

## Role of the Latvian Central Council's Practice in Interpretation of the Constitution of Latvia

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During the Soviet and Nazi occupation, the Constitution of Latvia of 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1922 (*Satversme*) grew into a symbol of an independent and democratic state. The national resistance movement against the Soviet and Nazi regime was organised on the grounds of the *Satversme*. The Central Council of Latvia, where the representatives of the five largest political parties of Latvia joined to collaborate, emphasized the validity of *Satversme* and the necessity to resume the state authorities of Latvia on the terms of the *Satversme*.

The Speaker of the 4<sup>th</sup> *Saeima*, Dr. Pauls Kalniņš (1872–1945) and his Deputy, bishop Jāzevs Rancāns (1886–1969), in accordance with regulation of the *Satversme*, had assumed the position of Acting President of the State under the conditions when the Republic of Latvia was occupied.

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