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ON THE ANTI-NOMY OF EAST-WEST IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND ITS SILESIAN CONTEXT. PART 2

The antinomy of East-West, which constituted one of the fundamental determinants of the Polish thought, or the 'Polish idea', was gaining particular significance and sense in the conditions of the Second Republic of Poland. Defined more and more precisely on different levels of social reflection (e.g. in literature, historiography, political writing), it becomes – within the sphere of politics – an important element of motivation and inspiration in conceptualization of the vision of the state. It can be said, still in another way, that it is an expression of a public discourse relating to the shape of the Poland of that time, lines of its development, nearer and more remote goals, and – at the same time – a manifestation of social fears, apprehensions and anxieties connected with its geopolitics. Thus, the very antinomy itself is an expression of a synonymous system of contradictions that are a function of the specific location of Poland between the East and the West, at the meeting point of two civilizations and cultures in conflict with each other, widely differing, where opposing influences and tendencies clash.

Studies of the antinomy are of particular significance, especially with reference to Silesia. They allow taking a broader look at its specific nature which is conditioned by the scale of departure from all-national norms and standards. They create possibilities of redefining a good number of theses and judgments within the scope of the so-called problem area of integration.

MIROSLAW SIKORA

THE NAZI PLANS OF THE PROVINCE OF UPPER SILESIA LAND DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN 1939 AND 1944

The author deals with some key issues concerning German plans of land development of the Second Polish Republic territories that were annexed to the Province of Upper Silesia in autumn of 1939. Moreover, the integration of those lands with so-called western (German) Upper Silesia.

The word „plans” seems to be, as far as, justified apart from some exceptions because, both, settlement of German colonists together with privatisation, and nationalisation of the properties confiscated from Polish citizens and the country were the issues postponed by the German administration to be solved after war. The assumption made by the Third Reich authorities was that the war is going to finish soon and that the Germans will be successful. At that time, the financial resources that were to be ensured because of the economic needs, i.e. to reconstruct not only the national structure of the western part of Upper Silesia, and industrial eastern zone (Dąbrowa Basin as well as Jaworzno and Chrzanów Basin). What is more, the funds were to change the demographical image of the Upper Silesian cities and apply potent infrastructural investments concerning roads, railway, air and river transport, or housing sector.

As early as during the war, many of projects were at the advanced stage of planning. Those planners, architects, and construction engineers who were involved in the perspective of Gau Oberschlesien, at the same time used concepts that were verified and implemented in other parts of Germany, such as the central place theory. A visible effect, documented in files that were prepared because of this study and that is available in archives, was supposed to be a significant shift concerning arrangement of urban and rural population in Upper Silesia, reorientation of the local industry and agriculture directed to new markets, especially eastern and Balkan.

The works by planners that referred to broadly-taken transformation of population and economy, that were established, nearly from the start, under the supervision of the Reichskommissariat for the Strengthening of German Nationhood (the part of “the SS country”) were supported by state authorities, especially by office for land development, together with the experts employed and scientists from the main academic centers of the Third Reich.

EDMUND NOWAK

HARD SETTLEMENTS WITH HISTORY. THE INVESTIGATIONS AND TRIALS
CONSIDERING CRIMES COMMITTED IN THE POSTWAR LABOR CAMPS IN
UPPER SILESIA (JAWORZNO, MYSŁOWICE, SIEMIANOWICE ŚLĄSKIE, AND
ŚWIĘTOCHŁOWICE-ZGODA)

The article is devoted to some investigations and trials concerning crimes committed after the end of the war in the most repressive - apart from the one located in Łambinowice- camps in Upper Silesia, i.e. in Jaworzno, Myslowice, Siemianowice Śląskie, and Świętochłowice - Zgoda. Most of examinations were initiated by Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Katowice within the 90s of the past century and completed in the first decade of the present century. The last investigation was ended in 2011 (The Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno). All of the examinations that were conducted in Poland and called historical were ended up with remission. However, the investigation and trial of Kurt Antonius Glombitza (the ex-doctor in the Labour Camp in Świętochłowice – Zgoda), that happened in the Federal Republic of Germany in the 60s of the past century and ended up with the verdict of guilty.

Each of investigations had its specificity. The most extensive were the examinations concerning the crimes committed in the Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno. In this case, the main investigations and some of so-called chip examinations were conducted. The author of this article focused on the description of two key issues, i.e. those that the prisoners and captives' abuse by the Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno officers, as well as, bullying the embedded Polish citizens of Ukrainian nationality by Office of Public Security and guards employed at the Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno. The nature of the investigations was complex and the examinations were conducted for many years. Another investigation that was discussed by the author concerned the crimes committed in one of the most repressive camps, i.e. the Labour Camp in Myslowice. Over 2 thousand people died there. The examination that involved the Labour Camp in Siemianowice Śląskie was of totally different character. First of all, it was focused on the case of corpse exhumation and disputation about their belong, i.e. if they were ownership of civilians or soldiers of Wehrmacht. The crimes committed in the Labour Camp in Świętochłowice – Zgoda were the topic of two investigations, i.e. the abovementioned examination in the Federal Republic of Germany in the 60s of the past century, and, next, the Kurt Glombitza trial, as well as, the Polish investigation conducted between 1992 and 2009 that was focused mostly on Salomon Morel, the ex-commanding officer of that camp.

Analysing the course of the examinations, the author gives the critical judgment of the Polish legal system which allows so-called historical investigations to be conducted in Poland in chronic and expensive way and were ended up with remission giving the victims some reasons to feel disappointed and harmed. At the same time, the author indicates factual difficulties in carrying out investigations, i. a. the Israel refusal of Salomon Morel extradition, regular shrink of witness list, weakness of evidences resulting from the time that has elapsed.

DAVID SKRABANIA

NO POLES? THE AWARENESS PROCESSES AMONG POLES LIVING IN THE RUHR
REGION (1880-1914)

Between 1870 and the beginning of the World War I about half a million of Polish speaking migrants came to Industrial region of Rhineland and Westphalia from the east provinces of Prussia. First of all, the immigrants arrived from Greater Poland, West Prussia, and Upper Silesia. They looked for a job and financial resources to survive. They wanted to escape from poverty and unemployment in their home regions, willing to earn money and organise their life again in their mother land after several years. As time elapsed, they brought closer with the local people and adapted to social relationships in the Ruhr district. The longer immigrants have stayed in the region, the greater was the need to participate in everyday life beyond national borders that were perceived as abstract and hard to understand by migrants. Thereby the participation in German societies that ensured free time increased. Apart from their religious character, celebrations and festivities had, most of all, a social character. National duties, however, were often perceived as additional ballast. After legacy changes, the opportunities of return were significantly limited and the assimilation tendencies become more intensive, especially among children and adults. More and more migrants including women were aimed at social acceptance and economic advancement in new society.

ADRIANA DAWID

THE ISSUE OF USING GERMAN LANGUAGE IN THE PARTY AUTHORITIES OF THE OPOLE PROVINCE PERSPECTIVE (1950–1956)

Between 1950 and 1956 Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party in Opole focused on the issue of using German language by native inhabitants. The actions of authorities were aimed at popularisation of Polish and dismissal for German speech and writing which was divided to „democratic” German language (from the German Democratic Republic) and “Adenauer-like” (from the Federal Republic of Germany). The popularity of German language was big, not only among old people, but also among the younger natives. In the party's perception, the poor knowledge of Polish language decreased the chances of social and professional advancement of local people. The group responsible for promoting German language according to propositions of the Polish United Workers' Party was consisted of past members of The National Socialist German Workers' Party, supporters of Nazism. The increase of German language popularity was explained as an effect of hostile and revisionist propaganda that was to be promoted, i. a. via west radio stations, through correspondence from abroad, contacts with families staying in Germany, as well as, via clergy and church that allowed to practices and rituals with the use of German language. A special anxiety was raised by the cases of using German military commands or Hitler greetings, and singing German songs. The educational and propaganda actions conducted by the Polish United Workers' Party, that often supported by Office of Public Security and Citizen's Militia turned out to be of little effectiveness and did not influence on limiting the popularity of German language among native inhabitants of Opole Province.

BARBARA TECHMAŃSKA

THE PLACES OF TEACHING UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE IN COPPER - BASIN

Because of settling many families during Operation Vistula, Copper - Basin became one of regions where educational authorities made an effort aimed at ensuring lessons of Ukrainian language. That happened no sooner than after 1952. That time, according to resolution of political office of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party established in April of 1952. The decree concerned the status regulation of Ukrainian people in Poland indicating the forms and range of teaching their native language to Ukrainian children. Before that, during the first years after the World War II, it was impossible to teach Ukrainian officially. The historical conditions, mostly Operation Vistula, influenced on Polish-Ukrainian relationships, and thereby on the position of this nation in Poland. Actions conducted by authorities tended to full Polonization of Ukrainian people, so all ventures that could be used for developing national culture or cultivating Ukrainian language could not take place. At the beginning, the only organised form of teaching abovementioned language were educational points. The situation changed in 1956. In the territory of Jaroszkówka the Ukrainian primary school came into being, and secondary schools were founded in Legnica and Złotoryja. Most of teaching Ukrainian language places located in Basin ran until the end the 60s. Plenty of them between 1958 and 1959. Their existence was determined by the will of educational authorities, parental decisions, and number of students. Each time when there were less learners, the grade was not created. The same with qualifies teachers, if there was not enough of teaching staff, the education was made impossible. Till now there is an Interschool Place for Teaching Ukrainian Language to Younger Children which is a part of the Bohdan Ihor Antonicz High School Complex in Legnica. During ages many of teaching places were (apart from home education) only possibilities of contact with Ukrainian language. They enabled cultivation of national identity and exposure to culture and tradition.