# THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE TITUTE

## Our history

The totalitarian regimes, Nazism and Communism, which ruled over Poland and the Poles for half a century, have left a difficult legacy. It is a legacy of crime, hypocrisy, and decades of distorted history. The Polish state and the public at large failed to get over with it in the first years after 1989. This is why the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) was established by an Act of

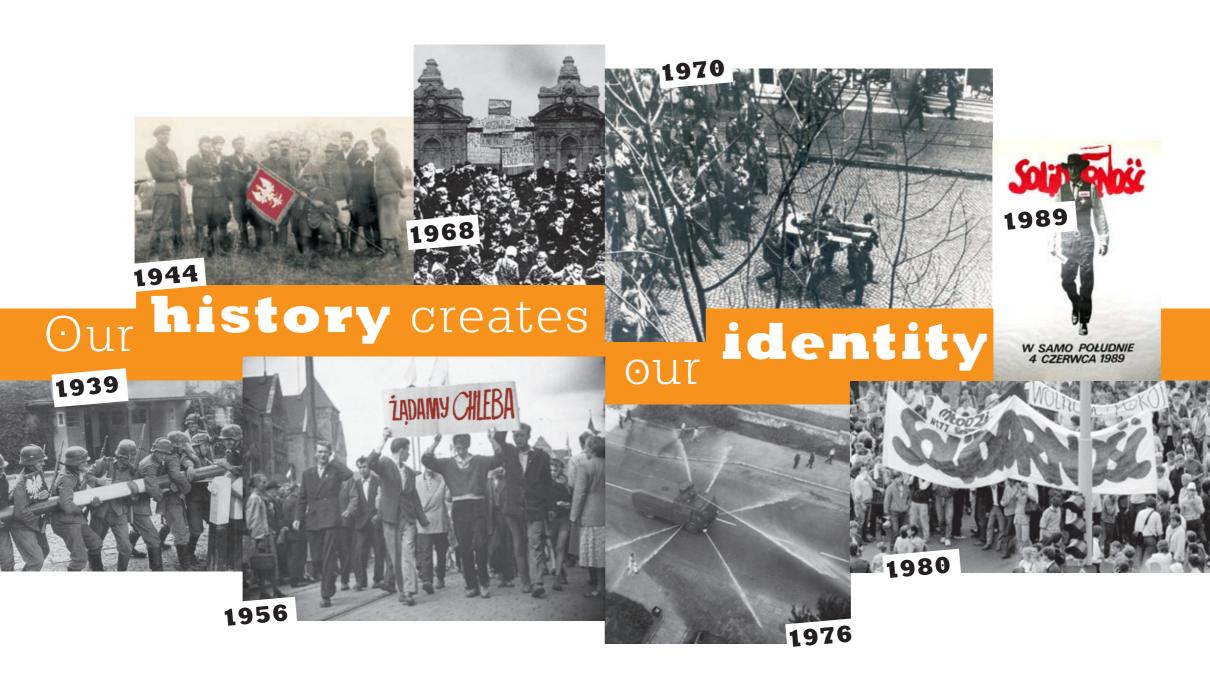
Parliament in 2000.

Its main responsibilities include taking over and providing access to the archives of the Communist repressive apparatus, scientific research and education in the history of Poland in 1939–1989, the prosecution of the perpetrators of crimes committed at the time, and, since 2007, also the verification of vetting declarations.

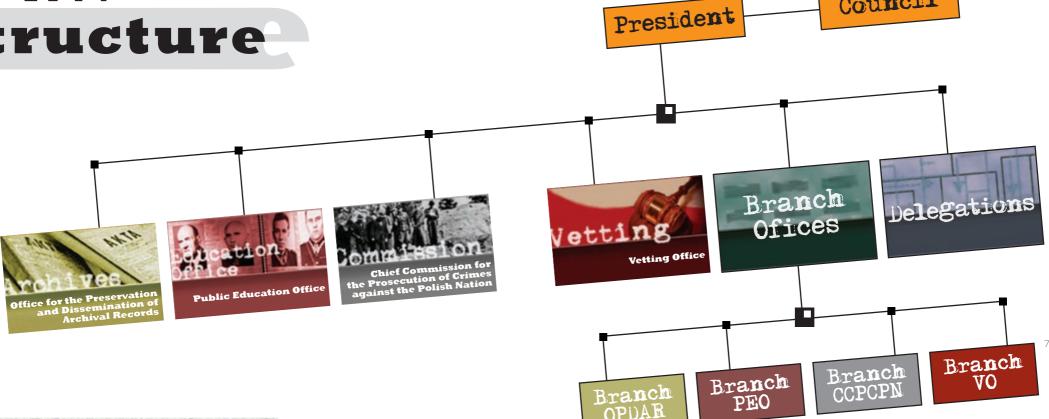
creates our

The IPN exercises its responsibilities through its four services: the Public Education office, the Office for Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records, the Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, and the Vetting Office, all based at the Headquarters. The IPN Headquarters in Warsaw co-ordinates the operations of eleven Branch Offices and the Delegations reporting to the relevant Branch Offices.

identity



### IPN structure



For nearly half a century of the Communist rule in

Poland, the secret political police, commonly known as Bezpieka, built massive archives. They contained not only documents concerning its activities, but also a variety of evidence of the period, reflecting the political, economic and cultural history of post-war Poland.

Therefore archivists form the largest group of the Institute's staff working at its Warsaw Headquarters and at a number of Branch Offices and Delegations. It was them who have carried out the largest archival operation ever in Poland, which involved the taking over of more than 87 kilometres of the Communist repressive apparatus files. Currently they are involved in their processing, preservation, and mainly in providing access to them to the persons who were persecuted by the Bezpieka, and to researchers and journalists.

Council

educational and scientific institution, where

Yet the IPN is not just the largest Polish archive. It is also a major

The IPN's Public Education Office is One of the largest

Publishers of historical books and it has hosted hundreds of
exhibitions presenting various aspects of Poland's history. The
"Bulletin of the Institute of National Remembrance", the IPN's
monthly bulletin circulated to all secondary schools in Poland, is
today the largest historical magazine in the country.

The other autonomous parts of the Institute are the Vetting Office and the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation. The prosecutors working for the latter have been conducting more than a thousand investigations into Nazi and Communist crimes, with numerous living criminals brought to court as a result.

The IPN is also active in the international arena, its main partners being the Institute's counterparts operating in most of the Central European states.



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# Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records

At the heart of the IPN is its archive, called the Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records (OPDAR). It holds more than 87 kilometres of files produced by the Nazi and Communist repressive apparatus over the years 1939–1989. This enormous mass of documents is kept in storage facilities situated in Warsaw and in fourteen other cities.

The Institute's archive contains important documents on crimes committed on Polish citizens during World War II. However, a much larger resource consists of documents produced by the Communist repressive apparatus.

Particularly strong emotions are triggered by materials from what are referred to as "personal information sources", including secret collaborator's (sc) files. A large proportion of the archival resource consists of documents concerning persons whom Bezpieka officers called "figureheads". Mainly for political reasons, the persons were under surveillance and also suffered other repressive measures from the Communist security apparatus.

The volume of materials of an administrative nature is equally large, including orders, instructions, reports or minutes of meetings. All those archival materials are an invaluable source to unveil not only the history of secret services in the Polish People's Republic, but also many key events on which no other records have survived.

Files - records containing information on several million Poles

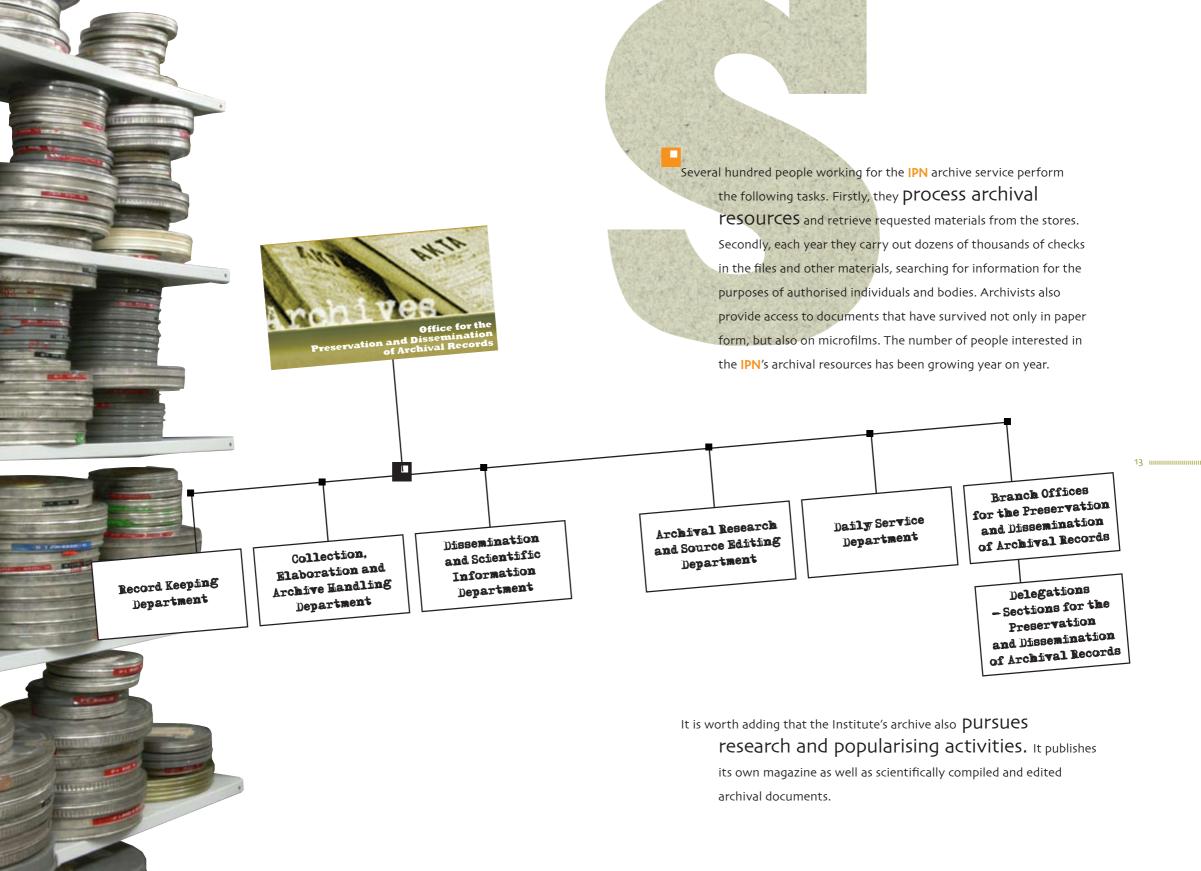
- form a special part of the archive. The archive also holds

iconographic materials (such as photographs) and

audio-visuals (sound and image recordings), which the

Bezpieka confiscated or produced in the course of its operations.







## Archival

### Records







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Department of

Scientific Research, Documentation and

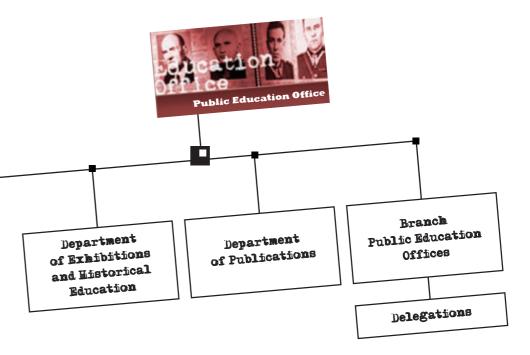
Library Collection

The Public Education Office (PEO) pursues its activities in three areas in parallel: science, education and publishing.

The scientific activities include undertaking research projects, initiating sessions, conferences, seminars, and supporting individual initiatives and communities, especially veteran circles, in commemorating the recent history of Poland. The educational activity is aimed to promote historical education of Poles and to disseminate the historical knowledge in various forms. The editorial and publishing activities, including ongoing presence on the Internet, are aimed to promote, as widely as possible, the issues tackled by the research and educational departments.

The results of research conducted at the IPN archives over the past few years have significantly enhanced and complemented our knowledge of the recent history of Poland. The output is contained in more than four hundred book publications released by the IPN, in the pages of the Institute's three magazines, and in thousands of articles published by the employees in the press.

The Institute has hosted hundreds of scientific sessions and seminars, several dozens of which were of an international nature. At the same time, the employees of the IPN Public Education Office have managed to make many Poles, especially the youngest generation, interested in the history of our country. This goal was furthered not only by more that two hundred exhibitions held since 2000, but also by numerous talks, open lectures, film shows and training sessions for teachers. Dozens of film documentaries and theatrical performances have already been made owing to support from the Institute's staff and with the use of its archival resources.



# scientific activity scient

The scientific research service is involved in research projects based on sources including the archival collection maintained by the IPN. It allows complicated experiences of the Polish nation to be retraced from 1939 until 1989. It should be borne in mind that the history of Poland in the post-war period was treated very selectively, being tailored mainly to cater for the propaganda needs of the Communist regime. Propaganda of success as a manifestation of political and economic achievements was an important feature in shaping the image of People's Poland. Yet at the same time, the propaganda apparatus was carefully hiding from its own nation and from international media the truth of certain events of the wartime, the anti-Communist underground after the war, the years 1956, '68, '70, '76, and '81. The awareness of the Warsaw Rising also evolved throughout the People's Poland era, and it was adjusted to propaganda needs.



remained unaccounted for. Issues pertaining to Polish-Ukrainian, Polish-German or Polish-Jewish relations are still pending resolution.

Separate research is in progress on the measures taken by the Communist repressive (security) apparatus against the 1944–1956 independence and armed underground, the democratic opposition, the Polish communities abroad, national minorities, the Church, artistic and academic circles. All those issues are tackled in research and educational projects developed by the historians employed by the IPN.

Scientific research is pursued by the IPN Public Education Office through a number of national and regional research **Projects.** Some of them are already completed, such as the list of persons sentenced to death for political reasons during 1944–1956.

Research into the World War II period includes both the issues related to the operation of the Polish Underground State structures (e.g. a study by Waldemar Grabowski was published, dealing with civilian administration), the Holocaust in the Polish territory, assistance provided to Jews by Poles, repressions against the Polish population by both occupying forces, etc.

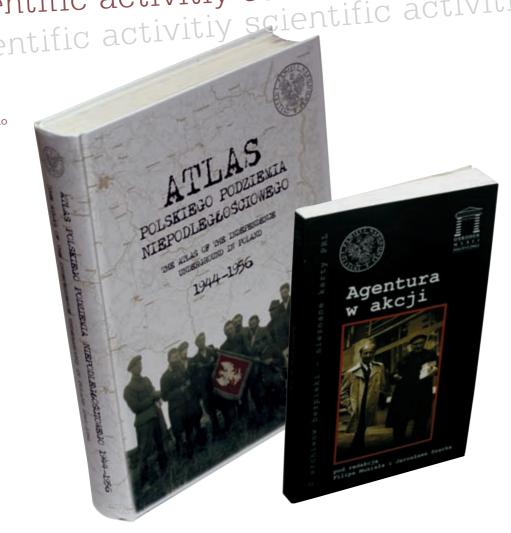
The largest research area encompasses issues related to the implementation and functioning of the Communist system in Poland. Research in this field is focused both on the functioning of the ruling apparatus and on the resistance of the Polish people.

Communist security apparatus, its activities

targeted against different social groups, the Catholic Church and other denominations, the opposition, emigrants, etc., and the methods of control over society. A number of studies have been published so far, describing the activities of the individual territorial structures or divisions of the security apparatus, and the staffing of managerial positions has been retraced and published in three volumes.



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The other category comprises research on different forms of resistance against the Communist rule, from armed struggle to mass social protests of 1956, 1968, 1970, 1976, 1980, to the activities of various opposition groupings. The first

1980, to the activities of various opposition groupings. The first subject has been dealt with in the monumental "Atlas of the Independence Underground 1944-1956". A number of related studies and selections of documents have come out. In 2010, a five-volume history of the Solidarity Trade Union will be published.

Research results are also released in encyclopaedic format. Three volumes of the biographical dictionary "Conspiracy and Civil Resistance 1944-1956" have already appeared (Volume 4 is under preparation), presenting prominent figures of the anti-Communist opposition in the period immediately following the war. An extensive "Biographical Dictionary of the Polish Underground State" is being prepared as well as a monumental "Encyclopaedia of Solidarity".

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The Institute of National Remembrance also supports research projects carried on by other institutions, such as:

"The Index of Poles Murdered and Repressed by the Nazis for Assistance to Jews", compiled in co-operation with the Polish National Archives, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, and the Yad Vashem Institute. Its purpose is to study the scale of Nazi repressions against Poles offering assistance to Jews during the occupation, identify their names, and provide related biographical entries. The IPN's additional specific contribution to the project is to document the places of murder and burial of Polish Jews.

- "Human Losses and Victims of Repression under German
  Occupation 1939-1945". The purpose of the project is to establish
  a database containing the names of the citizens of the Polish
  state who lost their lives or suffered various repressions from
  the German occupying forces. The work performed so far for the
  IPN and under its supervision by documentation experts from
  the KARTA Centre Foundation has involved the
  integration of databases already available and complied by other
  bodies. Currently, the central database contains about 1 million
  records (names).
- "Index of Persons Repressed in the East". It is a project pursued by the KARTA Centre for many years, regularly supported by IPN with appropriated subsidies. Under the project, information on Polish citizens repressed by the Soviet authorities in the years 1939-1959 is collected and disseminated.
- \*Bibliography of the History of Poland". For digitisation purposes, in 2007–2008, the IPN acquired the annual volumes of the "Bibliography of the History of Poland" for the years 1971–1989 and the already digitised annual volumes 1990-2006. They are being successively elaborated and made available on the website at Bibliografia.ipn.gov.pl (36 in total). The project was launched in December 2008. In the following years, the database will be expanded by adding further annual volumes: 2007 in 2009, 2008 in 2010, etc.

The IPN Public Education Office also carries on activities related to the dissemination of knowledge on the recent history of Poland, especially the 1939-1990 period. The offer, addressed to a broad-based school community, includes e.g. lessons, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, presentations, and professional improvement proposals for teachers. As part of the activity, several dozens of initiatives are undertaken each month. However, it is worth noting that the IPN's PEO also has a wide range of proposals addressed to the general public.

The major educational measures pursued by the PEO include the following:

### I'll Tell You about Free Poland - a young people's meeting with witnesses of history.

The educational project is pursued by the Institute of National
Remembrance, the Centre for Citizenship Education, and the
Warsaw Rising Museum. Its purpose is to make young people aware
of events marking the recent history, demonstrate how the civic
society has developed over the past half-century. The experiences
of witnesses of history help young people to reconstruct the past
developments, depict their social context, and allow them to get
a sense of the "ambience" of the past.

### Lessons on the history of People's Poland

A package of school classes delivered by specially trained teacher practitioners. Based on active teaching methods, the pupils will learn about different aspects of reality in People's Poland – from art to economy. Each lesson, drawing on abundant source material, prompts the pupil to undertake a quest on their own.

The package includes five subjects:

- People's Poland a totalitarian state?
- The prosecuted and the terror apparatus 1944–1989
- The use of art for propaganda purposes
- The story of an experiment the economy of People's Poland
- With the national flag through the recent history of Poland.

### **Notations**

The object of the programme is to record testimonies of the participants

(or at least observers) of historic events. This way a collection of
accounts is created, which serve scientific and educational purposes.

In the first place, it was decided to record testimonies on World War
II and the beginnings of People's Poland. Memories were shared
mainly by veterans, Gulag inmates, Siberian deportees, people
connected with the independence opposition and the Church.

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### Testing the historical awareness of Polish youth

December 2006 marked the beginning of a project aimed to probe into the historical awareness of today's secondary school youth in Poland.

Between February and June 2007, a survey of school-going youth was carried out throughout the country, in which a questionnaire was completed by 12 086 respondents. The survey covered questions on the history of Poland, with special focus on the reception of the history of World War II and People's Poland. In 2009, a scientific evaluation of the results of the survey will be published. The resulting knowledge will make it possible not only to streamline the educational efforts of the IPN's Public Education Office, but also to arrive at specific conclusions about the direction of historical education in Poland.

### **Summer School of Recent History**

In the years 2007-2008, the Public Education Office operated the Summer School of Recent History. The school is intended for doctoral students, and in exceptional cases also for senior-year students, who tackle research into issues related to the recent history of Poland. The school's programme includes lectures by prominent scholars studying recent history, discussions, seminars, and workshops (also those involving the use of the security apparatus files in research work). Two editions of the Summer School have been organised so far, both highly approved of by the participants.

### The Polonia Programme

The project is addressed to persons teaching in Polish schools (schools and consulting points at embassies, Saturday/Sunday schools, parish schools) or Polish classes outside Poland. A separate target group consists of Polish citizens seconded to work in the Polish diaspora by domestic centres, mainly teachers sent to work in the East by the Warsaw-based National in-Service Teacher Training Centre.

Under the programme, the employees of the Department of Exhibitions and Historical Education of the IPN's PEO establish contacts with Polish educational institutions abroad, give classes to Polish teachers abroad, organise historical exhibitions, etc. In the years 2006–2008, the PEO employees gave classes in Sweden, Denmark and Ukraine (twice) at invitation of local teachers. The participants of the classes in Ukraine also included Ukrainian teachers and students interested in the Polish-Ukrainian relations, the recent history of Poland, and advanced teaching methods. As a follow-up of the "Polonia Programme", "Meetings of the Polish Community Abroad with Recent History" are held during the summer holidays – a course in the recent history of Poland and related effective teaching methods. Such a course was delivered twice, in 2007 and in 2008, with nearly 100 teachers from all over the world attending (Greece, France, Canada, USA, Sweden, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Lebanon).

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### **National historical competition**

Almost since the beginning of its activities, the Public Education Office has held national historical competitions for lower and upper secondary school pupils. Successive editions are held every other year. In March 2007, a competition was adjudicated, titled "Hopes and Disappointments. Polish Society under Gomułka and Gierek. Experiences of a Witness of History". In the school year 2008/2009, the fourth edition of the competition started – this time called "Along the Road to Freedom – Polish Society in the 1980s. Experiences of a Witness of History". By reaching the witnesses of history and their testimonies (photographs, documents, accounts, memoirs, letters, etc.), the participants of the competition will describe experiences of Poles against the background of the turbulent period of the 1980s.

### **Exhibitions**

Almost 200 exhibitions were held during the eight years of the IPN's activity. They are displayed successfully both at home and abroad. The thematic scope of the exhibitions is highly diversified, with extensive and often unique photographic documentation and archival materials presented. Many of them were prepared with support from regional museum establishments, veterans'

Exhibits are usually mounted on light and simple structures, which facilitates their transport and installation. This is why they can be presented also in small towns, schools, community centres, and regional museums. Outdoor exhibitions have also been held recently, which greatly expanded the audience. Displays are complemented by museum lessons for the youth, conducted by the IPN staff, and by professional development proposals addressed to teachers.

In the recent two years, the following exhibitions have won great acclaim: "Invasion 1968" (delivered in four language versions), "The Expelled" (delivered in English), "Solidarity Fighting" (trilingual version), "Martial Law Victims", "Extermination of Polish Elites. Action AB – Katyń", "People's Poland – So Far, So Near...".

2006 saw the launching of a series of exhibitions showing the key staff of the security apparatus of People's Poland. Shown first was the exhibition "Faces of Cracow's Bezpieka", opened on 2 March 2006. Similar exhibitions were prepared by other branches, with 21 events of the series launched in 2007, including a nationwide exhibition "Faces of the Bezpieka 1944–1990", which opened on 22 July 2007 in Warsaw opposite the former seat of the Ministry of Public Security. The exhibitions prepared in 2008 included "Faces of Jelenia

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### **Educational portfolios**

Educational portfolios are designed as teaching aids for teachers of history and other humanities subjects. Each package consists of three parts: source materials, student's materials and teacher's materials. The portfolios are delivered free of charge to teachers and to representatives of other educational establishments. In 2007, free portfolios were sent to more than 11 thousand lower and upper secondary schools, teachers' libraries, teachers' colleges, and teacher training institutions.

### The following have appeared so far:

- "The Holocaust of Polish Jews during World War II"
- "Auschwitz Memory for the Future"
- "The Primate of the Millennium Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński"
- "The Polish Underground State in 1939–1941"
- "Martial Law"
- "Polish-Ukrainian Relations in 1939-1947"
- "June '76 a Step into Freedom"
- "Poles Saving Jews during World War II"

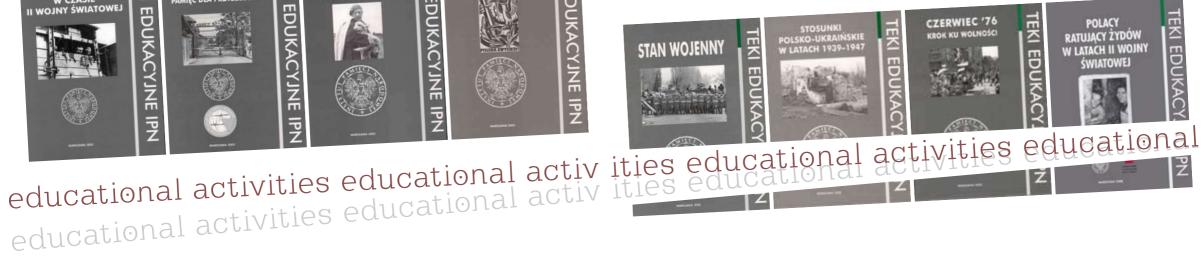


### **Audio-visual materials**

In 2007, the employees of the IPN PEO's Department of Exhibitions and Historical edited and released a DVD titled People's Poland in Films, with fragments of Polish feature films. The disc was accompanied with example educational exercises that could be used during lessons of history, Polish, culture, and other classes. The DVD was distributed to all Polish secondary schools. 2008 saw another release of this type – World War II in Polish Feature Films.

The Public Education Office takes part in annual science popularisation events such as the Scientific Picnic, the Historical Picnic, and the Festival of Science. The PEO employees also participate in scientific and educational conferences.

The day-to-day educational activities of the Institute of National Remembrance are also pursued by relevant sections of the branch public education offices and their delegations. Most of them offer a package of educational measures addressed to pupils in all school types, different forms of improving professional skills for teachers, and a broad-based activity popularising the knowledge of the recent history of Poland.



# publishing activitiy activitiy publishing activitiy

The IPN's Department of Publications is involved in editing content and layout of publications (books as well as academic and popular science articles mainly by IPN researchers) up to the print stage. Books and educational materials have been published since 2000 in the following central series:

- "Documents"
- "Accounts and Memories"
- "Conferences"
- "Monographs"
- "Studies and Materials"
- "Dictionaries"
- "Albums"
- "Educational Materials"
- "IPN Auxiliary Materials"
- "Educational Packages"
- "39/89"
- "Poland and Ukraine in the 1930-40s: Unknown Documents from the Archives of Special Services"

- "He Who Saves One Life..." the series is designed for the publication of books (monographs, collections of documents, albums, memoirs, etc.) dedicated to the history of people and institutions helping Jews during World War II.
- "IPN Bulletin Library" a series of books in which the most important and most relevant articles published in the "IPN Bulletin" will be reminded to the public. The materials will be arranged into thematic sections, e.g. Polish historical politics, the recent history of Silesia, etc. Each volume of the series will be dedicated a single issue of the Polish history 1939–1989.
- "From Emigration Archives" re-editions of the most interesting historical books published in the 1939–1990 period by the major publishing houses of the Polish independence emigration community.

Catalogues and thematic folders are published to highlight exhibitions held by the Institute of National Remembrance.

Since 2005, the IPN branch offices have been preparing publications in branch series.



In addition to books and catalogues, the Institute of National Remembrance publishes the following periodicals:

- \*Bulletin of the Institute of National Remembrance" a popular science monthly dedicated to the history of Poland in 1939–1989. It contains interviews with researchers, witnesses of events, articles by the IPN staff, archival materials (documents and photographs), memoirs. It informs the public about conferences, celebrations and exhibitions held by the Institute, major research and educational projects, major publications. It presents on DVDs films, shows, songs, restores forgotten values and personalities. The 15,000 copies' circulation is delivered mainly to lower and upper secondary schools (as an aid for teachers of history, religion and Polish, etc.), and to selected institutions, media, libraries, and individuals at home and abroad.
- "Remembrance and Justice" presents both the results of research studies conducted at the IPN, and the findings of historians from other research centres, including foreign ones. It contains dissertations, editorial debates, elaborated archival documents, reviews.

- "Repressive Apparatus in People's Poland 1944–1989" the main purpose of the periodical is to enhance, co-ordinate and disseminate research on the Communist repressive apparatus in People's Poland: the Department of Public Security of the provisional Communist government PKWN, the Ministry of Public Security, the Committee for Public Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, military and border special services, prison services, the Civic Militia, the judicature and prosecutor's offices, and paramilitary units. The magazine is divided into several sections covering: methodology, structures, documents, officials' memoirs (in a publication titled "in my own eyes"), biographical entries, reviews, and bibliographical materials.
- "Archival Review of the Institute of National Remembrance" the purpose of the periodical is to present issues relating to broad-based archival science in the context of the functioning of the Institute's archive and the nature of its resources. The issues discussed on the pages of the magazine concern the formation and keeping of archival resources, record-keeping, processing methods, the procedure for providing access, and issues related to deployment of an IT system for archival resource management. The editors attach great importance to archive and file research, and to source studies and popularisation of the resource through critical reviews and editions of the most interesting archival documents.

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Since 2000, the Institute of National Remembrance has released a total of **599** publications, of which 76 in 2006, 136 in 2007, and 151 in 2008.

Meetings with witnesses of history marking major anniversaries in the history of Poland have become a new work formula of the IPN's PEO research staff (combined with public activities and presentation of the results of scientific studies).

# anniversary celebrations, educational websites and other activities of the PEO anniversary celebrations, educational

Martial Law: www.13grudnia81.pl

March '68: www.marzec1968.pl

Captain Witold Pilecki: www.pilecki.ipn.gov.pl

Solidarity Years 1980-1981: www.sierpien1980.pl

In 2009, websites will be launched dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the abolition of Communism and Poland's regaining of independence, and the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

Cultural activities which developed underground, i.e. without consent from the authorities of People's Poland, played an enormous role on the path to independence. It will also be the subject of a dedicated website.

In 2006-2008, co-operation was established with several dailies and weeklies, where historical supplements of published on a cyclic basis, describing major facts from the recent history of Poland.





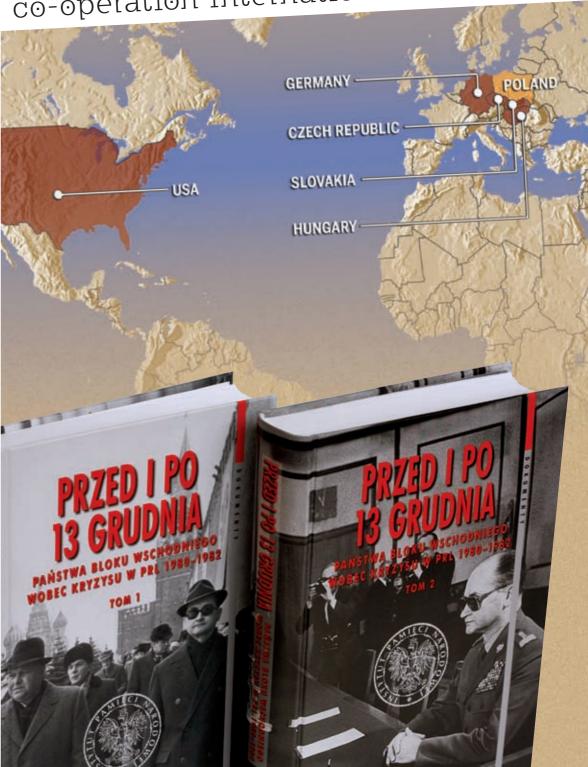




## international co-operation internation internation

In the 2006-2008 period, the Institute of National Remembrance co-operated with partner institutions mainly in the CZECh Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, and the USA. The co-operation involved co-hosting of scientific conferences and undertaking joint research projects. Apart from conferences, the co-operation included projects such as an international edition of the Warsaw Pact documents prepared in a joint effort with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC (the Cold War International History Project). Under the project, the employees of the Public Education Office and the Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records are conducting a preliminary survey of the Warsaw Pact materials. Currently the American partner is in the course of translating the first set of documents. A separate volume is scheduled for preparation in 2009 on the involvement of the Polish armed forces in the invasion of Czechoslovakia, dubbed Operation Danube.

Foreign co-operation (with colleagues from partner institutions in Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary) was also an important part of work on a two-volume publication (which appeared in 2006 and 2007) "Before and after December 13th. Eastern Block States and the 1980-1981 Polish Crisis".



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

Prosecutors of the IPN investigation service conduct investigations into Communist, Nazi and other crimes against peace and humanity or war crimes, committed by Communist state officials, and by security bodies of the German Third Reich and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on persons of Polish nationality or on Polish citizens of other nationalities between 1 September 1939 and 31 July 1990. The prosecutors institute criminal proceedings ex officio, and on the basis of criminal allegations filed by victims, individuals and civic organisations.

More than **900 investigations** are pending into Communist crimes committed by Communist state officials, of which 200 concern repressions against the opposition and the Solidarity Trade Union activists in the 1980s. Prosecutors of the IPN investigation service are conducting an inquiry into the existence of a criminal association in the former Ministry of Internal Affairs, comprising 44 different leads. One of them is the unlawful activity of the Communist state officials against Polish priests, including the Revs. Jerzy Popiełuszko, Stanisław Suchowolec, Stefan Niedzielak, and Józef Zych. The prosecutors are also inquiring into the fatal assault on the student Stanisław Pyjas on 7 May 1977 in Cracow. Intensive action is also in progress in an inquiry into the death of Grzegorz Przemyk.

In the course of the inquiry, charges have already been brought against 20 former officials of the Communist state. The IPN prosecutors have filed a charge sheet against the authors of the martial law led by General Jaruzelski and General Kiszczak.

Investigations are pending into the involvement of Communist state officials into the attempted assassination of John Paul II, the death of the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces General Władysław Sikorski, and the rigged parliamentary elections of 19 January 1947. More than 270 investigations are pending into Nazi crimes and more than 50 investigations concerning crimes of genocide which are not subject to statutes of limitation. The major ones include the investigation into the Katyń crime, which includes measures aimed to identify the personal details of all victims of the crime, and the places of their death and burial.

An investigation is also pending into crimes committed by Germans from the Dirlewanger brigade during the Warsaw Rising, as well as an investigation into the killing of the mayor of Warsaw Stefan Starzyński or into genocide committed in the Warsaw Concentration Camp (Konzentrazionslager Warschau).

The efforts of the prosecutors of the IPN investigation service have resulted in filing more than 240 charge sheets against about 400 persons, and closing thousands of proceedings with final decisions refusing to start an investigation or closing an investigation. The prosecutors of the investigation service prepare and publish "Crimes of the Past", an account of criminal law issues they have encountered in the course of their investigations.

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### The Vetting Office

The IPN's Vetting Office has been in operation since March 2007, pursuing the tasks specified in the IPN Act and in the Act on the disclosure of information on documents of the state security bodies from the period 1944-1990 and the contents of those documents. The Vetting Office receives vetting declarations of persons serving or seeking the public functions specified by law. The Office checks whether vetting declarations are true. If a suspicion arises as to their accuracy, the vetting prosecutor prepares vetting proceedings and requests the court to rule that the vetting declaration is untrue.

At the Vetting Office, catalogues are prepared and published, containing personal data of employees, officers and soldiers of state security bodies, individuals who held senior positions in the political parties PPR, PZPR, ZSL and SD, and who were members of the Council of Ministers or managers of central bodies of state administration of the Polish People's Republic.

In addition, the IPN's vetting service prepares and publishes a catalogue of persons for whom documents are preserved which testify they were under surveillance of the Communist securities bodies.

The catalogue, posted at http://katalog.bip.ipn.gov.pl/, also contains information from the IPN's archival resource on persons holding certain functions in the national and local authorities of the Republic of Poland, as specified by law.

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Katarzyna Dinwebel & Jacek Kotela
PRINT
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Copyright © Instytut Pamięci Narodowej

ISBN 0000000

2009

Poland