

INSTITUTE FOR WESTERN AFFAIRS

research - strategy - analysis

Poznań 2011



The Institute for Western Affairs building at 27 Mostowa Street

The Institute for Western Affairs is an interdisciplinary research centre which has operated continuously in Poznań for almost 70 years. It was founded at the close of 1944, and conducts research within the fields of history, political science, sociology, economics, and law. The institute's projects are typically related to German history and international relations, focusing in particular on Polish-German and European issues, as well as on transatlantic relations. Since 1992, the Institute has operated within the structure of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Institute's history and achievements identify it as one of the most important Polish research facilities. It is also well-known within the international academic community.

History

The foundation of the Institute was closely related to the experience of the Second World War, and the German occupation of Poland. These events had tragic consequences for Polish-German relations, but at the same time they demonstrated the importance of such relations for the future of Europe. The westward shift of Poland's borders created a need to analyze the problems related to the new territorial arrangements, and to investigate questions of the history, culture, and socio-economic development of the Western and Northern Lands, as well as their integration with the rest of the country. Motivated by these circumstances, a group of outstanding Polish academics from the pre-war University of Poznań, consisting of activists and politicians centred on Professor Zygmunt Wojciechowski, put forward an initiative to set up a research facility in Poznań to focus on German Studies and on the history of the problematic Polish-German neighbourly relations. The choice of Poznań for the seat of the Institute was not accidental, as the city had been in the interwar period an important centre of both German Studies and of the so-called Western Thought.



prof. Z. Wojciechowski - director: 1945-1955

Wojciechowski, an outstanding expert in German studies, was not only the founder of the institute, but also became its first director. Future directors consisted of the most eminent Polish specialists in the humanities, such as Gerard Labuda, Władysław Markiewicz, Lech Trzeciakowski, Antoni Czubiński, and Anna Wolff-Powęska, to name just a few. Among the Institute's employees were many well-known and valued researchers of German, European, and regional studies, representing various fields, including Professors Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Lech Janicki, Jerzy Krasuski, Karol Marian Pospieszalski, and Andrzej Kwilecki.



prof. G. Labuda - director: 1959-1961

The Institute's close relationship with political developments in Poland and with the condition of Polish-German relations is clearly visible in its research focus and the academic achievements which characterize the consecutive stages of its existence. Beyond the history of the Nazi occupation, the Institute in its first decade was mainly concerned with the problems of the newly acquired Western and Northern Lands, emphasizing their historical affiliations with the rest of Poland. After 1956, the range of research topics expanded to include consequences of the division of Germany, studies of German history, and Polish-German relations. When the treaty leading to the normalization of bilateral relations between Poland and West Germany was signed in December 1970, new research perspectives emerged for the Institute. The recognition of Poland's

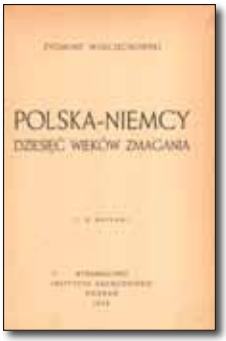


prof. A. Wolff-Powęska - director: 1990-2004

western border subsequently led to a shift in the Institute's research focus towards the contemporary situation of the two existing German states. The processes that turned out to be crucial for Europe's history were identified and researched: the integration of Western Europe, changes in East-Central Europe, and relations between East and West.

This also raised the possibility – thoroughly utilized by the Institute's workers – of gaining better access to the West German academic world. Attempts were made to develop cooperation with other foreign research and academic centres. The employees of the Institute took the opportunity to go on scholarships, and to participate in conferences and academic meetings abroad. The Institute, in turn, received representatives of international academia, strengthening its role as an important centre of German studies, and a partner in taking up the subjects of Germany and Europe. These unprecedented foreign relations constituted an important attribute of the Institute for Western Affairs during the time of People's Republic of Poland.

The Institute for Western Affairs has from its inception cooperated with the most prominent research centres in the country, as well as with the most outstanding Polish academics in the fields of German and international issues. It has also become an important part of the academic landscape of Poznań, and is in fact one of its most prominent landmarks. The Institute's position in the Poznań research community is further strengthened by its close relations with Adam Mickiewicz University. Joint research is conducted, and conferences, discussions, and seminars are organized.





Research

Changes in East-Central Europe, including the unification of Germany and the democratization of international relations, initiated a completely new era in the history of the Institute for Western Affairs. Not only did they provide a chance to analyze these profound historical events, but they also made it possible to pick up topics that were previously avoided or marginalized for political reasons or on account of difficulties in gathering materials. Broad possibilities were also created for international exchanges. The Institute strove to utilize these new circumstances. The beginning of the nineties was marked by not only a widening in the scope of research, but also by a redefining of tasks and priorities. Without neglecting historical studies, emphasis was put on the present and future, much more clearly than had been done before. The scope of research broadened to include the important processes taking place in Europe: the unification of Germany, integration and disintegration on the European continent, and political transformation in East-Central Europe. The research was mainly focused on the formation of Germany's new role in Europe, and the changes in the international neighbourhood of Poland. The results of these studies were monographs, lexicons, and periodicals, articles in domestic and foreign journals, as well as the presence of the Institute's employees at national and international conferences.

The Institute for Western Affairs gained a high rank in the Polish academic world, and also came to be valued abroad. It remained not only an important research centre, but also a place for interesting incentives, both academic and popular. Within the last two decades, the Institute has been









The visit of the Polish President during the Institute's 60th anniversary; 19 April 2004



The visit of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Sikorski 26 June 2008



"Round table" during the conference "Old and new threats for the European democracies". Participants: T. Mazowiecki, H. Schmidt, M.F. Rakowski; 18-20 September 1994



The participants of the conference "France, Germany, Poland and Ukraine in the face of European challenges": prof. Z. Brzeziński, prof. J. Kłoczowski, H. Suchocka; 20-21 November 1998



"Round table" of politicians: E. Busek, A. Michnik, S. Kowaliow, during the conference "State and society in the 21st century: roads and back roads of democracy"; 16-17 March 2001

visited by prominent researchers, both Polish and foreign, by famous politicians, by men and women of culture, and by featured writers. The guests of the Institute have included Helmut Schmidt and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Zbigniew Brzeziński and Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Władysław Bartoszewski and Jan Karski, Hanna Suchocka and Jerzy Buzek, professors Zygmunt Bauman and Jerzy Szacki, Ryszard Kapuściński and Adam Michnik. Almost every Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs has visited the Institute.

The current research activity of the Institute for Western Affairs is defined by the slogan Poland–Germany – Europe. It is focused on the following main themes: Contemporary German History; Internal changes the unified Germany; The international role of the Federal Republic of Germany; The Past, present, and future of Polish-German relations; War and occupation, 1939-1945; Changes within the European Union; The European Union in international relations (including transatlantic cooperation); Poland and its international neighbourhood; Social and cultural changes in the Western and Northern Lands.

The Institute's research activities are characterized by an interdisciplinary and multidimensional approach. Subjects such as history, economics, political, and social changes are taken up. These phenomena are researched from various perspectives and in different aspects. For this reason, the Institute's research team is composed of specialists from many different fields: historians, political scientists, lawyers, sociologists, and economists. The multidimensional nature of the research can be seen in historical works, analyses of contemporary events, comparative studies, and the use of theoretical models to verify research results, among others,

In choosing subjects for research, the Institute pays special attention to their relevance, topicality,

and usefulness for the Polish national interest and its interests on the international arena. The main point is that the issues chosen for research must reflect current phenomena, trends, and processes, and the results of the research should be useful for Polish political practice. The institute's flexibility in reacting to research challenges is one of its undeniable assets. The following research projects are currently being conducted:

- "The Federal Republic of Germany 20 years after re-unification. Politics – economy – society";
- "Poles in Germany. Social, political, economic, and legal aspects";
- "Strategic aspects of the security of Poland at the beginning of the 20th century";
- "Europe-USA. Challenges, trends, prospects";
- "German public opinion dynamics";
- "Raison d'état in Polish-German relations. 1970–2004";
- "Germany's aspirations to become a superpower in 21st century Europe";
- "The politics of international humanitarian actions";
- "Sonderfahndungsbuch Polen – The Special register of Poles with a warrant for their arrest" (Applies to the Second World War).

Another clear asset of the Institute for Western Affairs is its versatility. It combines pure academic research with actions for the popularization of the subjects its deals with, and the general idea of political education. This comprehensive approach has these days a special meaning. On one hand, there is the potential of deepening European awareness, knowledge of neighbouring countries, and processes in progress, while on the other hand, by abolishing various barriers, it mobilizes and encourages a broad discussion on the issues and problems crucial to the interest of



"Round table" of Polish ministers of foreign affairs during the Institute's 60th anniversary, participants: A. Olechowski, B. Geremek, W. Bartoszewski, D. Rotfeld; 19 April 2004

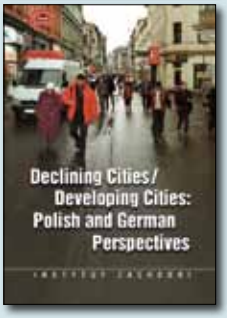


The meeting in Institute for Western Affairs with prof. W. Bartoszewski; 16 June 2010 r.



Conference "Ways of reconciliation. Twenty years of the Treaty between the Republic of Poland and Federal Republic of Germany", participants: A. Krzemiński, R. Kalisz, A. Schwall-Düren, G. Lesser, J. Żakowski; 9 June 2011









both Poland and Europe. By promoting and popularizing the results of its research, the Institute helps to overcome negative mental stereotypes, especially those concerning the neighbours of Poland and its international surroundings in general.

Recently, the Institute for Western Affairs has broadened its expert and analytical functions. By developing its own evaluation of the phenomena it studies, and by describing trends and formulating conclusions and predictions, the Institute's research team provides professional information to state institutions. The Institute's employees are the authors of many expert reports and analyses for Polish political, economic, and administrative practice. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute has provided expert reports concerning, among others themes, Polish-German convergent and divergent interests in the European Union, Germany's foreign policy, predictions and evaluation of the election to the Bundestag, the issue of "expulsions" in German policy, the position of Russia in German policy, transatlantic relations and security issues, the Polish policy of international solidarity, economic issues, especially concerning the European labour market, and historical memory policy.

The Institute continues its actions in the promotion and dissemination of knowledge by initiating important research events. It organizes interesting, inspiring conferences and meetings with renowned researchers from Poland, Germany, France, the USA, and Russia.

Publishing house

The Publishing House of the Institute for Western Affairs has existed since 1945, and constitutes an integral part of the research centre, which determines its editorial profile. The activity of the Publishing House has, over the last six couple of decades, resulted in more than 490 books, 340 issues of *Przegląd Zachodni*, and 75 issues of journals in German, English, and French. The publishing house publishes treatises of the Institute's employees, as well as of authors from other research centres, both domestic and foreign. These publications are concerned with German political, legal, economic, social, and cultural issues, the processes of European integration, international relations, especially Polish-German, occupation, the past and present of East-Central Europe, and social and cultural changes within the Western and Northern Lands of Poland. The published academic works, including some aimed at the general public, have research, educational, and social qualities. Their purpose is to

monitor and analyze the social and cultural changes, and the political and economic processes taking place in the modern world.

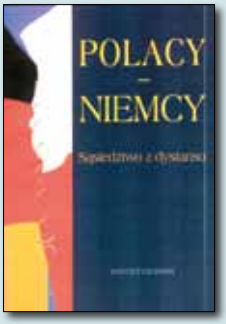
The most important publishing series include the Works of the Institute for Western Affairs, German Studies of the Institute for Western Affairs, Western Lands – Studies and Materials, "Przegląd Zachodni" Library, Documenta Occupationis, and European Studies. The most valuable publications, intended for political and economic practitioners, are the short expert reports from the Fascicles of the Institute for Western Affairs cycle, which have appeared since 1998. Since 2008, two new publishing projects have been completed: the Bulletins of the Institute for Western Affairs, and the IZ Policy Papers, which are also available in electronic form. The Bulletins constitute an immediate expert commentary on current political events, while the IZ Policy Papers are thematic monographs devoted to the essential problems of Polish foreign policy.

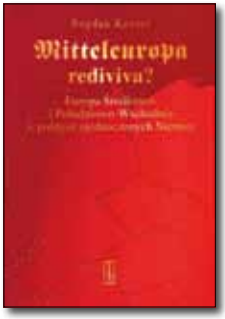
The most recent undertaking is the publication of six volumes assessing the twenty years of the existence of a unified Germany.

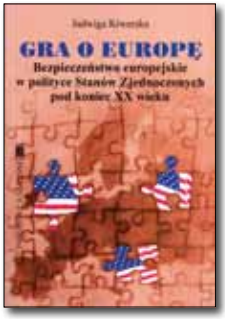
The Publishing House of the Institute for Western Affairs has created a whole library of monographs concerning the issues of the Polish Western and Northern Lands, and of Germany and Polish-German relations – including many pioneering works of fundamental importance for Polish research. The publications are addressed especially to academic circles, to academics and students, but also to general readers interested in important and current international problems, challenges and dangers of the present day. Many copies are distributed abroad. All published works, both the most recent materials and those from the archives, can be purchased directly in the Institute, as well as in academic bookshops. Information concerning publications can be found on the Institute's website.



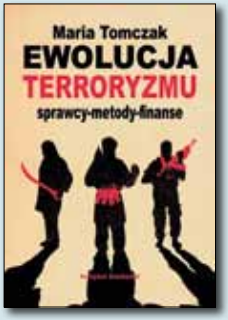












"Przegląd Zachodni"



"Przegląd Zachodni" is an important and valued interdisciplinary journal published by the Institute for Western Affairs. It has been issued continuously since 1945, currently as a quarterly. The employees of the Institute, as well as other Polish and foreign authors, are represented on its pages.

The focus of this publication is captured by the slogan: Poland – Germany – Europe, which reflects the current research profile of the Institute and its employees. Apart from the traditional study of German history and the German present, a growing interest can be observed in European issues and the problems of the modern world. Other frequently appearing subjects include the processes of European integration, changes in East-Central Europe, transatlantic relations, and economic and social problems of the present day. There is also a permanent place for the situation of Poland in the post-war years, especially when it helps verify views widespread for many years. Many important and current subjects from the areas of Polish foreign policy and the place of Poland in the international arena are touched upon. Since 2001, each issue has been devoted to a specific theme.

For each article there is an abstract in English. Every text is indexed in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (www.ceeol.com) and in EBSCO (www.ebscohost.com), and the English abstracts are stored in the Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (www.cejsh.icm. edu.pl).

Tables of content are available for each issue of the journal since 1945 on the page www.iz.poznan.pl/pz, as is the list of issue themes. Issues since 2005 are presented there with the following information: a table of contents (also in English and German), an introduction, the full text of one article, and summaries and abstracts in English. A list of all published texts is also available in *The bibliographies of Przegląd Zachodni*.

The quarterly also acts as the patron for the Library of "Przegląd Zachodni" series, which includes many interesting books.

Currently, the journal's circulation amounts to 500 copies. It reaches many institutions, political, and social analytical centres, libraries, high schools, archives and individual readers in Poland and 25 other countries throughout the world.

WeltTrends

Since 1993, the Institute for Western Affairs, in cooperation with the University of Potsdam, has published a quarterly in German concerning comparative political studies: *WeltTrends. Zeitschrift für Internationale Politik und vergleichende Studien*. So far, 79 issues of this journal have appeared. Each is devoted to a selected set of themes. The problems taken up on the pages of "WeltTrends" touch upon the most important challenges of the modern world: migration, terrorism, religious fundamentalism, 21st century war, disarmament, security policy, changes in East-Central Europe, and globalization.



Library

The Library of the Institute for Western Affairs has existed since the very foundation of the Institute. During the last 65 years, it has gathered a specialized collection of publications devoted to German studies and European integration, as well as unique archives and press documentation. The Library of the Institute for Western Affairs is available to the general public, but it is mainly used by students, researchers, trainees, and journalists. Apart from providing access to its collection, the Library also offers a range of academic information services.



The general direction and range of the collection is determined by the Institute's research interests. The Library's initial acquisitions pertained to German history (especially after 1871), as well as to Polish-German and German-Slavic relations. During the first decade after the War, because of the special relevance of the westward shift in Poland's borders, a sizable collection of publications were gathered relating to the culture and material history of the Western Lands, including Silesia, Wielkopolska, Lubusz Land, Pomerania, and Warmia and Mazuria. In the late 1950s and the early 1960s, the Library's collection profile was expanded to include publications concerning European integration, and contemporary international relations, including those between the East and the West, as well as political doctrines.

Today, the Library of the Institute for Western Affairs collection publications related to contemporary German history, Polish-German relations, the unification of Germany, the changes in East-Central Europe, European and transatlantic integration, and also Polish problems in relation to its international situation. The acquired materials concern the political, legal, economic, social, and cultural aspects of these issues. The Institute's book collection contains about 110,000 titles. More than 60% of these are in foreign languages, with the majority being from the German language area, but English, French, and Slavic languages are also represented.

Moreover, the library boasts a rich collection of German magazines, including all issues of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", "Der Spiegel", and "Die Zeit". The Library's collections include a variety of expellee publications, including the "Preußische Allgemeine Zeitung", "Die Pommersche Zeitung" and "Der Schlesier", as well as a unique press collection from the time of the German occupation (1939–1945), such as the "Ostdeutscher Beobachter" and the "Krakauer Zeitung". The Library of the Institute for Western Affairs is one of the few libraries in Poland that has managed to gather such a rich collection of literature concerning German and international issues during its existence.

The special collection includes, among other items, diaries acquired during the three contests held by the Institute for various populations living in the Western and Northern Lands: in 1957 for new settlers, in 1966 for the general public, in 1970 for the youth. There is also the very valuable set of German topographical maps (on the scale of 1:25,000), covering the area of the former Prussian partition. Apart from that, the library houses a unique photographic archive of the Western and Northern Lands, containing about 5500 photographs and negatives taken in the late forties. Today, they constitute a vivid documentation of post-war life in the recovered territories.

Second World War Archive

The Second World War Archive of the Institute for Western Affairs is an organized collection of documents, archived materials, and photographs concerning the war and the occupation in Poland and Europe (1939–1945). The whole collection contains more than 2500 inventory items (approximately 5000 files), and about 7000 photographs. It is divided into five sections: 1) German documents (I.Z. Dok. I); 2) memoirs, diaries, and reports (I.Z. Dok. II); 3) protocols, testimonies of witnesses, and research accounts (I.Z. Dok. III); 4) photographs (I.Z. Dok. IV); 5) documents originating after 1945, press materials, and scholarly analyses. Moreover, the special collections of the Archive contain a set of documents and materials concerning the losses of the Polish intelligentsia during the Second World War, as well as the underground resistance in Wielkopolska in the years 1939–1945.

Each of the sections has an archival inventory as well as an index inventory for the entire archive. All inventories are available in the Institute's Library, where it is possible to order documents for inspection. It is also possible to make a limited number of copies once permission is granted.





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