

THE FEATURES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND  
ACTIVITIES OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY  
DEPUTATION OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF  
LITHUANIA IN 1794

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After the beginning of the 1794 uprising in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth new institutions of government were created. One of them was the Public Security Deputation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, founded on 25 April 1794 in Vilnius. Initially two functions were assigned to the Public Security Deputation - to lead the armed forces and to be vigilant that against the revolt there would not be any actions, but also talk. So first of all to the deputation were entrusted the functions of military leadership and political police.

The Public Security Deputation operated in Lithuania only until 10 June 1794 when by the decision of the uprising commander Tadeusz Kosciuszko all the central government institutions of the rebels were changed. During the month and a half life of its life the Public Security Deputation experienced significant changes. Initially, lacking certainty, the deputation organized quite chaotically, so it is not always able to carry out properly the functions entrusted to it. Although, on the other hand, with the regulations not rigorously impairing, it was changed and evolved responding to the emerging problems that became clear during its work. Gradually the number of deputation members increased and some of the functions were declined, which, not due to the deputation's fault, were the hardest to carry out. In particular this was the provision of the armed forces and the coordination of the military activities of the rebels. After refusing military matters, the deputation essentially performed police functions. However, the activities of the deputation were not limited only to the maintaining of public order (control of population movements, resulting from the suppression of unrest, the security system of prisoners and those arrested, and so on.). An equally important task for it was the elucidation of the country's traitors, the opponents of the political uprising. Although only a few cases were handed over to the courts, however, in such a short period of time it was hardly possible to achieve better results.

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