

Jan Barcz

Keywords: Germany, Poland, negotiations, compensations to victims, agreement of 16 October 1991

The aim of the article is to analyze the proceedings of negotiations concerning compensations to be paid by Germany to the Polish victims of Nazi crimes. These negotiations ultimately led to the adoption of the agreement of 16 October 1991, which opened the way for providing help to those victims who live in Poland. This is a relatively scantily studied area of the entire packet of regulations (Treaty on the Confirmation of the Frontier, the so-called “Big” Treaty, the Two-Plus-Four Agreement) which opened a new chapter in Polish-German relations. The article for the most part refers to documents published for the first time. The negotiations that led to the agreement of 16 October 1991 took more than two years to conclude and were extremely complex. Their outcome was the so-called pragmatic solution and within its scope – regardless of discrepancies in legal attitudes (which formerly blocked the payment of compensations by the FRG) – the way was opened for providing concrete help to those victims of Nazi crimes who live in Poland.

Damian Bębnowski, Rafał Matera

Keywords: inclusive institutions, the Second Republic of Poland, political rights, currency, taxes, property rights

The aim of the article is to put the economy of the Second Republic of Poland between 1918 and 1926 in the perspective of Acemoglu and Robinson’s concept of inclusive and extractive institutions as part of the theory of the new institutional economics. The authors analyzed the inclusive nature of such institutions as: political rights, currency, taxes and property rights. This allowed for a positive verification of the hypothesis that in Poland in 1918-1926 there were inclusive political and economic institutions, which created conditions for economic growth in 1926-1929. The research was based on a critical analysis of sources (especially laws, decrees and regulations, as well as statistical data) and selected literature.

Michał Białkowski

Keywords: Karol Wojtyła; Episcopate of Poland; The Episcopal Conference of Poland; Main Commission of the Episcopate of Poland; Commission for the Lay Apostolate; Sub commission for Studies; Commission for Catholic Education; Science Council; Commission for Christian Ministry; Council Commission; Vocations Commission; Council for Culture.

The aim of this paper is to present the leading role of Karol Wojtyła in the work of the Episcopal Conference of Poland (ECP) in the years 1958–1978. Therefore, the main research problem will be a description of Karol Wojtyła's participation and actual influence on the activities of the Episcopal Conference of Poland, together with evaluation of the effects of his activities. The following hypotheses can be formulated. 1) Karol Wojtyła's influence on the work of the Episcopal Conference of Poland evolved along with his changing position in the Episcopate structures (a strong trend for an increasing influence); 2) Karol Wojtyła undertook multi-faceted, multi-directional and multidimensional actions; 3) actions undertaken by Karol Wojtyła in the Episcopate of Poland significantly influenced the development of relationships between the state and the Church. The studies were conducted using the historical (genetic) method and content analyses, which allow to present the following factual data.

Karol Wojtyła played an important role in work of the Episcopal Conference of Poland and its specialist committees. From 1958 (his appointment as the suffragan bishop of Krakow) he was a member of the ECP, and in 1964 (appointment as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow) he joined the top management group – EP Main Commission. As part of the tasks he was appointed then, he prepared pastoral letters and participated in development of relationships with the government of the Polish People's Republic; he was also responsible for contacts with the Apostolic See and episcopal conferences abroad; and he inspired changes in the organisational structure, aims and tasks of the Episcopal Conference of Poland. His participation in the work of specialist commissions represented an important part of his involvement with the Episcopal Conference of Poland. During twenty years of his ministry as a bishop Karol Wojtyła was a member of the following commissions: Commission for the Lay Apostolate - chairman in 1966–1978; Sub-commission for Studies - chairman in 1967–1970; Commission for Catholic Education - chairman in 1970–1978; Science Council - chairman in 1972–1978; Commission for Christian Ministry - member in 1958–1978; Council Commission - member in 1963–1970; and Vocations Commission - member in 1967–1970. The number and

the diversity of proposals, projects, and postulates notified by him prove the unique intellect, organisational skills and leadership skills of the future pope.

Piotr Chrobak

Keywords: Elections to the European Parliament in Poland, referendum of accession to the European Union, election and referendum campaign, Ppolitical marketing, West Pomerania, Lubusz Land

The aim of the article is to analyze the formation of electoral preferences during the accession referendum to the European Union and in individual electorates to the European Parliament in constituency no. 13 - which includes the West Pomeranian and Lubusz Voivodeships - compared to all-Poland results.

Both in the 1990s and at the beginning of the 21st century, the inhabitants of both regions demonstrated leftist electoral preferences. The change in electoral behavior took place during the first EP elections, and then proceeded in subsequent elections not only to the European Parliament, but also to the national parliament, as well elections of the President of the Republic of Poland and local authorities. Thanks to a comparative analysis of individual elections, it will be possible to verify the hypothesis that in the analyzed voivodeships included in constituency no. 13 there was a change from leftist electoral preferences towards the center of the political scene.

Kinga Czechowska, Krzysztof Kania

Keywords: Ewelina Zaleska, August Zaleski, September 1939, World War II

Ewelina Zaleska, an author of a presented diary, was a wife of August Zaleski, Polish diplomat, minister of foreign affairs (1926-1932, 1939-1941) and Polish president in exile (1947-1972). She wrote her memories "Our Journey" in September 1939, when the German-Polish and then World War II broke out. She first describes her journey from Psarskie in Greater Poland to Warsaw, where she reunites with her husband. After a few days they both decide to leave the country. In that respect they are similar to the Polish ruling elites, although with one major difference: Zaleski was not in public office at the moment, so he cannot be judged in the same way. Memories written by his wife shed a new light on this controversial decision of

Polish officials, moreover, they are quite informative in their depiction of social life in the first month of the war as well as reactions of public opinion to some major events.

Jakub Grygutis

Keywords: labor law, constitution, labor security

The aim of this paper is to present labor regulations set forth in the March Constitution (1921) and the April Constitution (1935) of Poland. The legal-dogmatic analysis of provisions concerning labor rights and freedoms, along with labor law axiology based thereon is presented. The direction of development of the constitutional norms regarding labor law in the period studied is a crucial part of the article. Evident transformation from the individual frame of labor law in the March Constitution toward a collective frame in the April Constitution is described. The author uses the method of historical and legal-dogmatic analysis.

Dariusz Jeziorny

Keywords: Poland's independence, image of Poland, Jews in Poland, anti-Jewish riots, American press

Already in the first weeks of Poland's independence the Polish government had to face a series of anti-Jewish incidents on territories under its authority. The article seeks to ascertain whether the Jewish question in Poland was present in the American press, which after the First World War was becoming increasingly influential in the world in connection with the USA's economic and financial power. The author determines which riots were reported in the American press and how objective the accounts were. Attention is paid to the reaction of the Jewish and Polish organizations in the United States to the reports from Poland and its description in the American press. The last important issue dealt with in the article is the time scope of the description of the anti-Jewish incidents in Poland. All these detailed questions allow to grasp the interesting problem of the creation of the image of reborn Poland across the Atlantic. The image abroad is an important issue for every country, but for independent Poland, which was establishing its borders and sovereign existence after a war that had ruined its economic basis, this was an issue that could determine the country's future destiny as the United States and other Entente powers had a decisive voice at the Peace Conference in Paris.

Krzysztof Łagojda

Keywords: Polish administration, government representatives, operational groups, Soviet war command, Germans

The aim of the article is to present in detail the beginnings of the Polish administration in the Kłodzko region just after the end of the Second World War. The chronological framework

of the text closes in 1945. The article describes the events connected with the arrival of the representatives of the government of the Republic of Poland and their groups, as well as the Operational Groups of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Industry. The author focuses on the development of relations between the Polish administrative apparatus and Soviet war commanders and permanent residents of the Kłodzko Land. The author presents the attitude of the German population towards the Polish government. He describes the difficulties faced by Poles in the first months after the war. An important aspect presented in the text is the struggle for the takeover of industrial plants in Kłodzko from the Soviet hands, as well as the scale of their plundering. The author hypothesizes that despite a formal handover of power by the Soviets in June 1945, Poles did not exercise authority in the areas officially taken over. The act was merely a gesture. The Soviets ruled these areas informally and nothing happened without their permission. In the article, the author uses a descriptive method with a strict chronology, but also a geographical method (the specificity of the Kłodzko region as part of the Western Territories) and partly a comparative method, presenting, among other things, the activities of various public administration groups.

Marek Mikołajczyk

Keywords: Poland, independence, 1918-1989, western observers

After 1918 Poland was several times the object of increased interest on the part of western countries. In the interwar period Poland was an important element of European balance in the face of the threat posed by Germany and Soviet Russia. After the Second World War many Poles counted on the Americans and British to prevent the Sovietization of Poland and make Stalin respect the accepted obligation concerning free election in Poland. However, nothing like that happened. Later on, in such critical moments as 1956 or the years 1980-1981, the situation in Poland was attentively monitored by the western countries. Similarly also in the year 1989, which brought Poland a real chance to regain full independence.

The aim of the present paper is to present the accounts and opinions of western observers, mainly diplomats and journalists, on the crucial events for Poland in the years 1918-1989. Most of the reports addressed the problems of political transformations, although economic, military and social matters were also brought up, as well as issues relevant to the Jewish minority. These accounts and the opinions they contained diverge at some points from our current knowledge on the discussed problems or events. Nevertheless a research hypothesis

can be adopted that in numerous cases they served as a basis for building the image of Polish reality in the United States, Great Britain or France and influenced the policy of these countries towards Poland. To prove the hypothesis the philological, comparative and sociological methods were used among others.

Władysław Pęksa

Keywords: law of nations, regaining independence by Poland, Treaty of Versailles, history of Polish law in the 19th and 20th centuries, history of Polish science

A study by Stanisław Hubert titled *The Partition and Rebirth of the Republic of Poland (Rozbiory i Odrodzenie Rzeczypospolitej)* appeared in print in 1937 in Lvov. The author, born in Wadowice and a pupil of Ludwik Ehrlich, recalled in his book the concept of application of the *ius postliminii* principle originating in Roman law, as a basis of the principle of restitution in force in the law of nations (today known as international law) and postulated its application to the interpretation of the issue of rebuilding the Republic of Poland in 1918.

The aim of the present essay is a critical analysis of the main propositions and arguments of Hubert's study. Although it did not resonate very broadly in the mainstream of the science of international law in Poland, some of the themes discussed in it appeared in the propaganda campaigns justifying Poland's claims relevant to regained independence and also in the assessment of past events, especially the history of Polish lands in the 19th century. The propaganda arguments raised by Hubert can also be discerned in the discourse of other central European countries.

The main research problem of the essay is to show that the arguments presented by S. Hubert were largely grounded in historical myths selected in such a way as to appear as indisputable 'hard' facts. The basic method of the present study is identification of Hubert's major propositions and their critical assessment from the perspective of the science of the history of law in the 21st century. Such an approach allows to demonstrate which of his propositions stood the test of time and which can only be deemed as pure propaganda discourse.

Andrzej Piasecki

Keywords: monograph, city, historiography, evaluation, Poland (1918-1939)

The article is an attempt to evaluate (formally and substantively) chapters devoted to pre-war Poland in local monographs. Due to the opinion-forming significance of these books,

their contents considerably impact the shaping of our knowledge about the past of the local communities. They are the basis for education in the spirit of local patriotism.

The image of pre-war Poland in these books is generally richly documented in sources and presented in an attractive form. The authors are for the most part enthusiasts of regional research: history teachers, professors. Most of the descriptions concerning the years 1918-1939 were created by research teams. In their work they drew motivation, among others, from the inspiration of public sponsors and professional reviewers.

Despite the high assessment of the reliability of the analyzed chapters, there is much to be complemented and improved in these stories (e.g. everyday life of rural residents, the situation of national minorities). There are still unexplored sources of military provenance (deposited in the archives of the general staff) and materials of local compatriots from Israel and Germany. The jubilee celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence is a great opportunity to properly assess and appreciate the specificity of the title issue.

Monika Piotrowska

Keywords: professional photographer, amateur photographer, photographic education, snobbery, artistic conservatism

In the interwar period, the conservative form of Polish photography meant as art was determined by social contexts at a time when the Poles restored their young statehood. This is the main subject of my text, which I use, however, to indicate the repercussions of the described phenomenon that last to this day.

The above mentioned form was dictated by the backward Polish pictorialism of the turn of the 1920s and 1930s imposed by the domination of aesthetics over documentary value, contrary to western tendencies. Even after the Second World War professional photographers refused to acknowledge the artistic character of the new born reportage or press photography. My research work focuses on the Poznan environment, which before 1919 followed in the footsteps of German photographers and tended towards valuing the document like *Neue Sachlichkeit* and high-quality press photography, but nevertheless yielded to the pressure of pictorialism. It was an archaic snobbery that prevented a Western type democratization of relationships between professional photographers and the circles of artistic amateurs.

Following Florian Znaniecki, the author of the principle of the humanistic coefficient, I try to retrieve the mentality and cultural systems of the past period. In my research, therefore, I mostly use chronicles, biographical materials, including personal documents and interviews, as well as studies based on these sources or written by witnesses of the era.

Marek Sioma

Keywords: Legion of the Young, Second Republic of Poland, Young Legionaries, youth, Józef Piłsudski, the Piłsudski camp

In the late 1920s in the environment of the academic youth of the Warsaw and Lvov universities emerged concepts of creating an organization that would in principle propagate the ideas of Józef Piłsudski. On 13 February 1930 the Legion of the Young – ‘Work for the State’ Academic Association was established in Warsaw. In the next four years the organization developed, gained new members and enjoyed the support of the Piłsudski camp, including the Marshall himself. In the understanding of the circles then in power it was to realize statutory goals, but already after two years the activists of the Legion came to the conclusion that it should ultimately become a mass youth organization exceeding the academic environment. Their purpose was to win over the working class and peasant youth. After an unsuccessful attempt to subordinate the Legion to the Nonpartisan Bloc of Cooperation with the Government in September 1934 and due to various circumstances (internal divisions among others), mentors grouped in seniors clubs revoked their patronage in April 1935. This was the critical moment that set off a slow process of the ‘agony’ of the Legion – an organization created out of the young people’s fascination with the person of Piłsudski. Even though the organization was not liquidated, it did not regain its former significance and status. It ended its existence in December 1938 becoming part of the Polish Youth Legion.

The aim of the article is to show the causes and circumstances that led to the collapse of the most powerful youth organization of the Piłsudski camp in the first half of the 1930s.

Krzysztof Siwek

Keywords: Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Second Republic of Poland, United States, international situation, diplomacy, interwar period, Europe

The purpose of this article is to present the views of Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, the United States' Ambassador in Warsaw, concerning the international situation of the Second Republic of Poland from 1937 to 1939. This subject, scarcely represented in Polish historiography, shows the perspective of the American Ambassador on the role of Poland in Europe and reveals his assessment of the "balance of power" policy conducted by minister Józef Beck in the period preceding the outbreak of the Second World War. It appears that Biddle basically shared the Polish perspective on the threat posed by Hitler's Germany and the Soviet Union while emphasizing the crucial role of Poland in further political-military developments in Europe. Accordingly, he supported the Polish will to resist the imminent German aggression since Warsaw's attitude was in his eyes a peculiar "barometer" of British and French readiness to contain German expansion. Although Biddle's position in late 1930s could not influence the policies of the U.S. and European powers toward Poland, it sheds an interesting light on Polish foreign policy and its reception by Western powers, contributing to better understanding of this decisive period of Poland's history. This article was based on analysis of diplomatic papers and the correspondence of Ambassador Biddle from 1937 to 1939.

Agnieszka Szczepaniak-Kroll

Keywords: Poles, Berlin, West Germany, migrations, transmigrants, identity

The transnational perspective was disseminated in scientific research in the 1990s. It is the result of the increasing mobility of people who build, through their international travels, networks of political and socio-cultural links that cross national borders. Poles have joined the migratory trend in the 21st century as a result of changes that occurred in this part of the continent a few years earlier, when the communist system collapsed. A transnational style of life quickly became the everyday life of young people. Their example was also taken up by older migrants, already integrated in the host country. Transnationalism influenced their identity, strengthening some of its elements while changing others. The article presents this

process. It is based on ethnological fieldwork conducted by the author in Berlin in 2009-2018 as part of two research projects funded by the Polish National Science Centre.

