Title: Latvian Oral History Project interviews
Date (inclusive): 1995-2016
Collection Number: 99028
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Latvian and English
Physical Description: 2 manuscript boxes, 20 digital sound files (0.8 linear feet, 1.71 GB)
Abstract: Sound recordings of interviews of Latvian political leaders, governmental officials, and others relating to political, social, and economic conditions in Latvia. Includes transcripts of questions and some related printed matter. Project sponsored by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. Interviews conducted by David Jacobs. Digital copies also available.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Access
Collection is open for research.
Use copies of some sound recordings in this collection are available for immediate access. To listen to other sound recordings or to view videos or films during your visit, please contact the Archives at least two working days before your arrival. We will then advise you of the accessibility of the material you wish to see or hear. Please note that not all audiovisual material is immediately accessible.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Latvian Oral History Project interviews, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1999, with an increment acquired in 2016.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Scope and Content of Collection
The initial set of interviews were conducted in 1999 and 2000 by David Jacobs of the Hoover Institution Archives in an attempt to document political and social conditions, as well as cultural trends, in Latvia at the time. Each interviewee was asked a set of prepared questions designed to elicit information on leading issues of the day in a country that had become independent again in 1991, following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Topics covered in the interviews include Latvia's relations with the Russian Federation, its efforts to join the European Union (a goal that Latvia achieved in 2004), and the status of the sizeable Russian minority in the country. The role of business interests in Latvian politics was also addressed in a number of the interviews, as were questions of regional and social inequalities in the country. The interviews were recorded on compact sound cassettes and have since been digitized so that researchers can listen to them. The sizeable increment to the collection is comprised of interviews conducted in 2016 (again by David Jacobs) with Latvian government officials, politicians, historians, and archivists. Each interviewee was asked a set of questions tailored to his or her position, as well as a set of questions that was asked of each individual. The questions focus on the 25th anniversary of renewed independence for Latvia: each interviewee was asked to give an account of the country's successes and failures since 1991. Issues such as NATO and European Union membership are addressed in most of the interviews, as are relations between Latvia and the Russian Federation. Other topics include the demographic situation in Latvia following the Great Recession, when some 400,000 Latvians left the country in search of employment. It should be noted that some of the interviews consist of informal discussions rather than structured question and answer sessions. The increment also contains background information, as well as lists of the questions that each interviewee was asked. There is also a considerable amount of printed matter, consisting largely of brochures and handouts provided by some of the interviewees.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.
Jacobs, David.
Latvia--Economic conditions--1991-
Box 1

**Sound recordings of interviews, 1999-2000**

Physical Description: 21.0 sound cassettes

**Cimdars, Arnis, 1999 March 3**

Language of Material: Latvian

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006427

Scope and Contents note

Elga Zalite interviews Cimdars, chairman of the Central Election Committee, in Riga, Latvia.

**Panelejevs, Andrejs, 1999 March 15**

Language of Material: English

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006428

Scope and Contents note

Chairman of the party Latvijas Cels ("Latvia's Way").

**Elerte, Sarmite, 1999 March 17**

Language of Material: English

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006429

Scope and Contents note

Editor of Diena.

**Johnson, Steven C., 1999 March 31**

Language of Material: English

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006430

Scope and Contents note

Editor of The Baltic Times.

**Felsbergs, Valdis, 1999 April 12**

Language of Material: English

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006431

Scope and Contents note

Co-chairman of the Latvian Green Party.

**Bojars, Juris, 1999 April 19**

Language of Material: English

Access

Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006432

Scope and Contents note

Chairman of the Latvian Social Democratic Association.
Lase, Ieva, 1999 April 28 - May 5
Language of Material: French
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006433
Scope and Contents note
Member of "The French Group," an informal circle of Latvian intellectuals deported to the Gulag in the early 1950s for reading and discussing banned literature, including the works of French existentialist philosophers.

Skele, Andris, 1999 May 20
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006434
Scope and Contents note
Leader of the People's Party (Tautas Partija).

Makarovs, Vladimirs, 1999 May 21
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006435
Scope and Contents note
Minister of social welfare.

Krupenkovs, Imants, 1999 May 26
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006436
Scope and Contents note
Employee, Latvian Ministry of Economics.

Jurkans, Janis, 1999 June 2
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006437
Scope and Contents note
Leader of the National Harmony Party and former foreign minister of Latvia.

Kaupers, Renars, 1999 June 8
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006438
Scope and Contents note
Leader of Prata Vetra (Brainstorm), the most popular Latvian rock group.

Muiznieks, Nils, 1999 June 9
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006439
Scope and Contents note
Employee, Soros Fund of Latvia.
Kalnins, Imants, 1999 June 11
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006440
Scope and Contents note
Composer and member of Parliament.

Tjarve, Rolands, 1999 June 17
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006441
Scope and Contents note
General director of Latvian Television, the state broadcasting company.

Druviete, Ina, 1999 June 30
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006442
Scope and Contents note
Linguist.

Straume, Janis, 1999 July 1
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006443
Scope and Contents note
Speaker of the Saeima (Latvian Parliament). This interview was conducted through an interpreter; it is in Latvian and English.

Petersone, Valda, 1999 July 9
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006444
Scope and Contents note
Deputy director of the state archives of Latvia.

Birkavs, Valdis, 1999 July 22
Language of Material: English
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006445
Scope and Contents note
Latvian foreign minister from 1994 to 1999.

Ulmanis, Guntis and Nils Muiznieks, 2000 October 25
Access
Use copy reference number: 99028_a_0006446
Scope and Contents note
In separate sessions, Jacobs interviews Ulmanis, former state president, and Muiznieks. The Ulmanis interview was assisted by a translator.

Box/Folder 1: 1
### Interviewee questions, circa 1999

Scope and Contents note

Also includes article about Imants Kalnins.

### Printed matter, 1995-1999

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<th>Box/Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 : 2</td>
<td>Article, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 : 3</td>
<td>Brochures and pamphlets, 1997-1998, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 : 4</td>
<td>Clippings (photocopies), 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 : 5</td>
<td>Newsletters, 1995-1997</td>
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<td>Digital sound files, Box 2</td>
<td>2016 Increment, 2009-2016</td>
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### Digital sound files of interviews, 2016

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zālīte, Elga</td>
<td>2016 September 4</td>
<td>Physical Description: 3.0 digital files</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note Latvian historian.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeltīts, Raivis</td>
<td>2016 September 20</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1.0 digital file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note Latvian politician and general secretary of the National Alliance party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spolītis, Veiko</td>
<td>2016 September 20</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1.0 digital file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Scope and Contents note Member of the Saeima (Latvian Parliament).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pildegovičs, Andrejs</td>
<td>2016 September 21</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1.0 digital file</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Scope and Contents note State Secretary, Latvian Foreign Ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ušakovs, Nils</td>
<td>2016 September 21</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1.0 digital file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Scope and Contents note Mayor of Riga and head of the Concord Party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozenberga, Aiva</td>
<td>2016 September 21</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1.0 digital file</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Scope and Contents note Head of the Latvian Institute.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kalniņa, Inese, 2016 September 22
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Head of the Latvian State Archives.

Kalniņš, Ojārs, 2016 September 23
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Saeima (Latvian Parliament).

Lehris, Ainars and Jonathan B. (Al-Jazeera reporter), 2016 September 23
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Latvian historian. Conversation recorded in a café with ambient noise.

Razāns, Andris, 2016 September 26
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Former Latvian ambassador to the United States.

Slaidina, Inguna, 2016 September 27
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Deputy Director of the Latvian Archives.

Jakovļeva, Mārīte; Margarita Barzdeviča; and Elga Zālīte, 2016 September 27
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Latvian historians.

Merivoo-Parro, Maarja, 2016 September 27
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Estonian historian.

Lehris, Ainars and Maarja Merivoo-Parro, 2016 September 27
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Latvian and Estonian historians.

Ščerbinsks, Valters, 2016 September 28
Physical Description: 2.0 digital files
Scope and Contents note
Latvian historian.

Jēkabsons, Ēriks, 2016 September 28
Physical Description: 1.0 digital file
Scope and Contents note
Latvian historian.
Spirģe, Alda, 2016 September

Physical Description: 1.0 digital file

Scope and Contents note

Vice principal and English teacher at Jelgavas Gymnasium (part 1 of interview is missing due to technical failure).

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Interviewee materials, 2014-2016

Scope and Contents note

Contains background materials on those interviewed and lists of questions asked.

Box/Folder 2 : 1  Zālīte, Elga, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 2  Zeltīts, Raivīs, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 3  Pildegovičs, Andrejs, 2016
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Box/Folder 2 : 8  Kalniņš, Ojārs, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 9  Lehris, Ainārs, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 10  Razāns, Andris, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 11  Slaidīna, Inguna, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 12  Barzdeviča, Margarita, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 13  Jakovļeva, Mārīte, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 14  Merivoo-Parro, Maarja, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 15  Ščerbinskis, Valters, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 16  Jēkabsons, Ēriks, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 17  Spirģe, Alda, 2016

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Printed matter, 2009-2016

Box/Folder 2 : 18  Brochures and handouts, 2013-2015, undated
Box/Folder 2 : 19-20  General, various Latvian museums, undated
Box/Folder 2 : 21  Latvijas Institūt, 2013-2015
Box/Folder 2 : 22  Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka, undated
Box/Folder 2 : 23  Lestene memorial, undated
Box/Folder 2 : 24  Liktenārzs memorial, undated
Box/Folder 2 : 25  Monographs, 2013-2016
Box/Folder 2 : 26  Zelta ābele, 1993-2013, 2014
Box/Folder 2 : 28  Serial issues, 2009, 2016
Box/Folder 2 : 29  Trimda arhīvi atgriežas. 4. daļa, 2009

Box/Folder 2 : 30  Video disc, Latvian Nationwide Song and Dance Celebration, Latvijas Institūt, 2013