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Encountering anti-Polonism

W obliczu antypolonizmu



Preface

By the Jan Niechwiadowicz

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Preface

This book is based on the research conducted by four Polonia groups dating back to 2005 (Founded in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011). Working under the umbrella name of Encountering anti-Polonism (**EA-P**) they recorded various aspects of anti-Polish sentiment. Examples include hate crimes against Poles in the United Kingdom, Polish jokes in the United States of America, and persecution of Poles in modern day Belarus. Using this work I have examined a key aspect of anti-Polish sentiment, the coverage of German occupied Poland during World War Two (**WWII**).

Poland has had a hard existence. This has meant on times Poland was a poor country. The Germans, Russians, and Austrians who created these conditions then use this to depict Polishness as inferior.

These harmful stereotypes have been perpetuated and are continuing to be found in modern media. There is a general lack of knowledge of Poland even the contributions of Poles to the defeat of the Axis powers during WWII. Thus, the overall view of Poland is often negative.

This is the country which has given the world musical greats like Chopin, scientists like Maria Sklodowska, religious greats like Pope Jan Pawel II (John Paul II), organisations like Żegota, and military greats like King Sobieski.

Focusing briefly on Poland during WWII, it is not hard to show the uniqueness of Poland. Poles were the first to fight, unlike the Austrians or Czechoslovakians; Poland neither supplied nor supported Germany, unlike Soviet Russia or Swedes; Poles made up one of the largest allied powers throughout the war, contrasting with the French, who surrendered; and Poland had the largest resistance force, whilst the Dutch contributed three divisions to the German war effort.

Apart from this lack of knowledge about the vital role Poland played in the defeat of the axis powers there is little known about Poland suffering. A good example is the failure to include ethnic Poles as victims of Nazi German in their camps. Poland as a country suffered the most at the hands of the Nazi Germans with Polish citizens having the highest percentage death rate/

This is known as a double suffering, as coined by Bozena Karol. Poles suffered first during WWII and now most suffer again by the coverage the Nazi German occupation of Poland.

Still, the most common concern I see is the way the media describe the Nazi extermination programme in German-occupied Poland as being *Polish*. You must question when does *Polish* means belonging to Poland.

These terms are misleading description of the location of the Nazi German camps but some believe to be a deliberate attempt to transfer the blame for the Shoah and other German-created horrors onto Poland and ethnic Poles.

The bulk of this work is to outline the data in detail. This is my area of expertise as a Business Intelligence consultant. The later chapters using this data answer the questions: Has the media transferred German guilt to Poles? Are Poles overly oversensitivity or is there bias in the media? Are the Germans being written out of history to be replaced by Nazis and their willing Polish collaborators? What about ethnic Poles included as victims of WWII?

This book with its twenty-three chapters and numerous appendixes will answer these questions and other questions as best as possible as my funds are exhausted and a general lack of support outside a handful of key allies which is forcing me to end the pursuit of the truth.

Signed

Jan Niechwiadowicz

Awarded Człowiek Roku (Man of the Year) by Dziennik Polski and their patron the Polish Embassy in the United Kingdom in 2012, 2013 given **SPK membership** (Polish Combatants' Association) and **Bene Merito honorary distinction** by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his work in combating discrimination against Poles and Poland (2014).

Acknowledgement

The list of people who have contributed to this work is long. Still, I have decided to keep it brief.

Andrzej Tutkaj who is sadly deceased. Andrzej was a titan in his day. Without his drive and support I would not have achieved what I have. He is much missed. Andrzej, I continue the fight for Poland as best I can without you.

Elizabeth Niechwiadowicz, my British mother, for making me proud of my Polish heritage. Again, was always there for me until her death. You wanted me to write a book, so here it is.

In my Mum place are nephew **Jack Beardsley** who love is incredible and **Lauren** his amazing wife. They step into my Mum place for which I am so grateful.

Victor Woldanowski has been my rock for over a decade. Victor, as a gifted linguist, has expanded this work. His independent work monitoring anti-Polish sentiment, support for mine, and excellence advice when I listen has steered me in the right direction for join love of Poland.

It is in more recent years that I have known **Christina Malkowska Zaba**. Her expertise in many fields has helped shape the final work. Her understanding of media has been invaluable, my struggles with language, and passion to create a work to fight Anti-Polonism has been inspirational.

DRAFT