



Preface

We are honored to present the second issue of the *Totalitarian and 20th Century Studies* yearbook, published by the Witold Pilecki Institute of Solidarity and Valor.

The year 2018 marked the centenary of Poland regaining its independence after 123 years of political non-existence following the partitions conducted by Prussia, Russia and Austria in the second half of the 18th century. The end of the Great War not only resulted in the reappearance of the Polish Commonwealth on the map of Europe, but also marked the reinstatement of this multi-national polity under the leadership of elites who were soon to be targeted by the two most destructive totalitarianisms of the 20th century.

The first edition of the yearbook covered a number of important topics, namely the origins and phenomenon of the Polish intelligentsia, the confrontation of the newly established Republic with the violence of Nazism and Communism, and the diverse policies adopted by the Germans towards enslaved societies and nations. A volume published in 2018 is an excellent opportunity for an in-depth reflection on the fates of the elites in Nazi-occupied Europe.

The documentation of crimes committed by the occupiers – the gathering of source materials, their analysis and translation into English – necessitates and at once makes possible the opening of archives, thus facilitating the introduction of the memory of these crimes into global memory. It also forms the foundation for an international scientific discourse on the meaning of remembrance and the importance of sources – a discourse based on the comparison of interpretations of various experiences from the same period, which together constitute our common, both European and global, tragic heritage of the past century.

For many scientists, the 20th century – which has come to be known as the “age of totalitarianisms” – soon became the focus of interdisciplinary research; this is also pursued by the Pilecki Institute, on a number of topical planes. We publish the writings of a broad circle of scholars, both renowned

experts and young researchers from all over Europe. The *Studies* are open to representatives of various fields of the humanities: history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, the social sciences, and many others. This allows us not only to compare, on the continental or global scale, the tragic Polish experience of German and Soviet occupation with the histories of other victims of the Second World War, but also to develop a methodological apparatus, to emphasize the hitherto unknown aspects of research, and – finally – to compare more or less known source materials from Poland and abroad.

We are happy to note the growing popularity of our yearbook with both foreign and domestic authors, as well as the steadily increasing number of acclaimed reviewers. Thanks to the existence of such a space for the exchange of thought and research findings, our interdisciplinary projects acquire the additional value of functioning as bridges between science and culture, and this is another important step towards a better understanding of the history of the 20th century. We would also like to renew our offer of cooperation to representatives of all scientific disciplines who are willing to present their research on the contemporary history of Poland and Europe, and the history of the 20th century in general.

The yearbook is one of our flagship publishing projects. It is a forum for the systematization of knowledge about the past, but also serves the purpose of pursuing studies on broadly defined contemporaneity, especially in areas that overlap with research into the “age of totalitarianisms”. The annual aims to present case studies of the fates of the elites in the many European countries which suffered under the Nazi and Soviet yoke. Looking at the issue in a broader context, we should state that the policies of the Third Reich and the USSR, although aimed against the intellectual elites as such, had a broader reach, with their overriding focus being societies and nations intended for annihilation on the basis of ideological premises. The inclusion in the present volume of the voices of scientists from across the continent complements the reflections presented in the first issue, and also allows us to attempt an answer to the question whether, under the tyranny of the swastika on the one hand and of the hammer and sickle on the other, Europe was subjected to one occupation policy, or perhaps to several policies.

We begin with an article by Paweł Skibiński, entitled *Polish Clergymen as Victims of KL Gusen*, which describes the fate of priests deported to one of the harshest concentration camps. However, the camp at Gusen was not the only facility where the Germans implemented the planned extermination of the clergy. This issue is explored by Florian Schwanninger in *The Murders of Priests at Hartheim Castle under “Sonderbehandlung 14f13”*. The German occupation also left its mark on the Balkans. In his text entitled *The Fate of the Professors of Belgrade University under German Occupation, 1941–1944*, Dragomir Bondžić presents an aspect of Nazi policy which is virtually unknown in Poland and other countries of East-Central Europe. Milan Koljanin’s *From Annihilation of the Elites to Total Annihilation: Serbs in the Independent State of Croatia, 1941–1942* is another example of a South European perspective,

describing the Kingdom of Yugoslavia after it was attacked by Nazi Germany and its allies in April 1941. The discussion is augmented by Boris V. Sokolov's *The Soviet Intellectual in Vlasov's Movement: the Cases of Zykov, Samygin, and Glinka*, which on the basis of three case studies shows the involvement of intellectuals in collaborationist movements.

An interview with Rudolf Haunschmied, a local researcher and historian from Gusen, constitutes a valuable supplementation of the academic debate. His opinions are especially noteworthy, as they come from a representative of the Austrian community living in a township where the Germans established the first concentration camp outside of the Third Reich. This location became the Golgotha of the Polish elites, for it was the only site of its kind that was "dedicated" to the extermination of the intellectuals of another nation. The Germans themselves called it *Vernichtungslager für die polnische Intelligenz* (the extermination camp for the Polish intelligentsia).

In Gusen, past and present are strongly intertwined. The township and grounds of the former camp are indeed a microcosm, one where we can observe various manifestations of the denial syndrome which leads to facts of vital importance for the history and identity of the societies of Europe – a continent ravaged by two global wars in the 20th century – being repressed from the collective memory. An exceptionally inglorious example of this process was the attempted destruction of the remnants of the camp's roll-call square in 2016, when bulldozers were driven onto the grounds as if they were a regular construction site. Fortunately, the undertaking met with an unequivocal response from historians and the international community, duly alarmed by the Polish side. This is why we have decided to include an article by Marek Zajac, a co-author of the proposal for establishing the Henryk Sławik European Center of Education¹, which was officially presented in Vienna in May 2017 during an international scientific conference entitled "Killing Intellectuals. European Intellectual Elites Under German Occupation". It is indeed a bold idea to turn a location where the elites were to be silenced – where the Polish intelligentsia was to be buried, literally – into an educational space for the youth of Europe and a forum for multinational dialog.

The present volume also includes an article entitled *An Outline of Source Research into the List of the Rescued*. Authored by Monika Maniewska, Jędrzej Uszyński and Bartłomiej Zygmunt, it presents the involvement of diplomats from the Polish Legation in Bern in efforts aimed at saving Jews from the Holocaust. It is the first strictly scientific study to be devoted to this remarkable initiative undertaken by Polish diplomats headed by chargé d'affaires Aleksander Ładoś, and implemented with the support of the Polish government-in-exile; it soon turned into an organized and

¹ The person of its patron has been presented in *Henryk Sławik as a Patron. Reviving the Memory of KL Gusen* by Grzegorz Łubczyk.

complex operation consisting in the issuance of forged documents using the original consular forms of various Latin American states. These forms were obtained through various channels by the Polish diplomatic corps in Switzerland. “The passports of life” were then smuggled into occupied Poland, among others to the Warsaw Ghetto, becoming the only chance of survival for countless many.

The Pilecki Institute conducts extensive archival research in this subject area. Of particular interest to us are the Abraham Silberschein Archive and the Nathan Eck Collection at the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, the Swiss Federal Archives, the Archive of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, and also the so-called Eiss Archive – the legacy of Chaim Israel Eiss. The List of the Rescued, which is still far from complete, presently comprises more than 1,300 names of people who were issued passports or citizenship certificates on forms obtained from the neutral states of South and Latin America.

We hope that the second volume of *Totalitarian and 20th century Studies* will make for an enriching reading experience.

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