

**Pilecki Institute
International
Teachers and Educators
Program
2020/21**

booklet





Pilecki Institute International Teachers and Educators Program project initiator and main coordinator. Anna holds an MA in history from the University of Warsaw. She also studied at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She completed several language and culture courses at schools in Great Britain, Italy and Israel. She has been working in international education for almost ten years. At the Pilecki Institute, she works in the area of education of youth and adults, and develops educational materials. Her main fields of interest are the history of culture and religious studies. Privately, a theater buff with unfulfilled acting ambitions. She considers herself a people person.

Dear Participants,

after long weeks of preparation filled with intensive work, inspiring conversations and debates among the ITEP coordination team members and experts from different fields willing to devote their time to this project, we are finally beginning with the online conference. The International Teachers and Educators Program is an extensive project for teachers, educators and specialists of various institutions working in historical and cultural education. It is centered around the 20th-century history, with a particular focus on the Soviet and Nazi totalitarian regimes and acts of active resistance to them.

We want the program to serve as a platform for thought and experience exchange among professionals who work both with children and adults in various corners of the world. Thanks to a multifaceted and multiperspective examination of recent world history, we seek to arrive together at an ever-broader picture of the complex reality of the last century. We believe

A WELCOME WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR Anna Brojer

that the Polish experience of enslavement and terror orchestrated by two totalitarian invaders can help us better understand what a totalitarian system really is and what mechanisms and tools it employs to subjugate conquered peoples. The little-known history of Poland and its struggle against two oppressive systems could help complete the picture of the past. ITEP will also allow us to engage in dialog, so that we can work together towards filling in the blanks in the great puzzle of history.

The pilot edition of ITEP will include two parts. Part one is a five-day ZOOM conference. From 15 to 19 August 2020, all participants will meet online during sessions devoted to three faces of resistance to totalitarianism in the 20th century: civilian, military and intellectual. Topic introductions will be provided in the form of recordings and podcasts prepared by specialists in each sub-

ject area. The core of the conference will be workshops, during which educators from the Pilecki Institute will present the Polish aspect of the aforementioned phenomena. Equally important will be speeches and presentations delivered by the participants, who will talk about persons, phenomena or events of their choice that formed part of resistance to totalitarianism. Then we will hold a discussion to try to arrive at a complete picture of the past. Although we will meet only virtually, there will still be orientation activities so that we will have a chance to get to know each other as well as our countries and their cultures. We will learn some Polish phrases and taste (virtually!) some national dishes.

Phase two of ITEP will be a meeting of all participants who complete post-conference assignment in Poland, which is planned for 2021. We would like to show you places related to the Polish resistance against Communism and Nazism, but also to familiarize you with the culture of our beautiful country. We also plan to organize meetings with Polish teachers to give our participants an opportunity to exchange didactic experiences and discuss the challenges faced by contemporary education. Such a discussion seems to be especially needed today, in view of the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ITEP also means long-term cooperation with all our participants. For three months after the first, virtual part of the program, the participants will be working on a post-conference task: preparing a lesson scenario about resistance to totalitarianism in the 20th century. We want these scenarios to reflect the phenomenon as fully as possible. Near the end of 2020 we will meet online once again to share experiences gained during the exercise.

I am truly happy that you applied for ITEP. I hope to take you on an extraordinary intellectual journey.

On the following pages you will find a detailed program, technical how-tos and a number of texts that will get you started on our topics.

Here we go!



TIMETABLE

15 AUGUST 2020, DAY 1: introduction		host	mode	time	start (CEST)
Polish 20th century – historical and cultural overview		Mateusz Werner, PhD	individual	30 minutes	
The Battle of Warsaw, 1920. The first chapter of resistance.		Adam Zamoyski	individual	30 minutes	
Participants' introduction. Q&A on the course. Ice-breaking activities.		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	90 minutes	5 PM (17:00)
Polish is easy! How to master a slavic language in less that two hours?		Maria Smirnova	zoom meeting	90 minutes	7 PM (19:00)
16 AUGUST 2020, DAY 2: military resistance					
Witold Pilecki, his mission and resistance against two totalitarianisms		Jack Fairweather	individual	30 minutes	
reading material		-	individual	30 minutes	
Military face of resistance. Workshop		Jakub Mańczak	zoom meeting	60 minutes	5 PM (17:00)
Military resistance. Participants' presentations		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	60 minutes	6:30 PM (18:30)
Integration – food from all over the world		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	90 minutes	8 PM (20:00)
17 AUGUST 2020, DAY 3: civil resistance					
German and Soviet policy towards Polish citizens		John Cornell, PhD	individual	15 minutes	
„Witnesses to the Age of Shoah”		IP Film Production Team	individual	30 minutes	
“Called by Name” family convention short film		ITEP Staff	individual	30 minutes	
reading material		-	individual	30 minutes	
Civil resistance to Nazi-German oppression. “Called by Name” stories		Kacper Kempisty	zoom meeting	60 minutes	5 PM (17:00)
Civil resistance in Europe. Participants presentiaions		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	60 minutes	6:30 PM (18:30)
18 AUGUST 2020, DAY 4: intellectual resistance					
„The Day After..”		IP Film Production Team	individual	60 minutes	
Raphael Lemkin and his fight against genocide		Eryk Habowski	individual	15 minutes	
Raphael Lemkin short animation		IP Staff	individual	5 minutes	
reading material		IP Staff	individual	30 minutes	
Concept Book presentation		Anna Brojer and Jakub Mańczak	individual	30 minutes	5 PM (17:00)
The concience of the world: the genocide convention. Workshop		Anna Brojer	zoom meeting	60 minutes	5:30 PM (17:30)
Intellectual resistance. Participants' presentations		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	60 minutes	7 PM (19:00)
19 AUGUST 2020, DAY 5: conclusions					
Round tables session		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	45 minutes	5 PM (17:00)
Round table session. Summary		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	45 minutes	6 PM (18:00)
Final discussion		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	90 minutes	7 PM (19:00)
Conclusion and goodbyes		ITEP Staff	zoom meeting	30 minutes	9 PM (21:00)

Interesting facts about Poland



Maria Skłodowska-Curie is the only person awarded the Nobel Prize in two scientific fields: physics and chemistry.

The Polish president awards a special medal to the couples who have been married for at least 50 years.

The largest castle in the world is the Castle of the Teutonic Order located in the Polish town of Malbork.

Poland is among the countries which extract the largest amounts of amber.

It is customary in Poland to address your in-laws as "Mom" and "Dad."

Poles dislike having their country described as part of Eastern Europe; besides, this statement is incorrect from geographical perspective.

They are also strongly opposed to the practice of referring to the Nazi-German extermination camps as Polish camps. They appreciate when foreigners remember that the Polish state did not exist during World War II – the Polish territories were occupied by Germany and the USSR, while the Polish citizens were subject to the brutal terror inflicted by both occupiers.

The first constitution in Europe was the Polish Constitution of 3 May 1791.



1/4 of the entire population of storks nests in Poland. The stork is considered one of the symbols of Poland.





The largest herd of wild European bison inhabits the Białowieża Forest.

The Świętokrzyskie Mountains are among the oldest in Europe.

The Polish engineer Rudolf Gundlach invented the rotary periscope enabling 360° vision.

The Polish ophthalmologist Ludwik Zamenhof invented the international language Esperanto.

The Polish Himalayan mountaineers Leszek Cichy and Krzysztof Wielicki made the first winter ascent of the Earth's highest mountain, Mount Everest, on 17 February 1980. The Poles were also the first to climb eight other eight-thousanders in the winter.

In 1990, the Polish astrophysicist Aleksander Wolszczan discovered the first planet located outside of the Solar System.

The Polish biochemist Casimir Funk discovered the first vitamin in the world – Vitamin B1.

Falconry – the profession in which a person works with trained birds of prey – is practiced to this day in Poland. Falconry has been added to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. It is of immense importance especially at airports, where a collision of an aircraft with a bird can result in a plane crash.



The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus proved that the Earth orbits the Sun.



In 1918 Poland became one of the first countries in the world to grant women the right to vote. Women participated in the very first elections after the restoration of Polish independence.

The majority of Poles customarily take off their shoes when entering a house.

It is considered good manners when men allow women to go first when passing through the door, stand up when women enter the room, and give up their seat for a woman. Some show respect by greeting women with a kiss on the hand.

Remembering deceased loved ones in Poland is connected with a major celebration on 1 November, when entire families visit cemeteries to light candles, put flowers on the graves and say a short prayer for their loved ones. The evening of 1 November is an extraordinary time for photographers – Polish historic cemeteries are flooded with flickering flames, creating beautiful sights. Poles visit the graves of their families also around Christmas and Easter, decorating them with little Christmas trees and bouquets with catkins.

Especially celebrated holiday in Poland is also Christmas. Regardless of their religious diligence, most Poles prepare a family supper on Christmas Eve, 24 December. They sing traditional Christmas carols and give each other gifts. Among the essential elements of the celebration are the Christmas tree, borscht with dumplings, jellied carp, yeast cake and poppy-seed cake. During Mass at midnight, the congregation sings Christmas carols. 25 and 26 December are non-working days which Poles spend with their families. The tradition says that one empty place setting should be left for a lost wanderer.

Among the Poles' favorite sports are soccer and ski jumping. For many years, Poland has been represented by world-class ski-jumpers, such as Adam Małysz, Kamil Stoch, Piotr Żyła and Dawid Kubacki.



The Polish video-game developer CD Projekt Red released one of the most popular video games in history: *The Witcher*, based on the works of the Polish fantasy writer Andrzej Sapkowski.



Poles are very hospitable. They love to invite guests and sit around a table. Recently, they have come to enjoy barbecues with friends and family.

The narrowest house in the world – which is only 122 centimeters wide – is located on Żelazna Street 74 in Warsaw.

The Polish national symbol is the crowned white eagle. The Communist authorities in Poland removed the crown to emphasize the lack of independence of the Polish state. The Polish parliament restored the eagle's crown after 1989.

It is illegal to promote Nazism and Communism in Poland and to use their symbols, the swastika and the hammer and sickle, in the public space.

The most controversial building in Poland – the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw – was a symbolic “gift” from Joseph Stalin to the Polish nation oppressed by the Soviets. Poles express strong and differing opinions on whether the building should be demolished or preserved.



The bulletproof vest was invented by two Poles – Kazimierz Żegleń and Jan Szczepaniak.



The only desert in Europe – the Błędów Desert – is located in Poland.



The Pilecki Institute has been established to allow the interdisciplinary and international analysis of issues and developments that were of key importance for the political history of the 20th century, naspecially the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian regimes and the global consequences of their actions.

An important element of our mission focuses on honoring persons who gave aid and succor to Polish citizens and Poles of different citizenship in those difficult times. Their efforts are recognized by the award of the Virtus et Fraternitas medal, which is bestowed by the President of the Republic of Poland acting on a motion of the Director of the Institute.

We also gather and make available documents concerning selected aspects of the 20th century, provide support for scientific research programs, and help disseminate knowledge about the period through educational projects and events which straddle culture and history.

About the Pilecki Institute





RESEARCH

The Scientific Department of the Institute gathers researchers who specialize in political science, sociology, history and Jewish studies. This unique milieu of scholars both initiates and participates in interdisciplinary research projects devoted to totalitarianism and the history of Poland in the 20th century. Their studies are concerned primarily with the Second World War, its consequences, and the cultivation of memory by the second and third postwar generations.



SCHOLARSHIPS

We are working on a scholarship program which will allow researchers from Poland and abroad to use the material collected in the archive of the Institute. We are hoping that the unique experience of East Central Europe will be a starting point for new research on the 20th century which will demonstrate the complexity of this period, as well as the events, ideas, and mechanisms which determined the course of history.



THE MODEL OF COMMEMORATION

The Pilecki Institute has developed a cohesive and clear way of commemorating Poles who were murdered for providing aid and assistance to Jews during the Second World War. A straightforward symbol – a stone with a brief inscription in Polish and English – and an application informing about the events which unfolded at a given location remind us of people who overcame the paralyzing terror and, although in fear for their own lives and those of their loved ones, gave succor to Jews.





EDUCATION

Workshops, lectures, location-based games – our educational projects are aimed at the youth and adults alike. We show our complicated history on the basis of archival and source materials, presenting the fate of the witnesses of the 20th century against the background of historical processes. Their experiences, dilemmas, and choices allow us to demonstrate the realities of the previous century from the perspective of individuals.



CULTURE

The 20th-century history is made up of thousands of stories waiting to be discovered. Accounts and testimonies stored in archives are ready-made plotlines. The Institute aims to build bridges between academia and culture by inspiring and initiating cultural projects which present the 20th century by means of various forms of expression – music, visual arts, theater, painting, and others.