

### **General Military Governorate in Lublin. Structures, personnel, politics**

As the result of military actions, during World War I, control over some Polish lands was taken by various partitioners of Poland, playing the role of occupiers of territories belonging to others partitioners of Poland. Most of Austrian Galicia in 1914-1915 was under Russian occupation, while in 1915-1918 Russian Poland (the Kingdom of Poland) was occupied by Germany and Austria-Hungary. The two Central Powers divided this territory and established in Warsaw the German General Government in Warsaw, and in Lublin, Austro-Hungarian the Military Governorate in Lublin (Militär Generalgouvernement Lublin). The aim of this project is to study the functioning of the latter administrative unit. If in recent years German occupation policy from the First World War has received considerable attention from many Polish and foreign researchers, as evidenced by several published monographs or volumes of studies on the subject, the most recent monograph on the Austro-Hungarian occupation dates from more than forty years ago, and its author did not use all the sources now available. It covered the southern areas of the Polish Kingdom, including two major cities, namely Lublin and Kielce. In addition to Poles, these predominantly agricultural areas were also inhabited by Jews and in small numbers, on the eastern borderland, Ukrainians and Byelorussians. The primary task of the occupation authorities was to maintain public order on the front lines and to maximize the economic utilization (through the export of food and raw materials) of the lands under their administration for the war effort. Simultaneously they were seeking the support of the population for the occupation authorities by various methods, which involved discussion of the new post-war order and the need for a new regulation of the Polish issue by the victors. The occupiers tried to alleviate discontentment caused by the prolonged war, the uncertain future, but above all the decline in the standard of living and food supply problems, with concessions to Polish political life. This was crowned by the proclamation of the Kingdom of Poland by Kaiser Wilhelm II and Franz Joseph I on November 5. Nevertheless, until October 1918, real control was in the hands of the occupation authorities. Only then, facing defeat in war and the apparent disintegration of the Danube monarchy, did the occupation authorities rapidly collapse, giving way to the emerging centers of Polish power. Analyzed are the organizational structures and personnel composition of the occupation authorities, the submission and implementation of occupation policies (especially in the economic sphere), relations between the occupied population and the occupiers (including mutual perceptions of these groups), the occupiers' management of nationality conflicts, political life and daily life, political and criminal violence, corruption, and the black market. The project's source base includes Polish, Austrian and German archives, newspapers, journalism and diaries. In the case of Polish archives, in addition to those in Warsaw and Lublin, the resources of local archives, including church archives, will be examined. The grant will result in several articles and a scholarly monograph.