

graphic and social-cultural angles. These aggregations living at various places are mixed up in different proportions; previously they had formed a typical population and cultural mosaic.

The assemblage of autochthons includes Silesians, Mazurians, Warmians, Kashubians and a few smaller groups, this diversity being a phenomenon typical of ethnic borderlines. These groups represent different civilization standards and different national consciousness. Ethnographically they are not much different from the neighbouring groups of Poles, yet in their cultural aspect they are unlike the immigrated population.

Simplifying the cultural typology, settlers from central Poland can be assigned to four regional groups: (1) immigrants from districts of Poznań and Bydgoszcz and from Pomerania, whose regional culture resembled the one prevailing in the former neighbouring German territories; (2) immigrants from central voivodeships carrying — in funds of traditional culture worthy of consideration — they represent very active settlers; (3) immigrants from south- and north-eastern territories of Poland whose cultural standard remains on a regional level; (4) Ukrainians, Lemnians and other small population groups from south-eastern borderlands of Poland which form an assemblage totally distinct in their language, religion and greatly archaic culture. This particular group has undergone exceptionally deep transformations.

Immigrants from USSR and from south-eastern Europe (Romania, Yugoslavia), often forming the population of entire villages, have brought-in many a characteristic cultural element and peculiar attitudes, as among others a strong patriotic feeling. New-comers from western Europe have settled chiefly in towns and industrial centres.

Finally, small groups of minorities, Germans, Jews, Russians, Byelorussians, Czechoslovaks, Lithuanians, Greeks and Gypsies from part of the population of the Western Territories.

Individual voivodeships have a different population structure, Silesia being most multifarious in this respect. The regional cultures introduced to the Western Territories have become essentially transfigured during their twenty years of existence in the new surroundings. There has taken place a total, social and cultural integration.

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#### HOME POLICY OF AUSTRIA (1945—1965)

Concepts of the allies on solving Austrian problems after the war were largely controversial. It was not until November, 1943, at a conference of foreign ministers of the three powers, held in Moscow, that it was decided to invalidate Hitler's *Anschluss* of 1938 and to reestablish Austria's political independence. Liberation of this country from the Nazi occupation lasted from March to May, 1945. Eastern regions including Vienna, the capital, were restored to freedom by the Soviet army—USSR granting the permission to form an independent Austrian government over this territory. Karl Renner, a socialist of merits for the

Ist Republic (1918—1938) was its first principal, while the ministers represented three political parties of the then period, namely *Kommunistische Partei Österreichs*, *Sozialistische Partei Österreichs* and *Österreichische Volkspartei*. Election held in November, 1945, provided the latter with the highest number of seats, so that from that time on one of its representatives holds the office of the Austrian chancellor. At first the government consisted of a coalition of three parties; leader of the Communist Party having left its ranks in 1947, it now includes the socialist and people's parties. The first cabinet alone, elected in 1945, went through its four-year term, others being dismissed untimely as a result of disagreements inside the parties and external pressure. The governmental coalition is faced by a determined opposition represented by the independent party established in 1949.

The Austrian State is continually presided, since 1945, by a socialist leader, Karl Renner, the first of them, has been succeeded, after his death in 1950, by Theodor Körner, Adolf Schärf and the present Franz Jonas.

Signing of the 1955 treaty, bringing to an end the period of occupation under which the country was divided into four zones, was the turning-point of Austrian political existence. In the same year the parliament voted a law on Austria's permanent neutrality. Since that time singular role of bridging the socialist bloc with west European states.