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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLISH MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

The programme of millennial celebrations had been the subject of discussion in many scientific centres, leading organs of political parties and social organizations long before the particular resolution to inaugurate the Millennium commemorations was issued by the Polish Sejm, in 1958.

The Millennium celebrations have afforded three achievements of great significance in the realm of political upbringing of the population: (1) Polish people have become aware of the exceptionally important role of the state as such in the process of organization of the national community, in the maintenance of its integrity and in procuring conditions for a continuous economical and cultural development; (2) as a result of the discussion on problems associated with the Millennium, by now lasting for eight years, there has evolved a new understanding of the political fact that People's Poland is the sole legitimate heir to the millennial traditions of the Polish nation; this reality has gained a broader documentary evidence based on the improved methods of research; (3) celebrations of the Millennium have resulted in a permanent apprehension — by a majority of the Polish community — of the particular role played in Polish history by the idea of national unity constituting the main source of power and the warrant of a successful achievement of the ambitious task implied by the aim to establish a socialist community.

WITOLD HENSEL

TWENTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE WESTERN TERRITORIES OF POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (1945—1965)

Polish archaeologists started to investigate the Western Territories soon after the war, yet broad-scale excavations were only commenced in 1949; they were initiated by the then established Board for Studies on the Dawns of the Polish State. Since 1954 research of this type has been sponsored and organized by the Institute of Material Culture History, Polish Academy of Sciences; and supported by offices of works, museums and university chairs. During the twenty-year period after second world war there were carried out in the Western Territories investigations of above 140 sites. Part of these activities was performed in cooperation with the German Academy of Sciences, Berlin.

Particular concern was given to the studies of early-mediaeval localities, many of the sites however carried evidence of more ancient chiefly palaeolithic eras. Research in this realm was mainly carried out in Silesia (Racibórz, Studzienna, Maków, Ocice etc.). Positions from the younger stone age were likewise broadly investigated. Important results were achieved in the field of knowledge on testimonials of Lusatian culture, in Silesia and Pomerania. Records of excavations have been published under several different headings, wherein economic, social and religious problems were analysed much more deeply than before.

In the Olsztyn voivodship there were carried out investigations intended to

disclose the past history of Balts. On the other hand, not much was done in the last twenty years to explore Celtic positions; the subject, however, has been widely discussed in works of reference.

Separate research on the late Roman and Laten period was performed both in settlements and cemetaries. The prevailing tendency consisted in a full exploitation of archaeological sources and an elaboration of the essential social-economic problems of the Roman period. Nevertheless, literature on ethnic problems of that era is still missing.

As a result of studies carried out during the recent twenty years it has become possible to change entirely the notions on the history of the Western and Northern Territories. Polish archaeology has added to the world literature an important contribution which exposes the tendentious activities of chauvinistic German pre-historians of the XIXth and XXth century. Owing to endeavours lasting for several years it was possible to rebuild and develop workshops devastated during the war and to establish many new posts. Arduous explorations in the field have enriched Polish culture by numerous monuments of unique value. Moreover, the continual organization of archaeological preserves (e.g. at Opole) deserves to be emphasized.

While appraising the post-war achievements of Polish archaeology in the Western and Northern Territories it must however be born in mind that many essential problems are still awaiting their solution.

GERARD LABUDA

IDEOLOGY OF NATIONALISM AND REVISIONISM IN THE VIEWS ON POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS IN THE PAST

Previous history of Polish-German relations largely consists of several contradictory and antagonistic elements. Under the influence of nationalism and revisionism these inconsistencies have been aggravated by contemporary historians. Nationalism as such is a universal phenomenon, closely associated with the formation of bourgeois communities in the XIXth and XXth century. Whereas revisionism is an occurrence peculiar to Polish-German and Czechoslovak-German relations. Revisionism represents an ideological abnormality of a policy aimed at establishing German frontiers in the East, and at subduing mid-European communities and states to a bourgeois Germany.

This article reveals the influence of nationalism and revisionism on the views of historians. The present analysis is concerned exclusively with notions of German historians, in spite of the author's apprehension of a similar ideology on the part of Polish historians. Polish nationalism in historiography has been commented on by German annalists and viewed critically by Polish writers of history. At the beginning of his article the author explains methodological and organizational grounds of nationalistic ideas. Affording several true examples, he portrays the influence of nationalism on historiographic concepts evident for example in the discussion of Poland's presumable later civilization; on the so called historical rights to Polish Western Territories; on the Ostflucht problem. Finally he discusses the nationalistic base of the present stage of revisionism.

The article ends with a conviction that nationalism can only be defeated by international and humanitarian attitudes. Nationalism and revisionism thriving on the fuel of Polish-German relations has been absorbed by the struggle of two more important political and ideological confederacies, namely of capitalism and socialism. Under these conditions, nationalism and revisionism in Polish-German relations loses its previous character.