



INSTITUTE OF  
NATIONAL  
REMEMBRANCE

# HISTORY SHAPES OUR IDENTITY

THE IPN IN FIGURES



# PRZEŁOM. SIERPIEŃ 1980 I „SOLIDARNOŚĆ”

INSTITUT  
PAMIĘCI  
NARODOWEJ

W ramach projektu „Przełom. Sierpień 1980 i „Solidarność”” Instytut Pamięci Narodowej przygotowuje cykl publikacji, który ma służyć pogłębieniu wiedzy o tym historycznym okresie. W ramach projektu wydane zostaną: tom 1. „Przełom. Sierpień 1980 i „Solidarność””, tom 2. „Solidarność. Walka o wolność i demokrację”, tom 3. „Solidarność. Walka o demokrację i wolność”, tom 4. „Solidarność. Walka o demokrację i wolność”.

WŁADYSŁAW BULHAK

# WYWIAD PRZED WATYKAN 1962-1978



Dodatek specjalny: Zmowa 1939. Pakt Stalin-Hitler

ISBN 978-83-7603-900-1

Film DVD: Na skrzydłach nadziei

## BIULETYN IPN

PISMO O NAJNOWSZEJ HISTORII POLSKI

# OJCOWIE NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI

PIŁSUDSKI DMOWSKI PADEBEWSKI



WITOS KORFANTY DASZYŃSKI

## FATHERS OF INDEPENDENCE

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INSTITUT  
PAMIĘCI  
NARODOWEJ

## Operacja „Zorza”

Wizyta papieża Jana Pawła II  
w Katowicach w 1983 roku

w dokumentach Służby Bezpieczeństwa



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NARODOWEJ

## 1939 AGRESJA SĄSIADÓW



WYSTAWA

cisza

przed

# BURZA

...niezłoty Jan 21 RP



INSTITUT  
PAMIĘCI  
NARODOWEJ

Krzysztof Ossse

## MIEDZY ZAWIERZENIEM A DEZINTEGRACJĄ

WYKONANIE OBRAZU  
MATKI BOŻEJ PROCESEJENIA  
W STANIE ILOZYNICZ  
21 VIII 1977 r.



SPRAWA OBIEKTOWA  
K-77

IPN



16 przegląd filmowy

## ECHA KATYNIA

11-15 kwietnia 2019

# KATYŃ 1940

WYSTAWA  
WYSTAWA  
WYSTAWA

23 VI  
46 VI  
7 VI  
7 VI  
7 VI  
8-10 VI  
3-4 VI  
6 VI  
8 VI



ŚLADAMI  
PIELGRZYMKI  
1979

■ Tomasz Danilecki

## Między zaangażowaniem, przystosowaniem i sprzeciwem





**Jarosław Szarek, Ph.D.**  
President of the Institute  
of National Remembrance

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

Both 20th-century totalitarian systems, German national socialism and Soviet communism, brought the people of Central and Eastern Europe enormous suffering, remaining their difficult heritage. It is a heritage of crime, lies, and years of falsifying history. This heritage was not overcome in the first years after 1989.

Therefore, in 2000, the Polish Parliament established the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation. Today it is the largest archival, research and educational institution in the entire post-communist area, which through its activity acquaints Poles with history, and uncovers its various aspects.

Today we present you with a publication on selected achievements of the Institute. In doing so, we wish to interest you with our activity and encourage you to learn Poland's recent history.

# LAW

## The Act of 18 December 1998

on the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, the Polish Parliament established the Institute of National Remembrance, bearing in mind:

- the remembrance of the enormity of the number of victims, the losses and damages suffered by the Polish people during World War II and after it ended;
- the patriotic tradition of the struggle of the Polish people against the occupiers, Nazism and communism;
- the actions of the citizens for the sake of the independence of the Polish State and in defense of freedom and human dignity;
- the obligation to prosecute the crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes;

as well as the obligation of our state to compensate all the aggrieved by a state which violated human rights;  
as an expression of our belief that no unlawful action by the state against the citizens can be guarded as classified or left to oblivion.

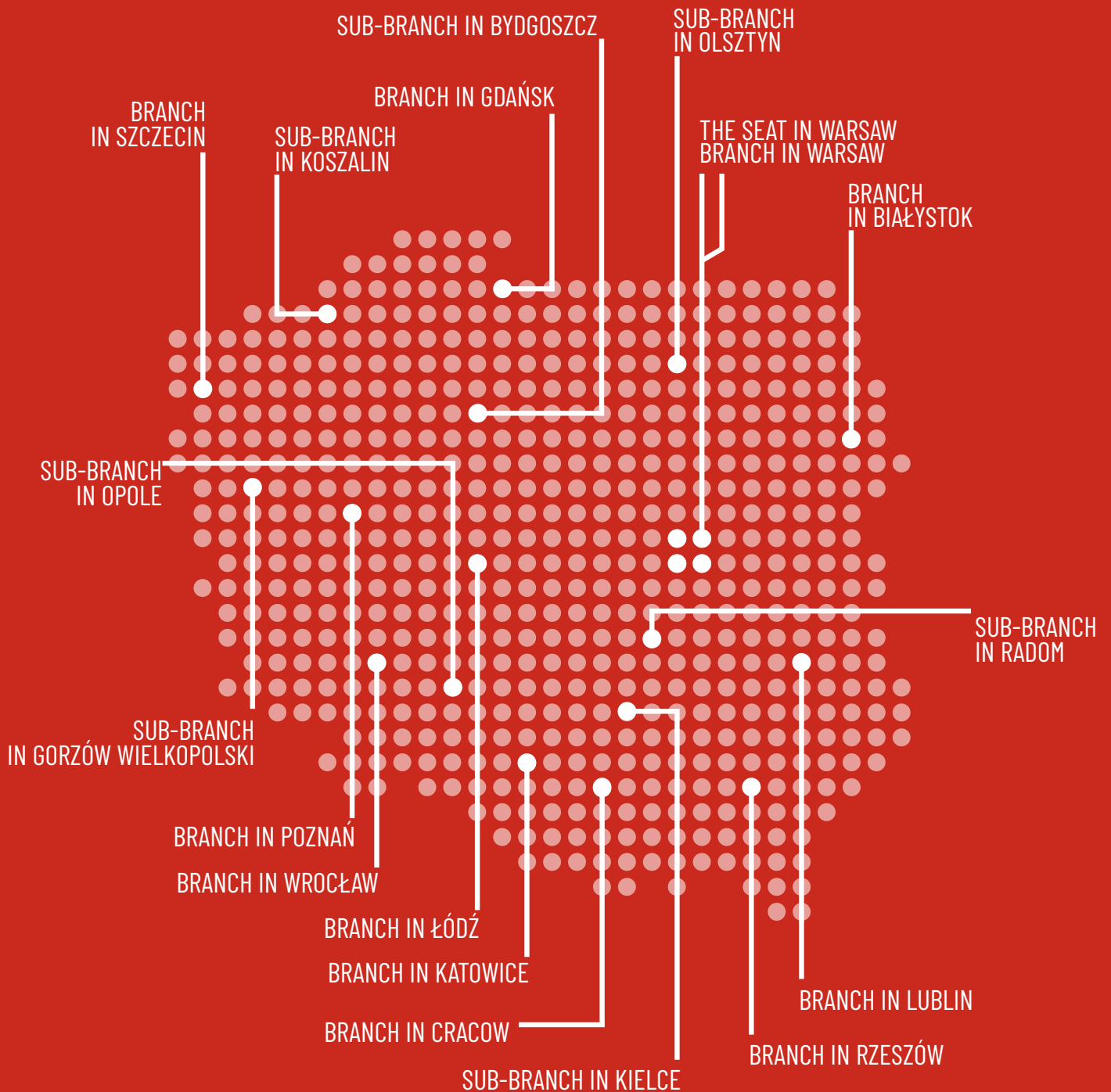
The ACT on the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation of 18 December 1998 (Dz.U.2018.2032, Polish Journal of Laws, 24 October 2018)

# MISSION

## HISTORY SHAPES OUR IDENTITY

The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation deals with historical research, promoting Poland's recent history, and the settlement of the crimes committed against people of Polish nationality and Polish citizens after November 1917, and particularly under communism and during World War II. The IPN, established by the Polish Parliament, **has been operating since 2000.**

# BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES



The seat of the IPN is 7 Wołoska Street, Warsaw. The IPN has **11 branches** in all the cities that have appellate courts: Białystok, Gdańsk, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Łódź, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Warsaw, and Wrocław.

A further **7 cities** (Bydgoszcz, Gorzów Wlkp., Kielce, Koszalin, Olsztyn, Opole, Radom) have the IPN's sub-branches.

# THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE IS

- A **large archive** of Poland's 20th-century history
- A **research** institution
- An **educational** institution
- An institution dealing with the **search and identification** of burial sites of the victims of totalitarian regimes (German and Soviet)
- An institution dealing with **commemorating** the struggle and martyrdom
- A **prosecutorial division** dealing with perpetrators of crimes committed under two totalitarian systems
- An institution dealing with **vetting** declarations
- A **publishing** house

## THE SUBSTANTIAL OFFICES OF THE IPN:

- Archive
- Historical Research Office
- National Education Office
- Office of Search and Identification
- Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom
- Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation
- Vetting Office
- IPN Publishing House



# THE ARCHIVE

The IPN Archive collects, analyzes and makes available documents on the fate of the Polish Nation and Polish citizens of other nationalities in the years 1917–1990. The Institute took over the archives of the communist security organs and the documents of German occupation authorities during World War II. They are available to victims of repressions, researchers, journalists and public institutions.

We have collected over **90 km** of files.



**349,353** archival units have been digitized.



**286,960** photographs have been scanned.



The archive information system makes available **17,048,272** records.



We have completed processing of **3,999,210** applications, queries and reports.

Forms and applications for access to files for research and other purposes can be found here: [ipn.gov.pl/formularze](https://ipn.gov.pl/formularze)



# ARCHIVE

## FULL OF REMEMBRANCE

### WE UNCOVER FAMILY HISTORIES

One of the key projects of the IPN Archive is the Archive Full of Remembrance. It aims at preserving our cultural heritage, including precious documents. It is also a platform for information exchange with potential donators, who would wish to share their family documents with the IPN. A dedicated Internet portal offers information on what kind of documents can be donated to the Institute, how to do it and whom to contact.

[en.archiwumpamieci.pl](http://en.archiwumpamieci.pl)



Over

# 640

people and institutions have applied

donating almost

# 72 meters

of documents.



# RESEARCH

The IPN Historical Research Office carries out historical research of 20th-century history of Poland and the Polish Nation, including the history of Polish emigration, and promotes historical knowledge. It initiates research projects, and organizes conferences and seminars. The researchers analyze documents and write books and other publications which promote historical knowledge.

# CENTRAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The IPN carries out its tasks to do with modern history mainly in the form of Central Research Projects (CRP) realized by teams of scholars from the IPN Headquarters and Branch Historical Research Offices. This work results in syntheses and studies, as well as monographs on the specific topics dealt with in the specific CRPs. Apart from researchers, the projects also involve employees of other IPN divisions (chiefly the National Education Office, the IPN Archive, and the Vetting Office), as well as a number of researchers from other research institutions (universities, Polish Academy of Sciences, etc.).



Currently, the IPN is carrying out 8 research projects.



The Historical Research Office has organized over 800 scientific conferences.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Solidarity and social resistance in the People's Republic of Poland, 1956–1989

Polish pro-independence emigration 1945–1990

The history of Polish Jews and Polish-Jewish relations in the years 1914–1989

The structure and operational methods of the security apparatus in Poland in the years 1944–1989

The communist authorities vis-à-vis the churches and religious organizations in Poland 1944–1989

The fate of Poland and of its citizens during World War II

Polish pro-independence underground 1944–1956

The communist party in the political system of Poland 1944–1989

We are also carrying out 20 regional research projects.



An on-line bibliography is a joint effort of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the IPN. The annual Polish national historical bibliography, comprises non-serial publications (monographs, recollections, accounts, sources), as well as press writings and other publications concerning the history of Poland and its historical territories, from antiquity to modernity, including the history of Polish political emigration and Poles living abroad.

**[bibliografia.ipn.gov.pl](http://bibliografia.ipn.gov.pl)**



**EDUCATION**



# THE IPN NATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

disseminates knowledge of the key events in the history of the Polish nation in the 20th century. It organizes lessons for schools, workshops for teachers, lectures, seminars, competitions and hikes. The office prepares exhibitions, concerts, film reviews, internet portals and modern educational materials for teachers and their students. It collects accounts by witnesses of history and offers free access to materials. Together with the media or on its own, it also organizes campaigns to disseminate knowledge on recent Polish history.



**500**  
exhibitions



**54**  
educational portals



**22**  
educational games

This form of educational activity is addressed to young people. It combines learning with fun.



**4**  
film reviews

Kielce Review of Polish Feature Films "History in Film",  
Szczecin Stories, Volhynia Echoes, Katyn Echoes



**2,000**  
notations

One of the main areas of the IPN's activity is the documentation of historical witnesses' accounts. Thus a collection of accounts is built, which can be used for research and educational purposes.



**over 200**  
educational projects and competitions

e.g. "Soldiers in the Service of History", "Policemen in the Service of History", "The Unconquered 1918" Competition, "Victims of Totalitarianisms", "KL Ravensbrück Female Prisoners' Poetry"



**22**  
educational files

Educational aids for teachers of history and other related subjects at all levels. Each file consists of: source cards (photographs, posters, etc.), student and teacher materials.



Historical Debates  
competition in  
**15 cities**

A national project in teaching history that utilizes the form of the Oxford debate. Secondary school students broaden their historical knowledge on the key issues of Polish history in the 20th century. The project is realized at the regional level by the IPN's branches and delegations. Winners of regional competitions take part in the finals: the Historical Debate Competition.

# THE HISTORY POINT

This is a place where we talk about history, discuss presented films and books, where one can see an exhibition, take part in a workshop or meet a witness of history.

There are

**5**

permanent History Point  
educational centers

and

**26**

cyclical History Point  
centers.



The IPN's History Point centers are in Belgium, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, the USA and Great Britain.

## HISTORICAL CLASSES FOR POLES LIVING ABROAD AND FOREIGNERS ALL OVER THE WORLD

### 13th edition

of the educational conference "Poles living abroad meet recent history"

The aim of the course is to interest teachers working abroad with the value of teaching Poland's and Poles' recent history, acquaint them with the latest educational methods, and maintain contact with the IPN educational division, and to disseminate the Institute's educational publications among teachers.

### 6 editions

of seminars in the 20th-century Polish history for teachers and educators "Poland in the Heart of European History"

This offer is primarily addressed to teachers of history from different countries (primarily from Central and Western Europe). The curriculum includes lectures and workshops conducted by renowned historians and educators specializing in Poland's latest history.

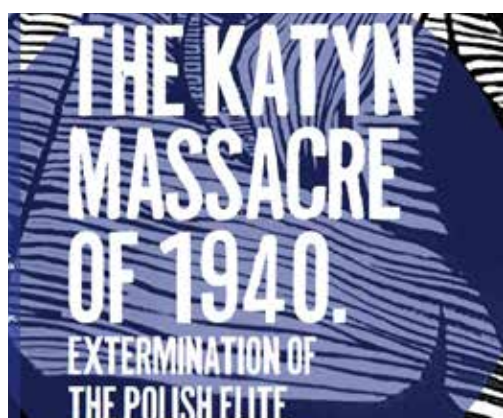
# THE IPN EXHIBITIONS

The IPN's educational offer comprises nearly 500 exhibitions dealing with Poland's recent history. Most of them focus on World War II, and the subsequent communist captivity. They talk about the crimes of both totalitarian regimes against Polish citizens, the resistance of Poles and their prolonged efforts to regain freedom. They recall the fight of the Polish pro-independence underground, the social protests in communist-ruled Poland, the role of the Catholic Church, the unique story of "Solidarity", and the dramatic events of Martial Law.



## **"Between the Walls. Poland under totalitarian regimes 1939-1945"**

The exhibition "Between the Walls. Poland under totalitarian regimes 1939-1945" has the form of an installation, inspired by the walls from the "Unconquered", an animated IPN production, appreciated abroad for an original approach to presenting Polish history. The narrative axis is the outbreak of World War II, its tragic consequences and the fight of the Poles for freedom against the two occupiers. We are introduced into the reality of the war by the curator's texts and photographs placed on the walls of the installation.



The aim of the project "IPN elementary exhibitions" is to prepare exhibitions focusing on issues of fundamental social importance, whose narration focuses on issues that are fundamental and important for the society. The exhibitions can be printed out independently or downloaded by institutions, schools or individuals.

[ipn.gov.pl/wystawy-elementarne](http://ipn.gov.pl/wystawy-elementarne)





# THE IPN PUBLISHING HOUSE



# THE IPN PUBLISHING HOUSE

The IPN's publications have received a number of awards, including:

Prof. Tomasz Strzembosz Award

Polityka [weekly] Historical Award

Honorable mention – Janusz Kurtyka Award

KLIO Historical Publishers' Book Award



over **2,800**  
released publications

Oskar Halecki Historical Book of the Year

Wacław Felczak and Henryk Wereszycki Award

Kazimierz Moczarski Historical Award

Feniks Award, category "history" granted by the Association of Catholic Publishers

## PUBLICATIONS







# PERIODICALS





# POPULAR PUBLICATIONS



# EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



## The IPN Educational Files series

The "IPN Educational Files" offer teachers and students historical sources and teaching materials on Poland's recent history (1939 – 1989)



## The Fighting Republic of Poland 1939-1945

In his study, Maciej Korcuć, Ph.D. presents in the popular form the complex Polish history in the years 1939–1945.



## The Patrons of Our Streets series

The publications present the biographies of twelve World War II heroes.



## The Heroes of Independence series

The brochures present people who struggled for Poland's independence.



# SEARCHES

THE OFFICE OF SEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION conducts searches of unknown burial sites of those fallen in combat and victims of totalitarianisms from 8 November 1917 to 31 July 1990, and restores identity to those who were sentenced to oblivion under communist rule.



# THE OFFICE OF SEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION

[poszukiwania.ipn.gov.pl](http://poszukiwania.ipn.gov.pl)

A team of historians, archeologists, specialists in forensic medicine, and geneticists conducts research and exhumation on a number of sites in Poland. Public opinion is particularly interested in searches in Lot "Ł" of the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw, where the communists hid the remains of nearly 300 victims in the years 1948–1956. Several dozen have been identified, most of them are soldiers of the pro-independence underground, heroes of Poland's fight for freedom.



The searches include Polish citizens (soldiers and civilians) from the period of World War I and II, soldiers of the Polish Underground State and of the second underground, victims of German crimes, communist terror, and Ukrainian nationalism.



Searches and exhumations in:

 **100+**  
places

Already identified:

 **150+**  
persons

<sup>1</sup>Lot "Ł", commonly referred to as "łączka" [Meadow], is located on the southern edge of the Powązki Military Cemetery. It is here that between 1948 and 1956 the communist Security Services buried the bodies of nearly 300 prisoners whom they considered particularly dangerous for the state. The victims of communist terror were placed in unmarked graves, their names being deliberately unrecorded in the Cemetery's main register.





# COMMEMORATION



# THE OFFICE FOR COMMEMORATING THE STRUGGLE AND MARTYRDOM

- initiates care of the places of struggle and martyrdom and permanent commemoration of facts, events, and persons related to these places;
- assesses the state of care over the places and permanent national memorial sites, in particular military graves and cemeteries, cemeteries of the fighters for independence and of the victims of the totalitarian terror, and national memorial chambers;
- issues historical opinions as regards the requests for the permanent commemoration of historic places and events, as well as extraordinary persons related to the history of the struggle and martyrdom;
- cooperates with the emigration and Polish diaspora communities and organizations in Poland and outside the territory of the Republic of Poland, in caring for the places of struggle and martyrdom of the Polish Nation abroad.

The Office also keeps records of graves of veterans of combat for Poland's freedom and independence.



Over 170 memorial plaques have been installed since 2017.



Over 70 statues have been erected after 2017.



# THE IPN AWARDS

## 18 editions

### Custodian of National Memory Prize

Instituted in June 2002, it is awarded for particularly active participation in the commemoration of the history of the Polish Nation in the years 1939-1989, and for public activity concordant with the statutory tasks of the Institute of National Remembrance. Candidates can be proposed by social and research organizations and individual persons. The prize is honorary and the winners receive the title of the "Custodian of National Memory".

## The first edition

### Semper Fidelis Prize

An honorary prize for individuals, institutions and organizations which commemorate the heritage of the Eastern Borderlands of Poland, both in Poland and abroad. The first ceremony took place in October 2019.

## 47 editions in eight branches

### Witness of History

The Witness of History Prize is granted by the IPN's branches to institutions, organizations, and individuals with particular merits for the commemoration of the history of the Polish Nation, and those who help the educational division of the Institute of National Remembrance to carry out its statutory tasks in the areas of education, research and publishing.

## 5 editions

### Witness of History (international edition)

The Witness of History Prize is an honorary award, established in March 2009 by the President of the Institute of National Remembrance. It is awarded to individuals and institutions with particular merits for the commemoration of the history of the Polish Nation and those who help the educational division of the Institute of National Remembrance to carry out its statutory tasks in the areas of education and research.



## 12 editions

### Oskar Halecki Historical Book of the Year Competition

The aim of the competition is to popularize Polish history of the 20th century and promote readership of historical books. The prize is awarded in four categories:

- best scientific book on the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century;
- best popular book on the history of Poland in the 20th century;
- best source edition on the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century, understood as a publication issued in accordance with academic standards, especially one with an introduction and footnotes;
- best memoirs concerning the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century, understood as a diary, accounts or interviews that do not need to meet the standards of scholarly publications.

## 12 editions

### Władysław Pobóg-Malinowski Competition:

#### the best Historical Debut of the Year in recent history

for authors of unpublished master's and doctoral Theses on the history of Poland and Poles in the 20th century. The competition is organized annually. The theses, submitted by the authors are evaluated by the jury appointed by the President of the IPN and the Director of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The winners receive a diploma, a monetary award and a publishing contract for the entire text or its part.

## 7 editions

### Historical Broadcast of the Year Competition

The aim of the competition is to reward and promote recent Polish history in radio or television productions. Radio and television broadcasts are judged in three categories:

- Event – broadcasts concerning a given event or historical process – IPN's President Grand Prix;
- broadcasts on the individual fate of the heroes and witnesses of events – the President Ryszard Kaczorowski Prize;
- Regional history – broadcasts concerning regional history covering the operational area of the IPN's Białystok Branch – IPN Białystok Branch award granted by the Office Director.

# PROSECUTION OF CRIMES

## The Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

Prosecutors of the IPN's investigative division prosecute perpetrators of German Nazi crimes and communist crimes, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Investigations are conducted even when the perpetrators are deceased, in order to clarify the circumstances of the crime and to identify the victims.

**1,135** investigations in 2019

**798** cases of communist crimes

**292** cases of German Nazi crimes

**45** cases of crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes

# VETTING

## The IPN Vetting Office

the analysis of vetting It carries out declarations of people applying for key public positions and the collection of necessary information for a correct assessment thereof. Individuals born before 1 August 1972 are obligated to inform whether they had cooperated with the communist state security organs. An act of admission itself does not result in any sanctions being applied but the so-called "vetting lie" might result in the prohibition to hold public positions for several years. This is designed to serve the transparency of public life. The Office publishes four catalogs: Functionaries of the communist security organs, People under surveillance before 1989, People holding managerial positions under communist rule, and People holding highest public offices today.

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Institute of National Remembrance is a member of the International Council on Archives, the European Network of Official Authorities in Charge of the Secret-Police Files and the Platform of European Memory and Conscience. The results of this cooperation include joint scientific conferences, publications and archival exchange, as well as educational projects.





**INSTITUTE OF  
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Warsaw 2020