

ABSTRACTS

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Polish Debates on History and Memory. Historical Policy

Polish discussions on historical memory have their objective international framework and specificity, being part of a general process of a renaissance of memory and debates on the issue of identity that have been going on almost all over the world since the 1980s. They are also predominantly connected with the transformation of the political system in Poland and therefore with the democratization of memory. Such developments could not pass without inducing significant changes in the culture of doing history. The slogan of historical policy that entered public circulation in recent years encompasses a variety of contents. Above all, however, it stands for an assessment of the Third Republic of Poland and is an integral element of controversies over the so-called Fourth Republic.

Beata Ociepka

The Memory of the Media

This study discusses the role mass media of communication play in the construction of collective memory, basing on some research done on Polish and German media. The sample covers the years 1998-2006. Using the analytic tools given by the news values theory and framing, the author concentrates on history as a theme of media coverage (with a stress on anniversary journalism) and on a "history conflict frame", typical for Polish media coverage on Germany. Mass media of communication in both countries are presented as transmitters and main actors of public debates on history. The results of the analysis showed that media can play both a destructive and constructive role in the process of collective memory building and proliferating. Among the study's other findings are that the effects of media coverage are more visible in setting the agenda than in the changes of the public's attitudes.

Sławomir Łukasiewicz

Polish Political Emigration in the 20th Century and Historical Memory

One of the basic tasks that political emigration caused by World War II assigned to itself was the cultivation of memory - individual and collective - both about the most recent history associated with the short interlude of independence, and the more remote one, as e.g. memory of the Great Emigration of the 19th century. With time the scope of memory that had to be safeguarded expanded to include among others the events of World War II and the suffering of the Polish citizens during the period of Communist rule. Cultivation of memory became all the more urgent when in Poland, due to official state policy, the memory of many historical events was obliterated. Literature played an important role in coping with this self-imposed responsibility. After 1989, when political circumstances changed, part of this memory was symbolically transferred to the reborn state, although difficulties had to be overcome. Today, it

is a task in its own rights to cultivate memory of the emigration which by analogy to that of the 19th century is described as the Second Great Emigration.

John V. Tolan

Using the Middle Ages to Construct Spanish Identity. 19th and 20th Century Spanish Historiography of Reconquest

The main goal of the article is to show the major tendencies in Spanish historiography of the reconquista from 1800 to 1975 (from Napoleon's invasion to Franco's death) and the impact of this historiography on the intellectual and political culture of the time. The author shows what the reconquista meant to Spanish historians. The notion of reconquista goes to the heart of the problem of Spanish historical identity, the heart of the questions: Who are "true Spaniards"? At what point can a historian speak of "Spanish" culture? Spanish intellectuals were divided between two tendencies: on the one hand, a conservative affirmation of Spain's identity as a Catholic nation, for whom the reconquista was a glorious prelude to the Spanish colonization and evangelization of America; on the other, a progressive, anti-clerical reinterpretation of Spain's medieval past as a period of substantial political freedoms and of openness and cultural exchange between Muslims, Jews and Christians, followed by a tragic imposition of autocracy and religious unity. This debate about the historical reality of "Spanishness" took place in the historiography from the nineteenth century through the 1970s. It seems irrelevant to a new generation of Spanish historians, while the reconquista is still seen by many Spaniards as a vital formative element of their culture.

Adam Szymaniak

History and (Non)Memory. On the Attempt to Assess Dictatorship in Chile

Augusto Ugarte Pinochet is - both in Chile and Poland - an ambiguous symbol of the shaping of historical memory. For the political left he is a dictator who brutally abused human rights, whereas the right sees him as a defender of conservative values, liberal economy and religion, a man who stopped communism and was the author of Chile's economic miracle. Not without significance for the assessment of the junta and the person of the general is the fact that he peacefully transferred power to his democratically elected successors. The aim of the article is an attempt to answer the question how to assess authoritarian past.

Rafał Żytniec

The Memory of East Prussia in German and Polish Literature after 1945

The article describes Aleida Assman's concept of memory applied to literature on the theme of East Prussia after 1945. The key issue is the concept of "memory landscape" in the Polish and German literature. There are two different and specific memory frames assigned to this literature in Germany and Poland: "loss" and "reclaim", respectively. In the case of German literature the article deals with authors from the so-called Landsmannschaft Ostpreußen circle, who primarily accentuate the German contribution to the history and culture of East Prussia (e.g. Agnes Riegel). There are also authors (e.g. Johannes Bobrowski, Siegfried Lenz, Manfred Peter Hein) with a different point of view, who regard the loss of East Prussia as a consequence of World War II. In turn authors who write about the Warmia and Mazuria region before 1989 emphasise its Polish roots and their literature is often close to the convention of socialist realism (e.g. Igor Newerly, Eugeniusz Paukšta). Erwin Kruk's works are an exception. The final part of the essay

is dedicated to recent changes of perception concerning the history of East Prussia (Günter Grass's "Im Krebsgang" and literature of the "Borussia" circle).

Zbigniew Mazur

Propaganda Campaign of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) Following the Address of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops (Wrocław Region)

In connection with celebrations of the anniversary of the Baptism of Poland (966) and the address of the Polish bishops to German bishops (1965), state and party authorities launched in mid-1966 a propaganda campaign directed to various social groups, particularly the rural community. An interesting element of this campaign was that officers of the Polish Army were engaged in it, and proved fairly successful in their attempts to establish contacts with clergy of the lower ranks. The article presents how the drive proceeded and its results. The study is based on surviving party documents, produced mainly by the party units of the Wrocław region.

Bartosz Korzeniewski

Exhibition on the Crimes of the Wehrmacht. Specificity of the Photographic Medium of Memory

The article discusses the controversies that arose following the presentation of an exhibition in Germany on the crimes of the Wehrmacht. The topic is developed in the context of the specificity of the photographic medium of memory and in relation to the problem of an increasing medialization of memory. The author strives to explain the reasons of the huge interest in the abovementioned exhibition and the discussions it triggered, by referring to the current state of German collective memory. The exhibition punctured a myth of the Wehrmacht's innocence, which was widespread after World War II and played an important role in relief strategies undertaken by the German society in order to cope with the problem of guilt for the crimes of National Socialism. Special attention is drawn to the ideological underpinning of the set of images of the Nazi past conserved in the German society, and enhanced by visual representations promoted by the mass media. Violation of this set of images by photographs documenting the participation of the Wehrmacht in the crimes of the racial war contributed to controversies that started in response to the exhibition.

Joanna Nitka

Education and Commemoration of the Holocaust as an Instrument of Shaping the National Identity of the Israeli Society

Strong connections between the Shoah and contemporary times, as well as the impact of the memory of the Holocaust on the national awareness and identity of Israelis, especially the young generation, can be seen in how the theme of the Holocaust is rendered in the school curricula, textbooks and speeches of politicians delivered at commemorative ceremonies, during study visits to Poland and the Marches of the Living. What is also worth noting are the pedagogical methods employed and the experience of Israeli places of memory, connected with survivors of the Holocaust, including museums created by those survivors who emigrated from Europe, scientific and research institutes, cemeteries of soldiers who fought in the war of independence and in the Israel-Arab wars, as well as places of special importance for Israel's statehood.

Marcin Zaborski

The Past in the Present. The German Expulsed in Polish Media

The article tries to re-create the picture of the German expelled that has been created by the Polish media. The author makes use of the results of monitoring nationwide radio and TV stations. On the basis of the analysis he calls attention to the context in which the category of expelled persons appears in the media - such as Polish-German relationships, the problem of reparations, "the culture of memory" or the re-interpretation of history. To complete the picture, the results of an opinion poll have also been included. According to the author, the presence of the abovementioned subject matter in the public debate shows that the war past is still alive in the consciousness of Polish and German societies and it is still a political problem.