

It is with great satisfaction that we offer to readers another special English-language edition of *Przegląd Zachodni* (Western Review). It contains an anthology of papers which originally appeared in the four issues of the journal, published quarterly by the Institute for Western Affairs, in 2016. The selected articles appear in chronological order, and a special place among them is taken by papers on the region of **Wielkopolska**, its cultural heritage, history, and contemporary social analysis. The journal, published in Poznań for more than 70 years, is inextricably linked with this region, which over the centuries, being open to the influence of Western Europe, has faced threats to its identity, but has proved able to adopt from western countries ideas, strategies and models of activity which remain specific features of the region to this day.

The authors of the articles appearing in this volume write from a broader perspective about the formation of a collective **identity, memory** and consciousness, as well such matters as the use of sporting events as political instruments. A significant number of the articles concern particular countries of Europe and the European Union in historical, social, political and legal contexts. The selection reflects the diversity of topics addressed on the pages of the journal of the Institute for Western Affairs, which over the years has been guided by the motto “Poland–Germany–Europe”. The interdisciplinary nature of the published articles allows one to appreciate the complexity of the problems and contexts which historically have shaped the continent, knowledge of which is essential today for making profound analyses of possible future scenarios. Human rights, population policy and the dilemmas currently faced by the United Kingdom are examples of the contemporary issues making up the European mosaic.

Of special interest in this volume is the article recalling the life and work of Professor Zbigniew Mazur, a historian who took a particular interest in Polish–German relations and in the former German lands that are now part of Poland. His significant academic achievements and long list of publications well characterise the research profile of Poznań’s Institute for Western Affairs, with which his whole life and academic career were bound up.

I hope you enjoy reading this collection.

Natalia Jackowska