



Preface

It is our great pleasure to present the third volume of the “Totalitarian and 20th Century Studies” yearbook. This volume is being published at a time when the Pilecki Institute has been functioning as a scientific and research institute for over a year, during which time the scientific department under the name of the Center for Totalitarian Studies has built a team comprised of historians, political scientists, sociologists, and experts on religion. Scientific and cultural scholarship programs have been created, and we are also carrying out scientific and popular-scientific projects. The Institute’s “Called by the Name” project was inaugurated on 23 March 2019 at the initiative of prof. Magdalena Gawin, the aim of which is to commemorate the individual Poles and their families who lost their lives for aiding Jews during the Second World War.

As we wrote in the Preface to the second volume, the 20th century – the age of totalitarianisms – has become an area for interdisciplinary studies in sundry thematic fields for many academics. Studying totalitarianism requires the examination of the extermination of Jews, and although this subjects has enjoyed much academic attention in recent years, there are many issues which still require a deeper analysis and which we strive to present in this yearbook. The present volume also makes reference to the “Jews in the General Government in the years 1939–1945” and “German terror in the northern communes of the General Government in the years 1939–1945” projects undertaken by the Center for Totalitarian Studies.

This volume includes articles mainly concerning Nazi German policies with regard to Jews in occupied Poland and the territories incorporated into the Third Reich, Jewish-Polish relations, the survival strategies (self-defence) of Jews, and the consequences of the Holocaust. The volume begins with Sabina Bober’s article *The survival of Jews during the Holocaust as a research problem* in which she presents the results of many years of research into the various ways in which the Jews fought to defend

themselves and survive until the end of the war. Jacek Proszzyk's methodological text *Polish-Jewish relations in Landkreis Bielitz during the Second World War: Some research problems* uses the example of research into the microhistory of Bielsko and Biała Krakowska to highlight the challenges regional historians regularly face, presenting, among others, the difficulties in interpreting the source material as well as the discrepancies in the currently available facts. In her article *The military action of the Home Army during the rebellion in the camp of Treblinka II in August 1943 – a pre-research survey*, Alicja Gontarek presents the academic desiderata and the difficulties connected with researching the relationship of the Polish underground and the issue of Jews, including the rebellion in the extermination camp and the Home Army's part in the operation.

This volume also discusses the position of the Polish government-in-exile concerning Jews, and describes the attempts that were made in order to aid Polish Jews who found themselves not only in occupied Poland, but also outside of the country's pre-war borders, a subject to which the articles of Sławomir Mańko (*The attitude of the People's Party in exile towards the Jews during the Second World War*), and Olga Barbasiewicz and Agnieszka Pawnik (*The issue of the transfer of financial resources for Polish Jews – war refugees in Shanghai. The activity of the Polish government-in-exile*) are dedicated. Mańko presents the position of the Polish People's Party who spent the war first in Paris and then London and their attempts to inform the world of the German atrocities being committed against the Jewish community and pressurize the Allies into rescuing Polish Jews. On the other hand, Barbasiewicz and Pawnik's article describes the efforts of Polish Ambassador Tadeusz Romer to arrange aid for Jewish refugees from Poland in Shanghai. In Martyna Grądzka-Rejak's methodological article *Holocaust survivors: A demographic overview* the example of Kraków is used to present the demographic consequences of the extermination of Jews and the problems encountered when attempting to establish precise data on the number of Jewish survivors. The volume concludes with Katarzyna Jedynak's text *German repressions in the Częstochowa area during the Second World War* in which she presents the various forms of the German occupation policy (repressions, rural pacification, i.a.) against the Polish population by looking at the example of the Częstochowa region.

We hope that the third volume of "Totalitarian and 20th Century Studies" will make for an enriching reading experience.

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