

Furthermore, German "Lebensraum" was to be gained by placing the Polish nation into a position of modern slavery and the latter was to be achieved by an intentional policy of social and national destruction, of terrorism, and of physical extermination of the Polish intelligentsia. A political solution of the "Polish problem" — if only in part — was totally abandoned in view of the above course of action.

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#### THE PROBLEM OF GERMANY BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (1945—1949)

The article deals with one of the stages of development of the German problem, namely the period of the more or less regular and intensive activity of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the four great powers, in the years 1945—1949. That was one of the most important chapters in the history of the German problem. For this reason a thorough knowledge of the then attitude of the governments of the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and France towards the German problems makes it easier to understand the later standing of the great powers in this respect.

In the first part of the article the author discusses the foundation of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, its competence and the main stages of activity of this cabinet of the four powers. Then comes a detailed consideration of the standing held by representatives of different countries at the sessions of the CMFA in discussing the most important questions associated with the German problem, namely demilitarization and democratization of Germany; economic problems; indemnities; interim political organization and the social system of united Germany; the boundaries of the German state — particular concern being given to the Polish-German and French-German frontiers; the procedure of preparing an international conference for signing a peace treaty with Germany. Furthermore, the author reminds the Potsdam Treaty terms on the problems in question as well as the policy of the great powers enacted beyond the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.