

70th Anniversary of the Institute for Western Affairs

Poland, Germany, Europe
political, economic, social relations

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Prof. Anna Wolff-Powęska

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Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie

NOVOL

SOLARIS

MARSZAŁEK WOJEWÓDZTWA WIELKOPOLSKIEGO MAREK WOŹNIAK

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I. Poland's leading research institution

Established seven decades ago, the Poznań Institute for Western Affairs is among Poland's most prominent research and scholarly institutions, widely recognized and highly esteemed in the international scholarly community. The Institute's research interests center on the history of Polish-German relations, the Western and Northern Territories, European and trans-Atlantic affairs and Poland's policies and security. The organization's interdisciplinary profile combines human and social sciences with economics. This Poznań--based institution has a sizable library featuring specialized literature, periodicals, daily press and archive materials.

The origins of the Institute for Western Affairs established in the Autumn of 1944 tie closely to Poland's experience of World War II during the German occupation. These events left a tragic mark on Polish-German relations heavily influencing the fate of the entire European Continent. The westward shift of Poland's borders upon the end of the War cre-



Prof. Zygmunt Wojciechowski at the front of the first location of the Institute at ul. Chełmońskiego 1

ated demand for a scholarly review of the grave issues and threats that arose in connection with the new territorial layout. As a response, a team of professors of the University of Poznań (an institution which had existed even before the War) as well as a group of social and political activists led by prof. Zygmunt Wojciechowski, an acclaimed and trusted academic, came up with the initiative of establishing a research institution in Poznań to address German issues and investigate the troubled history of neighborly relations between Poland and Germany.

The idea to set up a specialized institution combining research and advisory responsibilities was proposed as early as the second half of 1943 by the underground organization "Ojczyzna" ("Homeland") with links to the Government Delegation for Poland. It was then that the institution's name, the Institute for Western Affairs, was first mentioned along with the name of its periodical Przegląd Zachodni. A special document was drawn up in December 1944 to outline the Institute's research range and organizational structure. Its drafting is considered to have marked the organization's official establishment.



Prof. Zygmunt Wojciechowski, the founder and first head of the Institute for Western Affairs between 1945 and 1955



Prof. Gerard Labuda, head of the Institute for Western Affairs between 1959 and 1961



Prof. Władysław Markiewicz, head of the Institute for Western Affairs between 1966 and 1973

The first Head of the Institute for Western Affairs, established officially on February 27, 1945 with a charter adopted on August 6, 1945, was the initiator of its formation, prof. Wojciechowski, an outstanding expert on German affairs. His successors included some of the most remarkable names in the humanities, including, in particular, Professors Gerard Labuda, Zdzisław Kaczmarczyk, Władysław Markiewicz, Lech Trzeciakowski, Antoni Czubiński and Anna Wolff-Powęska.

Originally house in an Art Nouveau tenement building at ul. Chełmońskiego 1, the Institute for Western Affairs was soon transferred to a temporary location in the Old Market Square (where some of its staff acquired the Town Scale building and the Merchant Houses) only to find a more permanent venue in the Działyński Palace. Since 1998, the Institute has had its own building: a magnificent facility at ul. Mostowa which houses its vast library holdings, including an invaluable archive. Up until 2013, the Institute for Western Affairs was overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, now replaced by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.



Prof. Anna Wolff-Powęska, head of the Institute for Western Affairs between 1990 and 2004



Michał Nowosielski, Ph.D., head of the Institute for Western Affairs since 2013



The Institute for Western Affairs has acquired its present ul. Mostowa 27 offices thanks to the support of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and Poznań Authorities.

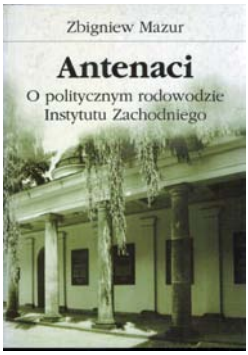
The Institute's formation coincided with the establishment of its library which has succeeded in amassing, over its seven decades in operation, enormous holdings of specialized literature relating to German studies, Polish and world history, European and international relations, sociology, law and economics. In total, the Institute's library's holdings comprise 110,000 titles of various kinds. They include unique archive items and countless press issues. These vast archive and library collections, including one of the country's largest collection of literature on Germany, attract scores of researchers, young aspiring scientists, journalists and regular readers drawn to the Institute by their passions, interests and needs.

In existence since 1945, the Publishing House of the Institute for Western Affairs has put out more than 400 books, 350 issues of the Przegląd Zachodni and dozens of other periodic and one-off publications. Recognized and esteemed by scholars at home and abroad, the Publishing House publishes works by the Institute's staff as well as authors from other Polish and foreign research institutions.

While the Institute for Western Affairs has made invaluable contributions to the development of Polish science, including German studies, it has maintained equally strong links with Poznań and its local community where it has pursued its mission of spreading knowledge and initiating major scientific and cultural events. The Institute's publications developed by its research team, the Polish and foreign guests invited into the Institute as well as conferences and debates on essential and topical issues, have all become an integral part of Poznań's scholarly landscape.



The valuable support for the Institute is the Association of the Institute for Western Affairs. It has been created by outstanding Polish scholars, intellectuals, businessmen and politicians. It works actively to spread knowledge about the history and present-day of Germany, Polish-German relations and the European integration. It also promotes the achievements of the Institute for Western Affairs and supports its research and publishing activity. The Association of the Institute for Western Affairs established the Regional Centre for International Debates which is responsible for extensive information, education and training activities among various groups of the community in Poznań and in the Wielkopolska region.



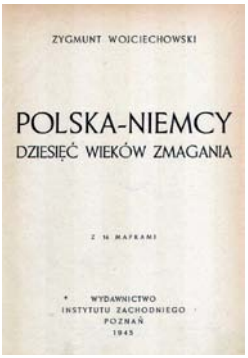


Directors of the Institute for Western Affairs

- Prof. Zygmunt Wojciechowski: 1945-1955
- Prof. Kazimierz Piwarski: 1956-1958
- Prof. Gerard Labuda: 1959-1961
- Prof. Michał Sczaniecki: 1961-1964
- Prof. Zdzisław Kaczmarczyk: 1964-1965
- Prof. Władysław Markiewicz: 1966-1973
- Prof. Lech Trzeciakowski: 1974-1978
- Prof. Antoni Czubiński: 1978-1990
- Prof. Anna Wolff-Powęska: 1990-2004
- Prof. Andrzej Sakson: 2004-2011
- Michał Nowosielski, Ph.D. : 2013 -

II. Polish-German relations as the main research focus

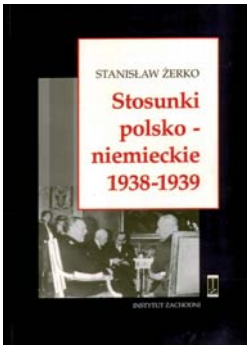
Polish-German relations and a wide range of factors which underlie them have been the prime research interest throughout the history of the Institute for Western Affairs. However, more than any other research conducted during the Communist period by the Institute's team, studies in this field were influenced by changing relationships between the three capitals of Warsaw, Berlin and Bonn. The fact that the Federal Republic of Germany refused to recognize the border along the Oder and Nysa Łużycka Rivers dampened relations between Communist Poland and West Germany. Meanwhile Poland and East Germany vied for the position of Soviet Union's closest ally. Under such circumstances, it was virtually impossible to offer a fair depiction of contemporary Polish-German relations or even address such issues.



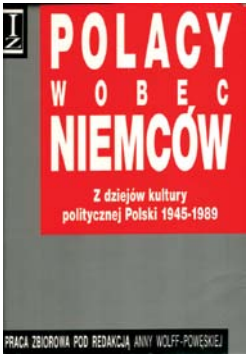


For that very reason, research on Polish-German relations during the first decade in the Institute's operation (1945-1955) became strictly historic with a particular focus on the history of the German occupation of Poland and on restoring the awareness of Polish presence in the Recovered Territories. As the agenda of the communist authorities shifted during the years that followed (1956–1970), scholars were prodded to demonstrate East Germany's progress and expose West Germany's revisionist and militaristic tendencies.

West Germany's recognition of Poland's western border in December 1970 ushered in a new era in the Institute's history. No longer forced to cope with hostility towards West Germany, the Institute made its first attempts at recapitulating the post-war relations between Warsaw and Bonn.



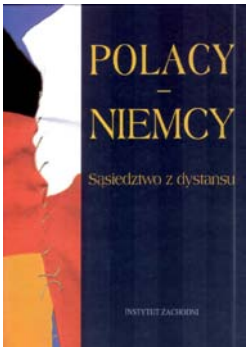




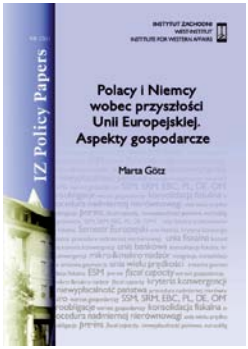
It objectively reviewed contentious issues focusing on their political, legal and social aspects. It was during that time that Lech Janicki produced his incisive studies on the legal aspects of Polish-German relations and that Anna Wolff-Powęska offered a review of Germany's policies towards Poland that was liberated from ideological pigheadedness.

Poland's transition towards democracy and the reunification of Germany in the early 1990s produced a breakthrough in Polish-German relations. The result were two pivotal treaties concluded in November 1990, acknowledging the border and in June 1991 regarding good neighborly relations. This began a whole new period in the Institute's history. Ever since that moment, the research team would follow the Polish-German reconciliation, observing and analyzing it, describing and at times even inspiring changes and commenting on them clear-sightedly. More than anything else, however, the team would take on issues which had either been banned or undesirable during the Communist era. The researchers began by attempting to describe – in historical terms – developments and phenomena which had previously been subject to censorship. An example is the collective article "Polacy wobec Niemców" ("Poles Towards Germans") where, for the first time in the history of German studies conducted in Poland, a thorough multifaceted overview was offered of Poles' approach towards Germans during the communist period complete with the underpinning factors, the nature and the implication of such attitudes. A novel review of Polish-German relations from the political science perspective came with the book "Polityka Republiki Federalnej wobec Polski w latach 1982-1992" ("Policies towards Poland in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1982 to 1992") by Krzysztof Malinowski.

Despite these new historical pursuits, the Institute's primary research focus shifted to current forms and fields of co-operation between Poles and Germans, and specifically to collaboration among regions, municipalities, churches and political, social and cultural organizations. These scholarly inquiries generated a plethora of highly valued publications issued by the Institute, among them "Polacy i Niemcy na drodze do partnerskiego sąsiedztwa (1989-1998)" ("Poles and Germans on the way towards a neighborhood of partners (1989-1998)") and "Polacy – Niemcy. Sąsiedztwo z dystansu" ("Poles and Germans. A Distanced Neighborliness").



The Institute's staff also embarked on analyzing the political and economic aspects of relations with Poland's western neighbor in the context of Poland's NATO accession and European Union membership. The presumption was that Germany's internal situation and international position affect the chances of developing the Polish-German partnership in Europe (the related titles include "Polska i Niemcy w Unii Europejskiej. Pola konfliktów i płaszczyzny współpracy" ("Poland and Germany in the European Union. Areas of conflict and cooperation") and "Trudny dialog. Polsko-niemiecka wspólnota interesów w zjednoczonej Europie" ("The difficult dialogue. A commonality of interests between Poland and Germany in united Europe").



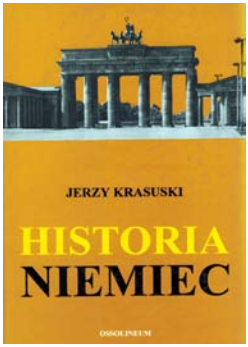
The Institute for Western Affairs is rapidly establishing new ties with scientific institutions in Germany. It has carried out joint projects summarizing Polish-German relations, organized joint scientific conferences presenting the Polish and German views on key issues and reviewing challenges of bilateral as well as pan-European significance. By pursuing its research objectives on multiple plains through such endeavors, the Poznań Institute for Western Affairs has consistently sought to help forge a Polish-German alliance.



III. Historical research at the Institute for Western Affairs







Historical studies on matters as significant as Polish-German relations, Polish and German history and Europe's historic experience have always been of particular interest to the Institute's researchers. A number of precious works which came close to achieving a breakthrough in Polish historiography stem from no other but the Institute for Western Affairs or result from its patronage. Such rank may well be ascribed to a book published under a very telling title: "Polska - Niemcy. Dziesięć wieków zmagania" ("Poland and Germany. The ten-century-long struggle") written as early as 1945 by Zygmunt Wojciechowski, the founder and original head of the Institute for Western Affairs.

A book of comparable significance was the two-volume outline of German history by the outstanding historians Kazimierz Tymieniecki and Janusz Pajewski, both of the University of Poznań, published also by the Institute for Western Affairs. It was also in the Institute that prof. Pajewski put out one of the institution's greatest masterpieces: "Mitteleuropa", a treatise on Germany's World-War-I-era aspirations to establish a hegemony over Central and Eastern Europe. Professor Gerard Labuda, an equally remarkable historian who also once headed the Institute, authored a sagacious study on Polish-German relations between the 10th and the 20th centuries.

The Institute for Western Affairs was joined by a whole array of scholars went on to produce astonishing achievements in historical research. These included Professors Jerzy Krasuski, Marian Wojciechowski, Anna Wolff-Powęska, Antoni

Czubiński, Jerzy Kozeński, Zbigniew Mazur, Jadwiga Kiwerska and Stanisław Żerko, all of whom ended up writing critical overviews and profound studies on German history, Polish-German relations, American-European relations and Inter-War developments in Europe.

The scope of historical interests pursued by the Institute for Western Affairs continued to broaden. It included relations between the United States and Europe in the Inter-War Period, a new approach to Hitler's foreign policy, relations between the Third Reich and Nazi Italy, the German resistance movement, the history of Austria and Polish-Czech relations.

Thanks to its excellent renown, the Institute for Western Affairs and it precious archive and library holdings attracted a great number of outstanding historians, among them Władysław Bartoszewski. Many of their works ended up being published by the Publishing House of the Institute for Western Affairs.

The Institute has traditionally held domestic and international scientific conferences attracting top names in historical research. The result was a great number of scientific events whose significance proved vital even under Communism. One such memorable conference, held in 1989, marked the 50th anniversary of the breakout the Second World War. In addition to Poland's leading researchers, the conference was attended by UK historians, including Ian Kershaw, the remarkable author of a Hitler's biography. Further symposia of similar rank were held in 1999 and 2009 on round anniversaries of the breakout of World War II. On these occasions, the Institute for Western Affairs was visited by prominent historians from Germany, France, the United States and Russia.







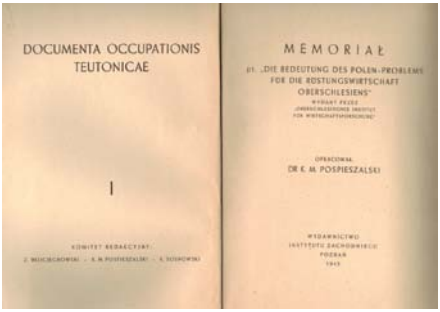
The historians of the Institute for Western Affairs have always remained open to sharing their passion for research with others. In addition to having published many of their articles and comments in popular newspapers and magazines, they have make frequent radio and television appearances and taken part in important historical debates.

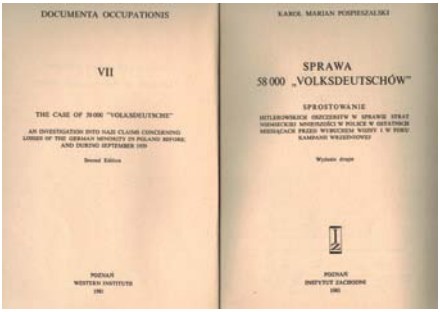
IV. Research on the German occupation of Poland

The Institute for Western Affairs began its research on World War II and the German occupation in Poland as early as June 1945. The sheer weight of the period's events, which proved to have been an exceedingly harrowing experience for the Polish nation, made it one of the Institute's central research interests. It was tackled by a number of leading historians and lawyers, including Karol Marian Pospieszalski, Alfons Klafkowski, Edward Serwański, Barbara Bojarska, Jerzy Marczewski, Maria Rutowska and Marian Woźniak.

The significance of their contributions cannot be overestimated, especially in the initial period when scientists' findings were used in the trials of German war criminals. It was for that very purpose that use was made of, among others, the initial volumes of Documenta Occupationis Teutonicae containing evidence of lawlessness and atrocities perpetrated on the Polish nation. Evidence from this source ended up included in the files of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Poznań researchers also worked closely with the Chief Commission for the Investigation of Nazi War Crimes in Poland. Today, similar collaboration is the basis for ties between the Institute for Western Affairs and the Institute of National Remembrance, a number of martyrdom museums and the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem.

Gathered over the years, the Institute's archive materials, photographs, magazines and personal records form a unique body of documents which makes up the Institute's World

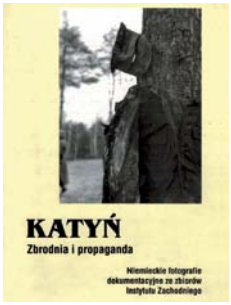




The Documenta Occupationis, a series highly esteemed both domestically and internationally, includes a unique record of the system applied by the Nazis in their occupation of Poland.

War II Archive. The Archive is used not only by Polish and foreign scholars and experts but also by victims of the Third Reich who have been issued special certificates. The Archive's materials have been placed in monographs and photograph books, displayed at exhibitions and used in documentaries.

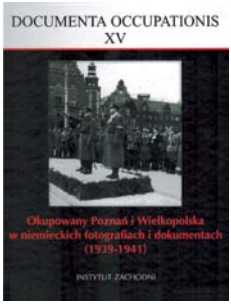
A huge research effort of the Institute's team has produced dozens of publications ranging from monographs to collective works to scientific articles. Their authors offered accounts of the extermination of Polish intelligentsia and clergy and the elimination of teachers and culture and science promoters. They covered the persecution of Poles in the Warta Region and in the territories annexed to the Third Reich and described the Nazi occupation system. They disclosed new facts and aspects of Germany's criminal policy towards the Polish nation which were lesser known to the general Polish public whose awareness was dominated by a focus on the General Government.







Polish officers killed in Katyń Forest



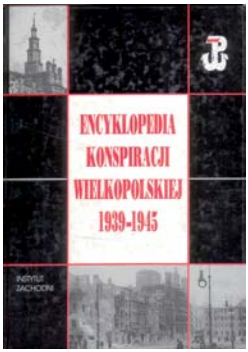


SS troops on pl. Wolności in Poznań

One of the monumental works produced at the Institute for Western Affairs was "The Encyclopedia of Wielkopolska's Underground Movement (1939-1945)". The book contested the generally accepted depiction of the Region's residents who had been falsely accused of avoiding involvement in the underground resistance movement. Equally valuable was volume 16 of Documenta Occupationis devoted to the displacement camp at Poznań's Główna Street, a place of temporary sojourn for tens of thousands of Poles on their way to the General Government. In addition to documents and photographs, the volume features a list, arranged in alphabetical order, of all Wielkopolska residents imprisoned in Lager Glowna, as retrieved from original Nazi records.

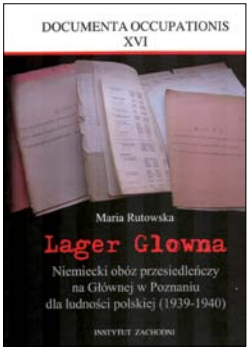


Despite the passage of time and the emergence of new research challenges, the Nazi occupation of Poland continues to feature prominently in the research conducted by the Institute for Western Affairs. The ongoing project of digitizing the Institute's World War II Archive holdings assures that these invaluable original documents will stand the test of time and remain available for future research endeavors.





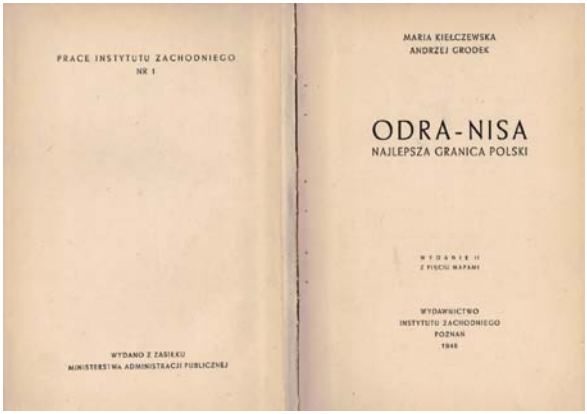
German guards in Lager Glowna



V. The Western and Northern Territories – pioneering research

In 1945, the Polish state was restored in new geographic boundaries. By a decision of other countries which were more powerful than itself, Poland was compensated for its lost Eastern Territories and given the eastern regions of Germany which became its Western and Northern Territories. This westward shift of Poland's borders was actually one of the reasons for establishing the Institute for Western Affairs which was a response to new demand to examine issues underlying Poland's new geographic position, investigate the key historic, cultural, social and economic issues in the Recovered Territories and monitor the integration of the new land with the rest of the country. The tasks was entrusted to the Institute for Western Affairs by its founders and, in particular, by Zygmunt Wojciechowski.

The Institute's first publication (which appeared as early as the spring of 1945, that is even before the final decisions to shift Poland's borders was finalized in Potsdam) was a book by Maria Kiełczewska and Andrzej Grodek under the tell-tale title of "Odra - Nisa, najlepsza granica Polski" ("The Oder and the Nise Rivers – Poland's Best Border"). The Institute's founders also suggested that the Polish-German border should remain to the east of the Oder. The Institute's successive publications either justified the decision to incorporate Germany's eastern fringes into Poland or sought to prove their ties inherent to Poland.


PRACE INSTYTUTU ZACHODNIEGO
NR 1

MARIA KIEŁCZEWSKA
ANDRZEJ GRODEK

ODRA-NISA
NAJLEPSZA GRANICA POLSKI

WYDANIE II
Z PIĘCIU MAPAMI

WYDAWNICTWO
INSTYTUTU ZACHODNIEGO
POZNAŃ
1946

WYDANO Z ZASIŁKU
MINISTERSTWA ADMINISTRACJI PUBLICZNEJ

The topic of the Institute's first publication was Poland's territorial changes

The scholars led by Prof. Wojciechowski expressed their concern about giving the new land a strong Polish identity in a work on adopting Polish names of towns, rivers, lakes, etc. in those regions. The Institute went as far as to set up an Onomastic Committee which prepared a "Directory of Towns and Villages in Western Pomerania and Lubusz Land". Another work of practical significance with this respect was a renewed publication of "The Atlas of Geographic Names in Western Slavic Territories" by Rev. Stanisław Kozierowski and the drafting and publication of the "Dictionary of Polish Town Names in former Eastern Prussia and the former Free City of Gdańsk". This effort sparked off a large and valuable series of publications on Poland's historic land dedicated to the individual regions of the Western and Northern Territories.

Further research perspectives opened up in the year 1956, the year that marked the launch of sociological field studies on various social transformations in the Recovered Territories. As a consequence, the Institute gave rise to Western Territory sociology. A widely recognized series "Western Territories – Studies and Materials" came out in 1957. As of to date, it comprises 26 papers by such researchers as Stefan Nowakowski, Zygmunt Dulczewski, Andrzej Kwilecki, Władysław Markiewicz, Kazimierz Żygulski and Andrzej Sakson.





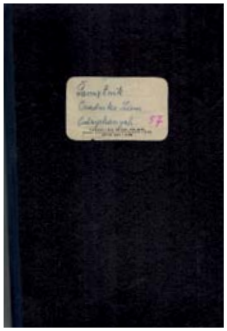


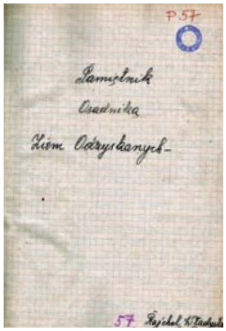




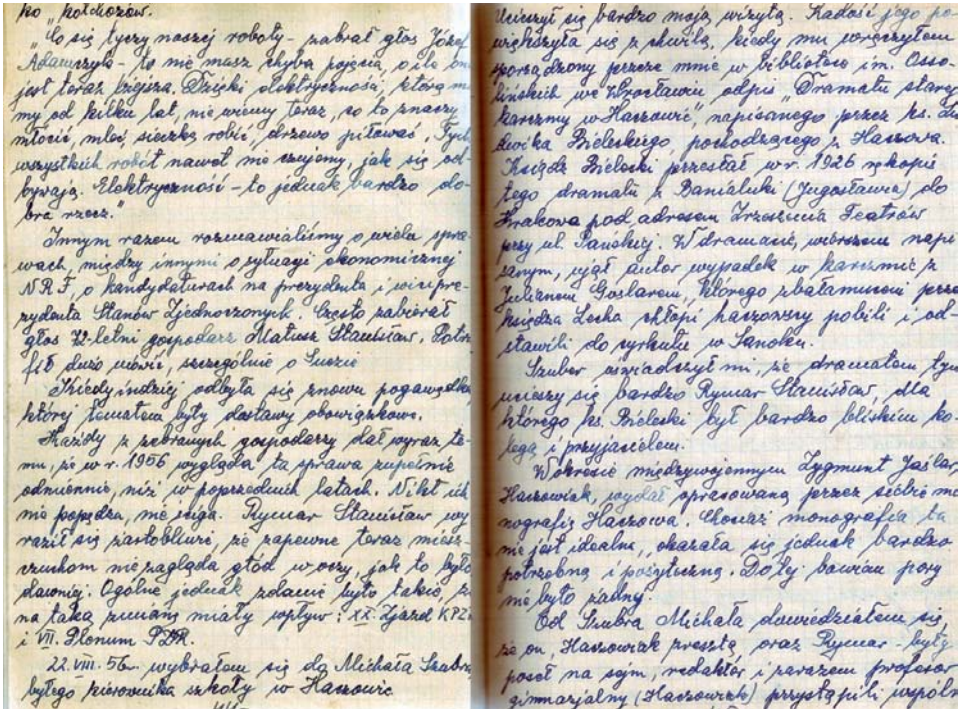
"The Old Lands of Poland" is a precious and voluminous series on the Western and Northern Territories

One project positioned on the borderline between science and popular education which has gained widespread recognition at home and abroad comprised a series of contests for diaries by residents of the Recovered Territories held in 1956, 1966 and 1970. The materials which emerged in this context would subsequently appear in various publications and to this day are considered a significant historic record and a valuable source for sociologists.





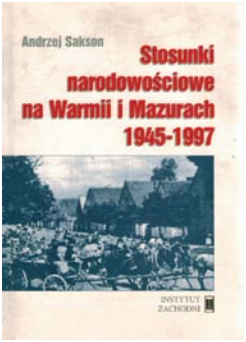
The Institute deserves credit for originating sociological research on the Western and Northern Territories; the inhabitants of the Recovered Territories responded to diary contests with hundreds of submissions

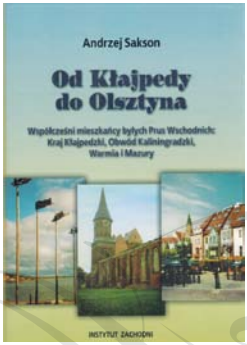


Research on the Western and Northern Territories enjoyed another "Renaissance" after 1989 when issues previously considered taboo could finally be brought up in open discourse. What followed was not as much a comeback of the issue of the Polish-German border territories but rather an addition of new angles being reviewed for the enrichment of current knowledge. This included insights into the fates of the indigenous populations of Silesia, Kashubia, Masuria and Warmia and the German minorities in Poland including, in the case of some studies, territories on the Polish-Russian border with the Kaliningrad Oblast. The Institute's staff put out papers on German cultural heritage in the Recovered Territories which proved to be unprecedented in their nature and subject matter – the works were summarized in the publication "Wspólne dziedzictwo?" ("A Common Heritage?"). Work is also under way to examine transformations in local and regional identity. Furthermore, there is an ongoing debate on the specific nature and mythology of the territories annexed to Poland in 1945.

The Western and Northern Territories continue to constitute an important research area for the Institute for Western Affairs. What is changing, however, is the research perspective and the wider scope of issues tackled by scientists.







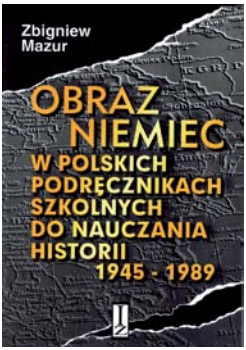
VI. The Textbook Commission and the Polish-German Forum

Of the many fields of activity pursued by the Institute for Western Affairs, particular credit is due for the work of the Textbook Commission and the Polish-German Forum. Their establishment was triggered by an extraordinary event: the signing, on December 7, 1970, of an Agreement between Poland and West Germany on foundations for normalization, which opened up new prospects for tightening relations between the two countries. The Institute had strived to launch a Polish-German debate on textbooks as early as the mid-1950s. At that time, the Institute's scholars welcomed a proposal by a German educator to engage in dialogue with Poles on textbook content. This history teacher by the name of Enno Meyer wrote: "After all, there are mountains of historical prejudices which separate us – Germans from the Slavs, and which need to be cleared away". It took long years, however, for the idea of working together on revising textbooks to become reality. Once the circumstances

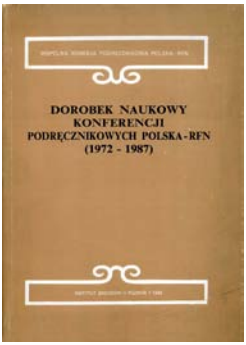


The 17th Conference of the Textbook Commission held on July 12-17, 1984 in Augsburg, Germany. Its participants included Prof. Władysław Markiewicz, former head of the Institute for Western Affairs and Zbigniew Kulak, long-time secretary of the Textbook Commission and member of staff of the Institute for Western Affairs

were ripe with the conclusion of the treaty with Germany, the Institute proposed the initiative again, this time together with the Evangelical Academy of Western Berlin with which it organized a number of conferences on textbook modifications. These provided a direct impulse for setting up, under UNESCO auspices, a joint Polish-German organization for history and geography textbooks, which became known by its abbreviated name of the Textbook Commission.



The Commission's first meeting took place in February 1972 in Warsaw followed by another, in Brunswick, Germany, held as soon as April 1972. During the ensuing years, the Textbook Commission met alternately in either country, each time issuing joint recommendations for the educational authorities of both states. The Commission continues to operate to this day although in a drastically changed political environment. In its early days, the originators and implementers of the project operated on the assumption that textbook content was fraught with half-truths and downright lies which reinforced stereotypes in both countries making it harder for Poles and Germans to reconcile. To remedy the situation, they embarked on a mission which was not always welcome in their respective countries. The German scientists involved in the work of the Textbook Commission fell under sharp criticism from the Federation of Expellees. Many of the Commission's recommendations ended up being boycotted at federal state level. Meanwhile, the Polish associates, many of whom stemmed from the Institute for Western Affairs, were forced to adhere to the guidelines of the Communist authorities which meant they had to yield to censorship and abandon certain topics.





All this notwithstanding, the Textbook Commission turned out to be a vital project. As a rare field of contact between

Polish and West German scholars, it contributed to overcoming many stereotypes and shaping a positive approach among Poles as well as Germans. Much credit for these accomplishments is due to the Institute for Western Affairs which provided essential expert support to the Commission's Polish team. The first chairman of the Textbook Commission representing Poland was Władysław Markiewicz, the Institute's former head. He was succeeded in 1983 by Antoni Czubiński, who was the Institute's head at the time. It was the Institute for Western Affairs that proposed the initial technical suggestions for the Polish team members of the Textbook Commission. It was also in the Institute that the Commission's materials and recommendations were published.

The Institute for Western Affairs has made an equally valid contribution to the success of the Polish-German Forum which promoted a broad-based debate among the political, economic and scientific communities of Poland and West Germany. The Forum was conceived as another step in an effort, first undertaken in 1976, to normalize Polish-German relations, secure a mutual understanding and reconcile the two countries. The Polish-German Forum launched its activities in 1976. The Polish researchers involved in German studies included scholars from the Institute for Western Affairs.

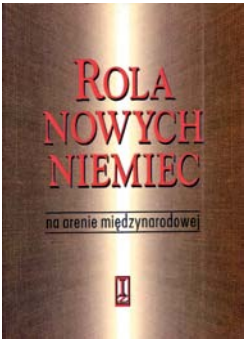
The Good Neighborhood Treaty of 1991 between Poland and Germany reaffirmed the Forum's significance as a well-tested facilitator of dialogue between the countries' elites. This time, however, the primary purpose was to devise new ways to bring the two countries closer together and promote the commonality of Polish and German interests. A natural partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in pursuing this mission was the Institute for Western Affairs. Its choice as a partner was a show of confidence and esteem for the Poznań-based organization. Working in cooperation with the German partner, the management of the Institute for Western Affairs prepared two important meetings within the framework of the Forum: one of them took place in Gdańsk in 1995, the other in Bonn in 1997. The meetings focused on securing Poland's membership in Euro-Atlantic and European organizations. In an effort to bring Polish and German elites closer together, the Institute for Western Affairs contributed to strengthening Poland's position as a safe and credible partner in Europe.

VII. German studies at the Institute for Western Affairs

An identifying mark of the Institute for Western Affairs has always been its excellent research on Germany. In line with its specialization in German studies and with a view to facilitating its research, the Institute has amassed Poland's largest thematic collections on historical and contemporary Germany. It also has in its possession the country's largest and, for the most part, complete, set of back copies of Germany's key scholarly journals and newspapers (such as Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Der Spiegel, Die Welt, and Die Zeit). It also holds reference books (encyclopedia, lexicons, dictionaries) and published series of German documents.

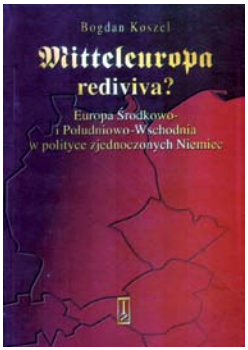


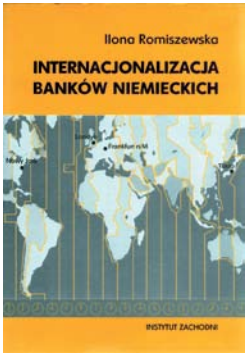


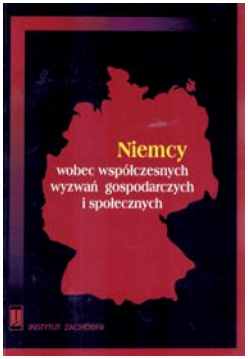


The individual as well as collective projects carried out by the research staff of the Institute for Western Affairs extend both to internal as well as international aspects of Germany's development. Their focus, therefore, has been placed on the German economy and finances, changes in the social awareness of German society, their political culture and party system as well as the development of German culture. The international aspects have to do with Germany's role and place in the European Union, its relations with its immediate and more remote neighbors, actions taken within the trans-Atlantic community, Germany's position on European security and key present-day challenges.

The researchers of the Institute for Western Affairs have been among Poland's first scientific teams to have embarked on analyzing, describing and evaluating Germany's reunification. They produced brief reports, published as early as







1990-1994, on topical issues pertaining to the integration of the two German states. These were soon followed by in-depth studies which relied on the benefit of hindsight and recognized the diversity of impacts produced by restoring a single German statehood. The studies include ("Zjednoczenie Niemiec. Studia politologiczno-ekonomiczno-prawne" ("The reunification of Germany. The perspective of political science, economics and law"); "Rola nowych Niemiec na arenie międzynarodowej" ("The role of the new Germany on the international scene") and "Zjednoczone Niemcy. Bilans przemian ekonomicznych, społecznych i politycznych. 1990-2002" ("The reunified Germany. A summary of economic, social and political transitions. 1990-2002"). As it continued this research effort, the Institute team put out, in 2009-2011, a multi-volume series under the collective title of "Republika Federalna Niemiec 20 lat po zjednoczeniu. Polityka, gospodarka, społeczeństwo" ("The Federal Republic of Germany 20 years after the reunification. Politics, Economy, Society."). The publications offer a comprehensive, multi-faceted inter-disciplinary view of Germany's transformation over the two decades.

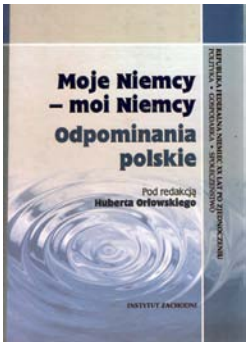
Many of the books described selected aspects of contemporary Germany's internal and foreign policies. The presentation, the thoroughness and particularly the high competence of their authors have earned the studies a permanent place in the canon of Polish writings on German studies. Such attributes can well be said to characterize the works by Bogdan Koszel on the role of Germany in the European Union, publications by Tomasz Budnikowski on the German labor market and works by Piotr Kalka on Germany's investments. Interesting subjects on the borderline between culture and politics have been revealed to the reading public

by Hubert Orłowski and Maria Wagińska-Marzec. Ilona Romiszewska, an author of works on Germany's relations with China, displayed one of the Institute's valued strengths, i.e. its ability to respond to current scientific challenges.

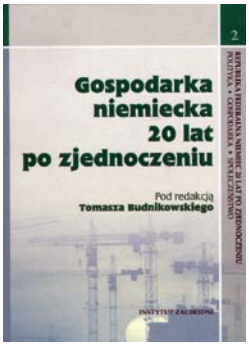
The writings of the Institute for Western Affairs related to German studies total dozens of valuable books, hundreds of articles published in reputable journals, precious publishing series as well as web-based publications targeted at the general public. Their authors, who are common guests at radio and television stations, offer their insights as experts, commentators and analysts on German affairs. By developing their own views on the subject matter of their studies on Germany, describing the country's political, economic and social trends, formulating conclusions and offering forecasts on Poland's western neighbor, the Institute's research team provides state institutions with expert advice contributing significantly to the advancement of Poland's raison d'état.

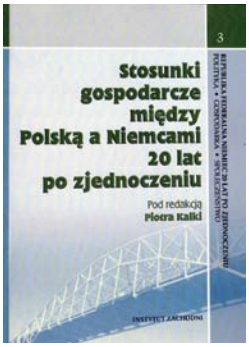


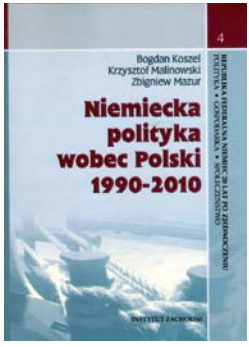
Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during a visit at the Institute for Western Affairs in September 1994

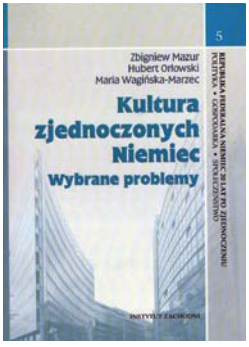
















This multi-volume series published by the Institute for Western Affairs offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multifaceted view of the transformations taking place in reunified Germany.

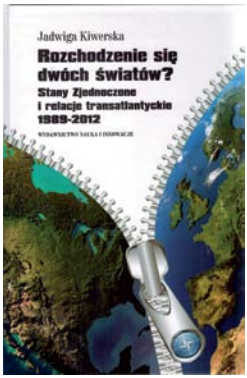
VIII. Poland - Germany - Europe

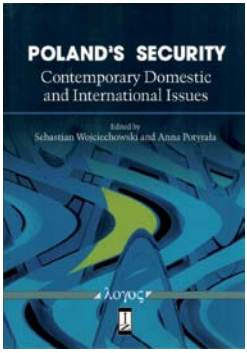
The late 1989 and the early 1990 brought enormous changes at both the domestic and global levels having an equally profound impact on the activities of the Institute for Western Affairs. With censorship abolished, unrestricted access to archives and lifted restraints on contacts with the international scientist community, the Institute was at liberty to explore a world of new research opportunities. It could now freely pursue topics which it was previously forced to ignore or neglect. These included the political awareness of Poles and Germans and German heritage in the Western and Northern Territories. It also became possible to revisit and revise the interpretations of many developments and issues such as social, economic and political transformations in Germany. Some themes, such as Germany's international role, could be pursued in novel ways. The result was a number of valuable papers reflecting on Polish-German reconciliation and assessing the full extent of its success, failures, impacts and implications.

The reunification of Germany alone has become a major research challenge which, when addressed, culminated with the publication of a multi-volume series prepared by the Institute's research team. The series describes the political, social and cultural transformations taking place in the country of our western neighbor. Renewed passion and involvement was shown in approaching various aspects of European integration, visions of the development of the European Union and its global role. The researchers considered the prospects for and the threats to the Common Europe. They pursued whole new themes such as European security and trans-Atlantic relations and even domestic and international terrorism.

One of the central new research areas never before considered to be a viable interest was the Polish community in Germany. A collective monograph entitled "Być Polakiem w Niemczech" ("Being Polish in Germany") written in 1999 in cooperation with German researchers, came out in Polish and German language versions. Currently, issues related to the presence of Poles in Germany are investigated by a research team headed by Michał Nowosielski. The new research approach to Poles in Germany considers the Polish community as a target group for Polish diplomacy.







As it continued to investigate German history, Polish-German relations and the Nazi occupation of Poland, the research team of the Institute for Western Affairs extended, in an unprecedented manner, the thematic scope of its analyses and studies in keeping with the slogan "Poland - Germany - Europe". This allowed it to incorporate key political, economic and social processes observed in contemporary world into its research scope.

At the Institute for Western Affairs, research projects are selected in view of their significance, relevance and appeal for various target groups in Poland. Researchers additionally account for projects' contributions to Poland's raison d'état and interests as well as their relevance for political practice, local governments and business organizations. Such flexibility in responding to scholarly challenges and a strong emphasis on the practical applications of research are two undeniable advantages of the Institute for Western Affairs. This has been evidenced by the Institute's ability to secure research funding in European Union and other international competitions. Some of the Institute's research projects carried out in recent years include:

- "Pakt Trzech. Studium z dziejów niemieckiej "polityki sojuszy" 1939-1941/42" ("The Three-Way Pact. A study of the history of the German "alliance policy" 1939-1941/42");
- "Republika Federalna Niemiec 20 lat po zjednoczeniu. Polityka, gospodarka, społeczeństwo" ("The Federal Republic of Germany 20 years after the reunification. Politics, Economy, Society.");
- "Mocarstwowe aspiracje Niemiec w Europie w XXI wieku" ("Germany's power aspirations in Europe in the 21st century");
- "Literatura zjednoczonych Niemiec a tożsamość kulturowa i narodowa" ("The literature of reunified Germany and cultural and national identity");

- "Dynamika niemieckiej opinii publicznej" ("The dynamics of German public opinion");
- "Racja stanu w stosunkach polsko-niemieckich. 1970-2004" ("Raison d'état in Polish-German relations").
- "Współczesne Niemcy i stosunki polsko-niemieckie w latach 2004-2013" ("Contemporary Germany and Polish-German relations between 2004 and 2013");
- "Polskie elity polityczne wobec stosunków Polski z Niemcami w ramach Unii Europejskiej" ("Poland's political elites and its relations with Germany within the European Union");
- "Polacy w Niemczech. Aspekty polityczne, społeczne, ekonomiczne i prawne" ("Poles in Germany. Political, social, economic and legal aspects");
- "Polityka polonijna w praktyce" ("The policies of Polish communities abroad in practice");
- "Europa-USA. Wyzwania, trendy, perspektywy" ("Europe-USA. Challenges, trends and prospects");
- "Polityka międzynarodowych działań humanitarnych" ("The international humanitarian effort policy");
- "Strategiczne aspekty bezpieczeństwa Polski na początku XXI wieku" ("Strategic aspects of Poland's security in the early 21st century").



Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek meets the workers of the Institute for Western Affairs in September 1998

The Institute's research team has recently widened the scope of their expert and analytical services. The team have been assessing developments, describing trends, formulating conclusions and generating forecasts in support of state institutions. The Institute's staff have completed a great deal of studies for Poland's political, business and administrative practitioners. Some such studies describe interests shared by Poland and Germany and those which divide the two countries within the European Union, various aspects of Germany's foreign policies and its economic growth, forecasts of parliamentary election outcomes, the role of "displacements" in German politics, the significance of historical remembrance in German discourse, the place of Russia in Germany's strategy, discrepancies between Poland's and Germany's trans-Atlantic relations and ideas for the development of the European Union, including global economic, humanitarian, energy-related issues.

The Institute for Western Affairs has remained unrelenting in its efforts to promote and popularize knowledge. It has initiated an impressive array of scientific events and popularization projects. The Institute has served as a venue of conferences and scholarly gatherings of national and international significance. Its new premises at ul. Mostowa 27 have been used to receive leading Polish and foreign academics, renowned politicians and remarkable intellectuals, among them Helmut Schmidt, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Zbigniew Brzeziński, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Władysław Bartoszewski, Jan Karski, Professors Aleksander Smolar, Adam Daniel Rotfeld, Zygmunt Bauman, Piotr Wandycz and Norman Davies as well as Ryszard Kapuściński,



Zbigniew Brzeziński, Jerzy Kłoczowski and Hanna Suchocka during the conference "France, Germany, Poland and Ukraine in the Face of Contemporary Challenges" held on November 20-21, 1998

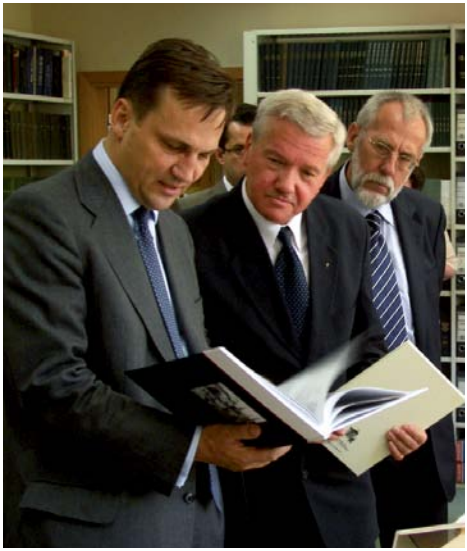


Former Austrian Vice-Chancellor Erhard Busk, the journalist Adam Michnik and the Russian human rights activist Sergey Kovalev attending the conference "Society and the State in the 21st century" on November 20-21, 2001

Adam Michnik, Krzysztof Zanussi. The Institute has been visited by nearly every head of diplomacy of the Third Polish Republic from Krzysztof Skubiszewski to Grzegorz Schetyna.



President Aleksander Kwaśniewski during celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Institute for Western Affairs on April 19, 2004 .



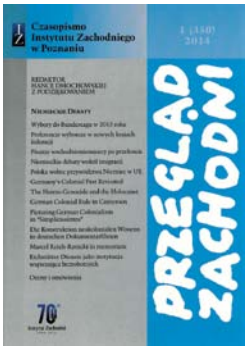
Foreign Affairs Minister Radosław Sikorski visiting the Institute for Western Affairs on June 26, 2008



'Round table" of Polish ministers of foreign affairs, participants: Andrzej Olechowski, Bronisław Geremek, Władysław Bartoszewski, Adam D. Rotfeld on April 19, 2004



Meeting with Minister Władysław Bartoszewski held on Institute premises on June 16, 2010







The Institute for Western Affairs has a very impressive publishing record to its credit. In addition to such continuing series as "Prace Instytutu Zachodniego" ("The Works of the Institute for Western Affairs"), "Studium Niemcoznawcze" ("German Studies"), "Ziemie Zachodnie – Studia i Materiały" ("The Western Territories – Studies and Materials"), it is now publishing "Studia Europejskie" ("European Studies"), "Zeszyty Institute for Western Affairs", and the web-based "Biuletyny IZ" ("Bulletins of the Institute for Western Affairs") and "IZ Policy Papers". The Institute continues to publish the periodical Przegląd Zachodni ranked as one of the country's most prominent interdisciplinary scholarly journals. It publishes articles on Poland, Germany and Europe by highly reputed members of the Polish and international research community. Since 1993, working in conjunction with the University of Potsdam, the Institute for Western Affairs has been publishing the German policy science quarterly WeltTrends which is highly respected at home and abroad.

The Poznań Institute for Western Affairs upholds a high standard in Polish and international science readily sharing its expert knowledge and research experience. While helping raise awareness in Europe, learn more about the neighboring countries and the developments taking place in the international arena, the Institute has been dismantling barriers and encouraging debates not only on issues of vital interest for Poland but also on the challenges faced by Germany, Europe and the rest of the world. It is through such activities that the Institute acquires its merits and significance.

It is only appropriate to note in this regard that the family of Professor Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the first head of diplomacy in the history of independent Poland and the architect of the

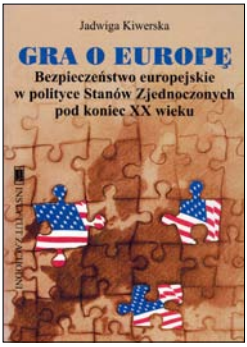
country's new foreign policy, bequeathed upon the Institute the Professor's legacy: a collection of precious documents, books and personal items. On an anniversary year, the Institute painstakingly displayed them at its Mostowa offices in a project dubbed "Minister Skubiszewski's Study". The project is intended not only to honor this scholar, diplomat and visionary and celebrate his enormous contributions to his home country, but also to make the Professor's original documents, publications and discourses, as held at the Institute, available to anyone willing to use them in their research.



The team of the Institute for Western Affairs has been known to embark on each successive decades in its operation with a new research plan and a new strategic vision of growth. These always emphasize care for a high quality of research, the choice of relevant and significant research objectives and the need to respond appropriately to new scholarly challenges. The Institute wishes to remain a center of knowledge and education on the processes taking place in Germany and in its international environment. To confirm this fact the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both states - Poland and Germany granted the Institute in 2005 the Polish-German Award in recognition of outstanding contributions for the development of Polish-German relations.



The Institute's role and significance in the domestic and international scientific discourse will be further strengthened by working closely together with research institutions and expert centers at home and abroad. To put the knowledge and experience of its staff to broader use, the Institute will work with the Wielkopolska Scientific Center (established in 2014) in conjunction with the Poznań School of Humanities and Journalism.





Foreign Affairs Minister Grzegorz Schetyna in "Minister Skubiszewski's Study" on November 13th, 2014

The Institute for Western Affairs intends to continue its efforts to popularize political knowledge and foster political education. To that end, it is going to expand its already close advisory relationship with state and local administrative authorities as well as business and cultural institutions. It also intends to uphold its tradition to serve as a forum for dialogue and cooperation among Poland's scholar and analyst communities. Its overarching objective is to join forces with such communities to take advantage of new science funding opportunities available in the Horizon 2020 program of the European Union.

All in all, the goals and aims of the staff members of the Institute for Western Affairs remain unchanged. They are to retain a leading role among Poland's research institutions and a high repute in the international scholarly community.

The performance of the Institute for Western Affairs in numbers

Research activities in 2000–2014

200 projects

1867 publikacations

133 conferences

789 presented papers

1. 200 projects were conducted, they were financed from the external funds
2. The research fellows published 1867 publications (monographs, parts of collective works, articles)
3. The Institute organized 133 conferences
4. The scholars presented 789 papers at national and international conferences

Publishing House of the Institute for Western Affairs

420 books

120 thousand pages

352 issues of the *Przegląd Zachodni*

12 issues of the *IZ Policy Papers*

171 issues of the *Institute for Western Affairs Bulletins*

1. 420 books were published with a total volume of approx. 120 thousand pages
2. 352 issues of the journal "Przegląd Zachodni" were published with a total volume of approx. 82 thousand pages
3. 12 issues of "IZ Policy Papers" were published
4. 171 issues of "Institute for Western Affairs Bulletins" were released on-line

The Library

112446 collected volumes

120 thousand books viewed by readers in 2000–2013

1. The Institute has collected 112 446 volumes so far
2. 125 thousand of books and magazines were viewed by the readers in 2000–2013