

ABSTRACTS

3/2006 Polska regionalna: Wielkopolska i Pomorze Zachodnie

Michał Nowosielski

The Poznań June 1956 in an International Perspective

On the 13th of June 2006 a debate on the Poznań June of 1956 was held at the Institute for Western Affairs. The organizers wanted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first protest of workers in the Polish People's Republic with a discussion with experts and participants of the historical events. The topic of the panel was the interpretation and assessment of the Poznań June against the backdrop of the de-communization process in the so-called Eastern block. The participants of the discussion exchanged views on the repercussions of the Poznań rising in the Polish society, the reaction of the party authorities, reception of the Poznań events in other countries of the so-called people's democracy, and the influence of the Poznań June on subsequent revolts and protests in the countries of Central-Eastern Europe. They tried to situate this protest of workers in the process of formation of anti-communist opposition, the evolution of political culture and relations between the regime and the society.

Andrzej Choniawko

Risings or Revolts? Within the Sphere of Terminology

The author analyzes various terms used for denoting the tragic events of 1965 in Poznań. The term "revolt", as opposed to "rising" which carries distinct historical connotations, belongs to ahistorical concepts in the methodologically positive sense of the word. The adequacy of the term "revolt" can be seen especially clearly against the backdrop of the tendency to relinquish the term "rising" also with reference to other events that had so far consistently been called in this way. The omission or perfunctory treatment of workers' demonstrations violently suppressed by the authorities in studies aspiring to a historical synthesis indicates that the meaning of this type of social conflicts for the reconstruction of social processes continues to be underestimated. Each of such cases provides unique evidence of the contradictions that weigh down on the society, and intersect on various planes. The knowledge about these contradictions gained from the analysis of the origin, course and effects of workers' demonstrations can be projected onto wider dimensions, exceeding the territorial and all the more so the chronological scope of workers' protests.

Stanisław Jankowiak

Evolution of the Assessment and Meaning of the Poznań June 1956. From "Imperialist Provocation" to "Conflict in the Family"

The article deals with the evolution of the appraisal and meaning of the Poznań June of 1956. The Poznań June played an enormous role in post-war history, opening the long way to true freedom, although in June 1956 its participants were not aware of its future impact and had no

intention of abolishing the system then in force. This however does not diminish the merits of the rising that changed Poland, even though the inhabitants of Poznań had to wait for decades before its role came to be appreciated.

Łukasz Jastrząb

The Poznań June 1956 in the Light of Studies on Human Losses

The Poznań June of 1956 is the most tragic event in the city's post-war history. The workers' strike of an initially socio-economic character turned into armed riots of a political nature. The army entered the city. Within several hours 57 people were killed or died of wounds and there were nearly 600 casualties. Since then, these incidents have been the theme of numerous studies, books and articles. However, the literature of the subject often repeats the same myths, legends and obvious distortions or errors. The author of the article has been engaged for some years now in a study that sheds new light on many of the widely-held myths of the Poznań June 1956. He has managed to retrace the course of the decision-making process concerning the command to shoot and to solve the question of the so-called first shot. It was also possible to verify the number of fatal victims and the circumstances of their death (accidental in a majority of cases). An analysis of the circumstances of the death of Roman Strzałkowski was undertaken and the results differ markedly from the commonly accepted hagiographical legend. The Poznań June is still in demand of new literature, studies and syntheses. Anyone who claims that there is nothing more to write about is very much mistaken. It is only by publications representing adequate knowledge of the subject, firmly based on sources and a sound methodology, that we can sustain the memory of the events of the most tragic day in the history of Poznań. The various debates and discussions that such publications might generate will be a constructive influence on the state of our knowledge of the Poznań June of 1956.

Bogumił Wojcieszak

"Poland has yet not perished". The Activity of Former Napoleonic Soldiers in the Great Poland Duchy

The belief that "Poland has not yet perished" was expressed in a wide range of contexts during the Prussian rule. The words of the Dąbrowski Mazurka were an inspiration to fight not only by taking up arms but also by striving for national survival. The author devotes most of his attention to the political attitudes of citizens of the Great Poznań Duchy, who tended towards political realism. The article also refers to the myth of Great Poland citizens in the period before the November Uprising as predominantly engaged in conspiracy and pushing for armed confrontation. In reality, contrary to the legend, political realism took precedence in action. The author focuses on the diversity of activities undertaken by former officers of the Napoleonic army who had settled in Great Poland.

Zenon Kachnicz

The Apparatus of Public Security in Western Pomerania in the Years 1945-1947

Polish communists, wishing to seize and consolidate power in Poland, created a strong and efficient apparatus modelled upon the Soviet NKVD. It was an important element of the process of establishing and safeguarding the new authority. The leadership of the Polish Workers' Party (PPR) was from the very beginning aware that without the so-called people's apparatus of oppression, i.e. the army, the security office and the police force it would be impossible to successfully end the strife for absolute domination on the Polish political scene. Once the structure of the security offices had been established, they engaged in combat not only with the

legal opposition but also with the armed underground resistance movement. It must be strongly emphasized that offices of public security were a crucial factor in fighting against the enemies of the PPR. They carried out the orders of the party's central leadership promptly and ruthlessly, often disregarding the law. Their aim was to crush political opponents even if the latter did not commit any crime or offence. Their mode of operation can be summed up by the maxim "the end justifies the means". The article presents the genesis, structure and activity of the apparatus of public security in Western Pomerania in the years immediately after the Second World War.

Adam Frydrysiak

Polish Church Administration in Western Pomerania in the Face of Increasing Indoctrination in the Years 1945-1972

The article presents the stance of the Polish Church administration in Western Pomerania in the face of increased indoctrination in the years 1945-1972. The activity of the first post-war primates of Poland, August Hlond and Stefan Wyszyński is discussed. Both of them found themselves in a dilemma between the demands of the new state authorities on the one hand, and the expectations of the Apostolic See and the hierarchy of the German Church on the other. It must be remembered that the policy of the communist regime strove to undermine the role of the Church in Poland. The changes that took place in 1956 alleviated the conflict between the state and the Church - the crucial developments included the political thaw after the death of Stalin, the address of Polish bishops to German bishops and the signing of the border treaty between Poland and the FRG.

Adam Szymaniak

Direct Foreign Investments in Great Poland. Present State and Prospects

The aim of the article was to characterize the present state and prospects of development of joint ventures with foreign partners in Great Poland. This was done by analyzing the data provided by the General Statistical Office, the National Bank of Poland, the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, the Department of Development at the City Council of Poznań, and the local governments. Data obtained directly from foreign investors operating in Great Poland were an important supplement of the information supplied by the above mentioned institutions. Due to limits imposed by the form of the article, not all of the results of the study could be presented. Thus, they were selected according to the following principal goals of the analysis:

- a) values, figures and structure of the origin of direct investments in the region of Great Poland,
- b) major economic and financial parameters of joint ventures operating in the region,
- c) the influx of strategic foreign investments whose value exceeds 1 mln USD to Great Poland,
- d) foreign investments in the capital city of the region - Poznań.

In the third part of the article the analyses and statistical data have been referred to the prospects of direct investments in the Great Poland region and Poznań.

Aleksandra Pietrowicz

The Uncovering of the "Ojczyzna" Organization by the Ministry of Public Security - the Poznań Lead

"Ojczyzna" ("Homeland") was a conspiracy organization operating in the years of German occupation of 1939-1945 on the territory of Great Poland and General-Gouvernement. In July 1945 it was disbanded and many of its members took up employment in institutions established on the so-called reclaimed lands. From 1947 the former members of "Ojczyzna" became the

object of interest of the public security department. Many persons from this organization and its circle were invigilated as part of a case of uncovering a target code-named "Alfa". Unsuccessful attempts at enlisting agents from among the former members of "Ojczyzna" ended in arrests and the launching of a formal inquiry. The article is based on the operational records of the Ministry of Public Security, regional offices of public security and the District Military Court. It presents the activity of the security apparatus directed against the Poznań milieu of "Ojczyzna" gathered among others in the Institute for Western Affairs.

Aleksandra Kruk

Repercussions of the Poznań June 1956 in German Press

The article presents the responses of German press to the events of 28th June 1956 in Poznań. The analysis is based on a collection of German press at the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań (the following titles have been considered: "Bayern-Kurier", "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", "Ost-West Kurier", "Rheinischer Merkur", "Der Spiegel", "Die Welt", "Der Tagesspiegel", "Die Zeit", "Neues Deutschland"). The accounts and assessments of the workers' riots against the communist regime are evidence of interest in the sources and course of the Poznań rising both in the FRG and the GDR.

Katarzyna Koziół

The Beginnings of Common Courts of Law in Western Pomerania on the Example of the Koszalin District (1945-1949)

Judge Kazimierz Cukierski was delegated to organize and direct the district court in Koszalin on 30th May, 1945, and this date is recognized as the beginning of Polish post-war jurisdiction in Western Pomerania. The article presents the first years (1945-1949) of the functioning of the common courts of law on this territory. The main source of information is the account of Judge Kazimierz Cukierski himself. He describes mostly the organizational side of the creation of particular courts in the district, among others problems with finding adequate premises and recruiting personnel, as well as relations with the local civilian population and the representatives of state administration and the army.

Krzysztof Bukowski

The First District Offices of Public Security on the Territory of Central Pomerania in 1945

The study brings a concise characterization of the organization and personnel policy of the department of public security and the role it was assigned by the Polish Workers' Party (PPR). Special attention is given to the district security offices. The author recounts the circumstances accompanying their creation and shows the conditions of work in particular offices. He also specifies the difficulties encountered by the heads of particular offices in establishing them in Central Pomerania in 1945. The number and type of posts in each of these offices, forms of gratification of the personnel for their work and supply of basic office commodities is described.