

POLES – GERMANS. MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE?

Michał Nowosielski

The article describes the state of research on the dynamics of Polish migration to Germany and the situation of Poles in there. The problems tackled in the text pertain to discussions on the object of research, the history and the present of Polish migration to Germany and the state of the art of studies on Polish migrations to Germany. The topics most frequently scrutinized by researchers include: integrative identity, labour and seasonal migration, Polish enterprise and Polish organizations in Germany. The article concludes with a reflection on the limitations of hitherto research on Polish migration to Germany and potential areas of analysis that call for further inquiry.

Johannes Frackowiak

The article shows the processes of migration of Polish rural workers to the central German industrial region of Bitterfeld (present Saxony-Anhalt) at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. In the years after 1880 a small Polish ethnic community was established there, developing its Polish national identity. Although in the following decades the immigrants were subjected to processes of assimilation to the German society, Polish ethnicity continued in this small community until the 1940s. After World War II a part of the second generation immigrants remigrated to Poland. These persons and their descendants have even until today a hybrid German-Polish awareness, a transnational identity.

Marzena Pomorska

The article outlines the most important and characteristic aspects of the problem of claims taken out by German citizens, showing the background of the conflict, pointing at existing solutions, emphasizing the political character of the problem and presenting the standpoints of both sides. The article also underscores the vast role of media campaigns and their influence on Polish and German decisions on the governmental level.

Bernard Łukańko

The objective of the study is an analysis of the problem of effective loss of Polish citizenship by persons migrating to the FRG based on the State Council Act No. 37/56. The issue of the loss of Polish citizenship by the above mentioned category of persons is extremely complicated and gives rise to numerous doubts in judicial decisions. Its is an object of discrepancy both in the rulings of administrative courts and the Supreme Court. The problem under study is relevant not only to the very institution of citizenship, but also to the issue of efficient loss of real property in possession of the migrating persons (Art. 38 Act 3 of 14 July 1961 on the governance of urban areas). The main focus of the present study is the analysis of the legal qualification of the permission to change citizenship.

Witold Nowak

The aim of this paper is to identify social integration barriers of Germans in Poland. The research method applied to attain this purpose is secondary data analysis focused on opinion polls results. In the initial part of the article the theoretical context of the integration processes is presented. Then, chosen aspects of general attitudes of Poles towards foreigners and their immigration are discussed. Finally, opinions on Germans and their presence in Poland are analysed. The conducted analysis includes the public opinion dynamics and results in an attempt to predict future attitudes of Poles towards Germans.

Iwona Hofman

Jerzy Giedroyc (1906-2000) saw the program of national education as one of the primal factors enhancing the chances of implementation of the political program. The political conceptions presented in the journal „Kultura” (1947-2000) were the opposite of the program of the London based Polish government-in-exile. The Polish emigrants found it difficult to accept many of the elements contained in them, for instance recognition of Poland’s post-war eastern border.

In the program of national education addressed to Poles in at home and abroad as well as to representatives of the East-European emigration, historical and cultural journalism was employed, including chronicles, reviews, analysis of literary and artistic works, literature translations, reviews of cultural events, memoirs and reports. By means of these forms the authors of the monthly sought to overcome a stereotype image of neighbors and national minorities, disclose painful historical truths and bring out parallels in the history of Eastern European nations.

Regarding the German issue, national education meant an attempt to reverse the fatalistic view of Polish-German relations, especially in the 20th century.

Maria Rutowska

The article presents the vicissitudes of a part of the collections of the Prussian State Library in Berlin, housed in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow since 1947. "Berlinka", as the collection is commonly called, remains in Cracow as no solution of the problem of Polish cultural goods robbed and destroyed by the Third Reich during the Second World War has yet been arrived at in a form that would satisfy both parties. According to W. Kalicki, the author of publications on "Berlinka", the "Cracow treasure" is the last prisoner of the great war.

Ernest Kuczyński

The article presents the profile and life stations of Joachim Gauck, a former Lutheran pastor, an opposition "symbol of the breakthrough", a civil rights activist, the creator and first Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives, who on account of his merits and many years of struggle for freedom and democracy is seen to be a "signpost for contemporary Germany".

He became the 11th president in the history of the FRG on 18th March 2012. From his biography we can know what the FRG was really like, why the breakthrough occurred and was followed by reunification, why it is so difficult to settle accounts with the past and why so many Germans even until today have traumatic memories of the period when the German-German border and the Berlin Wall divided not only one nation but a large number of families. Many of these questions can be answered by referring to the biography of the present head of the state of Germany.

Andrzej Sakson

The author analyzes the main problems of Poles in Germany, i.e. the teaching of the Polish language, restoration of official minority status for Poles as well as vindication and compensation for World War II damages in Polish and German press in the years 1999-2012. This was a period of heated public debate and intergovernmental negotiations of these issues. Despite the significance of the problems they did not find adequate reflection in the Polish press. Media with a right-wing orientation were mainly the ones to tackle the topic.

Marta Kasztelan

The article analyzes the journalistic content of the Polish and German press on the 40th anniversary of Chancellor Willy Brandt's gesture at the Monument to the Heroes of the Ghetto in Warsaw. The published texts are studied in the aspect of constructing collective memory with the Chancellor's kneeling down perceived as a "locus of memory". The focus of the article is on the fact that the periodicals, depending on their ideological orientation, draw attention to different aspects of the event from forty years ago.

Agnieszka Szczepaniak-Kroll

Migrations of Poles to Berlin have a long tradition. After World War II when the border was closed and Poland was assigned to the Eastern bloc, Berlin was the nearest West European city, an embodiment of a different better western world. For this reason it was often chosen as a travel destination when there was a possibility to obtain a passport.

Toady Polish immigrants in Germany are considered to be well integrated. Their integration was often the result of a by no means easy process of adaptation that involved overcoming numerous difficulties. At present, when the borders are open, the Berlin Poles again build bridges between the two nations, becoming transmigrants. This essentially impacts on their identity.

Peter Oliver Loew

Darmstadt is not a classical destination of Polish migration to Germany but over the years has emerged as such in the Polish-German context on account of the Deutsches Polen-Institut grounded in 1980. Nevertheless, this city with a population of over 140.000 is a good example of the presence and functioning of Poles and speakers of Polish in Germany. The first part of the article deals with the question of the number of Poles or speakers of Polish since statistical data show a marked increase of these numbers in recent years. The second part discusses various aspects of the Polish presence in Darmstadt and its vicinity – from societies, through shops and restaurants to the possibility of obtaining information on current developments. Darmstadt has quite a vibrant Polish life which is only partly addressed exclusively to the Polish community, while numerous initiatives are of a transnational character.