

Problemy edukacyjne dzieci polskich zesłańców (1940–1941)

Educational problems of the deported Polish children (1940–1941)

Summary

The invasion of the Red Army into Poland on September 17, 1939, and the ensuing USSR occupation of the Polish eastern territories engendered, among others, a radical reorganization of the Polish educational system according to the Soviet model, which involved its heavy communist indoctrination. Initially the children were, however, allowed to study in schools where classes were run in Polish. Yet, four massive deportations of citizens from the occupied territories to the distant parts of the USSR (1940–1941) abruptly and permanently discontinued the educational process. At the locations of their forced deportation, in dramatically difficult living conditions, only selected children had access to education, but exclusively in Russian. Because their parents were worried not only about the russification, but also about the sovietization of their children, they were against this educational arrangement. The documents (written sources) demonstrate the factual reality of these times and the dilemmas of the deported Polish parents and their children.