

ABSTRACTS

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Magdalena Szaniawska-Schwabe

The Immigration Policy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Contemporary Federal Republic of Germany is unarguably an immigrant state, German society being a vibrant multicultural conglomerate whose integral part are persons of immigrant descent. In spite of this, German immigration policy markedly departs from models implemented by classic immigrant states such as Canada or Australia. Many years German administration refused to acknowledge that Germany was in fact an immigration state, thereby hampering the crystallization of a comprehensive immigration policy, which was substituted by summary regulations. Political efforts focused on limiting the wave of immigrants and exercising strict control of the access of foreigners to the German labor market. Germans did not respond in an adequate way to the problems of foreigners and were reluctant to recognize they were a multicultural society. Political practice shaped a model of immigration in principle oriented towards short-term and rotational gainful immigration, which in consequence led to exclusion of foreigners from social and political life. The first immigration act that regulated the issue in a comprehensive way came into effect only fifty years after the signing of the first bilateral agreement on the recruitment of workforce in 1955. Deficits of immigration policy are evident in the phenomenon of "parallel societies", meager acquisition of the German language by immigrants, conflicts on the labor market and in state schools as well as in invariably low rates of naturalization. In the face of negative demographic trends and an obvious shortage of specialists, the FRG is compelled to modify its by now obsolete immigration policy.

Patrycja Sokołowska

Germany's Involvement in the Stabilization of Macedonia

The FRG authorities, in contrast to their position of 1991-1993, when they feared the reaction of Greece and other countries of the European Communities and so refused to recognize Macedonia, in the face of the Albanian-Macedonian conflict of 2001 explicitly supported the Macedonia government. In consequence, together with the other member states of the EU and NATO they engaged in the process of reestablishing peace in the region. The stance then adopted by Germany was characterized by the so-called double strategy. Following its guidelines, the German authorities condemned the actions of Albanian separatists and opted for maintaining the territorial integrity of Macedonia, emphasizing at the same time the necessity to grant Albanians full rights based on their status of national minority and the need to create a multicultural society. This obvious interest in the problems of Macedonia and the status of the Albanian population in this country probably stemmed not only from the wish to lend credence to Germany's foreign policy but also from fear of another wave of refugees flooding the FRG. Economic factors are not to be disregarded either. In consequence of all those factors the Bundeswehr forces took part in separating the sides of the conflict and supervising the truce.

Direct involvement of the German troops became a basis for developing a new quality in the mode of implementation of Germany's foreign policy and security. Namely, it gave rise to the concept of preventing crises through a cooperation of diplomatic, civil and military components.

Maria Wagińska-Marzec

Controversies over the Reconstruction of the Berlin Castle as an Expression of the Debate on the Identity of Germans

The reunification of Germany in 1990 led to a resumption of the issue of reshaping the historical center of Berlin. Plans to reconstruct the city castle, also known under the name of Berlin city palace, as a former seat of the margraves and electors of Brandenburg gave rise to considerable controversies. The original castle, erected in the years 1443-1451 by order of the Prince Elector Frederick II was in the course of time redecorated and rebuilt a number of times. Towards the end of the Second World War it was seriously damaged. As a result of the division of Germany the complex of the castle together with the Museum Island was within the territory of the GDR. In 1950, at the request of Walter Ulbricht, the then leader of the communist SED, the remains of the castle were demolished and in 1973 the Palace of the Republic was built on the site. Following the reunification of Germany, a special body of experts: the Berlin Historical Center (Historische Mitte Berlin) was summoned with a task to work out concrete solutions for the development of the castle site and the architectonic shape of the new castle building as well as to prepare a statement of the purposes the building was to serve in the future. On 28 November 2008 the verdict of the jury was announced concerning the project of the castle's reconstruction and the winner was an Italian architect, Francesco Stella. In accordance with the recommendations of the Historische Mitte Berlin Committee, the new castle building for which the name of Humboldt-Forum was adopted, is to become a place of "dialogue between cultures and science", serving museum and university purposes. The building is to be completed in 2013, and at the latest in 2015. The debate over the castle revealed differences in attitudes to tradition and past events as well as varying visions of the future in the German society. It is an expression of seeking their national identity by the Germans after the fall of the Berlin wall. It also exposed differences in aesthetic attitudes between supporters of tradition and advocates of innovative architecture.

Justyna Balisz

Artists and History. Some Remarks on the Reception of Fascism in German Art

The article reviews the phenomenon of reception of the Second World War in German art after 1945. The pivotal stages are presented on the examples of key artistic events and their reception. It is the story of the breaking of a conspiracy of silence in art and of seeking an adequate form that would enable a confrontation with the past. The way led from a triumph of "mute" abstraction, through the rebellion of neo-expressionists against the suppression of the war years from memory, to a pluralism of forms and utterances on the theme of German history. The text also shows how artists, after winning for themselves the possibility of speaking up in the ongoing debate on the consequences of the Second World War, contribute to a continual expansion of the horizon of collective memory.

Wojciech Stankiewicz

Legitimacy of the Property Claims of Expelled Germans

The author documents that there are no legal grounds for property claims by Germans expelled

from Poland after the Second World War. Expropriation of the German population was and internal issue of the Polish state. It was justified by the intention of the great powers following from the content of the Potsdam agreements (lack of regulations concerning changes in proprietorship on Poland's Western and Northern Territories was a sign of their intention to leave the above issue to domestic law). The German expellees and their descendants see a chance to regain their former real estate in the negligence of the Polish authorities as the property deeds of some of the so-called former German real estate are still unclear. Germans still figure as owners in real estate registers. Competent organs of Polish state administration should settle this problem legally by effecting appropriate changes in real estate registers so that the present owners could feel secure. The claims of Germans cause the response of Poles, a situation that might only contribute to squandering the legacy of decades of rapprochement and reconciliation between the two nations. It would be a good solution if the German side relinquished all claims against the Polish state and Poland replied with an analogous gesture. The assents of both sides could be an introduction to the process of a definitive settling of the question of war and expulsions. However, debate on the events in the history of Poland and Germany, which are the subject of contention, cannot be limited to a polite exchange of views and diplomatic declarations. What is needed is presentation of the truth about painful experiences in the history of both nations without dismissing historical facts that are compromising for either side. Disclosure of the truth can redress relations between the two nations, but are the society, historians and politicians prepared to undertake such a discussion?

Peter Oliver Loew

Poland as a Subject of Studies in the FRG

The article presents the key issues discussed at a conference organized by the Deutsches Polen-Institut in Darmstadt and other institutions in February 2009. The meeting was devoted to the directions of German scientific studies on Poland. Hitherto achievements and shortcomings as well as plans for the future were presented. Current endeavors towards expanding the network of contacts and their institutional reinforcement were also indicated.

Pierre-Frédéric Weber

FRG - GDR - PPL (1950-1972). Polish-German Normalization as a "ménage a trois"

In the article the author suggests a change of perspective in the analysis of the process of normalization of Polish-German relations after the Second World War: he presents the benefits of viewing those relations as a triangle with its own dynamics, based on the sociological concept of the "triad" first formulated by Georg Simmel and later applied to political sciences with reference to international relations by Theodore Caplow, among others. Such a trilateral view allows for a more precise understanding of normalization as a change of norms in the difficult Polish-German relations. What is more, interrelations between the FRG-GDR relations and Poland's relations with both of the German states open the possibility to treat the normalization process as a single issue that can be subjected to periodization in order to bring out clearly various mutual dependencies.

Anna Kwiatkowski

Solidarity 1980-1981 in the Press of the Federal Republic of Germany

In the years 1980-1981 Poland was the focus of attention of the world public opinion. The strike in Gdańsk, emergence of the Solidarity movement and the imposition of the martial law echoed

far and wide across the world. The article analyzes the interpretations of the Solidarity movement of 1980/1981 and its origin as presented in West German press. The author examines how two newspapers - "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" and "Frankfurter Rundschau" - reported the time of Solidarity, how they actually assessed the developments in Poland and what image of the trade unions they conveyed to their readers.

Bogdan Koszel

A "New Opening"? Polish-German Relations during the Rule of the PO-PSL Coalition (2007-2009)

The author forwards the thesis that after two years of administration of the PiS-LPR-Samoobrona coalition in Poland (2005-2007), characterized by an escalation of tension in relations with Germany, the PO-PSL coalition government of Donald Tusk opts for restoration of trust in contacts with Berlin. Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, who enjoys considerable authority in the FRG, has been appointed the Prime Minister's plenipotentiary for international relations. He managed to work out a compromise on the issue of establishing a "visible sign" in Berlin and withdrawal of Erika Steinbach from the implementation of this project. The European Union is now the main ground of Polish-German relations and their "Europeization" exerts growing influence on bilateral relations, as evidenced by Germany's support of Jerzy Buzek's election for President of the European Parliament. The author claims that Poland should approach cooperation with Germany, especially within the European Union, rationally, not being guided by short-term benefits or resentments but with assertiveness and consistently respecting its own interests as well as those of its partner. The present government conceives of the idea of Polish-German partnership in precisely those terms.

Marek Andrzejewski

The Underground Railway in Germany

The article presents the development of the underground railway in Germany. Main emphasis is placed on its opening in 1902 in the German capital. Due attention is paid to the situation of the underground railway in the years of the Second World War and in a divided Berlin. It is also pointed out that in the FRG underground railway has developed dynamically since the 1960s. The present state of saturation of the German cities with underground railway lines is very high compared to other countries. This is a sign of a high civilizational development of Germany and its great economic potential.

Maria Józwiak

The Situation of the German Minority in the Second Republic of Poland on the Basis of German-Language Literature

The article presents the literary picture of living conditions of the German population in Poland after the First World War. The literary works show the change of the rules between Poles and Germans after the Versailles Treaty decisions in the reborn Polish state.

Wanda Pierzchlewicz

The POW Camp in Woldenberg

Woldenberg (now Dobiegniew near Mierzęcin) was from May 1940 to January 1945 the location of Oflag II, the largest POW camp for Polish officers on German territory. The detainees were Polish prisoners from minor oflag of the Third German Reich and lands

annexed by it. After 1944 soldiers of the Warsaw Rising, members of the Home Army were also imprisoned there. The author describes the conditions of life in the camp, the religious life there and the activity of the underground organization. She also presents the current activity of the Society of Woldenbergians which associates the former prisoners of the ofl ag, their families and sympathizers.