

Glossary

Agrarian reform - reorganization of land ownership structure, most often by a large-scale transfer of state-owned land to the inhabitants, or re-distribution of previously expropriated land.

Aizsargi (literally 'defenders', 'guards') - volunteer paramilitary organization in Latvia from 1919 to 1940 that operated under police leadership as a local peacekeeping and security force.

Aryans – here: the description attributed to the Germanic peoples by Adolf Hitler and his followers during the Third Reich (Nazi Germany).

autonomy – self-governance; self-sufficiency and independence in decision making.

the avant-garde - people, mainly in the fields of arts, culture and politics, whose ideas and creative work can be described as experimental and innovative, and who do not comply with the contemporary social norms.

the Awakening, also **Latvian National Awakening** - three distinct but ideologically related Latvian national movements, here mainly: the Third Awakening, also known as the Singing Revolution - social movement that led to the restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991.

Baltic Germans - German-speaking inhabitants of present-day territories of Latvia and Estonia; while born and living in the Baltics they recognized and nurtured their affiliation with the German cultural space.

Baltic Landwehr or **Latvian National Guard** - formed in November 1918 and officially established with the 7 December 1918 agreement on creation of land defence forces, these military units were the Republic of Latvia's first army, made up mainly from Baltic German soldiers.

Baltic Way, also **Baltic Chain** - political demonstration in the form of a human chain that took place on 23 August 1989, jointly organized by the Baltic nations' freedom movements (the Popular Front of Latvia, the Popular Front of Estonia and *Sąjūdis* Reform Movement of Lithuania); the event drew international attention to the fight for independence of the Baltic states and demonstrated the solidarity and determination of the Baltic peoples.

barricades – improvised barriers erected on streets or in front of important objects to block or hinder the enemy's passage; **the Barricades** (Latvian: *Barikādes*) - the series of defensive efforts in Riga and other places in Latvia from 13 to 27 January 1991, organized to thwart Soviet Union's attempts to regain control of Latvia after it had declared independence on 4 May 1990.

Bermondts Offensive – part of the Latvian War of Independence. The West Russian Volunteer Army's attack on Riga began on 8 October 1919, led by Pavel Bermondts-Avalov; with the support of Western Allies, the Latvian Army fought back and defeated the Volunteer Army by the 3 December 1919.

black market - a clandestine market of goods and services, operating outside the legal rules of an institutional market.

cadre purging – audit of administrative officials (cadres) and dismissal of the unfit (and, in authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, the undesirable) employees.

ensorship - government authorities' suppression of publication and dissemination of information that is considered objectionable or undesirable.

Cheka or the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (from Russian: *Всероссийская чрезвычайная комиссия по борьбе с контрреволюцией и саботажем при СНК РСФСР, ВЧК*) - Soviet Union's secret police that engaged in repressive covert operations.

chekists – secret police operatives, Cheka members

collaboration - willful and intentional voluntary cooperation with the enemy (most often - the occupying power), acting against the interests of one's own country.

collaborationist – a person who is helping the enemy or the occupying power, acting against their own country's interests.

collectivization – the aggregation of individual farms into collective farms, such as the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Soviet Union

communal apartment – apartment inhabited by several families (households) sharing the hallways, kitchen, and bathroom.

communism - the ideology described in Marxist theory that imagines a future classless society in which the means of production would be commonly-owned and all members of society would have equal rights and opportunities according to the principle 'from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs'; part of the official policy of the USSR and its stated goal.

communists – believers and supporters of communist ideology

cooperative or **co-op** – here: a voluntary association of persons with an aim to provide services.

coup - a sudden takeover of power in a country, incompatible with a democratic system of government.

Courland Pocket, also Courland Cauldron, Courland Fortress – an area of the Courland Peninsula where a group of German forces were surrounded during WW2. The pocket was created on 9 - 10 October 1944 when the Red Army reached the

Baltic Sea near Memel and cut off the German Army Group North's land withdrawal route.

cult of personality – **exaggerated** and uncritical glorification of a person (most commonly a state leader or politician) ascribing to them unrealistic or unattainable virtues such as infallibility, geniality, divinity, and fantastical achievements benefiting the public.

denationalization – the process by which the ownership of enterprises and real estate are transferred from public-sector (government) control back into private ownership.

deportation – banishment, expulsion or forced resettlement of a person or group of people because of political motives or criminal offense.

deserter – someone who leaves service in armed forces without permission.

devaluation - official lowering of the value of the national currency in relation to a foreign reference currency or gold.

division - large military unit, composed of several regiments or brigades, and consisting of 10,000 to 30,000 soldiers.

economic blockade - restriction of a country's economy to hinder its development. Economic blockade may include limitation of commercial relations such as foreign trade, financial and credit relations, etc. The cause of economic blockade is often the aggressive politics of said country that endangers other countries.

European Union - a political and economic union of 27 European countries, operating on the base of international treaties.

exile – 1. voluntary emigration from a territory to avoid possible repressions; 2. a type of penalty - the prohibition to visit or settle in a certain area, in contrast to deportation or forced resettlement, exiled persons can choose where to live.

political exile - emigration for political reasons, such as persecution for political beliefs.

economic exile – emigration for economic reasons, such as better work opportunities.

fascism - far-right, authoritarian political movement, the ruling ideology in Italy from 1922 to 1943, under its leader Benito Mussolini; the term is often applied to similar political movements that arose in pre-WW2 Europe, including Nazi Germany.

fascists – supporters of fascist policy.

Forest Brothers - small armed groups that employed guerilla war methods to fight Soviet occupation of Latvia.

Freedom Fights (Latvian War of Independence) - series of military conflicts that involved the Latvian Provisional Government and its armed forces defending Latvia's independence after its proclamation on 18 November 1918 until the signing of Latvian-Russian Peace Treaty on 11 August 1920.

the French Group - the label given to a dissident group of Latvian intellectuals, arrested by the Latvian SSR's chapter of the KGB in 1950-1951 and charged with bourgeois nationalism and participation in anti-Soviet gatherings; the accusation was based on the fact that the group had discussed French author André Gide's work "Return from the USSR" (*Retour de l' U.R.S.S.*, 1936), an exposé of Stalin's ideology.

Fuehrer (German for 'leader') - political title associated with the Third Reich.

genocide - acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such, including the killing of its members, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately imposing living conditions that seek to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, preventing births, or forcibly transferring children out of the group to another group.

Great Depression - the worldwide economic depression that started in the United States in October 1929.

GULAG (Russian: *Главное управление исправительно-трудовых лагерей и колоний (ГУЛАГ)* - 'The Main Directorate of Correction and Labour Camps') was the Soviet government agency, from 1930 to 1960 overseeing the network of concentration and "corrective labour" camps in the territory of the Soviet Union; it was the main tool for political repression in the USSR.

the Holocaust - the genocide of Jews during the WW2 carried out by Nazi Germany.

identity – the qualities and beliefs that set one individual or group of people apart from others.

ideology – the system of beliefs that reflect the ideas and interests of a particular group of people.

Independence declaration or the Declaration On the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia by the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR - the document adopted on 4 May 1990 that reinstated the Constitution of Latvia adopted on 15 February 1922; the declaration resolved that the Soviet Union's military aggression in 1940 had been an act of international crime and restored the sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia.

industrialization – the transformation of an agrarian society (based on agricultural work) into an industrial society (based on manufacturing); development of machine production.

Interfront or the International Front of the Working People – pro-Soviet socialist organization in Latvia, supported by the Communist Party, that fought against Latvia's independence and for remaining part of the Soviet Union.

Iron Division - German mercenary forces that fought in the Latvian Independence War, formed by the remnants of the German 8th Army soldiers and volunteer recruits.

KGB or the Committee for State Security (Russian: *Комитет государственной безопасности, КГБ*) - the State Security Agency of the Soviet Union

kolkhoz or collective farm - state-run collective agricultural farm in the Soviet Union in which all means of production were collectively owned by the kolkhoz, as opposed to individual farms and farmsteads.

kulak (Russian: *кулак*, fist', meaning someone who holds the community under their control, that is, in their fist) - the term used to describe wealthy peasants in the Russian Empire and the USSR; the definitive traits of *kulaks* was the ownership of large plot of land and use of hired labourers.

Latvian Central Council - united Latvian political leadership organization and government in exile that existed during the occupation of Latvia, from 1943 to 1994 (actively until 1951), established with the aim of coordinating Latvian resistance movements and restoring the sovereignty of Latvian state.

Latvian Legion - Latvian military formation created during the WW2 as part of Nazi Germany's armed forces occupying the territory of Latvia.

Latvian National Committee – created by the Latvian National Council in 1945 with the intent of serving as a provisional Latvian government and headed by Rūdolfs Bangerskis, the Committee became a regional institution based in Schleswig-Holstein that dealt with refugee issues.

Latvian rublis – Latvian currency from 1919 until 1922, and from 1992 until 1993.

the left - supporters of left-wing policies that aim to ensure social equality.

legalization – here: surrendering without penalty.

LSDSP (Latvian Social Democratic Workers' Party) – the first Latvian political party (established in 1904) that supported gradually and democratically attained socialism or equality.

LZS (Latvian Farmers' Union) – one of the largest and most influential Latvian parties in the beginning of the 20th century; the voter base of the party was rural farmers who owned large farms.

manor – economic and administrative territorial unit composed of arable as well as waste land and water, peasant cottages and villages, and the residential building complex of the lord of the manor, including workshops, sheds, stables, etc.

memorandum - a type of diplomatic communication - a statement on the debatable issue.

modernism – the common term for a set of new trends and movements in art, architecture, music and literature that arose during the late 19th and early 20th centuries that share a common interest in challenging and rejecting traditions, as well as experimentation and development of different and new forms and styles.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (also Hitler–Stalin Pact) - a non-aggression treaty between Nazi Germany and Soviet Union, signed in 1939; the pact guaranteed Soviet Union's neutrality in case of war between Germany and Poland or Western Allies, and its Secret Protocol defined the borders of Soviet and German spheres of influence.

national communists - ethnic communist movement in the Latvian SSR (most prominent in the Communist Party of Latvia) from 1956 to 1959 that advocated for strengthening the status of Latvian language, curbing the immigration and slowing down the pace of industrialization in Latvia.

nationalism – political ideology that promotes the interests of a particular nation and its identity, and considers it particularly distinct and different from other nations.

nationalization – process by which private property and enterprises are transferred to state ownership.

national partisans - small armed fighter groups that employed guerilla war methods to fight Soviet occupation of Latvia.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) - military alliance between a number of European and North American countries that aims to protect and strengthen the defensive abilities of its member states and the alliance as a whole.

Nazism or **National Socialism** - radical ideology and practices in Nazi Germany that combined racism and antisemitism with socialist theory of economy. After Adolf Hitler ascended to power, Nazism became the official policy of the Third Reich.

the Nazis – supporters of National Socialist ideology

Neutral (Olympic) flag – the flag of the Olympic games – the Olympic symbol consisting of five circles of different colors on a white field signifying the five continents. Athletes may take part in the games under this banner if, for instance, the International Olympic Committee does not allow their country of origin to be represented officially.

nomenklatura – senior leadership of the Soviet Union's government and enterprises. Appointees to these positions had to be approved by the respective committee of the Communist Party; also used to collectively refer to Soviet officials.

Nuremberg trials or **Nuremberg International Military Tribunal** – the court of judges from the four Allied nations tasked with trying Nazi war criminals. The sessions of the court took place from 1945 to 1949.

occupation – the act of seizing a foreign territory through military force and instituting authority over it.

occupier – the representative of an occupying power.

offshore – business deals that are subject to a jurisdiction other than that of the country of residence (registration) of the legal enterprise.

opponent – a supporter of opposing views; a member or a supporter of organized opposition.

pact – an international treaty or agreement with notable impact on international relations.

parliamentary democracy – a democratic system of governance in which the executive branch of the government answers to a parliament, which is the only part of the government elected directly by the public, contrary to presidential democracies.

partorg (Russian: *парторг*, from *партийный организатор*, 'party organizer') – the leader of a basic unit of the Communist Party e.g. the head of a parish.

Party of Lenin and Stalin – name used to refer to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union during Stalin's rule.

patron – a financial supporter of science and arts.

Perestroika (Russian: *перестройка*, 'restructuring') – a policy of political and economic reforms that was implemented from 1985 to 1990, initiated by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev; the period of Gorbachev's rule in the USSR.

plenum – an assembly of all members of an organization

Popular Front of Latvia – a sociopolitical movement of the Awakening, established in 1988, which had a decisive role in the restoration of Latvian independence.

privatization – process by which the ownership of a company is transferred from the public sector (state) to the private sector (individuals and legal entities).

privatization voucher – a state-issued security bond, which can be used as a valid means of payment for a single transaction when buying state property undergoing privatization.

proletarian internationalism – an aspect of Marxist ideology, summed up by the slogan “Workers of the world, unite!”, based on the belief that the common goals of the proletariat – workers and farmers – transcend national boundaries.

propaganda – dissemination of information, whether true or false, on a large scale with the goal of achieving a desired effect.

putsch or coup d'état – a sudden takeover of power in a state, incompatible with a democratic system of government.

reactionaries – here: opponents of progress and democratization, supporters of counteraction to political change.

recruiting – persuading or otherwise involving people in an organization.

refugee – person who has left their country of residence to escape persecution, war or other dangerous circumstances.

refugee camp – temporary living space for refugees, where they are provided medical care, food and shelter.

Reich (Third Reich) – the popular label used from 1933 to 1945 to refer to Nazi Germany instead of the country's official name.

repatriation – voluntary resettlement to one's country of origin or that of their ancestors.

repressions – violent punishments such as persecution and suppression of rights, conducted by a state.

reprivatization – return of nationalized or confiscated property to private owners.

the right – supporters of right-wing policies who value rights and interests of individuals above those of groups.

rouble – a unit of currency in Russia and other countries.

Russianization or Russification – state policy that mandates the use of the Russian language and culture to assimilate members of other nationalities.

scholarship – financial support to students, usually a reward for diligence in studies.

SD – foreign intelligence service in Nazi Germany.

social amnesia – the act of avoiding or "forgetting" to mention a particular event or action by a large group of people; usually an event that the group, for instance, a nation, has been traumatized by and therefore does not want to recall it.

socialist economics – the economic system of the USSR, characterized by state ownership as the main form of ownership, management of enterprises according to ideological goals, state-dictated prices ignoring the law of supply and demand, and development according to a centralized plan.

socialist realism – a type of artistic realism developed in the USSR that became the dominant style of art in communist countries, characterized by ideologically oriented works popularizing socialist ideas. The style was commonly used for embellishing the reality.

speculation – trading of goods for the purpose of making a profit on fluctuations in their price, typically used in the context of high risk (especially illegal) deals.

SS (German: *Schutzstaffel*) – elite Nazi party paramilitary formation, commanded directly by the Fuehrer.

state of affairs – the set of parameters characterizing the economy of a country in a given period: its GDP, employment rate, the average wage, etc.

Supreme Soviet – the highest legislative body of the USSR, members of which were elected for five-year terms

terror – state instituted policy of intimidation or suppression of opposition by force.

ultimatum – a demand issued along with a deadline for it to be met and threats regarding what will happen if it is not met.

Vadonis (Latvian for 'leader') – here: an authoritarian statesman who maintains his position with the help of the military, secret police and subordinate state officials; a dictator.