

Adrees by Vello Pettai, Winner of the Baltic Assembly Prize 2015 for Science
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Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Baltic States have had a difficult half of a century from 1940 to 1991. Coming to terms with this past has not been easy.

In our book, we have sought to understand the many facets of this process – at the legal, political and symbolic levels and examine the measures taken not only towards the perpetrators of repression, but also its victims.

And while the three Baltic States have passed through the same periods of occupation and repression, we were struck in the course of researching this topic, how different these approaches to dealing with the past have been.

In our book, we explain why we think these differences have come to pass, and we also reflect on what consequences these different approaches have had.

But what we have learned the most in studying this issue is the need to study all three countries both jointly and individually.

Our aspiration in this book has been to profile the Baltic States and their truth and justice struggles for the broader scholarly world; to place the Baltic States into a wider context in order to understand how we compare to other countries and societies in the region.

But our aim has also been to show how each Baltic state individually – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – has had its own specific context, its own challenges with the past, and hopefully its own solutions for the future.

This principle of commonality and individuality has guided our approach to studying the Baltic States. It is for us the way in which Baltic social science should be conducted. We are honoured by the acknowledgement we have received for this from you, the Baltic Assembly.

Me täname teid!

Mēs jūms pateicamies !

Mes dėkojame!