

JANUSZ PAJEWSKI

THE POLICY OF GUSTAV STRESEMANN
IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCHES

The Author discusses some recent works concerned with the personality and policy of Gustav Stresemann, one of the makers of Locarno, laureate of the Nobel peace prize.

Many works on this subject have appeared in the post-war period as the political situation of Western Germany after 1945 has many analogies with the German situation after 1918.

In that period Stresemann proved to be a master in the complicated political play which by various ways led to the reconstruction of German imperialism. Therefore no wonder that policy arouses curiosity among professional investigators of German history between the two World Wars and throughout the whole German nation.

These researches are greatly facilitated by the abundance of original material available for western historians. To recent times the main source of knowledge of Stresemann's activity were three volumes of his papers chosen from his private records and published with some abbreviations. At present the western historians are able to examine Stresemann's complete records comprising his whole political life.

Among many problems concerned with Stresemann's policy one of the most interesting is his pseudo-change of ideas and tendencies which, it is said, occurred in the first postwar period and transformed an imperialist into a real apostle of peace.

The most interesting among these works is that of a German, Annelise Thimme. This author had given an extremely accurate and subtle analysis of Stresemann's methods in politics, underlining the precise differentiation in his life practice between the notions „bekennen” and „verkünden” and finally she reached the conclusion that this change, „Wandlung”, could not be proved by documents.

With the passage of time Stresemann learned mainly tactics and methods. An American — Edward Hallett Carr has explained this curious problem why the West believed in Stresemann's transformation from a supporter of conquest into an apostle of peace. The Author states that this myth created in the West was a necessary factor for the purpose of gaining a loan for Germany.

Further the Author discusses the problem of Locarno Treaties and Stresemann's policy towards Russia. He comes to the conclusion that the aim of German imperialism was to control Russia either by economic means or by aggressive war, either with the Western capitalism or alone. Stresemann's role in preparing these plans was prominent. This was, however, a more distant aim. A less distant aim and indispensable for the realization of the first one was the destruction of Poland. The struggle with Poland played an eminent role in Stresemann's policy.

WŁADYSŁAW ROGALA

THE POLICY OF THE GERMAN MINORITY IN WIELKOPOLSKA
FROM 1919 TO 1923 (IN THE LIGHT OF POLISH MATERIALS)

For the Polish State the years from 1919 to 1923 are a period of great importance. Liberated from foreign rule the nation was beginning to rebuild its country.

In this task it was inevitable to overcome many difficulties among which were the problems of minorities and particularly of the German minority. The Germans residing in the former Prussian Province supported by the Reich central authorities in Berlin caused many troubles to the Polish State, not only in domestic affairs but also in international relations and especially in the League of Nations. It was a quite particular relationship which has not been properly examined by historiography till the present time.

The Author has attempted to demonstrate the policy of German minority towards the Polish State in the first years of its independent existence taking as material for his work some scarcely known records, as: the protocols of Parliament debates, the Decisions of the Ministry of the former Prussian Province, of the Commission and Liquidating Office, of the District Land Office etc.

The whole paper is divided into four Parts, i. e.: 1. Introductory Remarks, 2. the Process of Formations of the German Minorities Organizations and their connexions with Central Authorities in Berlin, 3. the Struggle of the German Population with the Wielkopolska Community and the Polish Government, 4. Final Remarks.

Discussing the particular parts the Author demonstrates the intensity of the struggle between the organized German minority and the Polish nation which struggle was aimed at the detachment of the so called Polish Western Provinces and their union with German Reich.

TADEUSZ CIEŚLAK

THE POMORZE (POMERANIA) PRESS AT THE END OF THE XIXth AND THE BEGINNING OF THE XXth CENTURY (UP TO 1914)

In the history of Pomorze (Pomerania) the transition of the XIXth century to the XXth is marked by an increased intensity in the struggle between the Polish and German nationalities as a result of the pressure of the Prussian Government which endeavoured to germanize the Polish population of these territories. In these struggles a prominent role was played by the Pomorze press which had a great importance in politics.

At the same time the Pomorze press had created several interesting organization methods which afterwards became an example for the press of later periods (village correspondents, payment of family allowances in case of death of a subscriber caused by accident, gifts of books, almanacs etc.).

The investigations concerned with press problems have had in Pomorze a long lasting and good tradition and are being continued at present, with particular reference to the second half of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth. These investigations have helped to throw some light on many unsolved historical problems.

The main difficulty encountered in these works is the incompleteness of records (especially of the Polish press) of the period of Prussian rule and also their barbarous destruction by the Nazis. The social-democratic press in Pomorze presents a quite different problem. Published in German („Stettiner Volksbote“ from 1885 and „Volkswacht“ in Gdańsk from 1910) this press was persecuted by the Prussian administration which was preventing its spreading. The social-democratic press was defending the Polish population from the Prussian germanization tendencies. At party congresses demands of publishing the socialist press in Polish were put forward. The rest of the German press represented various political groups and a great part did not declare any political attitude.