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Comparative analysis of collaboration strategies in occupied Poland/Lithuania and Europe

The concept of “collaboration” has to be defined properly prior to its scholarly application. Collaboration under German rule developed rather differently in occupied Poland and Lithuania. In the annexed territories of Western and Northern Poland no collaboration in administration or police was allowed, all these functions were taken over by Germans or Ethnic Germans. In the so called General Government (central and southern/southeastern occupied Poland), the Germans allowed low level collaboration in the local administration, German offices and the “dark blue” police. In occupied Lithuania, on the other side, collaboration was considered more crucial for German rule, though Lithuanian efforts to set up a Lithuanian government failed. In the GG and in Lithuania collaboration played an important role in the German policies of repression and extermination, esp. in the murder of the Jews, but also other groups. Specific Lithuanian police units were established, which carried out mass murders not only in Lithuania, but also in other occupied regions. The latter replaced German SS and police, while in the GG only the Polish Criminal Police had a similar function. The relationship of collaborationists and the resistance movements has still to be fully uncovered.