

ALFRED WIELOPOLSKI

THE ROLE OF HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN IMPROVING
CULTURAL LIFE OF WESTERN POMORZE (POMMERANIA)

The paper is concerned with the problem of creating a proper relationship between the people of Western Pomorze and their surroundings. The heterogeneous structure of the population in this part of Recovered Territories creates a particular situation differing greatly from other regions of Poland. People were, and are still, coming to Pomorze from various circles of different traditions and cultural levels. The Author sees the historical investigations, their proper popularization and teaching history at schools as an important factor in forming a lasting link in a community which could not produce its own local cultural traditions in a short period of time. Considering the methods of popularization and teaching history at schools one should remember the particular feature of this population, i. e. a great percentage of young people, a higher than usually rate of births, and following that a speedy growth of the quantity of youth.

Founding of a humanistic (historical) centre in Western Pomorze is of particular importance if the youth is supposed to get attached to its surroundings and to understand the local problems of the past and the present. From the point of view of the existing task the Author underlines the crisis occurring in the knowledge of social problems. Historical science which makes the youth acquainted with its community and its development has a very important role. The conclusion of the paper puts forward the necessity of developing a strong and efficient research and teaching centre in Western Pomorze which could support teachers and help them in transferring their knowledge of local problems to their pupils.

BOLESŁAW WIEWIÓRA

THE PROBLEM OF INTRODUCING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN POLAND AND WESTERN GERMANY

(An International Law Question)

The paper discusses the problem of introducing diplomatic relations between Poland and Western Germany and its international law aspect. The first part describes the mechanism of diplomatic relations among states: the Author presents the role and task of diplomatic representatives as well as the active and passive right of legation.

The second part discusses the realization of the right of legation in Polish-German relations: the role and task of Military Missions; the right of legation of both German states and gradual gaining the right of legation by Western Germany.

The third and last part of the paper is devoted to the outline of the results of diplomatic relations between Poland and Western Germany if they were introduced. From this standpoint the Author considers the problem of recognition of Western Germany and the problem of recognition of the extend of

territorial authority. The Author arrives at the following conclusions: 1. In 1955 Poland recognized Western Germany as a state in spite of the refusal of the German Federal Government to accept the Polish proposal of introducing diplomatic relations. 2. Initiating diplomatic relations does not necessarily mean a recognition of the extend of territorial authority. The latter question is closely linked with the controversial problem of the Odra-Lusatian Nysa frontier which, from the Polish point of view, is legally settled finally.

The Author shows also some legal difficulties which may result from the controversy about the Polish-German frontier in case of introducing diplomatic relations. These difficulties are, however, of minor importance. The decision of initiating diplomatic relations between Poland and Western Germany is dependent solely on political reasons.

JANUSZ ZIÓLKOWSKI

UPPER SILESIA INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT AND ITS ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS

The Upper Silesia Industrial District forms the greatest aggregation of industry in Poland. It occupies 0,77% of the country area, but the number of inhabitants amounts to 7% of the entire population. It gives 85% of national coal output, 75% of iron production and 90% of zinc and lead. It is most densely covered with railway lines and other means of conveyance and its shipping amounts to 42% of the entire transport.

The Upper Silesia Industrial District of to-day is composed of parts with a different historical past. The eastern part (Zagłębie Dąbrowskie) was under Russian rule till 1914, the central part with Katowice joined Poland in 1922 as a result of Silesia Risings and the plebiscite, while the western part with towns like: Bytom, Gliwice and Zabrze had belonged to Germany up to 1945 and then returned to Poland with Recovered Territories. Since then only the Upper Silesia Industrial District can be treated as a unit-geographically and economically — covering the whole coal basin. The problems concerned with this district are connected with various sciences, as: economic geography, economics (theory of localization) and economic history. The purpose of this article is to throw some light on certain geographic-economic problems of this region.

The first question is — what is the definition of the Upper Silesia Industrial District — the Author thinks that the best term is “an industrial complex“ as the main features of this district are: 1. the preponderance of industry based on coal mining, 2. a large volume of production, 3. a great geographic concentration, 4. a very dense population.

Further investigations ought to give answers what reasons caused the present state, structure and location of industry in this district, how its particular branches have risen and what factors can influence its further development. The Author discusses some causes which formed the industry in that region. He gives more details in outlining the geographic conditions, the problems connected with technical progress and the influence of politics.