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# **OUTLINE OF POLISH-GERMAN RELATION**

## AFTER II WW

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**Summary:** The main problem in the Polish - German was the political situation in Europe that resulted after World War II. Germany was divided into two separate states the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic. FRG was in the zone of influence of the Western Allies and the GDR in the Soviet sphere of influence. Poland found itself in the same block as the GDR, which provided opportunities in the postwar years to talk only with the German state. The subject is interesting because the position of Polish and German Central Europe as the two eternally conflicting and often hate their neighbors throughout history has made the events and history of these countries, it is interesting and exciting. The twentieth century is a period in which relations and hatred reached its apogee. The purpose of this paper is to outline the magnitude of the problems of complex political, economic and social Polish and German.

**Key words:** Poland, Germany, II WW, relation, conflict, international relation.

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#### Introduction

The twentieth century was a landmark in the Polish -German relations. The outbreak of World War I, and consequently its effects or the Treaty of Versailles, the rise and the return of many countries on the political map of Europe and the emergence of many new international relations has changed even more complicated than before. Among these countries is also found in Poland. Poland was reborn in 1918 and strengthened its position in 1920 after winning the war against the Bolsheviks. The main objective of German policy was to weaken the Polish economic and political. Evidence of this was in 1925 to bring about the customs of war in the hope of Polish economic disaster. Second Republic. a policy different from the German, who were to avoid tensions and conflicts as a result of provocative speeches and statements by German politicians. It was introduced after the Soviet Union and Germany have made a deal with friendship and neutrality in April 1926. In the years 1925 - 1929, the German Government by the worsening crisis, and the meager results of economic warfare with the Polish, had to change his attitude towards the Polish. Nevertheless, the German propaganda persist in using anti-Polish slogans. The liquidation of 31.X.1929 the agreement has led to the end of the negotiations on financial claims. Poland renounced against German nationals in its territory further liquidation of property rights.

## A new phase in the Polish – German in the 30s Twentieth century

In the years 1930 - 1939 Polish diplomacy was successful, as the first manifestation was the conclusion of the trade agreement 27.III.1930 which admittedly has not led to the end of the economic war, but the terminator approaching its end. German expenditure on the army spending well above the Polish, and this trend intensified with each passing year, thanks made by secret arms program. The situation prevailing between the USSR and the Polish, Marshal Pilsudski decided to use the policy of balancing relations with the USSR and Germany (Davies 2000). Subsequent successive German governments intensified anti-Polish policy, and German propaganda spoke of the persecution of the German minority in Poland (Roszkowski 1998). Important words of Foreign Minister Jozef Beck "... If the country, alone or with others, wish to attempt at least one square meter of our territory, speak the cannon ... " showing that Poland will not be pressure from the German (Barcz, Tomala 1992).

came to power Adolf Hitler, whose policy is In 1933 based on the weakening of the Polish position. Hitler in 1933, said that it does not seek to change the borders at the expense of other nations. In Poland, they did not believe these assurances, but used it as an excuse to sign a nonaggression pact. The consequence of this was the conclusion of the temporary customs agreement. In Berlin, Józef Lipski met Adolf Hitler 15.XI.1933, Hitler declared himself in favor of a consensus with the Polish, and Poland was considered a bastion of anti-communist. The draft bilateral non-aggression declaration Germany gave Piłsudski 28.XI.1933r. Lipski gave the Polish contra project Foreign Minister von Neurath crowd Konstantinowi 9.I.1934 signed the agreed text, the declaration of non-violence between Germans and the Polish. 26.I.1934 r. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Third Reich Joachim von Ribbentrop on 24.X.1938 proposed RP Ambassador Józef Lipski in Berlin the inclusion of "Danzig" to Germany, the construction of an extraterritorial highway and railway line by the patch of Polish Pomerania, an extension of non-aggression pact of 25 years of cross-border guarantees and co-operation on the emigration of Jews from the Polish, and join the Anti-Comintern Pact. In return, the German side agreed to the German - Polish border. Germany again in 1939 pressured the Polish government to join to the Reich Gdańsk as well as the connection to the Anti-Comintern Pact. In this case, Poland was placed in isolation, because the German policy was focused on the total Polish dependence on Germany. Seal the end of the Polish was the signing of the Pact Ribbentrop -Molotov in Moscow 23.VIII.1939 r. where both parties in a secret clause, divided their spheres of interest in the future.

### The new balance of power after 1945

In January 1949 the German Socialist Unity Party (SED) has declared to be acclaimed German - Polish border on the Oder and Neisse. Polish and German relations based on agreements between the two German states to one of the most important systems was a so-called Treaty of Zgorzelec in 1950 between the Polish and the German Democratic Republic.

The contract defining the boundaries of the 27.I.1951 signed in Frankfurt on the Oder sealed the apparent cordiality

between the Polish and GDR. A breakthrough in mutual relations between the two countries propaganda repeated endlessly. Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in 1953, reiterated that "... no German government never considered the Oder - Neisse." Gomulka in 1956 tried to strengthen economic and political cooperation with the GDR, which in turn could wean the zone from both the FRG and the USSR. but unfortunately, these attempts were curtailed by the Kremlin. It grew more and more of a problem to the lack of recognition by the Federal Oder-Neisse border. Despite the "memorandum of tubing" issued by the Evangelical Church in the FRG in which the government appealed to the West German border recognition of the Oder - Neisse, the Bonn government continued to insist that there is within the limits of the Reich from 1937 until elected in free elections, the German general government (Wolff-Powęska 1993). Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Polish People's Republic of normalizing relations was signed in December 1970 during the visit of Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt in Warsaw. However, in Karlsruhe in 1974, Federal Constitutional Court ruled that Germany still exist within the limits of 1937. Nevertheless, in Bonn impasse in relations between communist and West began to break. A year earlier, in 1973 the communist authorities gave permission for 50 thousand. permits to travel to the FRG year. The agreement of PRL - FRG in Helsinki was the second of September, 1975 (Krasuski 2003).

The same year, the ninth of October in Warsaw, an agreement of PRL - Federal, which provided compensation for Polish victims of Nazi camps and departure of the PRL people who fell to Germans. In the spring of 1976 years supply market deteriorated. Then deluded themselves that further loans and agreements with the FRG signed on 8-12.VI.1976 during his stay in Bonn Gierek help survive the difficulties. 13.XII. In 1981 the communist authorities introduced martial law, which contributed to the deterioration of relations with the FRG. Poland was cut off from the world. Martial law was lifted 22.VII.1983 In later years he continued impasse in Polish politics until 1989 when there was a collapse of the entire communist bloc.

Relations with the FRG gained prominence in 1989 when at the opening of the border between East Berlin and West, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl was in Poland. He interrupted his visit November 9 to take part in a rally as well as an extraordinary cabinet meeting in Berlin. Events such as democratization in Poland, the fall of the Berlin Wall by "Solidarity" and the combination of the two German states in this one historical event that gave real impetus to the Polish -German reconciliation and understanding (Davies 2004). Poles supported the unification of Germany, while Germany voiced his approval of the Polish participation in European structures and the Euro-Atlantic. Entered into force on the concept of "Polish - German community of interests" introduced by Skubiszewski -Minister of Foreign Affairs. "Mass of Reconciliation" in the Cross with Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1989 passed into history. The basis because of Polish relations with a united Germany was a "Joint Statement" adopted by the heads of governments of Germany and Polish. It created a new character of these relations as well as a framework treaty. The continuation of these events was the Polish - German treaty confirming the existing limit of 14 November 1990, in which the united German state recognized the ultimate character of the Polish western border. Another was a treaty on good neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation of 17 June 1991. Established a number of governmental and nongovernmental institutions that served to build mutual reconciliation and understanding.

### **Polish - German reconciliation**

For the discussion between the Polish and the Germans allowed the political changes after 1989, became the key word "reconciliation" (Versöhnung), which brought with it many problems, even if the conditions for the existence of this idea. An international agreement came into force and the Treaties of 1990 and 1991, and foresaw the establishment of the Foundation for Polish - German reconciliation. The Foundation was established 26 February 1992 adopting a register not only to victims but also the allocation of funds, which contributed to Polish - German Agreement. The political elites of both countries are committed to reconciliation, as reflected in a speech Federal President Roman Herzog in Warsaw in 1994

and occurred in Bundestegu Minister Bartoszewski in 1995. An important event in the Polish - German Roman Herzog's visit to Poland in 1994 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. He said then "I bow over the fighters of the Warsaw Uprising, and before all Polish victims of the war. Please forgive me for what was done to them by the Germans" (Łomiński, Stolarczyk 1998). This statement was assessed as an important contribution to bilateral relations. Lech Walesa also gave a speech and said: "I do not absolve the murderers of Warsaw. But these feelings do not move the German nation. We want and we can live with you in friendship. " Foreign Minister Władyslaw Bartoszewski at the invitation of President of the Bundestag Rita Süssmuth gave a speech April 28, 1995 at a special meeting of the German chambers of parliament. This speech was accepted very positively in Germany. There he highlighted the problem of displacement, he stressed that the mass expulsions were a result of World War II. He also mentioned the displaced Germans from Polish territory, and that Poland does not escape moral responsibility (Piotrowski 1997). On the part of Germany was not invited to the celebration of President Wałesa end of the Second World War 8 May 1995 and the compensation was above mentioned call Bartoszewski. Poland stand himself as one of the priority of sentences, since late in 1989, joining the European structures and NATO. Has become popular the use of such slogans as: "a return to Europe, Polish," "Polish contribution to Europe's cultural heritage." It is thanks to Polish aspirations for freedom, Germany paved the way for reunification. It should be also stressed the merits of social, economic and political Polish, which included coverage changes entire East - Central Europe. When Poland signed a cooperation agreement with the European Community 1989, which it supported the country in pursuit of the European Union by Germany.

The 1991 Treaty on good neighborliness and friendly cooperation reflects the shape of the Polish - German relations and the FRG with the task of act on behalf of Europe. The most important part of Polish treaty was Article 8, in which the FRG is obliged to act "... within its capabilities and forces "in favor of the approximation of the Polish Republic to the European Community. The closure of this article is "The Federal Republic of Germany takes a positive view the prospects of Polish Republic to the European Community, which may occur as soon as there are doing the right conditions" (Holzer, Fiszer 1998). As seen above, there were reasons to align and improve relations Polish Republic and the Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

# Community interest in the Polish and German politics

United Germany in a short period of time has become a major economic and political partners for Polish. Both the permanent agreement, as well as close cooperation with the FRG Polish, the most industrialized and politically powerful country in Western Europe, influenced in large part on the shape of pro western Polish foreign policy. FRG also had a great influence on the Polish accession to the EU and NATO. Disputes degree of convergence of interests between the Polish and the Germans took place in the early nineties. One such case was the occurrence of anti-neutrality of the united Germany as well as advocate for the adoption of a united Germany into NATO. German and Polish policy was pro-European government and was intended to overcome divisions and support to such values as respect for human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law and market economy.

It was also felt that the German commitment to European integration will foster the building of the European order and ensuring security and peace of Europe. The priorities that attempted to define Poland and Germany in their relationship was to continue political and economic transformation, and integration and build lasting peace in Europe. The need has also been a balanced approach to the history, cultural heritage and traditions. They wanted good communication between political elites Polish and German. It was felt that the young generation who will step up contacts between them, will seek to bring together communities in the future. An important aspect of this process was also the fact that the media give information objectively so as not to form an unrealistic image of the neighbor. The last priority was to build new partnerships by overcoming the historical burden that weighed on the two countries. Any taboos or white palms had to be removed to build new partnerships.

## Conclusion

Polish and German relations were based on the political situation in better and worse time. It consisted of a number of factors but mainly affect the ideologies existing in the countries, as well as the treaties have been concluded between them. Each period in the twentieth century had its specific impact on the relations of both countries from the turbulent period of the thirties to the early nineties. The years 1918 - 1939 is a period in relations Polish and German most turbulent .

It was at this period in Germany Hitler comes to power, then in 1939 comes to World War II through the fault of Germany. It was then revealed as the Polish and German diplomats were ineffective, leading to a war between the two countries. Of course, a factor that contributed to this state of affairs, was the policy of appeasement the West of the Third Reich.

In the years 1945 - 1989 Polish and German relations are arranged according to the policy of the Soviet Union. Because at that time. Poland was a Soviet satellite. The USSR dictate in advance of his choice policies Poland. Poland had to deal with two German states. This was due to the political situation, because after the defeat of Germany were divided into spheres of influence between the USSR and the Western Allies (the United Kingdom, United States, France). From these zones formed the GDR and the FRG. In the fifties, the only positive diplomatic relations Poland could lead to the GDR as a state was in the same camp. The FRG only in the seventies relationship began to fall into place positively. With the thaw that took place then in the communist bloc was possible. In the last period, the decline for the entire Eastern bloc, Poland and Germany by changing political and economic system to begin to normalize their relations. It was in the years 1989 to 1991 signed agreements regulating the relations of the most important Polish and German.

The unification of Germany also had a big impact on what was happening. Poland does not have to have to talk to two separate German states. It was finally the western Polish border and Germany has committed that they will help in the pursuit of Polish European Union. Polish relations with Germany still arouse strong emotions, because of the historical past, that this factor will ever be able to be neutralized, because he is more of a hindrance than a help in the mutual relations of both countries.

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