

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.

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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.

The localization of industry in Upper Silesia Industrial District should be considered also from the economic standpoint. The economic theory of production and particularly the theory of costs can be applied here too. Of all these numerous questions the Author has chosen the problem of concentration of industrial establishments and of the market in reference to the Upper Silesia Industrial District.

In a system of planned economy it is possible to locate industry all over the country. In the Upper Silesia Industrial District there is also a local plan which tends to transform the economic structure of this region by prohibiting the establishment of new heavy industry enterprises unconnected with raw materials of this district and by moving some of the existing ones outside this region.

These geographic and economic problems are so complicated that they require investigating from the point of view of several sciences which will help their proper solving.

