

STRESZCZENIA

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Robert Kolasa,

Operation of Underground Independence Organizations on the Area of Piła and the Piła-Trzcianka District in 1945-1956

The article presents the post-war experiences of underground resistance groups fighting against the new authorities in power. The author recounts the history of eight local secret organizations and the people who formed them, their methods of operation and the goals they set themselves, until their elimination or self-dissolution.

The author's intention was also to redeem from oblivion scarcely known facts that occurred on the so-called Reclaimed Territories (Piła-Trzcianka) during the formation of the communist regime. The article is based on archival materials produced by the Security Apparatus of the Polish People's Republic and stored in the collections of the Institute for National Remembrance, Poznań branch, as well as on recollections and oral accounts of the members of these formations.

Krzysztof Bondyra,

Crafts in Great Poland and Economic Regionalism

The main thesis of the article is that in Wielkopolska (Great Poland) craft is the key element of regional identity. This thesis is warranted not only by the fact that proportionally, Wielkopolska has the greatest number of craft workshops in Poland, but also by the ethos of the region, which was historically shaped by craft virtues. The latter include the cult of "good workmanship", thriftiness and last but not least, orientation toward having "a trade in hand". Thus, "craft virtues" have become an inalienable element of regional identity and we are justified in characterizing Wielkopolska as a case of economic regionalism.

Józef Borzyszkowski,

Crafts in Great Poland and Economic Regionalism

The Kashubian Institute – a society of scholars connected in various ways with Kashubia and Pomerania – was grounded in Gdańsk in 1996. Among its founders and members are scholars from different academic centres in Poland and abroad; a majority of them represent the humanities. The aims of the Institute comprise initiation and conducting of scientific research, publishing activity and supporting young scholars. To date, achievements of the KI include scores of conferences and over a hundred publications, such as basic works on the history and sociology of Kashubians, biographies of outstanding Kashubian activists and writers, volumes of prose and poetry, as well as memoirs and monographs of towns and villages.

The Institute, with the help of external financial assistance, cooperates with the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association and the Museum of Kashubian-Pomeranian Literature and Music in Wejherowo as well as with other similar institutions in Poland and Europe, also with Kashubian communities in America. An important part of the activity of the KI is collaboration with teachers within the scope of regional education – not only in Kashubia but also other regions of Pomerania. The 'trademark' of the KI is the yearbook "Acta Cassubiana".

Krzysztof Bukowski,

The Activity of the “Robineau” Espionage Network in Western Pomerania in 1947-1949

The article discusses methods used by the communist security service against people connected with the French Consulate at Szczecin in the 1950s.

Criminal proceedings were implemented, repressions affecting a large number of people, most of whom had nothing at all to do with the case. The basic evidence, which was deemed to attest to their espionage activity, was that they pleaded guilty - an admittance coerced by tortures.

In reality, the Robineau espionage network included merely several persons and its activity was in fact “harmless”, as it consisted in collecting information of no significance to Poland’s defense or the citizens’ security.

Rafał Drozdowski,

Improving Urban Public Space

The opening thesis of the article is the assumption that discussion on urban public space rarely becomes a pretext to put forward postulates and demands that strengthen the „system” and contribute to social disintegration. However, improvement of urban public space, mentioned in the title, includes a wide range of concealed and unintended negative consequences. The following can serve as examples: socially unconsulted gentrification programs, policy of administrative overregulation justified by the need to increase public security, standardization of urban space or instrumental treatment of public art.

Iwona Jakimowicz-Ostrowska,

The Image of the Muslim Community in the Consciousness of Poles

Prezentowany artykuł dotyczy kwestii postrzegania wyznawców islamu przez dzisiejszych Polaków. Autorka stara się, bazując na dostępnych opracowaniach naukowych, badaniach czy tematycznych portalach internetowych, pokazać w jaki sposób wizerunek członków zbiorowości muzułmańskiej, a także ich kultury, powstaje oraz utrwała się w świadomości polskiego społeczeństwa. W prezentowanej pracy wyraźnie oddzielony został obraz wyznawców islamu, których obecność w historii naszego kraju jest związana z losami Polski od tego, który powstał w ostatniej dekadzie XXI wieku w wyniku zwykle stronniczych informacji, których propagowanie związane jest z bieżącymi celami politycznymi.

Ponadto prezentowane wyniki ukazane zostały w kontekście współczesnych doświadczeń innych państw europejskich, których postrzeganie społeczności muzułmańskiej, kształtowane było przez zupełnie odmienne doświadczenia np. kolonizacji czy migracji zarobkowej aniżeli miało to miejsce w przypadku większości Polaków.

Pomimo wielu możliwości kontaktów z przedstawicielami kultury islamu nadal dla wielu Polaków problematyka islamska pozostaje terra incognita.

Events over recent years have increased global interest in Islam. The article describes the way Muslims are perceived by nowadays Poles. The author examines how the image of the Muslim community and their culture is created and sustained in the mentality of the Polish society. This assertion is supported by usage of a combination of personal experience, evidence obtained from recent polls and other professionals’ opinions.

The article separates the present profile of the Muslim community created by unbiased political media and the one where Muslims used to be a vital part of Polish history .

The author compares the Polish experience with the experience of other European countries, where perception of the Muslim community was shaped by a completely different background such as colonialism and extensive economic migration.

The author concludes that even though Muslim culture is easily accesible to many Poles, Islamic issues are is still a terra incognita.

Janina Jędrzejczak-Gas,

The Role and Significance of the Sector of Small and Medium Businesses after 1989

In 1989 the process of transformation of Polish economy started – the process of transition from a central planning economy to market economy. One of the greatest achievements of the reformatory initiatives undertaken at that time was a dynamic development of entrepreneurship. Within the span of merely a few years this led to the rise of small and medium businesses, a sector that played an important role in the socio-economic development of Poland. The dynamic development of private enterprise at the beginning of the 1990s was instrumental in relatively quickly pulling Poland's economy out of deep recession. Subsequent years of transformation showed that small and medium businesses markedly increased their share in employment, GDP and investment expenditures.

Łukasz Jurkowlaniec,

The Shaping of Local Identity - Biały Bór

The article tackles the theme of local identity, viewed in the perspective of migration processes that led to the formation of the local communities of Western and Northern Territories. Analysis focuses on the town of Biały Bór and the changes of identity that occur on its area. The text sketches the generational differentiation of the character of local identity in the dimension of references to the past of the group and the sense of territorial belonging. Another problem taken up by the author is viewing the ongoing changes through the lens of cultural diversity characteristic for the local community studied, and how the activity of the Ukrainian minority inhabiting the town affected the shape of the local identity of its residents.

Zenon Kachnicz,

Acts of Predatory Vandalism by Soviet Soldiers in Western Pomerania in the 1940s

On entering the territory of Poland, Soviet soldiers received strict orders to refrain from violence on Polish citizens. However, on crossing the former borders of the Third Reich no such orders were issued. For many of the expelled Germans, incoming Poles and native inhabitants (Kashubians) excruciating days began. The article presents the role of Soviet war headquarters and the conduct of the Red Army Soldiers toward post-German property and Polish settlers as well as the violence and crimes committed against the population currently staying on that area. Descriptions of the events are well documented by source materials obtained from the archives and based on the recollections of the victims. The information contained in the article on crimes committed by Soviet soldiers, only to a small extent depicts the actual facts, which require further investigation.

Piotr Luczys,

The Project of Developing the Public Space of Poznań

The article is an attempt to look critically at the plan of the “Public Space Charter” created in years 2008-2009 in Poznań, which was aimed at codifying the rules of the city's public space development and management. The postulates of the authors' of the plan are reconstructed on the basis of the Charter's two constitutive elements – “Assumptions of Public Space Charter” and “Preliminary Project of Public Space Charter”. The authors also take into account issues that had been omitted or inaccurately formulated in the documents, or require the application of international experiences within the scope of urban public sphere. The article is also an attempt to initiate a debate on the so far unused potential of the project in question, which being the first of this kind in Poland, and one of a

few in Europe, deals with the essential – from the point of view of urban sociology – theme of “game for a city”, but shows a simultaneous lack of reflection on aspects connected with its implementation.

Witold Marchoń,

Deputies of Great Poland Descent in Silesian Parliament on Silesian Autonomy

MPs of Great Poland (Wielkopolska) descent assumed a clear stand on Silesian autonomy in the Silesian Parliament. They accepted the functioning of the constitutional bill of 15 July 1920, which contained an organic statute of the Silesian Voivodship. In the Silesian Parliament they represented a range of political groups, such as: Christian Democracy (Chrześcijańska Demokracja), National Workers' Party (Narodowa Partia Robotnicza), Polish Socialistic Party (Polska Partia Socjalistyczna) and National Christian Work Union (Narodowo Chrześcijańskie Zjednoczenie Pracy), which was a party of Piłsudski's adherents who formed a movement known as “sanation”. All of them were aware of the fact that Silesian autonomy contributed to the development of the region within the Polish state. The organic statute did not in any way hinder Silesia's integration with the Second Republic of Poland.

Katarzyna Warmińska,

Reflections on Tatar Culture

Scholars who study the problem of Polish Tatars assume a variety of perspectives in their analyses; some look for hard determinants of ethnic distinctiveness, while others allow those interested speak for themselves and just listen to their reflections or watch the activities they undertake on account of their shared identity. Adopting the latter perspective in her analysis, the author treats Tatar culture as a symbolic source, which is used by its creators, hosts or heirs in a variety of ways in social relations, for a range of reasons, and in multiple circumstances in order to give meaning to the world. On this understanding, the vision of ethnicity does not presuppose the existence of a set of cultural characteristics inherent in a group. It assumes that ethnicity is produced by social practices. In her article the author shows how Polish Tatars “do” culture in response to their own needs and the needs of the social milieu in which they function.