

# The OUN(b), the Germans, and Anti-Jewish Violence in Eastern Galicia during Summer 1941\*

Kai Struve

***Abstract:** The article analyzes the contexts and motives of anti-Jewish violence carried out by the local population in the initial phase of the German–Soviet war in Eastern Galicia during the summer of 1941. It begins by discussing the extent to there were plans and preparations for their instigation from the German side or from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. Next, it analyzes the well-documented events in L'viv and compares them with acts of anti-Jewish violence in more than thirty other cities and towns and a number of villages.*

*The article argues that three major contexts of anti-Jewish violence and pogroms can be distinguished. The first context was related to the recovery of the bodies of prison inmates that the Soviets had murdered in large numbers in L'viv and a number of other localities in Western Ukraine before their retreat. The second context consisted of planned executions by combat groups and militias of the OUN(b). These usually took place without German presence or the knowledge of the German military authorities and had no larger spontaneous elements. The third context were violent excesses by the Waffen-SS division “Wiking.” In several localities, most notably in Ternopil’ and Zolochiv, the core group of perpetrators came from this division. Local militias and inhabitants also participated in the violence against Jews. But the large number of victims in these localities was clearly the result of the excesses of that military unit.*

During the first weeks after the German attack of the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 in Western Ukraine, as in most other territories that the Soviet Union had occupied in September 1939 and summer 1940,