

GREATER POLAND YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Witold Molik, The cultural heritage of Greater Poland

The author discusses three selected elements of the cultural heritage of Greater Poland which can and should help the society of this region to cope with the challenges of the 21st century. He shows the role of Greater Poland in the cultural transfer from West European countries over a millennium of Polish history, from the reception of Christianity in the year 966 up to the 20th century. The second element of the cultural heritage of Greater Poland consists in the traditions of a civil society. In the 19th and the first half of the 20th century in this area a more modern society was shaped compared to other parts of Poland, a society aware of its goals and the advantages that follow from collective action. The opportunity to enhance the habit and skills of continued activity based on a thorough analysis of social needs and implementation of rational measures to deal with them gave rise in the 1830s to a gradually developed system of Polish economic, social, educational and other organizations which were only dismantled by the communist authorities in the first years after the Second World War. The third of the selected elements of the cultural heritage of Greater Poland described by the author is the contribution made to the region's economic, social and cultural development by German settlers arriving in waves since the 13th century, as well as Jews, the Czech Brothers and other refugees from Bohemia and Moravia who arrived in large numbers in the second half of the 16th century.

Fryderyk Mudzo, German great landed estates in Greater Poland in the years 1815-1914

A great landed estate is defined as a farmstead of a minimum area of 100 hectares, operating either as an independent enterprise or owned by the gentry or wealthy middle class. The functioning of such landed estates (in Germany and under the Prussian partition known as Rittergüter) was closely linked to the ownership structure of past times, when private ownership of land entailed a number of privileges and a high social prestige.

The Poznań Province was an exporter of crops and agricultural produce and on account of its geographical and geopolitical location was perceived as part of the East Elbian economy (Ostelbien). At the same time it was an outlet for manufacturers of farming tools and machines from the neighboring provinces (mainly Brandenburg). At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the Greater Poland village was dominated by German great landed estates which within the span of a century managed to allegedly permanently link Greater Poland to Prussia and the German state. The

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participation of German landed estate owners in the economic and social life of Greater Poland in the years 1815-1914 must be assessed as a dynamic process of transformation of the entire Greater Poland within just one century. Those changes were still noticeable in the interwar period when a majority of the landed estate owners assumed Polish citizenship and actively contributed to the economic and political life of the Second Republic of Poland.

Dariusz Jeziorny, Colonel Harry Wade's mission to Poland and the outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising

On 27 December 1918 an uprising against Germans broke out in Poznań, with a goal to lead to the incorporation of Greater Poland into the Republic of Poland which was just coming back to life after years of partitions. The moment of outbreak coincided with the presence in Poznań of British colonel Harry Wade, an attaché in Copenhagen, who was accompanying Ignacy Paderewski on his journey to Poland. The article answers the following questions: was Harry Wade sent to the capital of Greater Poland by the secret intelligence service; or was his presence due to the fact that London had granted a cruiser to transport Paderewski; did the colonel's presence have an impact on the outbreak of the uprising; and how was his stay in Poznań assessed by the British authorities.

Wojciech Szymon Kowalski, The city of Poznań's mercantile and stock exchange institutions in historical perspective

The article is an attempt to trace the evolution of the Poznań stock exchange and market institutions in a historical perspective. The highly regarded tradition of medieval St. John's Fairs is one of the sources of the city's exchange, but the actual origins of this form of trade must be seen in the Posener Börse, which was launched in mid-19th century. The institutional heritage of the 19th century significantly contributed in the next century to the "golden era" of the Agricultural Goods Exchange in Poznań, established in reborn Poland. In the interwar period Poznań was the seat of two exchanges: besides the foremost agricultural exchange there also functioned a stock exchange, much smaller than the one in Warsaw but with a leading position among the regional exchanges of the Second Republic of Poland located in Lwów, Łódź, Kraków, Wilno and Katowice. After the end of the Second World War attempts were made to reactivate commodities exchanges in Poland, among other cities also in Poznań. Soon it turned out that altered political circumstances thwarted the functioning of an institution which was a symbol of market economy, perceived as hostile to the system of socialist market economy. The systemic transformation of 1989/1990 led in 1991 to the reemergence, after over four decades of absence, of the commodities exchange in Poznań's economic landscape. However, it did not return to its last pre-war and post-war headquarters at 3, Marcikowski Ave., but chose for its location an office block in the district of Winogrody at 3, Gronowa St. After a decade of promising development of the Poznań Stock Exchange Ltd., which was among others a pioneer in deposit stock transactions in Poland, its activity was terminated in controversial circumstances.

Robert Kmiecik, The origins and development of economic self-government in Greater Poland on the example of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Poznań

Apart from territorial self-government a crucial role in the process of development of local administration falls to economic self-government which includes economic associations which support entrepreneurs. Economic self-government is a public law organization. In Poland for over a quarter of a century two different tendencies have been confused: the right to freedom of association and the right to manage one's interests. Whereas the principle of voluntariness that follows from the right to freedom of association does not lead to any objections regarding associations, it is undoubtedly contradictory to the basic aspects that express the essence of public corporations. Economic self-government must therefore be treated as a democratically elected, general and preferably apolitical representation of the milieu of entrepreneurs which is a partner of both state administration and territorial self-government. And that is how it was organized in the interwar period. In Greater Poland economic self-government was for many years a particularly important representative of the interests of the milieu of entrepreneurs. It functioned within the framework of three structures: chambers of industry and commerce, chambers of crafts and trades and chambers of agriculture. Their dynamic development from the very onset of Poland's independence resulted largely from the fact that the Polish employer used and creatively developed the Prussian experiences in this field. The text provides a detailed characterization of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Poznań.

Agnieszka Jeran, Does the Greater Poland mindset still exist? An analysis based on Social Diagnosis 2015

The point of departure of the analyses presented in the article is both a scholarly and common conviction about the existence and functioning of a set of beliefs and norms specific to the inhabitants of Greater Poland, something that might be called the Greater Poland mindset. It formed on the basis of experiences of life under Prussian rule and patriotically motivated transformations of ways of managing economy which shaped of a mentality concurrently national and capitalistic. Although the period of the Polish People's Republic did not facilitate its cultivation, after 1989 the occurrence of such constituent elements of the Greater Poland mindset as frugality, economy, law and order, pro-social attitudes was still diagnosed. Using the data supplied by "Social Diagnosis" 2015 analyses were done to verify the hypothesis of more intense manifestations of selected features corresponding to the Greater Poland mindset, viz. self-steering, task orientation, pro-social attitudes and law and order among inhabitants of Greater Poland compared to other parts of the country. Other analyzed issues comprised the differences in the intensity of these features within Greater Poland and the centrality of the Poznań subregion. The obtained results justify the claim that clear differences are only revealed in a comparison of the Poznań subregion to all the other voivodeships. This observation leads in turn to the conclusion that today we should speak of the existence of the Poznań mindset rather than the Great Poland one.

Krzysztof Bondyra, Wojciech Jagodziński, Anna Świdurska, Crafts and trades in Greater Poland in the process of personnel training

At a time of high unemployment rate among youth and a continued lack of conformity between trends in education and demands voiced by employers, attention is drawn to the so-called dual education, viz. instruction conducted in parallel (alternately) at school and at the workplace – a system highly valued in the EU for enhancing the opportunities of youth on the job market. Vocational training of youth employees, which is the Polish model of dual education, is in nearly 80% conducted by crafts and trades enterprises.

The object of the article is to present the role of the Greater Poland crafts and trades in the process of personnel training. In the last 25 years a decline in the vocational training in largescale industry has been observed in Poland. In this situation the local economic boards of crafts and trades chambers as a sector of small and medium-sized production and service enterprises assumed responsibility for training human resources for the national economy. Research done among graduates of vocational training in crafts and trades enterprises and among master craftsmen who performed the training as part of a project called “Socially responsible crafts and trades” implemented by the Greater Poland Chamber of Crafts and Trades, confirmed the observation that dual education is a gateway to permanent employment in professions which are in demand on the job market.

Igor Ksenicz, A self-government synergy? International cooperation of the Greater Poland Voivodeship, the Poznań District and the City of Poznań

The article analyzes the possibilities of coordination of the international cooperation of the entities of different levels of territorial self-government in Greater Poland. In the author’s opinion there is still room for improvement in this field of activity. The presented analyses deal with institutional and legal aspects of the discussed issue and the basic sources include the regulations and official documents of the Greater Poland voivodeship, the Poznań district and the city of Poznań.

Julia Jachowska, Wilda – on the social effects of gentrification

The biggest problem with the renovation of the centres of Polish cities is the fact that their revitalization is accomplished only through the process of gentrification. The implementation of exclusively this measure makes renovation largely ineffective and leads to social conflicts between the incoming representatives of the middle class and the underprivileged residents who have lived in the central city space for decades. However, there are exceptions to the rule, as in the case of the Poznań administrative housing estate Wilda. The present study also aims to compare the changes ongoing in the above mentioned housing estate with the changes occurring in other gentrified spaces of Poznań, by identifying factors which seem instrumental to the effectiveness of the gentrification process.

Łukasz Skoczylas, The Poznań Citadel in the eyes of leaders of social memory

The article analyzes the interpretations attributed to the Citadel Park in Poznań by leaders of social memory in the context of the city's past, its current urban structure and tourist traffic. The study is based on the analysis of forty individual in-depth interviews with people engaged in changing the carriers of social memory present in the urban space of Poznań.

Magdalena Sacha, Kortau and Kortowo. 'Purgatory' and campus — narrations of 'non-memory' and 'non-places' in space

The subject matter of the study focuses on the landscape of places of memory and non-memory in Kortowo – a university district of the city of Olsztyn. The present location of the campus of the University of Warmia and Mazury was created in 1880 as the site of the Kortau psychiatric institute for the German province of East Prussia. During the Second World War from the hospital in Kortau transports of patients were organized with the aim of their extermination as part of the “Lange action” and the so called euthanasia action (“T-4”). In 1945 the district was burned down as a result of the Red Army attack. In 1950 Kortowo became the home of the College of Agriculture and since 1999 it has been a university campus. The article deals with the problem of contemporary narrations connected with Kortowo: a) fictionalized history; b) urban legends; c) current shaping of the space of places of memory and non-memory in the city's cultural landscape. The relation between local memory (or its absence) and “national” memory in the memorative practices of today's inhabitants of the so called Recovered Territories remains an open question.

Andrzej Sakson, Purda Wielka in Warmia – place identity

Purda, also known as Purda Wielka is a rural commune located in the district of Olsztyn in the territory of historical Warmia. This village community was the object of sociological field studies in 1948 and then again in the years 2005-2006. Based on the accumulated empirical material an analysis of place identity was done understood as an emotional link of the inhabitants with their environment. From the study it follows that all the inhabitants of Purda have a strong place identity manifested in satisfaction from the place of residence and especially from socio-cultural contacts and the natural surroundings.

Jerzy Kaczmarek, Invisible Poznań. Visual studies on the grassroots actions of city residents

The introductory part of the article presents the premises of a research project called “Invisible City” which was initiated at the Institute of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University. The term “invisible city” denotes grassroots actions of city residents that usually go unnoticed in the official institutionalized perspective and are also overlooked by other urban inhabitants. The next part of the article shows such actions in Poznań referring to abundant photographic material collected in the database of the discussed project. The last part presents the grassroots actions of the actors of the invisible city as innovative actions. For this purpose the author characterizes the concept of social innovations and identifies their characteristic features which he then ascribes to the grassroots actions of the residents of Poznań.

Łukasz Jastrząb, 'The landscape after June'. Events of the Poznań June in the perception of the Polish society in 1956

The article presents the opinions of the Polish society on the events of the Poznań June 1956. Despite official announcements and information blockade, news of the uprising spread across the country. Information was circulated among others by visitors to the Poznan International Trade Fair then staying in the city, by railway staff, as well as soldiers and functionaries engaged in suppressing the revolt. Voices of support dominated and were expressed at rallies and gatherings, in discussions and leaflets but also as inscriptions painted on the walls of buildings, inside factories or on railway carriages. The accounts are presented selectively and in a limited scope due to shortage of space, but are fairly representative for the attitude and reaction of Poles to the events that took place in Poznań on June 28, 1956.

Stanisław Jankowiak, 'Provocation in Poznań'. Reaction of political authorities to the pastoral letter of Archbishop Antoni Baraniak in 1966

One of the elements of the celebrations of the millennium of the baptism of Poland was the peregrination of the icon of the Blessed Mother of God of Częstochowa. The icon was “arrested” by the authorities and transported back to the Jasna Góra shrine with a ban on removal. Against such an insult to the Blessed Mother of God protest was voiced first by the Primate of Poland and then by other bishops who addressed pastoral letters to the faithful of their respective dioceses. A pastoral letter on the issue was also written by Archbishop Antoni Baraniak. In the opinion of the authorities his was the sharpest form of protest, and therefore he became the object of an organized defamation campaign in which party activists were mobilized to express their public outcry.

Tomasz Budnikowski, German traces on the tourist map of Poznań

The article presents the links between Poznań and Germany in the areas of art and architecture. Due to geographic vicinity such links have been observed since the beginning of the Polish state. In Poznań and its surroundings one can find the works of outstanding German artists who were active in the late Middle Ages and subsequent centuries. Especially strong affiliations with German artistic and architectural trends were present in Greater Poland in the 19th century when the region was part of the Prussian state. In this context, the origins of the Golden Chapel in the Poznań cathedral are also noteworthy.