežana vojnim režimom u kojem se samo Kosovo nalazilo.

U poređenju s drugim mjerama, ovo je bila najteža, jer je ugrožavala čitave porodice za osnovne potrebe života. Svi ovi razlozi pokazuju da je obavezna akvizicija i kupovina postala prepreka razvoju poljoprivredne proizvodnje. Nova jugoslovenska država imala je jedan cilj - ojačati se na račun stanovništva, posebno ruralnog stanovništva, dok su se poljoprivredni i stočni proizvodi smatrali strateškim elementom za psihološki i ekonomski pritisak.

Na osnovu primijenjenih mjera, donosimo sljedeće zaključke:

1. Optužbe, hapšenja i presude bile su brojne: višednevne do višegodišnje zatvorske kazne; novčane kazne; zapljena imovine; označavanje kao neprijateljski elementi; oduzimanje građanskih prava itd.
2. Nasilje koje je vršeno protiv proizvođača, a samim tim i protiv njihovih porodica, bilo je nepodnošljivo.
3. Ovo je vršeno od strane lokalnih vlasti, koje su se sastojale od Lokalnog narodnog vijeća, Narodnog fronta, obavještajne službe, tužilaca itd.
4. Od strane okružnih vlasti.
5. Od strane opštinskih vlasti.
6. Nepismeni proizvođači su kažnjavani bez mogućnosti žalbe.
7. Oni koji su sastavljali žalbe bili su kažnjavani pod izgovorom sticanja novca na nezakonit način.
8. Žalbe su se većinom završavale negativno, uzrokujući da se proizvođači dvoume da li da se žale, govoreći: "bez obzira na to da li se žalite ili ne, sve je isto."
9. Ovo nasilje vršeno je s ciljem nametanja rekvizicije bijelih žitarica i drugih proizvoda kako bi se usađivao strah.
10. Da kazne proizvođače koji su imali hrabrosti da odbiju.
11. Da oslabe pobunjenički duh.
12. Da skrenu pažnju naroda s jačanja otpora protiv novog okupatora, usmjeravajući ih prema obradi zemlje i drugim zadacima koje su bili naređeni da izvrše.
13. Oslabiti ekonomsku moć proizvođača.
14. Suočiti se s ekstremnim siromaštvom.
15. Prisiliti stanovništvo indirektno da se bavi neovlaštenim aktivnostima kao što su spekulacije, ucjene, ilegalna trgovina itd.

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