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“Przegląd Zachodni” (“Western Review”) is a scientific journal of the Instytut Zachodni (Institute for Western Affairs) in Poznań. It has been published without a break since 1945, at present it is a quarterly with an interdisciplinary character. It includes mostly academic articles, sources, reports from conducted research, but also polemics and reviews written by Polish and foreign authors.

In the almost seventy-year-long history of the “Przegląd Zachodni” the primary profile of the journal has not changed. However, the layout of focus on particular issues has undergone a clear evolution which was demonstrated by different thematic priorities in different periods, and in consequence since 2001 all the issues have been profiled.

Currently the subject matter of the journal mainly fits into the slogan, Poland – Germany – Europe. However, it is frequently expanded by topics of significant importance for understanding the contemporary world and the new challenges which are facing societies and states.

Making reference to the image of the journal developed over many years as devoted to German studies, the problems of Germany (internal or analyzed in the general European or international context) and Polish-German relations remain one of the main topics.

For several years now there has been a noticeable increase of interest in European issues in articles presented in the journal, among others, in the various stages and aspects of the transformation of the European Union, in overcoming divisions in Europe, and in the development of integration of the entire continent.

Still a lot of attention is devoted to Poland including both its past and present. It is expressed, among others, in the renaissance of interest in Western and Northern Regions, although the current research questions concern mainly other issues, e.g., the regional diversity of Poland, the shaping of local identity, the degree of identifying with the “private homeland”, or issues which were so far left unsaid, e.g., German cultural heritage in those regions, expulsions of Germans, wasteful exploitation by Russians, or the resistance movement after 1945.

The special issue of “Przegląd Zachodni” which we have prepared includes selections of articles from the years 2008-2011 which present Polish research and opinions concerning various aspects of relations between Poland – Germany – Europe. It contains articles about: research by Prof. G. Labuda concerning the Polish western border, the genesis of World War II, attitudes towards the past in Germany, the

border controversy between the Polish People's Republic and East Germany, and the migration of Poles to Germany. Successive articles make an attempt to evaluate the realization of the Polish-German Treaty on Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation (the rights of Poles in Germany, access to the German job market and cultural cooperation), as well as pointing out the change of character in Polish-German political relations after 2007.

The subject matter of the last group of articles is related to the European Union. They concern the positioning of Polish-German relations in the EU, the attitudes of Poles towards integration, Polish foreign direct investment, strategies for promoting Poland and the Polish presidency in the Council of the European Union.

Such a selection of subject matter aims at disseminating the results of Polish research into the correlations between the relations of Poland – Germany – Europe among the readers from outside the Polish language community.

We hope that the articles published in this issue will evoke interest and encourage readers to follow further issues of "Przegląd Zachodni" prepared also in English. They will be devoted to the evaluation of the Polish presidency in the EU Council and the future of Europe.

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