Editorial

ARTICLES
Józef M. FISZER, Who Won World War II and Who Lost the Peace? Reflections on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II
Aleksandra TRZCIELIŃSKA-POLUS, The Polish-German Treaty on Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation at the Bundestag Forum
Karol KAMIŃSKI, Local Border Traffic: an Historical Outline on the Polish-German Example
Tomasz KAMUSELLA, Silesian: From Gwara to Language after 1989
Paweł POPIELIŃSKI, The Introduction of Double Names on Village and Office Signs and the Auxiliary Language in the Municipalities of Upper Silesia and their Public Perception
Piotr ANDRZEJEWSKI, Vienna Cannot Be like Chicago. Neoliberalism and Wolfgang Schussel’s Rule in Austria in 2000–2006

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS
Piotr ŁYSAKOWSKI, The Reception of Katyń 1943 in Reptile Press on the Examples of „Nowy Kurier Warszawski” and „Goniec Krakowski”
Wanda JARZĄBEK, One Swallow Does Not Make a Spring. A Visit of Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Republic, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in the People’s Republic of Poland, in January 10–13, 1988
A Panel Discussion, the Attitude of „Solidarity” to Germans in Poland – the Attitude of Germans in Poland to „Solidarity”

REVIEWS
Gernot Briesewitz, Raum und Nation in der polnischen Westforschung 1918–1948. Wissenschaftsdiskurse, Raumdeutungen und geopolitische Visionen im Kontext der deutsch-polnischen Beziehungsgeschichte [Space and the Nation in Polish Research on Western
Europe in 1918–1948. Scientific Discourses, Interpretations and Geopolitical Visions in the Context of the History of German-Polish Relations] (a review by Ewelina Wanat)

NOTES ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Polish-German Annual 2016, Nr. 24 (1)
Abstracts

Józef M. FISZER, Kto wygrał II wojnę światową, a kto przegrał pokój? Refleksje na kanwie 70. rocznicy zakończenia II wojny światowej. Who Won World War II and Who Lost the Peace? Reflections on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II

This article is an attempt to answer the questions that have long been bothering historians, political scientists, sociologists and lawyers, as well as ordinary people, nationals of the former anti-Hitler coalition and members of the fascist Berlin-Rome--Tokyo coalition: namely, who really won World War II and who lost the peace that put an end to the war in Europe and the world? Who had reasons to celebrate victory, and who suffered a bitter defeat and enslavement? The main thesis of this article is the observation that, in military terms, World War II was won by the states belonging to the anti-fascist coalition, and lost by Germany, Italy, Japan and their allies. However, in political and economic terms, World War II was won by Western countries led by the United States, and lost by Central and Eastern European countries, with the Soviet Union at the forefront. In international terms, the war and peace were won primarily by the United States and the Soviet Union. These countries have become global superpowers that created a new international order, called the Yalta-Potsdam governance.
Aleksandra TRZCIELIŃSKA-POLUS, *Polsko-niemiecki traktat o dobrym sąsiedztwie i przyjaznej współpracy na forum Bundestagu. The Polish-German Treaty on Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation at the Bundestag Forum*

The Polish-German Treaty of Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation that was signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland a quarter-century ago has repeatedly been the subject of debates, interpellations and deputies’ questions at the German Federal Parliament. This article presents the most important debates and documents of the Bundestag, in which both deputies and members of the government expressed their opinions and positions with regard to the provisions of the treaty and its implementation. The aim of this study is to show changes to and differences in the rhetoric of parliamentarians representing various factions and representatives of the government in relation to this treaty over 20 years (i.e., from its signature and ratification in 1991 to the celebrations of its twentieth anniversary in 2011), and to present the priority issues raised in its context.

Karol KAMIŃSKI, *Mały ruch graniczny – zarys historyczny na przykładzie polsko-niemieckim. Local Border Traffic: an Historical Outline on the Polish-German Example*

This article commemorates the signing of the agreement on local border traffic between the Second Polish Republic and the Weimar Republic on 30 December 1924. This year, 92 years have passed since that event. It should be emphasized that this was not the only such international agreement, as Poland entered into similar ones with Czechoslovakia (1925) and the Kingdom of Romania (1929).

According to the author, solutions specified in the Polish-German treaties are sometimes better than those currently defined in agreements with Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, as indicated by the analysis of the documents. The achievements of the historical-legal acts can and should be used in the creation of the Polish concept of boundaries and rights.


In the past, Silesian was treated as a subdialect of the Polish language (and sometimes of Czech). During the 1990s, following the fall of communism and the establishment of
democracy in Poland, most Silesian-speakers decided to treat Silesian as a language in its own right. It became part and parcel of their effort to shed the status of second-class citizens that had been imposed on them in the interwar and communist Poland. Warsaw has not recognized this language yet, but, despite suffering this (quite humiliating) disadvantage, Silesian-speakers have produced a growing number of articles, books, websites, radio and television programmes in their language, winning a recognition for Silesian as a language abroad and among scholars. It appears that the Polish administration’s rigid stance toward the Silesians and their language is dictated by the logic of ethnolinguistic nationalism, which equates the legitimacy and stability of the nation-state with the full ethnolinguistic homogeneity of its population. This article sketches the trajectory of the main events and probes into the state of the discourse on the issue of Silesian language and culture during the quarter of a century after the fall of communism in 1989.

Paweł POPIELIŃSKI, *Wprowadzanie podwójnego nazewnictwa na tablicach miejscowości i urzędów oraz języka pomocniczego w gminach na Górnym Śląsku a ich społeczne postrzeganie*. The Introduction of Double Names on Village and Office Signs and the Auxiliary Language in the Municipalities of Upper Silesia and their Public Perception

The law on National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Language of 2005 regulates not only matters related to the preservation and development of the cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities in Poland, but also the problem of bilingualism, auxiliary language and bilingual names. It allows minorities living in Poland to express and emphasize their presence, among other things, by placing names in the minority language on signs next to the official names of places and physiographic objects. Polish society was most concerned about the introduction of dual place names and the use of minority languages as auxiliary languages in offices in some municipalities in Poland, especially in Upper Silesia. Issues of cultural cultivation and the use of education aroused far fewer objections and did not cause doubts. This article shows not only the origins and the role of the introduction of bilingual village and office signs and the German language as the auxiliary language in offices in Upper Silesian municipalities (in the provinces of Opole and Silesia), but also the perception of this phenomenon by both the German minority and the majority society. This paper also presents the legal and sociological aspects of the discussed issues.

The aim of this article is to show how the Fourth Department (Western Europe) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish People’s Republic (PRL) assessed its relations with Austria in 1980–1983. This topic is analyzed from the perspective of the existing research on Polish foreign policy and its relations with the West. The article mainly presents the Polish perspective of bilateral relations and efforts to restore good trade relations with Austria. Before martial law was introduced in the PRL, this neutral Western country had evidently favoured Polish affairs in the international arena. The contribution of Bruno Kreisky’s personal diplomacy to the development of trade relations with the PRL is also taken into account. There is a thesis that Austria was one of the first countries in the West which renewed diplomatic relations with the PRL after their having been frozen in December 1981. In the light of the existing studies, such measures were first taken in 1984 in the so-called fraternal countries and in 1985 in Western countries. Materials taken into account in this analysis have not yet been published, and come from the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the Polish diplomatic documents from 1980–1983, Austria has the image of „a partner in difficult times”. Since 1970, the Austrian government under the leadership of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky was at first perceived exceptionally well in the PRL, compared to other Western countries. After the imposition of martial law, Vienna repeatedly confirmed its willingness to provide Poland with not just humanitarian, but also diplomatic and economic support, refraining from making negative comments on Polish authorities on the international forum. Kreisky avoided sharp statements against Polish authorities, fearing the possible escalation of the conflict. He was convinced that the shift in power was not possible at that time and in that area. He judged negatively Western economic sanctions for two reasons. As he claimed, they struck only the society and common people, having no impact on the decisions of Polish politicians; on the other hand, they threatened the interests of Austria, which was inclined to import Polish raw materials and repay the existing financial obligations. Shortly after the exchange of correspondence on the circumstances of the martial law, the Austrian side, through the Embassy in Vienna, offered to re-establish correct relations. They excluded the possibility of conducting official state visits until the lifting of
martial law; however, in April 1983, the first working group meeting with Otto von Bauer, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, was arranged in Vienna. This event was treated as an example to follow in the other diplomatic posts of the Fourth Department.


This article focuses on the impact of liberal ideas on Austrian politics. Particular attention is devoted to the conservative-liberal coalition lead by Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, who ruled in 2000–2006. The author presents the sources of the Austrian Chancellor’s ideological inspirations and confronts the ideas declared by him and his coalition with reality. Schüssel’s rule is described from a broader perspective in order to answer the question of whether the time of the neoliberal „breakthrough” was indeed a breakthrough, and how much of that has been left in Austrian politics?