

THE ORTHODOX EXCEPTION

Settlement politics in Vojvodina province, 1944-1947

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This contribution deals with the policies adopted by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia concerning agricultural (re)settlement in the autonomous province of Vojvodina, which had become part of the People's Republic of Serbia in 1945. Some 350 000 so-called Danube Svabians, of German descent, who had been evacuated, had fled from the country, or had been interned, were replaced during the period late 1944-1947 by 230 000 settlers of southern Slav descent. Thus, in 1948, the year of the first post-war census, about one seventh of the province's population belonged to the "colonists". Even though communist population politics were, at least in theory, internationalist, and the division between "right" and "wrong" consequently did not run along ethnical-national, but rather along political-ideological lines, almost 90 percent of those who were allotted plots of land had a Serb or Montenegrin background.