

development of the towns of East Prussia altered its former course. Olsztyn, once the capital of the regency, has become the main town of the district and in spite of great war destructions has already attained the number of 60.000 inhabitants (in 1939 there were only 45.000). Besides this town some larger centres as: Iława, Ostróda, Kętrzyn, Giżycko, Szczytno and others have also expanded but most towns, particularly small ones, after enormous war losses amounting sometimes to 90%, had no possibilities of further development.

This situation requires some immediate steps to improve the present state and to remove the results of previous mistakes. That is why the economic authorities, both central and local, have decided to enliven the towns by rebuilding industrial works, railway lines, by developing agriculture and breeding, by supplying tourist accommodations, home-building, increasing the number of trade services etc.

The means devoted for this purpose in the Five Year Plan will certainly improve the conditions of small towns inhabitants.

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#### THE PRUSSIAN DILEMMA: GERLACH — BISMARCK — MOLTKE

The contemporary historiography of Western Germany tries to rehabilitate Prussia by counterbalancing the Prussian chauvinism and rapacity with conservatism and traditionalism of Prussian gentry. L. Muralt speaks of „christian responsibility of Bismarck“, H. J. Schoeps of „different Prussia“, G. Ritter of the preponderance of political aspects over the military ones in Prussian politics from Frederick II to Bismarck, R. Stadelmann of Moltke's sympathy rather for liberalism than conservatism. Those efforts to rehabilitate Prussia undertaken from the conservative point of view can be nothing but a failure. In the entire course of history Prussia was always a destructive factor — overthrowing traditional institutions. The examples are numerous: the secularization of the Knights of Teutonic Order of Prussia, the general policy of Frederick II, the unification of Germany accomplished by Bismarck and the alliance of Prussian Junkers with Hitler. The traditionalism gained greater influence only at the time of the reign of Frederick Wilhelm IV. Ludwig von Gerlach was the chief promoter of this traditionalism. His idea was the realization of „God's Kingdom“ in the sense of the medieval system of estates. But it was the tragedy of this „Christian-German“ trend that it was based on protestantism which was worthless as a base for a conservative attitude. Thence come the pro-catholic sympathies of both Gerlach and Frederick Wilhelm IV. Bismarck's policy broke up with the traditionalism of Frederick Wilhelm IV. Bismarck defended conservatism in making a compromise with progress. Moltke followed this line still further. He expressed the tendencies of this part of the gentry which — facing the crisis of the feudal land estate — tried to maintain its hegemony by developing militarism. Thus the Prussian conservatives joined turn by turn liberalism, chauvinism, imperialism, and Hitler and as the final result their own state ceased to exist.