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ARTICLES

Piotr J. Krzyżanowski, *Trzecia Rzesza wobec Romów i Sinti – w kręgu rasizmu i ludobójstwa / The Third Reich’s Policy Towards the Roma and Sinti: in the Circle of Racism and Genocide*

The Third Reich’s policy towards the Sinti and Roma people was based on racist theories claiming the superiority of the German nation over other nations. The rule of the National Socialists in Germany systematically eliminated the Sinti and Roma people from all areas of public life. They were regarded as a socially unassimilated group prone to criminal activity. Consequently, the Roma and Sinti people were refused the right to live and were subject to compulsory sterilisation and systematic extermination during World War II. It was in German-occupied Poland that the extermination was carried out to the greatest extent. Losses among the Roma and Sinti people have not been precisely estimated yet. Approximately at least 250,000 lost their lives in ghettos, concentration camps and outside the camps.

**Keywords:** Roma and Sinti in the Third Reich, racism, deportations, extermination of the Roma and Sinti people during World War II, genocide.

Sylwia Bykowska, *Problem ludności niemieckiej w Gdańsku w pierwszym okresie po zakończeniu II wojny światowej. Rekonesans badawczy / The Problem of the German Population in Gdansk in the First Period After World War II: Research Reconnaissance*

This article focuses on the problem of Germans in Gdańsk shortly after the end of World War II. Among the issues analysed are: forced relocations of the German population by the Red Army; the so-called wild expulsion of Germans by the Polish authorities in 1945; the attitude of the Gdańsk administration towards the Germans; relations with Polish settlers from Central Poland and eastern territories incorporated into the Soviet Union. Mistrust, aversion and disputes were parallel to, sometimes, brutal competition for material goods, such as houses and workshops left by previous inhabitants. The Germans were underdogs in this
conflict. They understood that they would no longer be responsible for their home city. They lost their position. Not having civil rights, they lost the right to their houses and farms. Gdańsk was an example of a former German city, whose new Polish community was created in the presence of its German inhabitants, who were subsequently deported to the territories on the other side of the Oder River. By this time, the coexistence of the Polish and German populations had evolved from hostility to cooperation between people devastated by war experience and forced migration. An official verification procedure was launched to determine who was a real German or Pole. One had to prove Polish descent and national usefulness in front of the Verification Commission. By the end of 1948, the number of native citizens of Gdańsk accepted as Polish citizens reached nearly 14,000. However, it was not possible to classify instantly all citizens of Gdańsk by their nationality. The memory of the pre-war Free City of Gdańsk was often more important for the collective identity of those who were born and lived in Gdańsk or Danzig before 1939. Both German and Polish citizens of Gdańsk were so strongly linked to their local homeland that they called themselves and were called by others ‘gdańszczanie’ or ‘Danziger’ for many years after the war.

**Keywords:** post-war Gdańsk, German population, indigenous population, displacement action, nationality policy.

Małgorzata Świder, *Od przyjaźni nakazanej do współpracy partnerskiej. Kontakty Wrocławia i Drezna w ramach współpracy miast na przestrzeni siedemdziesięciu lat / From Forced Friendship to Partnership: Contacts Between Wroclaw and Dresden during the Cities’ Seventy-years Cooperation*

The article shows the evolution of the contacts between Wroclaw and Dresden within the framework of city partnership agreements against the background of the general state of Polish-German relations. It also mentions activities taken as part of the second Wroclaw-Wiesbaden partnership. Since the 1950s, there have been formal and extremely limited contacts between the authorities and political organisations of Dresden and Wroclaw. With the passage of time and, above all, after the political changes in Poland and Germany and the signing of the Polish-German border treaty of 1990 and the Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation Agreement of 1991, these contacts have become more universal, thus increasing the attractiveness of the two partner cities.
The article concerns the possibility and relevance of the application of postcolonial theory in the case of Central and Eastern Europe. The main focus is on Poland and Germany. The author gathers and analyses the first studies conducted using postcolonial theory. Moreover, he makes a structural and systemic comparison between the situation in German colonies in Africa and Polish lands under German partition and occupation. As the majority of postcolonial research has been limited to literary studies so far, there is still untapped potential in other fields, such as sociology and political sciences.

Keywords: postcolonial theory, colonialism, Polish and German history, persistent factors.

STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS
Marcin Markowski, *Postacie alegoryczne umieszczone w szacie graficznej banknotów stumarkowych emitowanych przez banki Badenii, Bawarii, Saksonii i Wirtembergii przed I wojną światową / Allegorical Figures In the Graphic Design of Banknotes Issued by the Banks of Baden, Bavaria, Saxony and Württemberg Prior to World War I*

After the unification of Germany in 1871, one of the unifying factors was the introduction of the single currency. The issuing bank was Reichsbank, which was based on a Prussian bank. From 1875, it issued coins and banknotes. Except for the central bank, however, the limited right to issue their own money was left to several provincial banks whose numbers were constantly decreasing. In the early twentieth century there were only four central banks of federal states. The banks of Baden, Bavaria, Saxony and Württemberg issued their own paper money until 1935 when they were deprived of their right to do so. Each of these institutions issued 100 Deutsche Mark banknotes whose graphic design differed from the appearance of Reichsbank’s paper money.
Banknotes printed for these banks had a rich graphic design. It was not limited to simple ornamentation and symbols, but contained rich decoration in the form of allegorical figures ‘armed’ with the symbols of trade, crafts, agriculture and industry. Some of these characters and their attributes can be identified with specific Greek and Roman gods such as Hermes or Tyche. Among the figures appearing in the graphic design of the banknotes were women with wreaths of oak leaves on their heads, which may be interpreted as personifications of the states. Two busts have been identified as the symbolic rivers of Rhine and Neckar. The presence of allegorical characters is part of the global tendency during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. At that time, images of deities and symbolic figures referring to the economy were commonly placed on banknotes in European countries and their overseas colonies.

**Keywords:** paper money, banknote, German local money, iconography.

**Patrycja Lipold. Polskie i niemieckie jednostki specjalne w Policji – przyczynek do analizy porównawczej / Polish and German Police Special Units: a Contribution to Comparative Analysis**

In Poland and Germany, security, as part of the topics of politics and science, is gaining more and more attention in society due to terrorist attacks which can be expected anywhere and at any time. So far nobody has found a remedy to terrorism, which is a plague for present-day societies. Yet we are still waiting for it. States are trying to increase internal security and this is a priority for special police units in both Poland and Germany. Special forces fulfilling counter-terrorism duties have the following common features: an organisational structure (created according to a special pattern: there is a combat section and a support section), a selection process (a selection of candidates to the combat section), as well as specialist equipment and weapons. Among German units is GSG9 – one of the most important anti-terrorist groups in the world. Similar duties are fulfilled by SEK (Spezialeinsatzkommando) units. GROM is the main anti-terrorist unit in Poland, and police units include the Office for Anti-Terrorism Operations (BOA KGP), the Autonomous Anti-Terrorism Policy Unit (SPAP) and the executive units of CBŚP, destined for so-called hard actions.
Their daily work involves finding and arresting armed criminals, kidnappers, mafia members, armed gangsters and freeing hostages. Special police units are, to some extent, the ultima ratio of a state which is able to defend itself. In the political and legal system, violence is subject to legal rules, enforced and sanctioned. It should serve to hold physical security and order and also raise the consciousness of societies.

**Keywords:** BOA, SEK, GSG9, GROM, special units, security.