

Narrative guidelines
to the script
of the *permanent exhibition scenario*
of the Museum of the
Wielkopolska Uprising
1918-1919 in Poznań

INTRODUCTION

The guidelines are a document developed for the competition for the artistic and spatial concept of the permanent exhibition of the new Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919, complementing the Full Material Exhibition Script. It is intended to indicate to the competition participants their expectations regarding the arrangement of the new MPW, including the construction and layout of the narrative, its atmosphere, mood, interaction with the viewer, possibilities for the use of artefacts, iconography, various types of text, etc. These were presented in the form of a sample dozen 'panels'. By 'panel' we mean a part of an exhibition relating to a single process, event or character.

The theme of the exhibition is the motto:

Work in everyday life, victory in moments of trial

The motto should, prominently displayed and presented in an appropriate graphic and/or symbolic form, be referred to with each new thematic area of the exhibition. The presentation of the slogan should refer to the phenomenon of the history of Poznań and of Greater Poland, to the metaphorical love of freedom inscribed in the DNA of the people of Greater Poland.

Please note:

The tension of the exhibition should be sinusoidal in nature. In addition to 'high', serious and dramatic themes and areas, more 'entertaining', lighter subjects are also expected. The Project commissioner anticipates that some of the narrative elements described below will be presented using 'large-scale exhibition elements', such as a railway station platform, a piece of aircraft, a building façade, an armoured railway train, a historical vehicle, an airship basket. These elements of the exhibition should be properly correlated with the presented museum exhibits. In addition, the project commissioner expects the exhibition concept to take into account the presentation of unique, historically and emotionally most valuable museum artefacts, e.g. the authentic red-and-white armband of an Insurgent, the "Greater Poland to the mothers of the fallen" decoration [Wielkopolska Matkom Poległych] and other artefacts from the Museum's resources, which will accompany all the exhibition modules, according to the

scenario. The term large-format display element is understood by the Project Commissioner who expects from the Competition Participants to include them in the concept of the display in the form, scale and degree of detail representation corresponding to the real possibilities in terms of design and future implementation. For the avoidance of doubt, the Competition Organizer clarifies that it does not expect full-size replicas/models, complete large-format elements, e.g. an entire aircraft, to be designed, but allows for the implementation of fragments of these elements in a 1:1 scale that best reflect the narrative of the exhibition, taking into account the exhibition, impression, utility, as well as any restrictions resulting from the Technical Documentation of the Building of the Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising, with particular emphasis on the space of the permanent exhibition.

The narrative of the exhibition consists of a prologue, six main thematic areas - modules and epilogue:

Prologue

I - from the late 18th century to the outbreak of the First World War - a central theme:

WORK AND FIGHT

The first part covers the following subjects:

- Decline of the Republic of Poland. Greater Poland in the years 1793–1815;
- The policy of the partitioning country and Polish resistance;
- Organic work and its impact on modernisation processes in Greater Poland;

II - The Great War and Greater Poland - a central theme:

FIGHT

The second part covers the following subject:

- Total War and Greater Poland;
- The individual and collective fate of the Greater Poland people on the frontlines of the First World War;
- Greater Poland inhabitant and life in their 'small homelands' between 1914 and 1918;

III - Genesis, outbreak, course and effects of the Greater Poland Uprising (1918-1920) - a central theme:

VICTORY

- From conspiracy to Polish governance;
- "Symbol of an idea". Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań and the outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising;
- "To surprise and win." The sum total of 'local uprisings' in the Greater Poland region;
- The Greater Poland Army and the (Greater) Polish-German War;
- A victorious truce. Trier and Versailles;

- The people of Greater Poland in the struggle for the borders of the Second Polish Republic;

IV – The people of Greater Poland in the struggle for the borders of the Second Polish Republic; A central theme:

VICTORY

- In the turmoil of battle on all fronts of the struggle for the borders of the Second Republic of Poland;
- Greater Poland's contribution to the recovery of lands granted to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles;
- "Granary" of the Republic of Poland: Greater Poland as a hinterland of the struggle for the borders of the Second Republic;

V – Greater Poland in the Second Polish Republic. A central theme:

FREEDOM

The fifth part covers the following subjects:

- Socio-economic development of Greater Poland;
- The Universal National Exhibition;
- Greater Poland and Poznan - science, culture, art;

VI – Memory of the Uprising and Insurgents. A central theme:

MEMORY

The sixth part covers the following subjects:

- living memory (1919–1939);
- forbidden memory and martyrdom of the Greater Poland insurgents (1939–1945);
- appropriated memory; memory recovered (1945–1989; 1989–2023).

Each part may begin with a symbolic installation referring to the leitmotif.

Epilogue

PROLOGUE

The visitor begins by reading the Intro (curatorial text) - 1800 characters

Then the visitor sees a map of Greater Poland from the 18th century Our suggestion is to consider 'bringing the map to life' by introducing animated elements.

For example, mills, barges sailing on the Warta River, peasants ploughing fields, smoke rising from chimneys, a horseman, a carriage, etc. can be animated.

The map is accompanied by a commentary:

A quote from the historical period regarding landscape, inhabitants etc.

Text displayed and read from the speaker:

Sample text:

See the history of thousands of inhabitants of Greater Poland, their lives and fight for freedom according to the motto "work in everyday life, victory in moments of trial".

This should be the first "wow effect" of the exhibition.

PART I

This is where the actual exposition begins, initiated by the timeline. The timeline should have an attractive form, e.g. it could contain interactive elements.

Note: **the tour path is delineated by a timeline.**

Timeline for Part I

1772 - First partition of Poland. Szubin, partly the Noteć lands come under Prussian rule.

1793 – incorporation of Greater Poland into the Kingdom of Prussia.

March 12, 1794 - the beginning of the Kościuszko Uprising.

September 1794 - General J.H. Dąbrowski's expedition to Greater Poland.

1795 - Third Partition of Poland – the collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1797 - the establishment of the Polish Legions in Italy.

1806 - the first victorious Greater Poland Uprising - J.H. Dąbrowski and J. Wybicki entered Poznań

1807-1813 - Greater Poland in the Duchy of Warsaw.

1815 - the creation of the Grand Duchy of Posen under the rule of the King of Prussia.

1823 – beginnings of enfranchisement of peasants in Greater Poland.

1829 – founding of the Raczyński Library.

November 29, 1830 - the outbreak of the November Uprising.

1831-1832 - birth of the idea of organic works.

1835 – founding of Casino Gostyńskie.

1842 - opening of the Bazar hotel in Poznań.

1846 – Poznań receives the first railway connection.

1846 - an attempt to start an anti-Prussian uprising in Greater Poland.

1848 - Springtime of Nations. Formation of the National League.

1857 - establishment of the Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences
1859 – the first issue of Dziennik Poznański is published in Poznań
1861 - the establishment of the Central Economic Society.
January 22, 1863 - outbreak of the January Uprising.
1871 - unification of Germany. Foundation of the German Empire.
1871 – establishment of the Association of Polish Commercial Companies, the headquarters of Polish credit companies in Greater Poland.
1872 - Kulturkampf begins
1875 - opening of the Polish Theatre in Poznań.
1880 – the first horse-drawn tram line starts operating in Poznań.
1884 – establishment of the first TG "Sokół" society in Greater Poland.
1885 - the Prussian expulsions of Poles
1886 - establishment of the Colonization Commission: Königlich Preußische Ansiedlungskommission für Westpreußen und Posen
1901 - strike of Września children, a wave of protests covers the entire region.
1912 – establishment of the Greater Poland scouting
1912 - establishment of the Polish football club Warta in Poznań
June 28, 1914 - The Polish choirs gathering in Poznań.
June 28, 1914 - Assassination of Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo.

Panel I - The first victorious uprising

Text: Greater Poland at the turn of the 19th century - 1800 characters

Text: Greater Poland Uprising 1806 - 1000 characters

Sample bios: Napoleon Bonaparte, Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Józef Wybicki, Jan Amilkar Kosiński.

The dominant element should be an installation referring to the illustration showing J.H. Dąbrowski's entry to Poznań.

You can use a quote from "Pan Tadeusz" ["Sir Thaddeus"], by Adam Mickiewicz:

All Greater Poland roads

Full of fleeing Germans, crawling like ants under their load—
carts that they call wagons and drays, dragging.

Men and women followed with pipes and teapots,

crates and feather bedding. They scuttled away
They scratch as much as they can. nervously, as though they ran from rifle shots.
Hey on the horse, confuse the Germans with a retreat!
To pummel the Governor and tear the chops

off the Hofraths—the officers unseat.

Only General Dąbrowski stops

our fun, entering Poznan with the command

straight from the Emperor—Insurrection!

And so in just one week, throughout the land,

Prussians were taught a serious lesson.

Couldn't the same be done, turning the trick

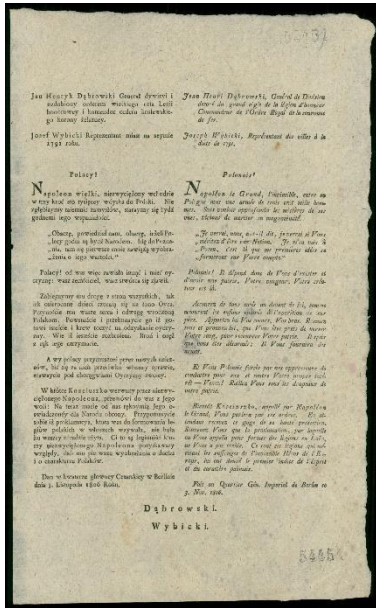
against the Moscovites in our nation?

Quotations:

Dąbrowski and Wybicki's appeal to the Poles, November 3, 1806.

*“Napoleon the Great, invincible, enters Poland in three hundred thousand. Let us not delve into the mystery of his designs, let us try to be ready for his magnanimity. I will, he told us **I will see if Poles are ready to be a nation. I am going to Poznań, where my first ideas about its value will form. Poles! It is up to you to exist and to have a homeland – your avenger, your creator has appeared.***

Sample illustration



References: Polona, sign. DŹS IA 3a Cim.

Quote: J.H. Dąbrowski at the swearing-in of the troops, January 1, 1807.

“The year 1807 is the first in which each of you begins your life, because whoever did not have his homeland can be counted among the dead. This land, on which you walk freely today, has only known its true children since then, when it sees you gathered for its protection.”

Sample exhibit:



The flag of the mass mobilisation of armed forces of the Gniezno province, Greater Poland, 1806 - reverse. Photograph from the collection of the District Museum of Leon Wyczółkowski in Bydgoszcz, reference number MOB H-897. Photograph W. Wozniak.

Text: Napoleon in Poznań - 1000 characters

Quote:

Hugo Sommer

"Poznań took over the role of the centre of the European world"

Infographics showing the course of the Uprising.

Text: Balance of the Uprising - 1000

Panel II - Congress of Vienna and the creation of the Grand Duchy of Posen

Text: The Congress of Vienna and the creation of the Grand Duchy of Posen - 1800 characters

Sample illustrations:



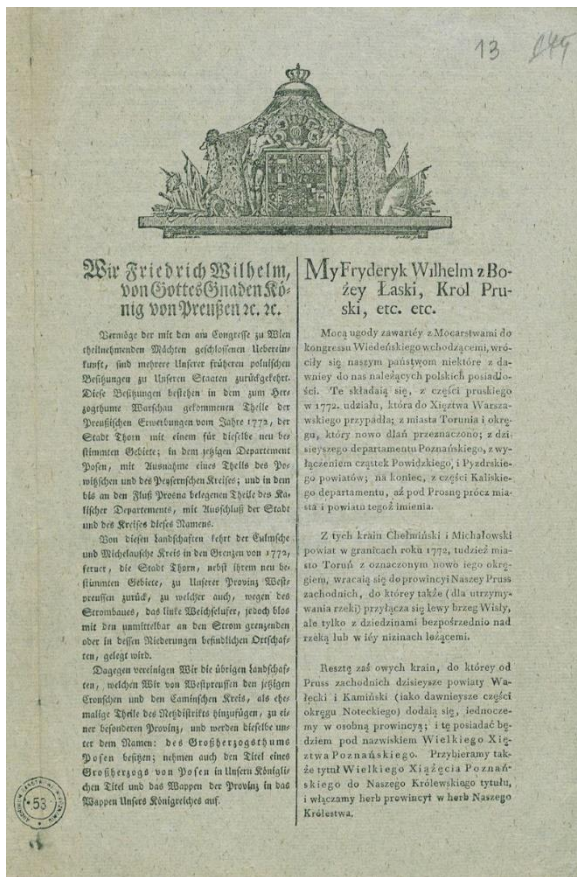
Caricature - Congress of Vienna "La Balance Politique", by: Ferdinand Victor Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863), publisher: De l'imperiere de FAIN, rue de Racine, pres l'Odeon, Paris 1815, Polish Army Museum.

Caricature of the Congress of Vienna

In the description, it is necessary to decipher who is who in the graphics.

Iconography showing the Polish state case at the congress, including the establishment of the Grand Duchy of Posen.

A quote concerning the proclamation of the Grand Duchy of Posen by the Prussian king.



A part of Patent of the Prussian King Frederick William III of May 15, 1815, establishing the Grand Duchy of Poznań. References: AP in Poznań, ref. no. 53/290/0/1

Iconography showing the demographic, ethnic and economic situation of the Grand Duchy of Posen at the beginning of its creation, possibly also its evolution in the following decades.

Map of the Grand Duchy of Posen

Text: Poznań (posen) - the city of three nations - 1800 characters

Infographics

Text - Political resistance against the invaders - Poznań Centralisation and the Greater Poland Springtime of Nations, participation in the January Uprising - 1800

Text - Poznań - a rebellious city I (Independence conspiracy until 1918) - 1800

Text - the uprising of 1848, the rise of nationalism, from the 1000 Braves to Anti-Polonism - the gap between Polish and German Romanticism– 1800 characters

Panel III - Greater Poland in the era of the industrial revolution.

Text - Economic and social changes in Greater Poland in the 19th century - 1800 characters

Visitors are greeted by a hologram of Hipolit Cegielski, who with a gesture invites them to his agricultural machinery factory.

Large-format scenography elements: a fragment of the factory according to the graphics from the era, the use of sounds and smells.

Quote:

Cegielski, as far as the Polish state case was concerned, from his earliest youth until the last moment, held firmly to one principle - organic work. He considered the first and most sacred duty to awaken love for the homeland in hearts, to cultivate and cherish national elements everywhere and in everything, to support and enrich the whole and individuals morally and materially, in order to have the foundations and materials, if the building could ever be erected.

Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Hipolit Cegielski: posthumous memoir composed of notes given, Poznań 1868, Polona, sign. 482.754

The Stargard-Poznan iron railway appears among the examples of investment.

In the various sections of the exhibition, it is suggested that we introduce '**Time Capsules**' (working name) - individual examples referring to and illustrating the events discussed. Such a monographic representation could concern cities or people.

Please note: "The time capsule" should be designed to be a distinctive and eye-catching element of the exhibition

"Time capsules":

The province of Greater Poland in the 19th century on the example of Trzemeszno.

Trzemeszno - text of 1800 characters.

Suggested thematic scope:

- History of the Lower Secondary School, most famous alumni.
- Springtime of Nations 1848.
- Conspiracy - "Zan" National Society.
- January Uprising 1863.
- Everyday life, relations with the Jewish and German population.

- Economic development - the activities of the Loan Fund, the Industrial Society, the importance of the railway line connecting Trzemeszno with Poznań.
- Establishment of social and professional organizations - 1889 - Volunteer Fire Department.

Quote related to Springtime of Nations:

Anything fit to bear arms was aiming for the ranks and the forming insurgent units. Goński, the mayor of the city, joined the ranks as a volunteer, professors Molina and Piegsa were the commanders of the scythemen's units, and the older youth joined the national units with willingness and dedication, either to cavalry, or to shooters or scythemen. Even the drummer was our alumni, Priman Lemieź, later Fr. and Pastor in Sadki.

Walerian Woydt, From the memories of an old veteran.

Quotes to the January Uprising:

Bullets were poured, charges were made. Saddlers sewed pouches and broadsword belts, blacksmiths sharpened sabres and cutlasses... Together with a few friends (...) we left in a hired carriage to Miaty in the evening. The rest of the fellows on foot, according to the clues, moved out of the city a few at a time.

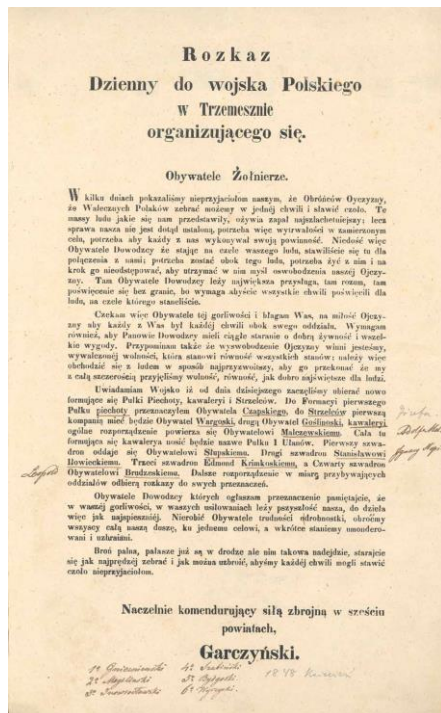
Wacław Zaremba, Garczyński's expedition and the Prussian prison.

Saturday, February 28, 1963

Dearest Parents!

We are leaving Trzemeszno in a few minutes. Weapons, packages taken out, await us in the forest. At 6.30am we set off through the forest, right up to the border. This was ordered by the Gniezno committee. And now he comes to a sad thing, but a joyful thing at the same time. We bid you farewell, Dearest Parents, Farewell, dear sisters, but soon we will welcome Polish governments, we will see, so to speak, the promised land.

An excerpt of a letter from Alfons Laskowski, an insurgent of the January Uprising, who died in the Battle of Mieczownica.



Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences, ref. 77677.IV

Panel IV - Promoters of organic work and their works

Text: Organic work - 1800 characters

Large-format scenography elements:

e.g. the façade of Casino of Gostyń, with the possibility of passing through the door, inside the visitor should find out what the idea of organic work was all about, see the most important figures, as well as a map of Greater Poland with marked towns and examples of organic initiatives.

Biographies and iconography of outstanding organic work promoters (800 characters): e.g. Karol Marcinkowski, Dezydery Chłapowski, Hipolit Cegielski, Seweryn and Maciej Mielżyńscy.

Panel V - Germanisation

Introductory text - 1800 - characters

A large-format scenography element:

e.g. 1:1 model of the Drzymała car with the possibility of entering.

Scenery element:

A symbolic presentation of school strikes, including the strike in Września. For example, an installation with life-sized figures - children and adults accused in a criminal trial. The appropriate texts are read from the loudspeakers: e.g. the indictment, fragments of the defence speech. The visitor walks past the figures and passes them by.



Regional Museum in Września



Regional Museum in Września

Text - September and school strikes - 1800

A map or infographics illustrating the reach of the strikes, the use of stories, photos, caricatures from the era.

Please note: the visitor should learn about the fate of children taking part in school strikes, and then, as adults, fighting in the Greater Poland Uprising.

Panel VI - Everyday life of Polish Poznań in the second half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century.

Text - Polish Poznan, everyday life. Cafés, cabarets, entertainment, fashion, sports - 1800 characters. A separate part of the exhibition devoted to the Polish Theatre.

This should be an "entertaining" part, where you can sit down and relax.

Sample pictures:



Poznań Old Market Square, 1911, photograph: Joseph Latzel, cyryl.poznan.pl / Brigitte and Everhardt Franßen



Ostrow Tumski, photo: Joseph Latzel, cyryl.poznan.pl / Brigitte and Everhardt Franßen

Large-format stage design element:

For example, we suggest the reconstruction of a street or a café (e.g. 'Bawaria' or the Grand Café Restaurant), the use of music, fragrance, e.g. coffee, etc.

In the café, he meets seated figures and can listen to their life stories. These should be outstanding, colourful, famous figures from various decades of the 19th century. (based on e.g. a text of: Marcelli Motty, Strolls around the city [przechadzki po mieście], Poznań 1889, PAN Kórnicka Library, ref. 16334/1

Example characters: Antoni Leitgeber,

Anthony Fiedler

Julia Molińska-Woykowska from Poznań George Sand (as the first in Greater Poland, discusses the liberation and education of women, opposing the traditional model: the husband as the head of the family, earning its maintenance, the wife as having "weaker mental powers", submissive spouse and mother).

Quote:

“While the world was following George Sand's life with feverish interest, provincial Poznań was boiling over with gossip about a young, carefully educated, twenty-four-year-old teacher, Julia Molińska. This person [...] preached world-clamping slogans, breaking not only the binding conventions, but, horror of horrors, undermining the social order”

A separate panel devoted to Helena Modrzejewska and her performances in Poznań.

Quote:

Performing in Poznań, my intention was to awaken your sympathy for the noble and zealous work that you see every day on the boards of the local stage, work whose main goal is to maintain this jewel of our nation - the Polish language. It is known in what circumstances this theatre was established and what difficulties it has to fight in its relations here. Well, I, a daughter of this land, your sister, I come from distant places and, taking advantage of your kindness, I raise my pleading voice: support Polish theatre!

Helena Modrzejewska

Reports published in "Dziennik Poznański" can be used.

Panel VII - Greater Poland at the beginning of World War I - text 1800

Infographics showing the national structure, the state of the economy.

Through artefacts, iconography, sound, the visitor should feel the rise of the revolt, the social ferment, the birth of the modern conspiracy that will eventually lead to the Uprising.

Biography of Wincenty Wierzejewski - one of the creators of POW ZP - 800 characters.

Scenery element:

e.g. a scenographic reference to the gondola of an airship with the possibility of getting inside and taking a "flight" over Poznań. On the screen, photos showing Greater Poland and Poznań in 1914. VR and AR techniques to be considered.

This should be another "wow" effect.

Stories

This is where the story of Frank Kaczmarek is introduced. The chronological range of the story: the end of the 19th century - opening of PWK - 1956.

The story should be presented in such a way that the visitor can take it as an alternative tour.

The text will use authentic memories, accounts and letters of participants of the Uprising.

The story should be presented graphically.

Preliminary premise of the story:

Franek Kaczmarek - a Pole born in Greater Poland near Pniewy (we make the initial assumption that he was born in 1895, into an impoverished intelligentsia family (e.g. his father was a pharmacist), received a patriotic upbringing and finished primary school. He is interested in history and his mother tells him about historical events in which his ancestors participated. This part focuses on the story of his great-grandfather and his participation in the Greater Poland Uprising of 1806. The family keeps a letter describing Gen. Dąbrowski entry to Poznań. ... (quote)

The main points of the narrative:

- the life of Poles in Greater Poland, the fight against Germanisation, Polish socio-political organizations - a description of "Sokół" ["Falcon"],

he comes to Poznań to visit his aunt and uncle, he visits a café for the first time, he attends a match: Ostrovia Ostrow Wkp. – Warta Poznań in 1913, before the outbreak of World War I, attended a concert by Feliks Nowowiejski;

- the outbreak of World War I and the combat trail within the Prussian army. Letters from the front, war postcards;

- November 1918 he is on leave in Poznań, he witnesses a soldier's revolt, enlists in the Guard and Security unit, stays in Poznań, witnesses Paderewski's arrival, takes part in the fight on Wilhelmsplatz (Freedom Square - "Plac Wolności").
- he learns about important events/battles from the letters of fellow soldiers from other units, e.g. Jan Kąkolewski's account of the Battle of Brzozza, the topic of the insurgent armoured trains, the fragment concerning the participation of the 15th Poznań Uhlan Regiment in the Polish-Bolshevik war;
- the interwar period and the outbreak of war - he lives in Poznań with his beloved, in 1926 his son - Tadeusz is born, he is with him at the ceremonial unveiling of the Monument of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, tells him family stories, works in the Cegielski factory, the son is fascinated by the factory. PWK is an important event. They visit with the whole family. In September 1939. Franciszek is mobilised, gets taken prisoner, a trace of them disappears. The son writes unsent letters to his father describing the everyday life of the occupation, e.g. the change of street names, as well as the Nazi terror - Fort VII.
- the end of the war, destroyed Poznan, the Red Army, everyday Stalinism, Tadeusz starts work at ZISPO. June 1956, living with the stigma of a troublemaker. He does not lose hope that his father will return and that freedom will come.

PART II

Timeline for Part II

July 28, 1914 - the outbreak of World War I.

1915 - Germany occupies the territory of the former Congress Kingdom of Poland.

1916 - Battle of Verdun.

November 5, 1916 - by the act of the German and Austro-Hungarian emperors, the Kingdom of Poland was established.

April 1917 - accession of the United States to the war on the Entente side.

June 1917 – the beginnings of the formation of the Polish Army in France.

January 1918 - President W. Wilson announces 14 points regarding future peace in Europe.

February 1918 - establishment of the Polish Military Organization of the Prussian Partition in Poznań.

March 1918 - the defeat of Soviet Russia in the war against the Central Powers.

November 1918 - revolution in Germany, abdication of Wilhelm II.

November 1, 1918 – the beginning of Polish-Ukrainian fights for the city of Lviv.

November 10, 1918 - Józef Piłsudski arrives in Warsaw from Magdeburg.

November 11, 1918 - Poland regains its independence. Józef Piłsudski becomes the Chief of State.

November 11, 1918 - Germany signs the armistice in Compiègne.

Panel VIII - World War I and Greater Poland

Text: Poznań and Greater Poland in World War I - 1800 characters

Film, sound, reports, memories.

A symbolic representation of World War I

The visitor passes, for example, through a curtain on which a bomb explosion is projected, walks through a narrow passage imitating a trench. Embedded in the walls of the trench are monitors with films, reports and display cases with artefacts.

The visitor learns what everyday life was like during the war.

Daily life during the war, including food supply.

Iconography: e.g. food stamps.

Quotations:

"The Poznań magistrate decided to prevent the lack of vegetables by calling on gardeners, farmers and owners of larger areas of land in the vicinity of Poznań to immediately sow a fast-growing vegetable. Youth organisations will provide the strength to work. Those wishing to sow the vegetable can apply to the office of the Urban Horticultural Administration at the town hall."

References: Dziennik Poznański, No. 185 / 14.8.1914

"The land councillor of the Pleszew district has established the following maximum prices: a litre of milk 16 fen., a Mandel of eggs 1.30 m., country butter 1.50 m., butter from a dairy 1.70 m...."

References: Dziennik Poznański No. 148 / 3.7.1915

"...Theft of fruit and vegetables is the order of the day. There is hardly a garden in Nakło that is not visited by amateurs of other people's goods, fortunately in this case police sergeant C. managed to catch the leader of the gang in the person of a son of a lower railway official ..."

References: Dziennik Poznański No. 209 / 14.9.1917

"There are voices in serious German authorities that not only on Tuesdays and Fridays - as before - but also on Mondays and Thursdays you should not eat meat. Therefore, a relevant regulation can be expected soon in the interest of a more economical consumption of meat..."

References: Dziennik Poznański No. 35 / 13.2.1916

The military authority sent the first shipment of donations to the soldiers of the army's fifth corps into the battlefield. The warehouses of the two official places here for the reception of donations are completely emptied. More donations are needed. In addition to money, the following are desirable: coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate, fruit juices, wine, cognac, cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, pipes, matches, tinned food, rusks, sugar, smoked sausage, smoked lard, ham, then soap, bandages, shaving implements, deer tallow, books, writing paper and envelopes, postcards, underwear, shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, bed linen, quilts, towels.

References: Dziennik Poznański No. 198 / 30.8.1914

Iconography: e.g. war propaganda

It is recommended to use fragments of letters, reports, recordings, films.

Quotations:

Excerpt from a letter sent from Flanders by Witold Hulewicz, a soldier in the telegraph unit, which was published in the Kurier Poznański, no. 87, 14 April 1916:

"We were expecting an attack and we were not mistaken; we were alerted - we had to put on masks against the gases. Between 4 and 6, all hell broke loose. (...) For the first time since I was back in the field, all kinds of weapons were in combat. The hail of iron was pouring down from the sky so thickly that the shot could not be distinguished from the explosion of bullets.

G.A. Wroński, Diary of an unknown soldier. War experiences on the Western Front 1914-1919, Śrem 1934:

Approx. At 7 o'clock in the morning strong French lines appear, rushing to storm our trenches. Hand grenades fall like stones and burst in a circle, tearing apart the remains of wire entanglements. No strength to defend. There is only a dozen or so survivors who are running away as hard as they can. Further assault lines follow and capture our ditch, killing the rest of our comrades or taking them prisoner. They are densely occupying our ditches and continue to fire from rifles, greatly supported by artillery.

This panel ends an installation symbolically representing the end of World War I, e.g. **broken barbed wire, a pile of helmets and gas masks from the era, a rifle with a broken bayonet, dog tags.**

The horror of war should be shown through installation, sound and photography.

Exemplary large photographs of wounded soldiers.



Library of Congress, ref. 17756

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017682754/>



Library of Congress, ref. 18221

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/anrc.18221/>

Showing the horror of war, for example, through the set design referring to the military field hospital from the period of World War I.

Panel IX - 0 o'clock

Text: End of the Great War. Poznań at the threshold of a new order in Europe - 1800 characters

The visitor sees what the day of the end of the war looked like. The joy of European capitals, the fight on Polish lands.

What is happening on November 11, 1918. What is the situation in Warsaw and Poznań, what is happening in Poland, what is Europe like. A collage of photos, fragments of letters, memories, films, newspaper clippings.

Attention: it should be strongly emphasized that at the end of the war Poznań was on German territory and was not administered by the Polish authorities.

Sample pictures:

Lviv



NAC

Picture description: Soldiers and residents of Lviv on the market square. Visible cars.

Event date: 1918- 11

File no. 1-H-356-10

Warsaw



NAC

File no. 1-H-312-1

PART III

Timeline for Part III

November 1918 - beginnings of the seizure of power in Greater Poland from German hands, formation of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils.

November 10, 1918 - proclamation of the Republic of Ostrów

December 3-5, 1918 - debates of the Polish District Parliament in Poznań. The formation of the Supreme People's Council and its Commissariat.

December 26-27, 1918 - Arrival in Poznan of I.J. Paderewski and the outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising.

December 29-30, 1918 operation of the "Scout Reserve" in Kościan under the code name "Freedom".

December 30-31, 1918 - the victorious battle of Zdziechowa.

January 2, 1919 - Major Stanisław Taczak becomes commander-in-chief of the Polish army in the Prussian partition.

January 1-6, 1919 - Paweł Cymys' rally to Kujawy.

January 4, 1919 - attack of the Bolshevik army on Vilnius. The beginning of the Polish-Soviet war.

January 5, 1919 - the capture of Wolsztyn

January 5-11, 1919 - an attempt to capture Zbąszyń

January 6, 1919 - the insurgents capture the airport in Ławica.

January 8, 1919 - Battle of Chodzież.

January 11, 1919 - Battle for Szubin. Not only Szubin, but also Żnin, Łabiszyn and Żłotniki were in the hands of the insurgents.

January 11, 1919 - fights near Osieczna

January 16, 1919 - assumption of the function of Commander-in-Chief of the Uprising by Gen. J. Dowbor Muśnicki, the formation of the uprising's fronts and the beginning of the creation of a regular army.

January 16, 1919 - Battle of Kamionna, stopping the German offensive towards Poznań.

January 20, 1919 - The Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council announces the first conscription to the Polish Army.

January 26, 1919 - Oath of the Greater Poland Army at pl. Wolności (Square of Freedom) in Poznań.

January 27, 1919 - defence of Kąkolewo.

January 28, 1919 - the beginning of the "Butter Offensive" on the northern front.

February 3-6, 1919 - Battle of Rawicz.

February 5-6, 1919 - fights for Zduny.

February 11-12, 1919 - defence of Kargowa, Babimost, Kopanica.

February 16, 1919 - Truce in Trier.

Panel X - Waiting time...

The November Revolution in Greater Poland and the Polish District Sejm

Text - November Revolution and Workers' and Soldiers' Councils - 1800 characters

Text - Polish District Parliament - 1800 characters.

The text of the resolutions of the Polish District Sejm, as well as the iconography and biographies of the heroes (members of the Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council).

Sample pictures:



March of the Polish Sejm on December 3, 1918 in Poznań, reference number WMN/Z/003033

Panel XI Paderewski

Text - Artist and Diplomat 800 characters.

piano, music notes, cylinder, pen, map.

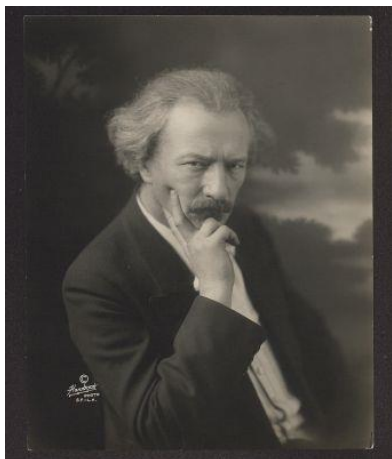
This part opens with a symbolic depiction of Paderewski's arrival in Poznań.

A large-format scenographic element

A symbolic reference to the arrival of I.J. Paderewski - a fragment of the railway platform, a clock, and the visitor walks through the platform through a curtain of steam and on the other side meets Paderewski's hologram.

In addition, music, films, posters presenting the work and everyday life of the Master.

Iconography: photographs of the master from different periods of his life and presenting the interior of the house in Morges.



National Library in Warsaw (BN Polona), ref. F.84307



National Digital Archives (NAC), ref. 3/1/0/11/6800



Ignacy Paderewski with his wife Helena Paderewska, 1915-1918, National Library in Warsaw (BN Polona), sign. F.3394

Sample quotes:

The new government was headed by the man who was the most popular in Poland, the most widely revered in Poland, a symbol of national unity and at the same time a clear expression of Poland's present-day external political aspirations with regard to the West (...) the period of social struggle was also over. Paderewski's Cabinet is the best one can imagine today (...).

References: "Kurier Warszawski", January 17, 1919.

Faith in Paderewski as this power from heaven to unite minds in Poland, as a reliable link between Poland and the Entente, whose favours will return to Poland (...) was almost mystical in Poland.

References: E. Romer, *Diary of Paris 1918-1919*, Wrocław-Warsaw-Kraków-Gdańsk-Lódź 1989, p. 120.

He arrived at a very difficult and dangerous time. Although the most important thing, the Polish-German border, was already done, the draft treaty with Germany was prepared, but the treaty was not signed, Germany had not yet agreed to it. On the other hand, the hostile position of England towards Poland concealed dangers which we all sensed. Paderewski had a good personal relationship not only with Wilson, but also with Lloyd George. This, aside from his official position, made it easier for him to get closer to the Council of Five. He could talk to the English Prime Minister in person, which has never happened to me. Throughout his stay in Paris, the Polish delegation to the Supreme Council was represented by Paderew-

ski, he held conferences with its members, he led Polish political affairs. We communicated from time to time, but the control was in his hand.

References: R. Dmowski, *Polish political affairs and the reconstruction of the state*, Warsaw 1989, vol. 2, pp. 154.

But now I had a place where I could rest after the tiring concert seasons - I had my own home fire. (...) I acquired the Riond-Bosson estate in Morges; so my old dream came true, Finally, I became the owner of my own piece of land, because I sold the property I told you about almost immediately after buying it, Here the matter was completely different - this house became my home and it remains my home to this day.

References: IJ Paderewski, *Memoirs* written down by M. Lawton, Warsaw 1986, p. 367.

Panel XII - Day one

Text: The outbreak of the Greater Poland Uprising - Poznań and the province - 1800

The main large-format stage design element: the façade of the Bazar hotel in 1918.

Infographics showing Polish and German forces fighting in the Uprising

Selected reports, photos, exhibits.

The course of the fighting can be seen on the interactive map of Poznań.

Biography of Capt./Maj. S. Taczak, 800 characters.

Large-format stage design element:

An important element of the exhibition should be the capture of the airport in Ławica and the German planes located there.

The main element of this part of the exhibition could be a 1:1 scale Fokker D VII aircraft model or another German aircraft - with the possibility of entering the aircraft, the option of using VR, AR technology, screens built into the windows of the pilot's cabin to be considered.

Panel XIII - the course of the Greater Poland Uprising in the provinces (victory in small homelands)

Text: The course of the Greater Poland Uprising - key moments - 1800 characters.

The visitor sees a map of Greater Poland with marked places of battles, reports, photos - animation, graphics, sound, film, photos.

The main large-format scenographic elements should be:

A model of the armoured train "Danuta" or an installation referring to this train.

Please note:

The exhibition in this part should refer to the mass grassroots character of the uprising as specific to the events of the first weeks of fighting.

Time capsule

Greater Poland Uprising in Szubin

Szubin at the beginning of the 20th century, establishing the Polish House,

- The outbreak of the Uprising in Szubin, the establishment of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council, moods, conspiracy, national relations.
- capture of the city by the Grenzschutz on the night of January 2-3, 1919
- the course of the battle on 8 January 1919, overview.
- occupation of Szubin on January 11, 1919 by the insurgents.
- fighting in February 1919, capturing an armoured train.

Sample pictures:



Szubin, Nakielska Street, view towards the market square. Hotel zum Adler on the right. Postcard, publisher K. Sadowska Szubin; of circulation June 2, 1916, Museum of the Szubin Region, reference number mzs_a_21429



Szubin, Post Office and Evangelical Church at Szeroka, Postcard, publisher Reinicke & Rubin Dresden. of circulation 30/12/1910, Museum of the Szubin Land, reference number mzs_a_21431



Insurgents with the inhabitants of Szubin, 1919, Museum of the Szubin Region, reference number mzs_fc_3



A train at the railway station in Kcynia or Szubin, a group of insurgents on the platform, early 1919, Museum of the Szubin Land, reference number MZS/F/559



Anna Sołtysińska (left) with Maria Kwasek in Szubin, 1919, Museum of the Szubin Land, ref. MZS/F/626

Stories, memories, photos to be used.

Panel XIV - towards the Regular Army.

Climax - The oath of Gen. J. Dowbor-Muśnicki and the insurgent troops on Wolności Square in Poznań (26 I 1919).

The visitor experiences through light, sound and scenography the solemnity and grandeur of the event.

Symbolic representation of the oath - installation referring to the altar, sound.

Text: biography of J. Dowbor - Muśnicki – 800 characters.

The visitor has a chance to look not only at the chronology of the uprising, but also at the approach to the problem. Military, political, social and cultural aspects, as well as the phenomenon of his victory resulting from the efforts of 4 generations of Greater Poland people,

Panel XV - Nurses, messengers, telegraphists,

Text: Women in the Uprising - 1800 characters

At the beginning, for example, visitors see a large-format photo of a nurse:



Photograph from the collection of the Regional Museum in Sęszew

Scenery element:

Telegraph operator workstation

Visitors can enter the operator's room

One should also look for an answer to the question of the role of women in the Uprising, role models, and memory.

You can use memories, letters, reports.



Photograph of wounded insurgents and the staff of the hospital created spontaneously by the landowners from Miejska Górka, National Museum in Poznań, reference number MNP/WA/7826

Panel XVI - The youngest insurgents

The youngest insurgent was 12 years old. Visitors will learn about his fate and stories of similar kids.

In this part of the exhibition, you can also consider introducing educational elements for the youngest visitors.

Panel XVII - Civilians in the uprising



Insurgents and civilians against the background of buildings in Kcynia, early 1919. Museum of the Szubin Region, ref. MZS/F/541

Descriptions, quotes, photos should be used as widely as possible from the province of Greater Poland.

Panel XVIII - POWs, Internees, Missing...

A panel devoted to the fate of Polish prisoners of war and those interned by the Germans. One of the camps where the insurgents were sent was Altdamm (now Szczecin).

Panel XIX - Polonization

What was the takeover of power in the conquered territories like, what was the mood of the society, information about the places of internment of the German population, etc.

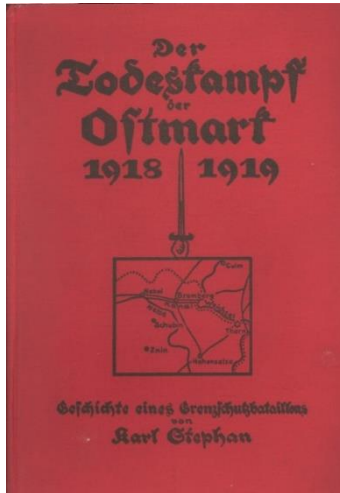


Poznań residents pose by the toppled statue of Frederick III, Wolności Square [Square of Freedom], April 1919, photo: Kazimierz Greger, from the collection of the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Panel XX - Uprising through the eyes of the Germans

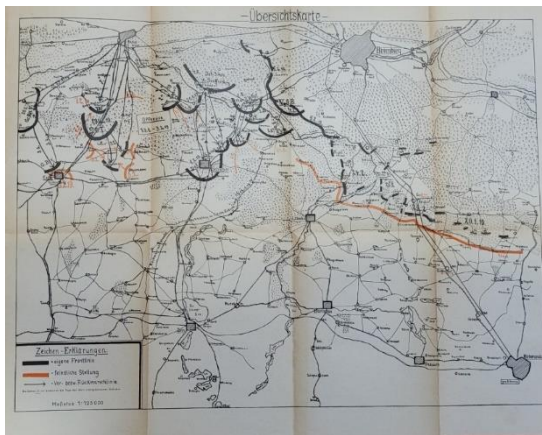
The use of German documents, accounts, memories, photos.

Sample publication:



Stephen Carl, The Todeskampf der Ostmark 1918/19. Die Geschichte eines Grenzschutzbataillons, 1935, Greater Poland Digital Library.

An example map from this publication:



Panel XXI - A victorious truce and peace

Text: Trier and Versailles - 1800 characters

Bio: F. Foch - 800 characters.

The exhibition should strongly emphasize the fact of diplomatic efforts around the Uprising, primarily the negotiations in Trier, as well as the backstage of the Paris Conference

Sample quote:

German reactions to the Trier negotiations

If we respond to the demands, the Entente will hand over German territory to the Poles and thus create a precedent for peace negotiations. In my opinion, the actions of the Entente on the Polish question leave no doubt that the Allies and, it seems, also America, no longer want to solve the Polish question in the spirit of Wilson's program, but want to rape us.

The visitor witnesses the signing of the Treaty of Paris - video of the signing

Paderewski and Dmowski at the Paris conference.

Quote:

We bought the unification and independence of Poland with the lives of hundreds of thousands of Poles fighting in foreign ranks, brother against brother. It was not a voluntary sacrifice, but the most painful one imaginable.

We, who live in our own country at the expense of this sacrifice, must not forget this even for a moment. Then we will know how great is our duty to protect future generations from ever experiencing the same misfortune, to assure them that when a Pole is forced to fight, it will be for his own cause, with Poland.

R. Dmowski, Polish Policy and Reconstruction of the State, 1925

Biographies and photographs of the most important participants of the Paris conference.

PART IV

Timeline for Part IV

March 9, 1919 - departure of the Poznań-Lviv Volunteer Company to the front near Lviv.

March 14, 1919 - departure of the Greater Poland Group, Colonel Konarzewski to the front near Lviv.

March 18-19, 1919, the first fights of Greater Poland inhabitants near Lviv.

April 4, 1919 - founding of the University in Poznań (since 1955 Adam Mickiewicz University)

May 20, 1919 - The Greater Poland Group captures Stryj.

June 18-19, 1919 - fight over the Upper Channel of the Noteć River near Murowaniec as part of the German "Spring Sun" plan.

June 28, 1919 - signing of the Peace of Paris. Greater Poland officially became part of the Polish state.

August 1, 1919 - Act establishing the Ministry of the former Prussian District.

August 16 -24, 1919 - First Silesian Uprising.

August 28, 1919 - Combined Greater Poland Division captures Bobruisk.

May 7, 1920 - capture of Kiev by Polish and Ukrainian troops.

July 4, 1920 - the beginning of Tukhachevsky's second offensive - the retreat of the Polish army - including Greater Poland troops.

August 15, 1920 - victory of Polish troops over the Red Army in the battle on the outskirts of Warsaw.

August 19/20, 1920 - outbreak of the Second Silesian Uprising.

September 26, 1920 - victory of Polish troops over the Red Army in the Battle of Niemen.

October 8, 1920 - the capture of Vilnius by the troops of General L. Żeligowski.

1920 - founding of the "Union of Participants of the Greater Poland Uprising 1918-1919" - the first veterans' organization gathering participants of the Greater Poland Uprising in Poznań.

March 17, 1921 - adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

March 18, 1921 - conclusion of the Treaty of Riga.

March 20, 1921 - plebiscite in Silesia.

May 2/3, 1921 - outbreak of the Third Silesian Uprising.

Panel XXII - The people of Greater Poland in battles for the borders of the Republic of Poland

Text: The people of Greater Poland in battles for the borders of the Republic of Poland

The exhibition should show what the fight for the borders of the Second Polish Republic looked like, and at the same time place military units from Greater Poland against this background, e.g. by creating an animation showing month by month the course of actions and fighting for the borders from November 1918 to June 1922, taking into account the fronts / places where people of Greater Poland found themselves. It is recommended to use photographs, posters and documents of social life, memories and accounts.

1. The people of Greater Poland in the struggle for Lviv and Eastern Galicia (March – September 1919)

1. Poznan Lvov Volunteer Company (March -August 1919)
2. The First Greater Poland Group of Col. Konarzewski (March – June 1919)
3. The Second Greater Poland Group of Gen. Konarzewski (June - September 1919)

Sample quotes:

"(...) The least successful was the parade after the capture of Stryj. Some elderly gentleman, wearing a legionnaire's uniform and with distinctions in which we oriented ourselves faintly, called out periodically from the pavement "Salute gentlemen". We didn't know who it was and only some of us answered, as if reluctantly, 'Salute!'. It later turned out that it was General Iwaszkiewicz and that he was accepting the parade in a different place than originally intended. He wanted to surprise us. His fault ("Daily 55. of Poznań Infantry Regiment...", Kościan 1934, p. 8.)

*“In front of the church [in Bóbrka – M.K.] soldiers bid farewell to women and girls:
 - Stay healthy, stay with God, tomorrow at dawn we will not be here anymore, we will go where the sound of fighting comes from.
 - Safe journey and good luck! You have come to save us for the second time and God grant that this will be the last time!
 - We will do our best to make it happen! Farewell! We will always go forward, because we never go back, unless we are told to return after a victorious battle. Salute! Salute! Salute!”*
 (Jan Przybyła, "Religiousness of our Greater Poland Army", [in:] Catholic Guide, No. 30, July 27, 1919, p. 237.)

2. Poznań Volunteer Death Battalion (April 1919 – January 1920)

Poznań Volunteer Death Battalion

- biography of Roman Wilkanowicz - 800 characters
- biography of Stanisław Nogaj - 800 characters

3. Combined Greater Poland Division (later 1. Greater Poland Rifle Division - 14th DP) on the Lithuanian-Belarusian front (August 1919 - July 1920)

1. The capture of Bobruisk

Sample quote:

“One of the tanks had a flag sticking out of the turret – it used it to give signals and orders. The machines approached the fallen infantry and, on a given signal, began a dense, rapid fire. An invisible hand turned the domes right and left, roasting the line of trenches behind the Volchanka with a wide fan-shaped barrage. The Bolsheviks, who had no cannons in this section, responded with rifles and shotguns, of course to no avail. Tanks, making their debut in the Polish war, quickly decided the fate of the battle. Under their cover, the infantry sprang up and moved forward. The enemy left the excellent position in panic, losing it dozens of dead” ("Technical Knowledge", No. 2 of October 1919)

2. The Bobruisk fortress and the bridgehead on Berezina
3. Division fights in the Bobruisk area at the turn of 1919 and 1920. Everyday life of Greater Poland soldiers.
4. Divisional Spring Battles (March and April 1920)



A group of Poznań soldiers in Lithuania, 1920, photo: WMN, ref. WMN/Z/001291



Russian Austin-Putilov armoured car captured by soldiers of the 55th Greater Poland Infantry Regiment, 1920. The captured armoured car named "Stieńka Razin" was later renamed "Poznańczyk", WMN, ref. WMN/MPW/000639/1/90

4. Kiev Expedition. 2. Greater Poland Rifle Division (15th DP) on the Southern Front (March-May 1920)

1. Kiev Expedition
2. The capture of Kiev
3. Battle of Darnica

Sample quote:

“At 7:00 a.m. the regiment after a bloody, fierce but short fight reached the ordered head lead. The Bolshevik escaped through the forests around Darnica. During this battle, several thousand prisoners of war from the world war came to our side, who, hearing the sound of the fight and the news of the retreat of the Bolshevik army from far away, gathered and joined us in a compact mass during the fighting, emphasizing their belonging to the army of the former invaders with German caps and Austrian. Among them, one from the Gostyń powiat found his cousin among the sixth graders.” (B. Śliwiński, "Kiev", Gostyń Chronicles (Kronika Gostyńska) Volume VIII No. 5, May 1, 1937)

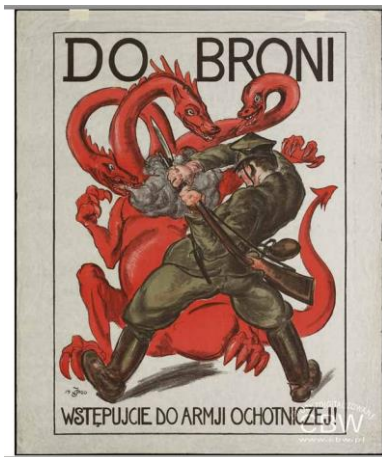
5. Tukhachevsky's first offensive (May 1920)

Battles of the 14th and 17th regiments Infantry Division

6. Second Tukhachevsky Offensive (July–August 1920)

- a. Fighting over the Auta
- b. Retreat
- c. The Battle of the Bug

7. The Battle of Warsaw (August 1920)



Poster - 1920. To arms: Join the Volunteer Army!, Central Military Library



Poster - 1920. Every threshold will be our fortress. Polish-Soviet War. Central Military Library

- a. 15. DP on the outskirts of Warsaw
- b. 17. DP north of Warsaw
- c. 14. DP and a hit from above Wieprz
- 8. Battle of the Niemen (September 1920)**
 - a. Battle of Vawkavysk
 - b. Fight for Laskowo
 - c. Battle of Kobryn
- 9. The last weeks of the war (October 1920)**
 - a. The involvement of the 17. Infantry Division in the conflict with Lithuania
 - b. The occupation of Minsk
 - c. Truce
 - d. Return to Greater Poland
- 10. Greater Poland people in the Silesian Uprisings**
 - a. First Silesian Uprising (August 1919)
 - b. Second Silesian Uprising (August 1920)
 - c. Third Silesian Uprising (May – July 1920)

A large-format scenographic element

For consideration: a symbolic depiction of the social movement in Upper Silesia, the uprising of the population and military activities as well as the participation of Greater Poland troops by, for example, showing a replica of the "Erhard" armoured car



Photograph of a group of Silesian insurgents by the Erhardt EV/4 "Upper Silesia-Alsace" armoured car. The armoured car was captured by the Greater Poland insurgents near Budzyń and renamed "Pułkownik Grudzielski", and in 1921 sent to Upper Silesia as support for the Silesian insurgents. During the Third Silesian Uprising, initially assigned to the "East" Group, and then to the "Centre" Group, Upper Silesian Museum in Bytom, ref. no. MGB H/ZF-898



Photograph of the insurgent medical train No. 3, among those posing for the photo visible (in the middle, wearing glasses) Dr. Kazimierz Kujawski, cf. medicine of Greater Poland troops. During the Third Silesian Uprising, he was the sanitary chief of the "North" operational group. Year 1921, NAC, ref. 3/1/0/1/450

PART V

Timeline for Part V:

- April 1922 – Cyryl Ratajski was elected president of Poznań for the first time.

- April 1922 - liquidation of the Ministry of the former Prussian District.
- November 1922 - elections to the Sejm and the Senate.
- May 1926 - May coup
- April 1927 – establishment of Radio Poznań.
- 1928 - celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising.
- 1929 - organization of the General National Exhibition in Poznań.
- 1929 - the beginning of the great economic crisis
- 1938/1939 - celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising
- 1938 – the establishment of the unified Union of Greater Poland Insurgents.
- September 1, 1939 - Third Reich invades Poland

Panel XXIII - PeWuKa

The visitor should "take some rest" in this part of the exhibition. The starting point and **the main large-scale scenographic element should be the General National Exhibition [Powszechna Wystawa Krajowa - PeWuKa]**

Quotes, e.g.:

Only in Poznań could the unforgettable "Pewuka" be created, and that is why only in Poznań you do not see, for example, streets dug up for weeks. If the surface or pavement needs repair, a team of workers hits the streets at night and work efficiently and quickly. In the morning, the resident, who had passed this way the evening before, does not even know what feverish work was going on in this place for several night hours. Because in Poznań, order must be.

Stanisław Balicki, 1931

Text: PWK: General National Exhibition - 1800 characters

Iconography:



Poster. PWK in Poznań, National Digital Archives (NAC), ref. 35/632/0/5.4/425

A large-format scenographic element

A **historic car**, in addition to showcasing modern design, fashion, furniture, porcelain. In addition, Pewuka's plans, memorabilia of Greater Poland companies from the interwar period.

Sample references:



Citroen C4 car, 1929, Automobilklub Wielkopolski



Porcelain tea and cake service for 12 people, Ćmielów. Before 1929, WMN, reference number WMN/MPW/000651/0001

Text: Fashion in the 20th century - 1000 characters

And the iconography:

In view of the fact that Poznan was a very important film production centre in the inter-war period, a film set, a cinema hall, can also be **a large-scale scenographic element**. For example, visitors will find themselves on a film set at the Diana Film Studio, they can enter a cinema hall, watch fragments of pre-war films, listen to film hits and dance to the music of the most famous hits.

It should be a place of rest and relaxation

Text: Film City of Poznań - 1000 characters

PART VI

Timeline for Part VI

- October 1939 - the beginning of the martyrdom of the Greater Poland insurgents in Fort VII and in the "Tannenberg" operation.
- 1940 - death of the Greater Poland insurgents in Katyn.
- January 1945 - occupation of Greater Poland by the troops of the 1st Belorussian Front.
- February 23, 1945 - the capture of Poznań by the Red Army.
- 1946 - reactivation of the Association of Greater Poland Insurgents from 1918-1919.
- October 8, 1946 - decree of the National Council establishing the Greater Poland Uprising Cross.
- February 1, 1957 - Decree of the State Council of the People's Republic of Poland on the establishment of the Greater Poland Uprising Cross.
- 1965 - unveiling of the monument to the Greater Poland Insurgents in Poznań.
- 1978 - celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Greater Poland Uprising.
- 1989 - establishment of the Society for the Remembrance of the Greater Poland Uprising.
- 2005 - death of Lt. Jan Rzepa, the last living participant of the Greater Poland Uprising.
- 2018 - celebration of the centenary of the Greater Poland Uprising.
- 2021 - establishing December 27 as a national holiday: Day of the Victorious Greater Poland Uprising.

The Project Commissioner indicates that it is in possession of a database of approximately 80,000 biographies of people directly related to the Greater Poland Uprising. These are the classic short descriptions of each character, along with their first and last name. The Project Commissioner does not enclose the above-mentioned database for the needs of this competition, although it signals the fact of having it in order to include it in the concept of the exhibition. The form and shape of the presentation at the exhibition is left to the discretion of the Competition Participants.

Panel XXIV - Memory in the Second Polish Republic

Text - Memory of the Uprising in the Second Republic of Poland - 1800 characters

The honour devoted to memory and martyrdom should be symbolic.

The visitor sees examples of activities commemorating the Uprising during the Second Republic of Poland:

Care of graves, initiatives related to the construction of monuments and plaques.

Here we present the history of the creation of the Monument of the Unknown Insurgent of Greater Poland in Bydgoszcz and the destruction of the monument in 1939 by the Germans.

Panel XXV - Martyrology

We present the period of World War II and the martyrdom of the inhabitants of Greater Poland (mainly the insurgents) symbolically. Visitors enter a darkened room, where shadows of figures in uniforms appear, disappearing in the distance, on one of the walls there are names of the murdered and places of execution: Fort VII, KL Auschwitz, Katyn.

In the background sounds: German and Russian commands, shots, steps

Text - Martyrology of the Insurgents. German and Soviet crimes during World War II - 1800 characters

Text - Operation "Tannenberg" - 1000 characters.

Text - Graves of the Greater Poland insurgents in Katyn - 1000 characters.

Sample bios.

EPILOGUE

The exhibition should be closed with an installation referring to memory – transience and persistence.

Memories are broadcast on large screens - if they are original recordings, if not then read by a reader and illustrated with the author's photo. During the broadcast, the screen darkens and the report stops. After the blackout and a short pause, a young person appears, dressed in contemporary clothes (a high school student, a university student), who tells the continuation of the memoir. The whole story should last about 3 minutes.

An important element of the final part of the exhibition should be a reference to the national holiday established on December 27, 2021, i.e. the National Victory Day of the Greater Po-

land Uprising commemorating the outbreak of the Uprising and the victory over the partitioning powers.

Children's zone in the new headquarters of Museum of the Greater Poland Uprising

The Project Commissioner provides for a dedicated space for children, which should be included in the spatial and visual concept of the permanent exhibition.

It is a separate space at the permanent exhibition with an area of about 70-80 m². It is intended for families with children up to 10 years of age, but the main recipients are children aged 3 - 8 years. The space should be located at the beginning of the visit tour to the permanent exhibition. It should have direct access to technical/office facilities and a toilet for children.

In the zone, children remain under the care of their parents. This is the so-called family education space. The zone is available during the opening hours of the Museum, excluding the dates when workshops for organized groups are conducted, e.g. groups of preschoolers will be invited here.

On selected days/hours, the Museum can provide care for children over 3 years of age, while parents want to visit the exhibition. Intergenerational workshops/classes with the participation of an animator are also to take place in this space. Possibility of separating part of the room with movable walls.

The minimum equipment of the zone expected by the Project Commissioner:

- floor: parquet. In selected places, the use of vinyl panels (under work tables) or carpet/foam puzzles (for the youngest visitors).

- Including a bench/padded platform against the wall for caregivers to use
- Creativity corner: table and chairs adapted to the needs of children - rounded edges, chairs with backrests. The assumption is that caregivers can also join in this fun.
- workshop sector, e.g. the recruitment station for the Uprising, the point of trying on uniforms/dresses of nurses/corner caps, the station for deciphering the message delivered by liaison officers, puzzles - cubes, etc.
- multimedia touch screens/tables (e.g. tasks with the characters of the book "Jak Kuba and Helenka do Powstania szli" (How Jacob and Helen went to Uprising) of varying difficulty - find the differences, memo, sudoku; the ability to create a virtual postcard from the Museum / drawing - the child creates it on the screen and can send it by e-mail to a relative)
- a screen with a projector for displaying animated films, e.g. an animation with Kuba and Helenka. In front of the screen, there is a separate zone with pouffes and pillows, separated from the rest of the room by a wall
- scout tent with equipment
- a creative sensory board (preferably wooden; among the tasks: jigsaw puzzles; convex insurgent eagle, etc.)
- magnetic board (moving elements with which the child fills the wall, e.g. build a Bazaar, dress the insurgent, complete supplies for the insurgent)
- audio points (earphones/telephone handset) - to listen to children's stories about the Uprising
- drill point (e.g. every day at a specific time recording from the loudspeaker - conducting exercises in a humorous way)
- Insurgent's exercise path (e.g. walking over wooden logs, crawling under a tree branch, etc.)
- on the walls there are drawings depicting children in period costumes, as well as characteristic Poznań buildings and objects (e.g. the town hall, building houses, the Raczyński Library, the statue of Bamberka)

- types of toys: a rocking horse, a library with historic and contemporary themed books, board games, dolls modelled on celluloid dolls, wooden blocks, spinning top toys, etc.
- colours: calm, subdued colours, fair walls, colourful elements (e.g. pillows)
- Use of easy-to-clean materials
- consultation with a child psychologist for the selection of teaching aids, toys and topics to be introduced

Program assumptions
of the *permanent exhibition scenario*
of the Museum of the
Wielkopolska Uprising
1918-1919 in Poznań

Message

The permanent exhibition of the new Museum of the Wielkopolska Uprising was designed as a place where every visitor - regardless of age, background and cultural competence - will feel comfortable and "at home" enough to undertake an intellectual journey through over two hundred years of history of Wielkopolska, Poland and Central Europe. By using images, sound and numerous artifacts presented in an attractive and modern scenography, it is supposed to influence visitors' senses and emotions, conveying not only knowledge, but also the basic ideas related to the motif included in the leading slogan: "Work on a daily basis, victory in the moments of trial".

The core of the permanent exhibition scenario is the Wielkopolska Uprising of the years 1918-1919, presented, however, within a broad factual and chronological perspective. Apart from the history of the Uprising itself, the exhibition will also show the previous experiences of the people of Wielkopolska, explaining the phenomenon of the uprising's victory, as well as the later events, which can be regarded as consequences of the Wielkopolska Uprising. The organization of the exhibition will be significantly influenced by the collection of the Wielkopolska Museum of Independence, i.e., the exhibits that the museum already owns, as well as those that it is currently acquiring for ownership or long-term deposit.

For the purposes of this project, the aforementioned leading slogan of the Wielkopolska Museum of Independence, formulated as part of the work on the strategic *Wielkopolska Museum of Independence Development Program*, was adapted: "*Work on a daily basis, victory in the moments of trial*". In our work - first on the *Guidelines for the Scenario*, and then on the *Scenario* presented below - it served as a signpost pointing to the most important idea behind the narration of the future exhibition, as well as to what a visitor should understand, know and remember thanks to a visit to the Museum, i.e., how their knowledge, skills and social competences would be expanded. Limiting the exhibition to presenting the course of the Wielkopolska Uprising and focusing only on its military aspect would waste the chance to present a much wider and equally interesting historical, social, cultural, national, patriotic and religious context that led the people of Wielkopolska to a spectacular victory and allowed the cradle of the Polish state to be included in the borders of the Homeland that was reborn after years of

partitions. What is important, such a broad approach is also a chance to show the history – probably the least known to the general public – of the participation of the insurgents of Wielkopolska and the regular Army of Wielkopolska in the fights for the particularly hot eastern border during the Polish-Bolshevik War, as well as their involvement in the Silesian Uprising, especially the victorious Third Silesian Uprising of 1921. Showing at the permanent exhibition the history of 125 years of effective resistance of people of Wielkopolska against the partitioning powers and, after regaining independence, their involvement in rebuilding the freed Homeland, launching dynamic modernising changes and, finally, preserving the unwavering remembrance of the victorious Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919 will be a perfect complement to the attractive story about the phenomenon of the Wielkopolska's road to independence. It will also allow providing a proper perspective on the popularization of a new genotype among Poles, one that has been rare in our history – the genotype of victory, the earning of which came at a high price, obviously.

Objectives

This *Scenario* formulates the fundamental objectives of the new Museum's exhibition, i.e., defines the basic knowledge that the visitors should acquire. The exhibition is intended to present the following topics:

I. The significance of the Wielkopolska Uprising as a victorious uprising, whose source of success lay in the broad social support, patriotic determination and heroism of the insurgents, reinforced by the enormous sacrifice of the civilian population. Making the visitors aware that the Uprising was accompanied by effective international diplomacy and the reconstruction of state structures in Wielkopolska proved to be possible after 125 years of foreign rule. At the same time it is important to emphasize the role played in described events by inhabitants of Wielkopolska and its constituent “little homelands”.

II. The following should be underlined in the presentation of events preceding the start of the uprising:

- the historical significance of Wielkopolska as the cradle of Polish statehood,
- parallel roads to independence of five generations of nineteenth-century people of Wielkopolska: romantic uprisings, positivist organic work, and legal activities that were only superficially loyal towards the partitioning power,
- personal experiences that formed the generation of future insurgents, related to national and religious upbringing in the family, Prussian repressions from the school level onwards, social self-organisation on many levels and inventiveness in defence of the Polish assets,
- military preparation for armed struggle gained in Polish paramilitary organizations and on the fronts of World War I.

III. In the presentation of consequence of the Uprising it is necessary to underline:

- the involvement of the military and the political leaders of Wielkopolska in the shaping of the borders of the Second Polish Republic and the reconstruction of the state, as well as their role in the subsequent formation of the broader foundations and ideas of so-called "Western thought."
- the position of Wielkopolska and Poznań as, respectively, a region and a city of success of the reborn Polish state and its significant achievements, both from a national and local perspective,

- various and multifaceted stages of remembrance of the Uprising and its veterans in the Second Republic, the Polish People's Republic and modern times, as well as repressions against the insurgents during the German and Soviet occupation of 1939-1945.

The above indicated assumed effects of the exhibition consist of numerous narrative objectives (assigned to the individual modules of the exhibition) formulated further in this document. Some of the most important may include the following:

For Module I (*Wielkopolska and its people in the Years 1793-1914*):

1. Visitors can see three parallel paths of the people of Wielkopolska in the nineteenth century towards regaining independence and maintaining and strengthening Polishness (insurrectionary, organic labour and loyalist).
2. The visitor becomes acquainted with various Germanisation activities of the partitioning powers, which mobilized the people of Wielkopolska to defend their Polishness.
3. The visitor can see that the victory of the Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919 was not the result of chance and that the activities crowned with this success had already begun in the generations of great-grandparents, grandparents and parents of future insurgents.

For Module II (*The Great War and Wielkopolska*):

1. The visitor understands the specifics of World War I as a total conflict, while recognizing that from a geopolitical point of view, its outbreak was extremely beneficial for the purposes of winning back the independence of Poland.
2. The visitor understands the dilemmas of the nationally conscious Polish society, which during World War I was forced to fight for goals, values, and ideas that were foreign to Poles,
3. The visitor recognises and understands the phenomenon occurring in the years 1914-1918 and consisting in intensification of the processes strengthening the national identity of the Poles, who constituted in Wielkopolska an extremely tight-knit social group and despite numerous difficulties did not stop working for the Polish cause, which included organic work and conspiratorial activities.

For Module III (*Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919*):

1. The visitor knows that the final period of World War I was a time of rapid political and social change in Europe, which determined the new balance of power and created unprecedented opportunities for action on behalf of the Polish cause.
2. The visitor understands that the people of Wielkopolska took advantage of the opportunities created by the international situation and the weakening of Germany in late 1918.
3. The visitor remembers that the success of the Wielkopolska Uprising was determined by many different factors, among which the key ones were:
 - a) ability to self-organise and cooperate (transcending political divisions and despite different concepts of liberating Wielkopolska from German rule) developed over decades thanks to the phenomenon of organic work in Wielkopolska,
 - b) effective and pragmatic leadership, able to respond quickly to changing circumstances and to fight both militarily and politically, with particular emphasis on successful diplomatic efforts that determined the ultimate victory,
 - c) building of transparent and stable institutions of power by Polish political organisations that had the social mandate to do so owing to the trust they had gained during the earlier underground activity, which prepared a solid foundation for the future Uprising and its success.

For Module IV (*People of Wielkopolska in the battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic*):

1. The visitor recognises that the victorious Wielkopolska Uprising was for many of its participants only a prelude to further battles, not only for their own district, but for all the borders of the Second Polish Republic.
2. The visitor knows that over one hundred thousand soldiers of the Army of Wielkopolska participated in battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic, including: the relief of Lviv, battles for Eastern Galicia, the Polish-Bolshevik war and the Silesian uprisings, which became the basis for the birth of a common Polish nationwide military tradition and the brotherhood of arms of Polish soldiers from different partitions.

For Module V (“*The Third Capital*”. *Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic*):

1. The visitor recognises the high level of economic and civilizational development of Wielkopolska in the Second Republic, which was a result of significant differences between the Polish lands that were part of the individual partitions before 1918.
2. The visitor understands that Wielkopolska was an unusually strong centre of social and political life (with clear national democratic and Christian democratic sympathies) and was the area of activity of the largest number of various organizations, associations, and unions in the Second Republic, which resulted directly from the experience stemming from Polish-German rivalry during the period of partitions.
3. The visitor understands the importance of establishing a university in Poznań (1919), which was effectively blocked by the Prussian invaders throughout the 19th century, for the development of Wielkopolska and the so-called Western Poland in the Second Polish Republic.
4. The visitor recognises the high aspirations of Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, which were measured by the organization and great, also international, success of the Universal National Exhibition in 1929.

For Module VI (*Remembrance*):

The visitor remembers the nature of the official actions taken with regard to remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising by the political authorities of the Second Polish Republic (living remembrance), the Polish People's Republic (regulated/appropriated remembrance) and the Third Polish Republic (regained remembrance), as well as the German occupation authorities during World War II (historical policy of the authorities, celebrations of the most important anniversaries or their absence, *damnatio memoriae*).

Recipients

Program context

The key emotions accompanying the remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising are pride and joy. However, the ability to recall "the greatest Polish victorious insurrection" turns out to be as common as it is superficial. Although the Uprising is present in memory of Poles and public discussion and cultural life in Poland, both regionally and nationwide, the knowledge about it is superficial and selective and does not lead to understanding the dilemmas, decisions and efforts of the people of Wielkopolska during the first two decades of the 20th century. As a result, positive emotions, which are evoked by the remembrance of the Uprising, are not translated into understanding it in the context of cause and effect relationships starting from the beginning of the partition period, taking place for over one hundred years and during an important episode of World War I, until the moment of building a reborn and independent Polish state, and then to the functioning of that state and the modernization efforts undertaken in the interwar period.

The presentation of the Wielkopolska Uprising requires removing cognitive barriers and offering as many intellectual, emotional and visual *gateways-bridges* as possible, thanks to which the history presented will become interesting and comprehensible, and its message still valid.

In order for the permanent exhibition of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum to truly engage the widest possible variety of audiences representing different groups, the following programming assumptions were made:

1. **Accessibility and friendliness.** The content presented in the first narrative plan (i.e., those themes of the scenario that have been identified as priorities - having crucial meaning for understanding the message of the exhibition) does not require any prior substantive preparation from the visitors. It is assumed that all historical processes, events, and figures relevant to becoming familiar with the exhibition will be explained to visitors as part of their visit to the Museum. The primary goal of the narrative is not to convey factual knowledge, but rather knowledge that makes it possible to understand

contexts and cause-and-effect relationships and that illustrates changes at the regional level and – which is of particular importance – in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Central Europe. Thanks to that, the visitors from Wielkopolska are supposed to see the significance of their own region and visitors from other parts of Poland and abroad are supposed to understand that the meaning of the Uprising goes far beyond the formal historical and administrative borders of both Wielkopolska and Poland.

2. **Freedom and invitation to explore the content.** Bringing the key points of the story together into a coherent whole, the first narrative plane of the exhibition is at the same time an invitation to explore further the aspects of the presented story that are of interest to visitors. Depending on personal preference and needs, it is up to the visitors to decide the extent to which they want to explore the themes detailing the main story. This solution is intended to saturate the exhibition with content interesting also for the most inquisitive viewers - those who want to learn in detail about various aspects of the presented history:
 - a) in the fields that interest them because of their individual passions, interests, or professions (e.g., economy, social change, culture, military, geopolitics),
 - b) due to identity or biographical relations (e.g. descendants of insurgents and organic workers, veteran circles, people of Wielkopolska who are active in the public sphere).

It should be emphasized that the particularly important role of the first narrative plane of the exhibition does not mean trivializing the story or depriving the exhibition of its detailed and abundant program content. The foreground of the story (the first level of narration) consists of the 6 most important out of 20 scenario themes through which the permanent exhibition content of the Museum of the Wielkopolska Uprising has been organised .

3. **Community of Remembrance.** The Wielkopolska Uprising is the history of the whole region and its presentation assumes presenting events and figures representing as many places and localities as possible. An important objective of the exhibition is to enable the people of Wielkopolska to see the direct connections between the history discussed and their own family memory.
4. **Heroes - a diverse community of purpose.** The insurgents of Wielkopolska were flesh and blood people. The presentation of their dilemmas, the paths of their lives and the choices they made from the perspective of the so called microhistory intends to break

the barrier of anonymity and abstractness of the Uprising. The catalogue of heroes will not be limited to a select few most important commanders and politicians. An important aim of the exhibition is to emphasize the joint effort of the people of Wielkopolska - both that of figures recognised from the front pages of newspapers and that of seemingly anonymous individuals whose courage cannot be passed over in silence. For the people of Wielkopolska, this means that in the permanent exhibition space they will find their own ancestors or people who enjoy recognition in various social environments and places. Meanwhile, the visitors from other parts of Poland and those from Europe will gain insight into the sphere of emotions and motivations of the Insurgents, seen as a community of action, regardless of different views, background or education. They will also be able to see the democracy and egalitarianism of the Wielkopolska Uprising, which was an interesting phenomenon against the backdrop of Polish and European history.

5. **Context of time and purpose.** The remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising will be incomplete and incomprehensible if it is limited to the military issues and the course of the act of insurrection. In the exhibition space, the Uprising is to be set in the widest possible context of causes and effects. It is important to present both:

- a) the time preceding the national uprising of the people of Wielkopolska - explaining their condition in the second half of the 19th century and articulating the phenomenon of organic work, as a result of which a new social quality was created in Wielkopolska and the modern Polish nation was formed,
- b) the course of the Uprising and its direct consequences - with drawing particular attention to the context of the Republic of Poland regaining its independence, fighting for its borders and political discussions,

as well as:

- c) the consequences of the Uprising - further efforts to manage the regained freedom and the role of Wielkopolska in modernising the country.

For the people of Wielkopolska it means that they will be able to broaden their previous knowledge about the Uprising, noticing the particularly important role of organic work and Wielkopolska's contribution to building and developing the Second Polish Republic. Visitors from other parts of Poland will be able to understand the process of restoration of statehood from a new perspective, noting the role of the people of Wielkopolska in

many aspects of this process - especially economic and social, but also political and military.

6. **Universal categories.** The history of the Wielkopolska Uprising is a story about the desire for freedom, the ability to build social ties and cooperation, patriotism and perseverance in pursuit of the goal. The exhibition's message and key narrative goals should be understandable to visitors not only in terms of content, but also visually and emotionally. The categories of struggle for freedom, the need to preserve one's identity, concern for the development of the local community or striving for active and responsible participation in public life make up a catalogue of invariably desirable values and social attitudes. For visitors of all ages, backgrounds, or educational levels, the extensive and valid catalogue of values provides an important opportunity to identify with the history presented. The viewer's interest and involvement should pay off with a better understanding of it.

Key values

In the story about 150 years of the history of Wielkopolska there are numerous values and attitudes that the Museum wishes to promote and preserve. These are already mentioned above and still relevant today: patriotism, social and civil solidarity, democracy, sense of community, the cult of reliable and persistent work and patience in pursuit of objectives set, but also the readiness to make the greatest sacrifices for the good of the Homeland and fellow citizens and the everyday pragmatism combined with ingenuity, resourcefulness and imagination (frequently also extravaganza) in moments requiring them. Viewed from this perspective, the victorious Wielkopolska Uprising (the greatest insurrectionary success in the history of Poland) should be presented in a new way - not as an individual event, which took place in favourable political and military circumstances, but as the culmination of a certain process lasting at least a hundred years, which involved thousands of inhabitants of the province that was the cradle of the thousand-year-old Polish statehood. It was a collective success of at least four generations, which had a coherent and logical continuation in the later period, e.g. in the Second Polish Republic or in the cultivation of the remembrance of the Uprising and the

martyrdom of its participants during World War II. Additionally, the narration should show pride, joy and satisfaction from the success of the Uprising, i.e. the genotype of victory rarely seen in Polish history. The most important events and dates from the Polish "dawn of freedom" in the years 1918-1921 (e.g. 28th October and 11th November 1918, 28th June 1919 and 15th August 1920), as well as chronologically more distant events (e.g. 1806, 1863 or 1944) may serve as contexts for the presentation of this issue.

The Museum is supposed to arouse the visitor's interest not only in the great political, social, economic and cultural processes and the participation of well-known and universally recognized meritorious individuals in them, but also - often very interesting - events of individual and personal character, the heroes of which were ordinary people from all estates and strata of the contemporary society. The story should be structured in such a way as to emphasize the role of the various spaces in which the events took place. It was not only Poznań, but also dozens of cities and towns and hundreds of villages in Wielkopolska. Presenting the history of all of them is not possible, of course, but on the basis of selected examples the Museum will recall the most interesting events and figures on the one hand, and on the other those that will best show the specificity of regional or even local history of Wielkopolska, while building its image as an important and exciting part of Polish history.

Functional approach

1. **Location - historical context and place in the space of Poznań.** The future Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising will be located below the eastern slope of St. Wojciech's Hill, a very special place in the history of Poznań, Wielkopolska and Poland. It is where the Skalka cemetery (Cemetery of Distinguished People of Wielkopolska with the graves of the commanders of the Wielkopolska Uprising) and St. Wojciech's Church, the resting place of Józef Wybicki and the heart of general Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, among others. In the immediate vicinity of the new Museum are also the remains of the Poznań Citadel fortifications (with two museums - "Poznań" Army Museum and Armament Museum),

and several minutes walk will separate it from the cradle of Polish statehood on Ostrów Tumski and the Old Town with its numerous monuments.

2. **Tour time.** It is estimated that the time necessary to get acquainted with the first narrative plan of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising - which enables getting to know the message of the exhibition and understanding the leading processes leading to the outbreak, course and consequences of the Uprising - is about 90 minutes. The time spent in the exhibition space by visitors exploring further content is not considered in the characteristics and depends on individual preferences.
3. **Tour method.** The permanent exhibition of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum will be explored by the visitors moving on their own within its space, individually or in 2-3 person groups (e.g. a family). The following optional solutions are envisaged:
 - a) possibility of individual or group exploration with a guide (by prior arrangement, in a group no larger than 25-30 people),
 - b) possibility of using the audio guide system developed for the exhibition.Due to the assumed option of group sightseeing (e.g. school class groups), it should be possible to gather a group of 25-30 people in all spaces where the content of the leading themes will be arranged. Other exhibition spaces should allow for free movement of groups of 3.
4. **Languages and translations.** The content presented in the permanent exhibition space of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum will be available in Polish and English. The use of the audio guide should make it possible in the future to develop sightseeing routes in other languages, e.g. German, Spanish and Ukrainian (the content will be in audio form and will be accessible only via the audio guide).
5. **Groups of people with special needs.** In view of a relatively new and extensive group of regulations governing the accessibility of public spaces, including digital spaces for people with special needs (the Act of 4th April 2019 on digital accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public entities and the Act of 19th July 2019 on ensuring accessibility for people with special needs), the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Wielkopolska Uprising will remain an accessible space in terms of program and functionality. It is assumed that:
 - a) the exhibition space and the digital products used must not exclude any group of audience,

- b) the basic and overarching principle to be applied is that of universal design, integrating the needs of people with special needs with audiences that do not require special accommodations. An example of such a solution can be arranging tactile solutions for blind or visually impaired people in such a way that they do not differ significantly from the arrangement perceived visually. It is important to note that it is estimated that about 75% of the population requires support, even though they are not always people with disabilities (e.g., mothers with strollers, people who wear glasses, the elderly),
 - c) detailed ways of implementing the principle of universal design will be agreed with the exhibition designer, and representatives of groups with special needs will be taken into account by the designer in the process of creating design solutions in order to optimally integrate particular types of needs. Given budget constraints, not every exhibition content will be accessible to every group with needs, but the exhibition as a whole will provide a consistent message to every such group.
6. **Children and parents.** The permanent exhibition of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum does not have separate spaces for children. Having a child visit the exhibition together with a parent or guardian adds value to both the adult and the child. The exhibition will include interactive displays geared toward the youngest visitors. They will be thematically related to the adult content message but tailored to the needs and cognitive abilities of children approximately 4-5 years old. At the same time, any content depicting violence or inappropriate for children will be arranged in such a way as to prevent access by children or will be marked with signs clear for parents and caregivers.
7. **Social and other functions.** Information about other functions offered in the building of the Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising will be included in another part of the project documentation. At this point, we can only mention that the broadly understood social functions of the new Poznan institution should include elements of integration of various social circles of Poznań (including primarily scientific and veteran communities).

Region, Poland, Europe

The new Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising and its permanent exhibition may hold great significance for several communities. In the case of the immediate, strictly local community, a great opportunity will come in the form of revitalisation of the surroundings of the Citadel, as well as strengthening the communication between the housing estates in Winogrady and Naramowice districts and the historic Old Town and the inner city centre of Poznań. For all the citizens of Poznań, a new institution with a scientific, historical and cultural purpose can become a place of meetings, active expansion of knowledge and strengthening the sense of common heritage. On an individual level, it can be, for example, filling up the gaps in the knowledge of one's own ancestors' life paths, the places where they lived and the changes that took place there. All of this will serve to integrate the residents of these communities. Thus, for visitors coming from different corners of Wielkopolska, a visit to the Museum may become an inspiration to learn about the history of their localities and the fates of several generations of people living there.

For a tourist coming from outside of Wielkopolska, getting to know the permanent exhibition of the new museum (as well as participating in all events organized within this space) can form the basis for reflection on the common history of individual regions on the one hand, and on the other hand on their specificity resulting from their different experiences.

For a foreign tourist, a visit to the Museum should be a source for expanding knowledge about the rich history of one of the European countries and the people living there, a better understanding of the place they have visited and the people they have met, as well as learning about a fragment of the complicated and still insufficiently known history of the last two centuries.

Above all, however, for each of the above-mentioned circles, a visit to the new Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising may become an attractive lesson in history, being a prelude to learning more about it (through reading, programs in the media, visiting other museums, etc.), as well as an impulse for deeper reflection concerning, for example, common cultural heritage or changes taking place in the lives of the last several generations. It should also encourage visitors to visit various cultural institutions more often, which will contribute to developing a cultural need of this kind. For each of the guests the visit to the Museum is also meant to be a form of interesting, pleasant and useful spending of free time - not only at the permanent exhibition but also at temporary exhi-

bitions and special events - and an opportunity to take advantage of other attractions offered by the Museum, e.g. shopping in its store or relaxing in the catering outlets.

The new museum should also become a place with which the circles referring to the tradition of the Wielkopolska Uprising will identify closely. It is intended to be a modern, well-promoted facility with all the functions and departments that support its mission, such as storage areas, library, education area, conference room and recreation and catering area. It should also create conditions for building a thriving research team studying the history of the Uprising as well as the history of regaining independence by Poland in 1918, and perhaps also the history of Wielkopolska in the 19th and 20th century.

Scope of topics

Time period

The future exhibition is to have both a chronological and factual arrangement. The proposed plan for the permanent exhibition of the new Museum assumes that visitors will be acquainted with the history of Wielkopolska (against the backdrop of Polish – and partly German – history) from 1793 to 1939, and with regard to remembrance of the Uprising – until the present. Depending on the final shape of the project (especially in its architectural part), thematic modules can be presented in a single space or several spaces, or even in a dozen rooms. Module one and – partly – model two regard the history of the region up to 1918 and its importance in the history of Poland, essential to understand the phenomenon of the Uprising. The most important is the third module, which regards directly the Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919. Module four is intended to tell about the participation of the people of Wielkopolska in the fight for the borders of the Second Polish Republic. Meanwhile the fifth and sixth module are somewhat "parallel" in nature. The fifth is intended to present the indirect consequences of the Uprising, that is, above all, the contribution of the people of Wielkopolska to regaining freedom and building national identity in the interwar period, mainly from the perspective of the achievements and significance of Wielkopolska in the reborn Poland. The sixth, last module is intended to be an account of the remembrance of the Uprising, its veterans and their martyrdom during the period of World War II.

KEY PROCESSES, EVENTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES

The first of the key elements of the new Museum's permanent exhibition will be its depiction of **historical processes**. The most important of these are reflected in part in the modular and thematic layout of the exhibition, described below. Its scope includes the following topics:

- the process and specificity of political, social, national, economic, civilizational and cultural changes in Wielkopolska in the 19th and early 20th century, also against the backdrop of similar transformations in other Polish lands and in the rapidly modernizing Europe. In the case of Wielkopolska, what is extremely important here is the process of creation, development and subsequent success of the idea of organic work,
- the process of shaping a modern Polish nation and a civil society based on solidarity in Wielkopolska in the 19th and first decades of the 20th century, and its victory in the "Longest War of Modern Europe".
- processes related to the multiple-theme nature of the Wielkopolska Uprising as a collective effort of the Poles living in Wielkopolska and their significance in the broader process of rebirth of the Polish state after World War I,
- the process of the people of Wielkopolska building their place and the significance of their province in the Second Polish Republic, uniting, integrating and unifying itself after over 100 years of foreign rule,
- the process of cultivating the remembrance of the Uprising and changes occurring with regard to it.

The **events** that should be particularly highlighted in the permanent exhibition of the new Museum should include:

- the landmark events of the history of Wielkopolska and Poland at the end of the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such as the partitions of Poland, the Napoleonic Wars, the next partition of Poland in 1815, the November and January Uprisings, the Spring of Nations, German unification, the Germanisation of the Polish lands and Poles' resistance against it (e.g. all initiatives of organic workers, school strikes, the case of Michał Drzymała),
- World War I and the participation of the people of Wielkopolska in it,
- Wielkopolska Uprising - its causes, course, stages and consequences,
- fights for the borders of the Second Polish Republic and participation of soldiers – especially former insurgents – from Wielkopolska in them,
- the history of Poznań (also as the informal capital of Western Poland) and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, including in particular the history of the creation and development of the University of Poznań and the organization and course of the General National Exhibition,

- preserving the memory of the Uprising in the pre-war, post-war and post-1989 periods,
- the subsequent individual fates of the insurgents, including their martyrdom during World War II.

The **locations** of the events that we want to tell about in the new Museum will also be important to the narrative. There is a lot of them, and they can be broadly categorized into four groups:

- Poznań as the undisputed capital of Wielkopolska and changes occurring in it between 1793 and 1939,
- provincial towns and cities of Wielkopolska,
- villages of Wielkopolska,
- battle sites, including those located outside of Wielkopolska (in the case of the module on the participation of people of Wielkopolska in World War I and the module presenting the battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic).

Each story is also about the specific **characters** present in it. In the case of the story presented at the exhibition of the new Museum, these are both well-known people, with an unquestionable role in history, as well as those who are now hardly remembered. The most important figure, present in several themes of the future exhibition, is Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The primary characters include (in chronological order), among others: Napoleon I, Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Józef Wybicki, Michał Radziwiłł, Karol Marcinkowski, Dezydery Chłapowski, Hipolit Cegielski, August Cieszkowski, Piotr Wawrzyniak, Otto von Bismarck, Michał Drzymała, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, Ferdynand Foch, Roman Dmowski, Adam Poszwiński, Wojciech Korfanty, Stanisław Adamski, Józef Piłsudski, Stanisław Taczak, Władysław Anders, Heliodor Świącicki, Cyryl Ratajski.

Thematic breakdown

The exhibition is to consist of prologue, six modules and epilogue. The modules will present the following themes:

Module I - Wielkopolska and people of Wielkopolska during years 1793-1914:

1. *The Fall of the Commonwealth. Wielkopolska during years 1793-1815* - level 2.
2. *Policy of the partitioning power and the Polish resistance* - level 2.
3. *Organic work and its influence on modernisation processes in Wielkopolska* - level 1.

Module II - The Great War and Wielkopolska:

1. *Total War and Wielkopolska* - level 2.
2. *Individual and collective fates of the people of Wielkopolska on the fronts of World War I* - level 1.
3. *The people of Wielkopolska and life in their "little homelands" in 1914-1918: everyday problems, continuation of the tradition of organic work and the beginning of the pro-independence conspiracy ("In anticipation of freedom and peace")* - level 2.

Module III - The Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919:

1. *From Conspiracy to Polish authority*- level 2.
2. *"The symbol of an Idea". Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań and the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising* - level 1.
3. *"Surprise and prevail." The sum of the "local uprisings" in Wielkopolska* - level 1+ (the most important theme not only on the scale of the module, but also of the whole exhibition).
4. *Army of Wielkopolska and the war between Poland (Wielkopolska) and Germany* - level 1.
5. *A victorious truce. Trier and Versailles* - level 2.

Module IV - The people of Wielkopolska in the battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic:

1. *In the battle turmoil on all fronts of the struggle for the borders of the Second Polish Republic* - level 1.
2. *Wielkopolska's contribution to recovering the lands granted to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles* - level 2.
3. *"Granary" of the Republic: Wielkopolska as the supply base for fight for the borders of the Second Polish Republic* - level 2.

Module V - “The Third Capital”. Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic.

1. *Unification - political Wielkopolska* - level 2.
2. *General National Exhibition - socio-economic Wielkopolska* - level 1.
3. *University of Poznań - scientific and cultural Wielkopolska* - level 2.

Module VI - Remembrance of the Uprising:

1. *Living memory 1919-1939* - level 1.
2. *Forbidden remembrance and martyrdom of Wielkopolska insurgents (1939-1945)* - level 2.
3. *Remembrance appropriated; remembrance regained (1945-1989; 1989-2019)* - level 2.

The description of each module of the exhibition proposes from a few to about a dozen detailed themes, as well as three levels of hierarchy of their importance for the future exhibition:

- **level one** - the most important themes, ones having the greatest significance and importance for the entire narrative,
- **level two** - themes that are important, but not of primary importance.

Taking into account the factual scope of the individual modules and their significance for the overall story (narrative), the estimated area that each module should occupy was also determined. For the most important module III, the surface area is intended to be about 1800m², for the extensive module I covering more than 100 years of history in its chronology - about 400m², and for the remaining four modules (II, IV, V and VI) about 200 m² each.

The universal and topical dimension of the story

Although in 2021 the Polish Parliament passed and the Polish President signed the act on establishing December 27 as the "National Day of the Victorious Wielkopolska Uprising," the knowledge of this great Polish victory is still insufficient. For it should be

remembered that the traditions and values associated with the Wielkopolska Uprising and the fate and activities of its heroes, as well as the entire history of Wielkopolska in the nineteenth and twentieth century, have a timeless dimension and have lost nothing of their relevance. The remembrance of the Uprising and the history of Wielkopolska is alive and cultivated, especially by the descendants of the insurgents and organizations whose range encompasses the whole of Wielkopolska. Wider repercussions of the Uprising have become a part of the historical heritage of Poland and partly also of Europe. In each era, it is also worth recalling the tragic consequences of the ideologies of German nationalism and militarism and of communism, whose victims included also the heroes of the museum's story (the Great War, the mass atrocities of World War II).

The story presented in the Museum took place against the backdrop of other great events during 150 years of European and Polish history. Among the first are the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, the Spring of Nations, and both World Wars, the second of which appears as one of the culminations of the museum's story. In the context of Polish history, we should remember the partitions, the national uprisings of the 19th century with numerous participation of people of Wielkopolska, the Polish question during World War I and the history of the Second Polish Republic. Undoubtedly, there is also a universal dimension to some non-political issues, such as social, economic or cultural ones, which, in connection with the presentation of a fragment of European and Polish history of the entire 19th and four decades of the 20th century, cannot be omitted in the narrative of the exhibition. For this was an era when the world around our ancestors (work, daily life, customs, social structures, etc.) was changing rapidly – more rapidly than ever before – laying the modernising foundation for our modern reality. The lives, contributions and recognisability of some of the heroes in our story can be included as part of a historical heritage far broader than regional one. Many of them have gone down in both Polish and European history. At the same time, many of the heroes featured in the exhibition are individuals of merit and local impact, leaders in the small communities of their micro-worlds, which still exist and often continue their legacy. For their descendants, recalling these heroes can become not only a signpost in the search for family roots, but also an important element in strengthening their own social awareness. The aforementioned values evoked by the exhibition, as well as the very cultivation of tradition and memory, should also be considered universal. It can be added here that certain processes that took place in

Wielkopolska during the described period, especially the formation of the idea of organic work and its practical implementation, are a valuable heritage of pan-European tradition through their specificity and uniqueness.

Vision of the exhibition

Program aspects

As already mentioned, more than one hundred years after its victory, the Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-1919 is still poorly known and preserved in the historical memory of Poles, and often even that of the people of Wielkopolska themselves. The effective realisation of the goal of popularising this event requires a new look at the topic presented in the exhibition, and this in several aspects:

Firstly, it is necessary to take advantage of a chronological perspective that would be more extensive than ever before, encompassing not only the Uprising itself, but also its causes and consequences, as well as their political, social, economic and cultural contexts.

Secondly, the purpose of the museum presentation is to show the history of the Uprising in the broad perspective of its place in Polish and sometimes also European history,

Thirdly, it is necessary to go beyond the strictly Poznań-related aspects of the Uprising, so far somewhat overestimated by researchers. It was an uprising of the entire Wielkopolska, of dozens of its constituent local “little homelands”. Also, its causes and consequences can be seen throughout the region.

Fourthly, the story of the Uprising should be made more personal and the narration should be based on the characters who are the heroes of about 150 years of the history of Wielkopolska.

Fifthly, the Museum's narrative must be based on the latest, most up-to-date scholarly findings, made on the one hand by professional historians who study the subject, and on the other by regionalists who deal with fragments of it that are often very narrow in terms of territorial scope. Consultations with them will constitute an important stage of works on the final concept and scenography of the exhibition.

The **sixth item** of this list, which gives the Museum the task to cooperate with museums, libraries and archives with a national, regional and local range, is also partly concerned with this issue. Without their help, their kindness in sharing information,

their willingness to lend museum items or their copies and replicas, the story may turn out to be incomplete and contain factual gaps. The new Museum is intended to be the work of the entire community of museologists, archivists, librarians of Wielkopolska, i.e., all "guardians of historical memory", supported by their colleagues from other regions of Poland. Private antiquarians and collectors are also included among these guardians.

Seventhly, the Museum's permanent exhibition must tell the whole story in a way that is attractive, understandable and accessible to various groups of viewers.

The museum experience

The scenography of the new Museum will depend to the greatest extent on three elements: the requirements of the scenario content, the artifacts in possession and the possibility of making interesting copies, as well as the imagination and talent of the authors of the arrangement of the permanent exhibition. When it comes to the latter, a purchase, long-term rental or creation of large replicas that are particularly attractive to visitors can be suggested (e.g., of an airplane, armoured car, home furnishings or other items showing the daily life within a given space, etc.). As for the third element, the authors of the exhibition have numerous display possibilities of contemporary museology at their disposal. Among them, many detailed arrangement solutions can be identified that will affect the individual senses of visitors, as well as their emotions. Their selection will undoubtedly also be derived from the subject matters of the individual modules and the themes, moods and contexts they present, as well as from the exhibits at our disposal. The latter include all kinds of products of material and (to a lesser extent) spiritual culture, including, for example, the iconography of the period (drawings, portraits, maps, photographs), printed publications and press, works of art, tools, furniture, weapons, or any other historical items showing both the everyday life and the epoch changes between 1793 and 1939. Further attractions can also include music, audio recordings of oral accounts, dioramas, films, etc.

Exposures with comparable profile

The Wielkopolska Uprising was a special event in the history of Poland, although not the only one of insurrectionary character. Due to the subject matter, goals and layout of the future permanent exhibition of the Museum, the most valuable museum experience that should be employed in the process of designing it can be found in the solutions applied in several already functioning museum institutions, mostly designed and opened to visitors within the last dozen or so years.

As a reference to the insurgent character of the main theme (module) of the exhibition, some elements of the narrative employed in the Silesian Uprisings Museum in Świętochłowice or in the Warsaw Uprising Museum in Warsaw could provide an inspiration to its designers. In the latter case, what should be considered noteworthy is the emotional approach to the narrated content and some solutions for presenting large-size exhibits, mainly of military nature. The World War I exhibition at the Vienna Military Museum can also serve as a model here.

The historical exhibitions of the Silesian Museum in Katowice, the "Zajezdnia" History Centre in Wrocław and the private Museum of Berlin History can be considered inspiring when it comes to transformation taking place during the described era.

In terms of logical, coherent combination of different parts of the exhibition, with regard to chronology and content alike, the arrangement designs used in the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek are what stands out. The same establishment also makes a positive impression with its reasonable and moderate use of multimedia and the thoughtful length of well-chosen texts describing the stories told or exhibits presented.

With regard to presenting individual fates of ordinary people and their entanglement in history, the narrations in the Emigration Museum in Gdynia and the Gdynia History Museum can be considered interesting.

On condition of maintaining the appropriate scale (mainly in terms of the surface area, but also of the number of exhibits placed on the exhibition), the current exhibition of the Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising 1918-1919, located in the Odwach building in Poznań, can be considered inspiring too.

Scenario documentation – glossary

Structure

The scenario documentation of the Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising has been organized with taking into account the division into:

- the exhibition program (this study) - the “rallying” point for documentation,
- database of Exposeo software, which contains information on:
 - exhibits, copies, replicas, props,
 - digital copies (iconography),
 - multimedia materials (audio, video, audio-video).

The role of this document is to:

- define the **themes and modules** that make up the exhibition - i.e., establishing the subject matter that will be presented to visitors,
- setting **narrative goals** for individual parts of the exhibition - i.e., defining the role they play in the exhibition space and the tasks they perform in contact with visitors (what the visitor should know / understand / remember thanks to them),
- establishing the **order of presentation** of modules and themes and indicating their **hierarchy** (choosing the most important ones, of special significance from the point of view of the museum story),
- selecting the **subject matter areas** that need to be presented to meet the narrative objectives,
- articulating the Curatorial Team's expectations towards the **museum experience** offered,
- presenting the **structure of scenario documentation** - i.e., mutual relations between the documents constituting the scenario of the permanent exhibition of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum.

The whole content of the permanent exhibition scenario of the Wielkopolska Uprising Museum has been divided into **20 themes**. The themes are grouped into **6 core modules** which are detailed on pages **18-19** of these *Program assumptions*.

Terms used

Theme	<p>The primary purpose of the themes is to isolate the elements that make up the exhibition in narrative and factual terms and to determine the order in which they are presented in the exhibition space.</p> <p>The themes are the basic element by means of which the scenario of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of Wielkopolska Uprising has been built. For the Curatorial Team, the category of “themes” constitutes an analytical tool.</p> <p>The analytical nature of the themes means that they are not translated directly into the exhibition space (especially the physical space occupied by each theme). The methodology adopted assumes that the artistic and spatial creation will be prepared by the designer on the basis of the subject matter raised in subsequent themes, defined precisely by the Curatorial Team.</p> <p>The objective of the Curatorial Team was to define the narrative objectives, the subject matter areas necessary to meet those objectives, and, where necessary, to identify selected information regarding the optimal way of presenting the content. The decisions regarding visual and spatial arrangements are the responsibility of the designer, in close collaboration with the Curatorial Team.</p>
Module	Groups themes with similar subject matter or narrative significance.
Module/ theme number	It determines the order in which the modules and themes are presented (the order in which the visitor learns about them - the tour path).
Module/ theme title	Indicates the title of a particular module and theme.

<p>Priority</p>	<p>Informs about the rank of the theme- indicates whether the theme is of priority (leading) character for the narrative.</p> <p>The designation of themes as being of priority (leading) character indicates the need for special emphasis on the content (i.e., knowledge, exhibits, iconography, and multimedia and interactive solutions) presented within a given theme. The space occupied by priority themes should be larger than that of other themes. Similarly, priority themes should be more diverse in terms of the museum experience they offer. The idea is that the successive priority themes form a so-called fast exploration track.</p> <p>There is one priority theme per module. The exception is Module III, which contains the module's priority theme and the theme that should be considered the most important in the space of the entire exhibition.</p>
<p>Narrative objective</p>	<p>Defines the purpose of a given theme in relation to the visitor (explains why it is presented in the exhibition space, indicating what the visitor learns from it, what they should remember, understand, or what skills they should acquire).</p> <p>The narrative objectives discuss the meaning of the knowledge presented in a given part of the exhibition as synthetically as possible - visitors should identify this meaning intuitively, even before they start exploring the strictly factual layer of the exhibition (e.g. signalling the type of information being dealt with or expressing the "climate of the epoch" to which the presented information pertains).</p>
<p>Summary/ Historical description</p>	<p>Offers historical knowledge of the processes, events, and figures presented in a synthesized approach. The purpose of this section of the documentation is to provide a basic understanding of the historical information presented.</p>

Range of topics	<p>Indicates the factual information (topic ranges) that should be presented in a given theme in order to enable meeting the narrative objectives.</p> <p>The individual topics are specified on an item list.</p>
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The *permanent exhibition scenario*
of the Museum of the
Wielkopolska Uprising
1918-1919 in Poznań

Module I

Wielkopolska and its people in years 1793-1914

Olaf Bergmann, Piotr Grzelczak

Summary

In the second half of the 18th century, due to the external aggressiveness of its neighbours and numerous internal causes originating from the state system itself, among others, the Commonwealth of Poland was liquidated as a result of three successive partitions by the Russian, Prussian and Austrian monarchies. In 1793, Wielkopolska fell prey to the Prussian invaders. After a short Napoleonic intermezzo (1807-1813/15), this exceptionally painful situation for Poles was finally rectified by the arrangements of the Congress of Vienna (1815), as a result of which the larger, western part of Wielkopolska (with Poznań, but also Bydgoszcz and Inowrocław) became part of the Prussian state, while the smaller part (with Kalisz and Konin, the so-called Wielkopolska Zaprośniańska (located to the east of Prosna river)) was subjected to the Russian empire. The history of Wielkopolska and its Polish inhabitants in the long 19th century was associated with a great effort to maintain and – among the lower social strata – to awaken the national consciousness. Apart from some conciliatory actions, sometimes aimed at reaching an agreement with the partitioning powers, two basic strategies prevailed in this respect: armed, taking the form of successive insurrections (including the Spring of Nations in Wielkopolska and two major uprisings in the Russian partition), and peaceful, which in Poznań came down to working out an original, long-term concept that went down in history under the name of "organic works". The latter were based on grassroots, systematic work on the economic, cultural and organizational advancement of Polish society under Prussian rule. The development of pro-independence thought in Wielkopolska was determined by several elements, among which the following should be mentioned: the attitude of Prussian state and Germany towards Polish society, including the Poles' aspirations for freedom, the process of shaping modern Polish society, its self-modernisation in the conditions of partition, the level of national and political consciousness of the people of Wielkopolska, their increasingly active participation in the political life of the German state, the influence of emigration and Wielkopolska's connections with its centres, especially in two periods: from the 1830s to the end of the 1860s. and during the years of World War I, and political developments in the

Kingdom and Galicia. The Polish pro-independence thought in Poznań functioned in two different periods. In the first, which lasted until the mid-19th century, independence concepts developed in the spirit of the Enlightenment, and from the 1830s in the romantic spirit (the concept of insurrection and limited freedom within Prussia). Until the 1840s, the pro-independence thought was shaped by the rich landed gentry and nobility, while in the following decades the role of the intelligentsia, lower clergy and plebeian strata increased. In the second period, which lasted until the end of the partition, the issue of independence was a secondary idea. However, no political movement or later parties gave up on this goal. Since the 1880s, liberal-democratic activists, later members of the National League, national democrats, people's movement and a few socialists made the issue of the people Wielkopolska's starting to fight dependent on Germany's entanglement in a war with Russia or other countries.

All this was also related to the challenges of the civilizational breakthrough that the 19th century brought to Europe. In Wielkopolska, this revolutionary social change boiled down to a quickly realised necessity that urged Poles to take up a direct, multifaceted and de facto legal rivalry with the Prussian invader, ruthlessly supporting the German element and all Germanisation processes in the Grand Duchy of Poznań / Province of Poznań . It should be noted that despite the brutality of German policy, which was directed against the Poles, the Prussian modernization efforts in the so-called East significantly contributed to increasing Polish activity and competitiveness on subsequent levels of the emerging modern civilization (trade, industry, agriculture, crafts, science and culture, etc.), regardless of social status. Consequently, this bottom-up awakened Polish patriotism, successfully coordinated by local leaders in hundreds of societies, organisations, associations, circles, and companies, allowed for the formation of an exceptionally well-organised and tight-knit collective, conscious of its separate national identity.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor sees two main ways leading the people of Wielkopolska in the 19th century to regain independence and maintain and reinforce Polishness (insurgency and organic labour) and understands that the victory in the Wielkopolska Uprising was an emanation of the slogan: “Work on a daily basis, victory in the moments of trial”.
- b) The visitor learns about the phenomenon and scale of solidarity as the basis for the creation of a civil society by Poles in Wielkopolska, and understands why, in line with the

slogan "The nation for itself," they succeeded in numerous bottom-up social and cultural initiatives that determined their economic advancement.

- c) The visitor learns about various Germanisation activities of the partitioning powers and their anti-Polish goals which mobilized the people of Wielkopolska people to defend their Polish identity.
- d) Visitor sees the specificity of the Wielkopolska uprisings in the 19th century, with particular emphasis on the Wielkopolska Uprisings of 1806 and 1848, and also learns about the ways in which the people of Poznań area supported the insurrectionary movements in the Congress Kingdom (1830, 1863).
- e) The visitor notices the major social processes that took place in the 19th century and understands their impact on the formation of the modern nation.
- f) The visitor understands the role of the "little homelands" (the countryside of Wielkopolska and its inhabitants), as well as families (especially mothers) and elites (landowners, intelligentsia, and Catholic clergy) in maintaining and expanding the social base of Polish patriotism and in nurturing Polish national traditions.
- g) The visitor notices the role of the elites of Wielkopolska (intelligentsia, clergy, landed gentry), also active at the local level, in stimulating the Polish organic work processes and thus the modernizing ones.
- h) The visitor can see that the victory of the Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918–1919 was not the result of chance and that the various social processes crowned with this success had already begun in the generations of great-grandparents, grandparents and parents of future insurgents.

Themes

1. *The Fall of the Commonwealth. Wielkopolska in the years 1793-1815 – level 2*
2. *Politics of the partitioning power and Polish resistance – level 2*
3. *Organic work and its influence on modernization processes in Wielkopolska – level 1*

Key terms

enslavement, partitions of Poland, Prussian partition, uprisings, organic labour, legalism, loyalism, German unification, Germanisation, Kulturkampf, Second Reich, Hebungspolitik, Prussian militarism, bureaucracy, feudalism, capitalism, enfranchisement, emancipation, modernity, urbanisation, industrialization, conciliators, civil society, solidarity, patriotism

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme 1: *The Fall of the Commonwealth. Wielkopolska in the years 1793-1815* – level 2

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that as a result of the collapse of the Commonwealth of Poland in the 18th century (as a result of the annexation by neighbours, as well as numerous systemic defects) Wielkopolska fell victim to the Prussian invaders and became part of the Prussian state.
- b) The visitor understands the dynamics of the history of Wielkopolska in the immediate post-partition period, which on the one hand resulted from the policy of the invaders, leading to the fastest possible subjugation of the occupied territory, and on the other hand was associated with the fact that Napoleon defeated Prussia and created the Duchy of Warsaw.
- c) The visitor notices the fact of Wielkopolska's incorporation into the Duchy of Warsaw and participation of the people of Wielkopolska in the Napoleonic Wars (1795-1815).
- d) The visitor understands the consequences of the decisions of the Congress of Vienna, by virtue of which the larger, western part of Wielkopolska (with Poznań, Bydgoszcz and Inowrocław) became part of the Prussian state and the smaller part (with Kalisz and Konin) fell to the Russian empire.

Range of topics

- a) The Partitions of Poland 1772, 1793, 1795 - the effects of the fall of the Commonwealth of Poland in the 18th century on Wielkopolska (Frederick William II).
- b) South Prussia. Wielkopolska under Prussian rule 1793-1806 (Frederick William III, David Gilly).
- c) "Bonaparte gave us an example..." - people of Wielkopolska with the emperor of the French, their participation in the Napoleonic wars (Napoleon I Bonaparte, Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Józef Wybicki).
- d) Duchy of Warsaw (Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Józef Wybicki, Jan Amilkar Kosiński, Bernard Rose).
- e) "Fourth" partition of Poland. Wielkopolska again in the Prussian state (Antoni Radziwiłł).

Historical Description

In 1772, 1793 and 1795 the three neighbouring absolutist and imperial powers, Russia, Prussia and Austria, partitioned the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which was beset by numerous internal problems. The liquidation of a once great state with a rich tradition was unique in European history. In 1793 Wielkopolska became part of Prussia as a result of the Second Partition of Poland, and a completely new era began for the Poles that was to leave a permanent mark on the face of the region. Its symbolic beginning was a great, compulsory oath of allegiance of the people of Wielkopolska to the Prussian king, organized in Poznań in May 1793. The new order meant a policy consisting in integrating Wielkopolska with the rest of the Prussian state as completely and quickly as possible, which, on the one hand, was reflected in naming the new province with the completely ahistorical name of South Prussia, aimed at obliterating the Polish onomastic tradition, and, on the other hand, meant the liquidation of the old Polish self-government, subordination of all administrative matters to an extremely centralized Prussian bureaucracy, and the secularisation of church property and assets. Attitudes of Poles towards the partitioning power varied, but many of them sought ways to regain freedom, including the people of Wielkopolska, who were doing that very actively. The most popular idea for that was siding with Republican and then Imperial France and its Emperor Napoleon I. Such initiatives included the creation of Polish Legions in Italy, the formation of the Danube Legion, the participation of Polish troops in the war with Spain (the charge at Somosierra) or in the expedition to Russia in 1812.

The end of Prussian rule in Wielkopolska, which was very good news for Polish people, came in 1806 due to Napoleon's military triumphs. It resulted in several years of freedom, reforms, and functioning under the new legal and constitutional order designated by the Constitution of July 1807. The legend of the triumphs of the Polish armed forces at that time (despite numerous disillusionments related to Napoleon's policy towards Poland) was to become an important binder of Polish tradition for the entire 19th century, strengthening and building national awareness and, as a result, contributing to the rebuilding of Polish statehood after World War I. This period of freedom, lasting for a few years, finally ended in 1815. The Congress of Vienna gave Europe a long period of peace but dashed Polish hopes for a fully independent and united state. It was then that the Duchy of Warsaw was liquidated and divided. Prussia gained its two former departments: Bydgoszcz and Poznań, and parts of Kalisz department, which together, under the name of the Grand Duchy of Posen, were to become an integral part of the Hohenzollern monarchy. It was an area of less than 29,000 square kilome-

tres, inhabited by about 800,000 people (1815), mostly Polish (about 67%). For four generations of Poles there began a turbulent and difficult period of struggle for the preservation of national identity, conducted in two ways: armed struggle and organic work.

Theme 2: *Policy of the partitioning power and the Polish resistance* - level 2.

Narrative objectives:

- a) The visitor understands the evolution of Prussian policy towards Poles:
 - i. in the first half of the 19th century - from Frederick William III's promises of equality, through the enfranchisement of the peasantry to forced "integration",
 - ii. since the 1860s and after the reunification of Germany – increasing the severity of policy towards Poles in Wielkopolska as a result of the authorities' efforts to integrate the new state and its society (Otto von Bismarck and the Kulturkampf),
 - iii. at the turn of the twentieth century – the anti-Polish slant of the German policy of the so-called cultural and civilizational "uplift" of the eastern provinces (Hebungspolitik).
- b) The visitor understands that Polish resistance to the Prussian partitioner was a derivative of the anti-Polish policy pursued by the partitioner throughout the period of partition (varying in form, content, and intensity, though sometimes also rational):
 - i. learns the extent and character of the Kościuszko insurrection in Wielkopolska,
 - ii. understands the conditions of international politics resulting from the devastating defeat of Prussia in the war with France and the situation in Wielkopolska that allowed for the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising in 1806,
 - iii. recognizes the significant scale of involvement of the people of Wielkopolska in the battles of the November Uprising,
 - iv. learns the history of the unsuccessful plot of Poznań Centralisation (1846) and understands the conditions of the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising during the Spring of Nations in Wielkopolska (1848),
 - v. notices the numerous participation of the people of Wielkopolska (especially youth) in the January Uprising and understands the fact that for many months the region of Poznań was a base for the insurgent movement.

Range of topics

- a) Kościuszkowski Uprising in Wielkopolska (gen. Antoni Madaliński, Jan Kiliński, Jan Nepomucen Umiński).
- b) The success of the Wielkopolska Uprising of 1806 (gen. Jan Henryk Dąbrowski, Józef Wybicki, Jan Amilkar Kosiński).
- c) The Grand Duchy of Posen, or the Prussian post-Congress experiment (Frederick William III, Prince Antoni Radziwiłł, Eduard von Flottwell).
- d) November Uprising: "Kaliszanie" ("people of Kalisz") in the Sejm (lower house of parliament) of the Kingdom of Poland, people of Wielkopolska from Poznań region in the November Uprising (Ignacy Prądzyński, Dezydery Chłapowski, Ludwik Szczaniecki, Karol Marcinkowski, Emilia Szczaniecka, Klaudyna Potocka née Działyńska).
- e) Spring of Nations in Wielkopolska 1848, including the battles of Książ, Miłosław and Sokołów (Ludwik Mierosławski, Karol Libelt, Jakub Krotowski-Krauthofer, Maciej Palacz, Michał Berwiński).
- f) The January Uprising and the participation of the people of Wielkopolska in it, including the fights in the eastern Wielkopolska: the area of Konin and Kalisz, including the battle of Ignacew, among others (Edmund Callier, Rev. Maksymilian Tarejwo, Edmund Taczanowski, Marian Langiewicz).
- g) Provinz Posen, Otto von Bismarck and the new Prussian policy towards Wielkopolska: conflicts in defence of the Catholic Church, Polish language and culture, including Kulturkampf, censorship, Germanisation and indoctrination of the young generation of Poles (Otto von Bismarck).
- h) German economic policy, often with an anti-Polish slant, including mainly the struggle for land: the activities of the Colonization Committee, the Drzymała case, and the expropriation law (Michał Drzymała).
- i) Hakata as a grassroots and social initiative of Germanisation targeted against Polishness.
- j) Hebungspolitik, militarization of space (including the earlier example of the Poznań Fortress), the offensive of German culture and civilization: the development of cities and towns, the Imperial Castle, the Golęczewo model village, the Żabikowo settlement, the figure of Lord Mayor Richard Witting, the emperor's visits to Poznań (Richard Witting, Ernst Wilms).
- k) The Września strikes and the school strikes of 1906-1907 and their international publicity.

- 1) Upbringing in the atmosphere of resistance, remembrance of the past and nurturing of independence traditions: "We won't forsake the land we came from..."(*Rota* by Maria Konopnicka and Feliks Nowowiejski); the childhood and youth of future Wielkopolska insurgents and how they were influenced by the experiences of school strikes, activity in Polish organizations and religious life, as well as the patriotic traditions of home and family (especially mothers), which were the most important pillars of Polishness (Emilia Sczaniecka, Zofia Sokolnicka, Anna and Anastazja Danysz, Dora [Teodora] Mukułowska, Zofia Rzepecka, Izabela Drwęska, Aniela Tułodziecka, Zofia Tułodziecka).

Historical Description

In 1793, as a result of the Second Partition of Poland, Prussian troops occupied Wielkopolska. However, already in August 1794, as if in response to the proclamation of the National Supreme Council entitled *To the citizens of Wielkopolska*, the Kościuszko Uprising broke out there. A significant part of the uprising troops were peasants, who demonstrated their valor in the battles of Mórkowo and Gniezno. To support and expand the uprising, in September of the same year, General Jan H. Dąbrowski's corps entered Wielkopolska, but the uprising ended in defeat. Another chance to oust the Prussians from Wielkopolska came at the end of 1806, when Napoleon Bonaparte defeated the Prussian army at Jena and General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski and Józef Wybicki arrived in Poznań. Their task was to form a Polish army, but their presence in Poznań triggered a spontaneous and victorious anti-Prussian uprising, which was followed by a few years of relative freedom for the people of Wielkopolska under the Duchy of Warsaw established in 1807. Soldiers from Wielkopolska were an important part of the Duchy's army and took part in its wars fought in alliance with Napoleon (e.g. with Austria in 1809 and with Russia in 1812). After the re-absorption of Wielkopolska by the Kingdom of Prussia in 1815, the Prussian invader was well aware that the main carrier of Polish national consciousness in Poznańskie was still the nobility, which not only stood at the head of Polish society, but also retained influence over the lower classes.

The Prussians, who returned to Wielkopolska in 1815, declared at first to respect the nationality and religion of their Polish subjects, while the Grand Duchy was to have a number of elements of legal distinctiveness, including equal rights for the Polish language in education and judiciary. The administration of the Duchy was to be headed by a chief president, next to whom, however, appeared a governor, which was to indicate a certain separateness of the new province. The latter, in the person of Prince Antoni Radziwiłł, acted as *de facto* plenipoten-

tiary of the Prussian king for contacts with the Poles. All this does not change the fact that the superior German objective was the fastest possible "integration" of Poznań with the rest of the Hohenzollern monarchy, which was first heralded by the introduction of Prussian law and judiciary already in 1817 and Germanisation of the administration. Finally, an important political and military act was the decision initiating the construction of a fortress in Poznań in 1828. This anti-Polish policy was accelerated after the November Uprising in the Kingdom of Poland, and the new chief president, Eduard von Flottwell, became its main representative. His appointment coincided with the dismissal of Governor Radziwiłł from Poznań, and in time also brought about the abolition of this function that held significance for Polish people. Flottwell pursued a deliberate and extensive Germanisation policy in the Poznań region, which consisted, among other things, in official positions being filled exclusively by Germans, a practice that continued until 1918.

After certain liberalisation of Prussian policy in Poznań region during the reign of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV in the first half of the 1840s and after the suppression of the Spring of Nations in Wielkopolska there was a return to the old Germanisation practices. The new phase of this policy was symbolized by the official ban on using the term *Grand Duchy of Posen* in reference to Wielkopolska, which was to be replaced by the term *Provinz Posen*. This turn of events was at the same time connected with a growing national dispute in Wielkopolska, since the decisions of Prussian administrative authorities targeted against Poles (including a ban on the activity of organisations of a supra-local character) were more and more often met with approval by the German minority. This anti-Polish policy intensified in the early 1860s and was symbolized by the new Prussian chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The fundamental element of his anti-Polish strategy was the policy of Kulturkampf, which began after the reunification of Germany and was initially directed against the Catholic Church. In Wielkopolska, however, it meant not only taking over influence on the staffing of church posts, but also the elimination of the Polish language from gymnasium teaching and the introduction of compulsory German in folk schools (the supervision of which was also taken away from the Church). The new phase of the Germanisation policy also meant harassment of an economic nature, initiated by the so-called Prussian clearances in 1885. One of the goals thereof was to stop the outflux of people (mainly Germans and Jews) from the eastern provinces of the Reich (Ostflucht) to the faster developing western regions of Germany, which was unfavourable from the German perspective. This was to be counteracted, among others, by the Royal Settlement Commission established in 1886, which, thanks to state subsidies (800 million

marks!), was to acquire Polish land estates in order to settle German settlers there. This practice, openly discriminative against Poles, was justified by the need to “civilising uplift” of Wielkopolska by the Germans, the carriers of higher culture, who were coming there. Such Hebungspolitik resulted, for example, in the project to transform Poznań into an imperial residential town (like in the case of construction of the imperial district with a monumental castle of Wilhelm II) or the construction of a model German village - Golenhofen (Gołęczewo). This was followed by other legal acts that were detrimental to Poles: the Expropriation Act of 1908, which allowed for the forced purchase of dilapidated Polish land estates, and the “muzling act”, which prohibited the use of the Polish language in public spaces in communes where Poles constituted less than 60% of the population. Direct support for such actions was provided by the German Association of the Eastern March referred to as Hakata, an extreme nationalist organization of Germans from Wielkopolska, mobilizing their compatriots to fight against the "Polish danger".

With its many different threads (political, social, cultural, economic), the anti-Polish Prussian – and then German – policy did not break the Polish spirit and increased the resistance of the people of Wielkopolska. Its most tragic and spectacular symbol was the taking up of arms, both beyond the border cordons of the other partitions and within the territory of Wielkopolska. This was confirmed during the November Uprising of 1830, when about 3,000 people of Wielkopolska rushed beyond the border cordon shortly after its outbreak. This group included about 200 representatives of the most important landowning families, including Gen. Dezydery Chłapowski, Tytus Działyński, Seweryn and Maciej Mielżyński, Gustaw Potworowski, Gen. Jan Nepomucen Umiński, Colonel Andrzej Niegolewski, Colonel Ludwik Sczaniecki, Karol Libelt and Karol Marcinkowski. Moreover, the donations of the Wielkopolska society for the uprising allowed to form the Poznań Cavalry Regiment (under the command of Col. Augustyn Brzeżański), which fought in the battles of Grochów, Wawer, and Ostrołęka, and then participated in the uprising in Lithuania. Apart from the persons mentioned above, other citizens of Wielkopolska who contributed greatly to the uprising were the Minister of War Franciszek Morawski (from Oporowo near Leszno) and the most outstanding strategist of the Uprising, Gen. Ignacy Prądzyński, born in Sanniki near Kostrzyn. Separate but significant was the contribution to the uprising made by the inhabitants of the eastern districts of historical Wielkopolska which had been under the Russian rule, including mainly the Kalisz and Konin areas. The insurgents organized two regiments of line infantry and two regiments of Kalisz cavalry, as well as formed units of the Security Guard and the Mobile Guard.

After the defeat of the uprising, Prussian authorities repressed many of the uprising participants from Wielkopolska. Others joined the ranks of the so-called Great Emigration. It was within this community, already at the end of the 1830s, that the idea of preparing and organizing a nationwide uprising that would encompass all three partitions emerged. In Wielkopolska, from the beginning of the 1840s, preparations for another uprising were carried out by activists of the Polish Democratic Society (among others, Karol Libelt, Walerian Breański, Jędrzej Moraczewski and Aleksander Guttry) and of the Union of Plebeians established in 1842 (among others, Walenty Stefański, Maciej Palacz, Józef Essman and Franciszek Trojanowski). Its outbreak was planned for 1846, and the insurrection's commander-in-chief was to be Ludwik Mierosławski. In Wielkopolska the fighting was to begin on the night of February 21-22, but it was pre-empted by numerous arrests of conspirators, and the attempt to free them from the Poznań citadel ended in failure. Two years later came the events of the Spring of Nations, which in Wielkopolska had an unambiguous insurrectionary overtone. After the outbreak of the revolution in Berlin in March 1848 (one of its demands was the release of the Polish insurgents of 1846), the Polish National Committee was established in Poznań, which, in view of rumours of an impending conflict between Prussia and Russia, was to mobilize Poles to form military units. After a dozen or so days, the plans for this war became outdated, and the Prussian authorities began preparations for the pacification of the Polish troops formed. On 11th April 1848, the Prussians forced Polish politicians to conclude the Jarosławiec settlement, which, under threat of immediate use of the army, ordered a limit on the number of soldiers gathered in camps. In spite of that, armed clashes took place: on 29th April, the Prussian army attacked, captured and pacified the Polish camp located in Książ Wielkopolski, on April 30 Ludwik Mierosławski gathered the forces of the other camps and gained victory in the battle of Miłosław, and on 2nd May a Prussian unit was defeated at Sokołów. Due to the lack of any support from the outside, further resistance of the hastily organized Polish army against the regular Prussian army was pointless and on 9th May the Poles signed the capitulation in Bardo. The events of the Spring of Nations also involved the creation of a Polish organization intended to officially and legally represent the interests of the Polish population. In June 1848, the Polish League was founded in Berlin by Polish members of the Prussian Parliament that convened then. In the name of the slogans of national solidarity, it gathered activists expressing different views (from democrats to conservatives), from various social groups. The most active among them were August Cieszkowski, Karol Libelt and Gustaw Potworowski. Although the Polish League was broken up in 1850 as a re-

sult of Prussian repressions, about 40 thousand Poles, active in several hundred regional leagues and parish branches, went through its ranks in total. League members were establishing Polish magazines, reading rooms and savings and loan associations, and organised lectures.

At the same time, the participation of the inhabitants of the Prussian partition in another uprising, which started in January 1863 in the Russian partition, was of major significance.. This time, the people of Wielkopolska not only participated in armed struggle (about 4 thousand people in total), but above all else their province provided the most important background infrastructure (supplying volunteers, armament and financial means, and maintaining contacts with foreign countries) for military operations, mainly of partisan character, taking place on the territory of the Russian partition. This aid was organised by committees led by Adolf Łączyński, Władysław Kosiński and Jan Działyński, among others, and then by the so-called Wielkopolska Committee. At the same time, the insurgents were joined by people of Wielkopolska from Poznań (e.g. gymnasium students from Poznań and Trzemeszno), among them Marian Langiewicz, an insurrectionary dictator from Krotoszyn, Kazimierz Mielęcki, Józef Sefried, Władysław Bentkowski, Antoni Garczyński, Edmund Taczanowski and Edmund Callier. They distinguished themselves in the battles on the Russian-Prussian border, e.g. at Ignacew, Pyzdry and Dobroszów. When analysing the youth of the future insurgents of Wielkopolska and their different, nearly always very individual ways towards fighting in this armed uprising, one must also mention their resistance against the brutal elimination of Polish language from schools. At the beginning of the 20th century, the last subject taught in Polish was religion, and attempts by the German authorities to eliminate it completely led to a wave of strikes by Polish students. They began in 1901 with a strike in Września, and lasted intermittently until 1907, and their resounding echoes were the numerous protests and their extensive media coverage in the entire European press, which did not bring glory to Germany. The future insurgents of Wielkopolska, most of whom were born in the interwar period between 1880 and 1900, were thus brought up in an atmosphere of resistance and, at the same time, remembrance of Polish independence traditions. That is why the words of *Rota* by Maria Konopnicka and Feliks Nowowiejski resonated with them so strongly that it became almost a national anthem for the people of Wielkopolska. Their patriotic determination stemmed from work in Polish organizations, a deep religious life and personal experiences of school resistance in defence of the native language. However, the most important for their future attitudes was the upbringing received at home, where the mothers (often grandmothers

as well) of the future insurgents played an invaluable role in maintaining the Polish tradition and spirit. The Catholic Church, whose priests were often leaders of the Polish resistance against the German policy of Germanisation, also made a huge contribution to the preservation and consolidation of Polishness in Wielkopolska.

Theme 3: *Organic work and its influence on modernization processes in Wielkopolska – level 1*

Narrative objectives:

- a) The visitor understands that almost one hundred years of effort of several generations of organic workers led to modernisation and self-organisation of Polish society in Wielkopolska, and in the end, according to the motto “Work on a daily basis, victory in the moments of trial”, not only to military success, but also indirectly to a “organic work” success of the Wielkopolska Uprising 1918-1919.
- b) The visitor understands the specific circumstances (resulting mainly from the defeat of the November Uprising) in which the idea of organic work was born in Wielkopolska, being a direct response to Prussian attempts to marginalising the Polish community.
- c) The visitor notices the phenomenon of organic work as an idea used to stimulate grassroots social activity among the Polish inhabitants of Poznań and learns about the multifaceted nature of the activity of organic workers in the political, social, economic, and cultural fields.
- d) The visitor understands that the strategy of organic work applied in practice contributed to the establishment of dozens of specialised unions and organizations, which aimed at undertaking economic, cultural, educational, and de facto political rivalry with the German invader, who was one of the most powerful countries in the world at the beginning of the 20th century.
- e) The visitor notices that the involvement of Poles in the system of organic work not only made it possible to put an effective barrier against the policy of Germanisation, but also had a decisive influence on the awakening and consolidation of active national consciousness in Wielkopolska.

Range of topics

- a) The evolution of the national, demographic and social situation in Wielkopolska in the 19th century, including the phenomena of "Ostflucht" and "Landflucht".
- b) Social characteristics of the three nations: Poles, Germans, and Jews (Germans - officials, pastors, teachers, landowners, intelligentsia, military, petty bourgeoisie, and workers; Jews - merchants, craftsmen, and their assimilation into German culture; Poles - predominance in the countryside, petty bourgeoisie, landowners, and intelligentsia).

- c) The countryside and the city: showing the agricultural and artisanal character of the province of Poznań and the modernisation progress taking place in it.
- d) First generation of organic workers from Wielkopolska (among others: Karol Marcinkowski, Dezydery Chłapowski, Karol Libelt, Hipolit Cegielski, Emilia Sczaniecka, Andrzej and Władysław Niegolewski, Maciej and Seweryn Mielżyński, August Cieszkowski, Tytus and Jan Działyński, Gustaw Potworowski).
- e) First initiatives in the vein of organic work: the Gostynin Casino, the "National House", i.e., Bazar Hotel in Poznań, the Scientific Aid Society.
- f) Cultural and scientific initiatives of Wielkopolska and the birth of the intelligentsia of Wielkopolska (Antoni Radziwiłł and Frederic Chopin, Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Słowacki in Wielkopolska; Ryszard Berwiński, Stefan Garczyński, Jan Koźmian - the creator of the notion of organic work, Edward Raczyński).
- g) Polish economic organizations: commercial companies (the Union of Commercial Companies and its Bank – Rev. Augustyn Szamarzewski, Rev. Piotr Wawrzyniak, Rev. Stanisław Adamski, Central Economic Society, agricultural societies, industrial associations, cooperatives and banks).
- h) Polish cultural, scientific and educational organisations (including Polish Theatre, Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences and the Mielżyński Museum, People's Reading Society, Tomasz Zan Society, Eleusis Society).
- i) Polish social (civic) organizations in Wielkopolska, including singing societies, abstinence societies, gymnastic societies ("Sokół" Gymnastics Society), amateur theatre groups, scouts, first sports clubs, etc.
- j) Polish press and publishing activity, the beginnings of mass culture and the formation of Polish public opinion (including "Dziennik Poznański", "Kurier Poznański", "Przewodnik Katolicki").
- k) "Thank God he's finally arrived!". First visits and concerts of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań (1890, 1901).
- l) Polish politics on the road to legalism: deputies and the Polish Circle in the parliaments of Prussia and Germany, the Central Electoral Committee and the organisation of election campaigns.
- m) The changes that occurred between 1815 and 1914 (primarily in 1870/71 and 1914) in the daily life and work of the various social classes; the transformations taking place in the

urban space, the construction of waterworks, gasworks and power plants; the development of transit network: railroads, and in Poznań also streetcars, etc.

- n) The influence of Wielkopolska on other Polish territories of the Prussian partition (Pomerania, Silesia)
- o) A catalogue of examples of organic work:
 - i. Poznań - Scientific Aid Society (Karol Marcinkowski, Hipolit Cegielski); Bazar (Karol Marcinkowski, Józef Szuldrzyński, Maciej Mielżyński); Central Economic Society for the Grand Duchy of Poznań (Hipolit Cegielski); Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences (Karol Libelt, Tytus Działyński, August Cieszkowski); Scientific Aid for Impoverished Young Women in Poznańskie and West Prussia (Emilia Szczaniecka); Raczyński Library (Edward Raczyński, Józef Łukaszewicz, Antoni Popliński); Polish Industrial Society in Poznań (Jędrzej Moraczewski); People's Reading Society (Jan Konstanty Żupański, Stanisław Jerzykowski); "Warta" Society for Mutual Teaching and Child Care (Zofia and Aniela Tułodzieckie),
 - ii. Turwia – centre of modern agriculture (Dezydery Chłapowski),
 - iii. Rogalin – patronage of the arts and sciences (Edward Raczyński),
 - iv. Żabikowo – Higher School of Agriculture (August Cieszkowski),
 - v. Pomarzanowice – agricultural societies (Maksymilian Jackowski - "king of the peasants"),
 - vi. Włociszewki - Andrzej and Władysław Niegolewski (it is difficult to clearly attribute their organic worker activity to this particular family estate),
 - vii. Gostyń – Gostyń Casino (Gustaw Potworowski),
 - viii. Miłosław - a centre of cultural life, collections of art and literature, which became the basis of the Mielżyński Museum at the Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences (Seweryn Mielżyński),
 - ix. Kórnik – Kórnik Library (Tytus and Jan Działyński),
 - x. Śrem, Mogilno – Union of Commercial and Economic Companies (Piotr Wawrzyniak),
 - xi. Środa, Ostrów Wielkopolski – Union of Commercial and Economic Companies (Augustyn Szamarzewski),
 - xii. Lubasz/Poznań - "Przewodnik Katolicki" (Rev. Józef Kłós),

- xiii. Trzemeszno, Gniezno – educational and publishing activity (Józef Chociszewski).

Historical Description

Throughout the 19th century, the Grand Duchy of Posen (and later the province of Poznań) was primarily an agricultural and food supply base for the Prussian state, which at that time (starting as early as 1848, and later after 1871) experienced rapid modernization processes associated with the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the unification of the German lands. The eastern part of the country, which was inhabited by Poles, remained somewhat on the side lines of these economic processes, and it was only after the reunification of Germany in 1871 that more significant symptoms of these processes appeared there. Throughout the 19th century, the most important thing for Wielkopolska was agriculture and its rural population was the earliest - in comparison to the Russian and Austrian partition - to be subjected to the process of enfranchisement, conducted since 1823 in several stages, out of inspiration and under control of the Prussian partitioner. The enfranchisement was carried out on the basis of a voluntary agreement, with compensation in land or cash, or in cash or grain pensions, and previous serfdom obligations could be redeemed through the so-called "corvée". As a result of the enfranchisement reforms in Wielkopolska, a specific ownership structure of the countryside was formed. On the one hand there functioned modern and efficient noblemen's and landowner's manors, while on the other, relatively few but large and economically effective farms were created. However, the majority of the village population consisted of a very large group of hired agricultural labourers. The introduction of the "Prussian way to capitalism" in agriculture, favouring rich farmers, created in the Wielkopolska countryside a large group of agricultural proletariat, which, however, also did not suffer from privation. The changes made were also beneficial to the development and profitability of existing landed estates and peasant farms.

At the same time, especially in the first half of the 19th century, the broad modernisation of the economic and social life of Wielkopolska referred primarily to three issues. These were: firstly, the introduction of compulsory education, which in practice brought about the complete eradication of illiteracy; secondly, the slow but progressive utilization of the achievements of the industrial revolution in the thriving agriculture and, to a lesser extent, in industry; and thirdly, the launch of the first railroad lines in the second half of the 1840s, which significantly increased the transit capabilities and spatial mobility of the region's inhabitants. In the history of Wielkopolska of this period, we can also identify individuals who, having foreign roots or even not being Poles, played a large role in the development of the region and even in the cultivation of Polish traditions. Here it is necessary to mention: a Prus-

sian policeman and graphic artist – Julius Minutoli, a doctor from Leszno – Jan Metzlig, a Poznań philanthropist and founder of a realschule – Gotthilf Berger, a lawyer – Jakub Krauthofer-Krotowski, who participated in the events of the Spring of Nations on the Polish side, a historian and archivist from Kępno – Adolf Warschauer, a publisher and bookseller – Jan Konstanty Żupański, who came from a Greek family already Polonised in the 18th century, and, above all, a doctor and microbiologist from Wolsztyn – Robert Koch.

The most peculiar and extremely important theme of patriotism of the people of Wielkopolska and their struggle for freedom in the 19th century developed in the field of the so-called organic work. This concept was created by Jan Koźmian, and it referred to a completely new concept of the Polish road to independence, which started to be realized after the defeat of the November Uprising by the inhabitants of the Grand Duchy of Poznań. The organic workers assumed that armed uprisings - in view of the military and demographic superiority of the partitioning powers, as well as the indifference of European politicians - were pointless for the time being, and that Poles should concentrate on educating a new society by strengthening the national consciousness among the masses and raising the quality of management and both material and spiritual culture. The proponents of organic work believed that only after the success of these long-term and laborious activities, the Polish society, composed of all classes and social strata and having national awareness, would have a chance to regain its own independent existence as a state, including ultimately through a single but finally victorious uprising. Initially, the organic workers were led by three social groups: the landed gentry, representatives of the emerging intelligentsia, and the clergy, exceptionally patriotic and aware of their functions going beyond pastoral ones. With time, the supporters of this idea were gradually joined by the previously less nationally awakened petty bourgeoisie (merchants, craftsmen), as well as the rural population. The first leader of the organic workers of Wielkopolska was Dr Karol Marcinkowski, and their most outstanding representatives were: in the organizational and cultural-scientific field – Maciej and Seweryn Mielżyński and Gustaw Potworowski, in the field of agricultural development – Dezydery Chłapowski and later Maksymilian Jackowski, and in the field of creating the foundations of industry – Hipolit Cegielski. The new symbols of the activity of the supporters of organic work, primarily economic and social, were the Citizens' Casino in Gostyń (established in 1835), and especially the Bazar Hotel in Poznań (opened in 1842), an authentic centre of Polish political, social, economic and cultural life. A separate issue is to answer the question to what extent these pioneers of organic labour were fully aware of their mission, and to what extent they acted from

strictly personal motives (getting rich, scientific or cultural interests, patronage, etc.), which, however, does not diminish their merits.

With time, not only Poznań, but practically all cities and towns of Wielkopolska became the arena of uncommon activity of Poles effectively competing with Germans in economic, social, and cultural work. In addition to economic institutions (banks, commercial companies, cooperatives, etc.), the most important Polish organizations included singing, theatrical, abstinence, gymnastic ("Sokół" Gymnastics Society) and sports societies, as well as modern scouting. On the other hand, in the field of Polish cultural, scientific and educational activities, we should mention the activity of the already established: Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences and the Mielżyński Museum, as well as the Polish Theatre, the People's Reading Society, the Thomas Zan Society, and the Eleusis Society, which disciplined its members in the pursuit of excellence. Besides, the growing cultural needs – of not only the elite, but also of the whole society of Wielkopolska – together with the almost complete eradication of illiteracy (as a result of the compulsory education that was supposed to help with Germanisation) contributed to the further development of the publishing market. This concerned not only compact publications (books, albums, often with religious and patriotic content at the same time), but above all, the press, published not only in Poznań (e.g., "Dziennik Poznański", "Kurier Poznański", "Orędownik"), but also in the countryside of Wielkopolska. At that time, practically every city had a regularly published magazine in Polish.

Polish inhabitants of Wielkopolska had their parliamentary representation in the Prussian state, and later in the Wilhelmine Second Reich, united and becoming a world power. The Polish Group existed in the Prussian Parliament from 1848 to 1918 (since 1871 also in the all-German Reichstag). Initially, the members of parliament were mostly representatives of wealthy and influential landowning circles present in their constituencies. These were mainly conservatives or liberals, and not infrequently supporters of at least limited loyalism towards the German state, but at the same time, in many cases, also consistent defenders of Polish affairs. Over time, they had to enter into electoral competition with candidates of entirely new political parties and movements that had been forming since the last decade of the 19th century. In the political mosaic of influences among the Polish population of Wielkopolska, the most important group, next to the conservatives, were supporters of reformist socialism and, above all, sympathizers of the national democratic (all-Polish) movement. While the former were often closer to the mighty German social democracy, the latter underlined the necessity of combining objectives and consolidating actions of Polish people from the three partitions. It

should be added that in 1918 and on the eve of the Wielkopolska Uprising, Polish parliamentarians, including Wojciech Korfanty and Władysław Seyda, played a significant role in the parliament in Berlin.

Module II

The Great War and Wielkopolska

Olaf Bergmann, Piotr Grzelczak

Summary

World War I was the greatest military conflict since the Napoleonic Wars. It was a total war (especially from 1916 onwards) in which all the available means were used to decimate the enemy. It was also a great generational experience with 9.5 million casualties. From the Polish perspective, the most important fact is that during the war the countries that had partitioned the Commonwealth of Poland became enemies, which, in turn, enabled the development of a number of initiatives aimed at restoring Polish independence. The victorious Wielkopolska Uprising was a part of this multifaceted process.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that although World War I was a devastating total conflict, from a geopolitical perspective its outbreak was extremely beneficial to restoration of Polish independence.
- b) The visitor understands the dilemmas of the nationally conscious Polish society, which during World War I was forced to fight (with Poles often fighting other Poles) for goals, values, and ideas that were foreign to it.
- c) The visitor notices and understands the phenomenon, taking place during years 1914-1918, of the deepening of the processes strengthening the national identity of the Poles, who, in Wielkopolska, constituted an unusually tight-knit social group and, despite numerous difficulties, never gave up working for the Polish cause, including through activities of an organic and at the same time national democratic and conspiratorial nature.

Themes

4. *Total War and Wielkopolska* - **level 2**
5. *Individual and collective fates of the people of Wielkopolska on the fronts of World War I* - **level 1.**

6. *The people of Wielkopolska and life in their "little homelands" in 1914–1918: everyday problems, continuation of the tradition of organic work and the beginning of the pro-independence conspiracy ("In anticipation of freedom and peace") - level 1.*

Key terms

Central Powers, the Entente, Polish question, total war, positional and mobile warfare, trenches, new and deadly types of arms and weaponry (machine guns, battle gases, rapid-fire artillery, tanks, airplanes), "Kaczmarek-regiments", conspiracy, Central Civic Committee, Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme #1: *Total War and Wielkopolska* – level 2

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands the reasons for the outbreak of World War I: industrial revolution, nationalism, imperialism, system of alliances, arms race.
- b) The visitor understands that Poles sometimes fought against each other in the armies of the three partitioning powers.
- c) The visitor notices that the partitioning powers were increasingly active in their desire to recruit Poles to actively support their military efforts, and that the Poles considered various concepts and opportunities for exploiting the conflict between them in aid of the broadly defined Polish cause and regaining independence.
- d) The visitor understands that World War I was a total conflict with the goal of completely destroying the enemy by all available methods and means.

Thematic range

- a) "Late empire": German unification and neo-imperial policy (Wilhelm II).
- b) New division of Europe into two allied blocs: the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.
- c) Causes of the war and its outbreak (Sarajevo assassination), initial wartime enthusiasm.

- d) "All quiet on the western front": the fronts of World War I (Paul von Hindenburg, Erich Ludendorff).
- e) Tactics of warfare and new weapons and armaments.
- f) Unfulfilled promises: partitioning powers towards Poles (Wilhelm II, Nicholas II, Franz Joseph I).
- g) Poles towards the partitioning powers and their war (Józef Piłsudski, Roman Dmowski, Zdzisław Lubomirski, Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki, Józef Haller).

Historical description

German unification in 1871 changed the balance of power in Europe. The "new" state, through its emphasis on armaments and army development (militarism), wanted to gain hegemony in Europe, as well as the status of a colonial power, which generated conflicts with other European powers. This led to the formation of two great rival alliances on the Old Continent: the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, which, after the spark created by the attack in Sarajevo in the summer of 1914, found themselves at war, welcomed enthusiastically by their increasingly nationalist societies. However, this state of euphoria soon passed, and in the following four years the multi-million-strong armies of European states clashed with each other on several fronts of the "Great European War" in numerous, extremely bloody battles. The huge number of casualties in these clashes, which was surprising to everyone, was due to the new weapons and armaments used for the first time on such a large scale: machine guns, battle gases, aircraft and tanks. For hundreds of thousands of young Poles, war meant being called up to serve in the armies of the partitioning states, and as a result, over the next four years a few million Poles passed through the armies of Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. The partitioning powers realized the value of Polish recruits, so in the following years of the Great War they tried to correct their policy towards Poles. However, promises to create the seeds of Polish statehood or a Polish army were rarely followed by concrete decisions and actions aimed at their implementation. While in 1916, on the basis of the Act of 5th November, the Germans and Austrians created a puppet Kingdom of Poland on the territories taken from Russia in 1915, they had no intention of declaring the resurrection of a genuinely independent Poland consisting of all three partitions. On the other hand, Polish leaders representing various political options created concepts aimed at using the global conflict for furthering the Polish cause. Some, like the National Democrats with Roman Dmowski, seeing the power and hostility of Germany, bet on its opponents (Russia and the Western countries),

while others, like the pro-independence left wing with Józef Piłsudski and some conservatives, feared Russia the most and considered the Habsburg monarchy as the least dangerous partitioner, and therefore wanted to look for a way to revive Poland under its wings. On the other hand, the extreme left rejected the concept of Polish independence and according to them the only chance for the Polish nation was the revolution of the proletariat.

Theme 2: *Individual and collective fates of the people of Wielkopolska on the fronts of World War I* – level 1.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor notices that the people of Wielkopolska fought on all fronts of World War I and in its greatest and bloodiest battles.
- b) The visitor notices and understands the multitude of wartime experiences of the people of Wielkopolska - soldiers of the German army, and in individual cases of other armies, including those of the Entente states.
- c) The visitor sees and understands the dilemmas of the people of Wielkopolska related to serving a foreign country and their personal tragedies related to having to leave their families and their "little homelands".
- d) The visitor notices the benefits that Poles derived from the events of the years 1914-1918, including the experience and military skills that were used during the Wielkopolska Uprising and in the subsequent battles for shaping the borders of the Second Polish Republic.

Thematic range

- a) People of Wielkopolska on different fronts of war and in different formations of the German army.
- b) People of Wielkopolska in the biggest and bloodiest battles of World War I, such as: Tannenberg, Marna, Gorlice, Ypres, Verdun, Somme, Caporetto.
- c) "Wielkopolski Kaczmarek" in *feldgrau*: appointment, assignment, uniform, equipment, departure to the front, learning the "war craft".
- d) Not only "at Verdun": people of Wielkopolska in march, in camp and in battle.

- e) *Kameradschaft* - the solidarity and specific bond of "brothers-in-arms".
- f) Soldiers' longing for home and their homeland - Wielkopolska: letters, parcels, vacations, contact with relatives.
- g) Honours and death: decorations, obituaries, condolences.

Historical description

A total of about 700,000 Poles were present in the ranks of the German army between 1914 and 1918, of which at least half were people of Wielkopolska (next to people from Pomerania and Silesia and Polish emigrants residing in various regions of Germany at that time). Poles in the German army fought on all fronts of World War I, wherever Germany was fighting: from the trenches of the western front to the eastern front, from the North Sea to the Balkans, and in isolated cases even in the Middle and Far East and in Africa. They served in various formations of the German army as infantrymen, artillerymen, airmen and sailors. It is worth noting that regardless of social background or education, almost all of them were aware of their national identity. In addition, for the Poles fighting in all the armies of partitioning powers, the tragedy of this war was that they were forced to fight against each other - especially on the eastern front, but sometimes also on the western front. A statistical man from Wielkopolska, drafted to the German army in the summer of 1914, gained a fairly standard baggage of experience, starting with receiving his assignment, through his increasingly brief and superficial training, going to the front, and ending with his baptism of fire and subsequent life in the trenches. Recruits from the Prussian partition fought in all the major battles of World War I: at the Marne (1914), which stopped the advance of the German army and began the "race to the sea", at Arras (1914) and at Ypres (1914). On the eastern front, major clashes took place at Tannenberg (1914) or at the Masurian Lakes (1914). In the years that followed, the battles that need to be mentioned are the Second Battle of Ypres (1915) or the bloody clashes at Verdun (1916) and on the Somme (1916). There is, of course, a great deal of other examples of battles that resulted in thousands of casualties. Poles took part in each of these battles; they persevered, fought, were wounded and died. Newspapers of Poznań and the whole Wielkopolska were regularly filled with lists of losses and war obituaries. Many recruits paid for their participation in a war that was foreign to them with permanent disabilities. A soldier's dream came true when he received a letter, a package from his family, and finally a leave to go home to see his loved ones. Some received honours in the form of decorations

and, somewhat less frequently, promotions through the successive ranks of the military hierarchy.

Theme 3: *People of Wielkopolska and life in their "little homelands" in 1914-1918:*
everyday problems, continuation of organic work and the beginning of the independence conspiracy – **level 1**

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor learns about the social and political initiatives of the people of Wielkopolska who, despite the war, continued to strive for freedom in two ways: by preparing for armed struggle and by continuing the social and economic traditions of organic work.
- b) The visitor understands the cruelty of a total war involving entire societies, including the tragedy of the tens of thousands of "statistical" families of Wielkopolska who lost their loved ones during it.
- c) The visitor understands that during World War I the living and material conditions of the people of Wielkopolska deteriorated significantly.

Thematic range

- a) German war propaganda targeted to the civilian population.
- b) Progressive wartime pauperisation of Wielkopolska, an agricultural supply base of the Reich, and its predominantly Polish population.
- c) Shortages of provisions, substitutes, food ration cards, substitute money.
- d) Women in family and public life.
- e) Conspiratorial and legal initiatives of people of Wielkopolska striving for freedom:
 - i. Central Civic Committee,
 - ii. Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition,
 - iii. "Sokół" Gymnastics Society and scouting,
 - iv. Educational and cultural organizations and sports clubs, e.g. KS "Warta", TP "Ostrovia", KW 04, PTW "Tryton".

Historical description

In spite of the war, the anti-Polish policy of the German authorities in the province of Poznań eased only seemingly, and that was mainly due to the mobilization plans of the German army. The official propaganda emphasized the necessity of Polish-German "brotherhood of arms," which was manifested, for example, in the appearance of a mobilization proclamation in Polish language in Poznań. The situation was somewhat different in the former Russian parti-

tion, which from 1915 was also under German occupation, and where in 1916 the Kingdom of Poland was formed, a puppet state dependent on Germany and Austria-Hungary. At the same time, families of Polish soldiers serving in the German army had to struggle not only with separation or pain after their loss, but also with many everyday problems. Among the many disadvantages were widespread impoverishment and problems with provisions. They resulted in the introduction of a ration card system and the replacement of many basic products with non-essential substitute products. Although the reality of war and stricter laws did not favour legal, let alone clandestine, independence activities - many young people were drafted into the army - they were still carried out in Wielkopolska. The groups most active in this regard were the National Democrats and Christian Democrats, who were counting on Germany's defeat and who formed the influential Central Civic Committee. Let us also mention the combat groups of the Secret Independence Organization, which were active from 1915, the "Sokół" Gymnastic Society, the scouting movement, the Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition, as well as sports, cultural and educational clubs and societies. In these fields, Poles in the Prussian partition more than once manifested their patriotic feelings, also during fully legal ceremonies. Many of them were also involved in various forms of charitable activities, which was especially true of the most active and effective women in this field. Frequently, it was on their shoulders that not only the upkeep of the home, but also professional and social work rested entirely, stemming from the need to replace the men remaining at the front lines. Undoubtedly, this became a very important impetus for the further emancipation of women and the change in their social position after the war.

The end of the war brought the Poles hope for regaining independence. However, it required another military effort. Many of those who only a few weeks ago were fighting in foreign armies and uniforms went off to fight for a free Poland. People of Wielkopolska - soldiers of the defeated German army - also returned to their homes. Soon the experience and military skills they acquired would prove extremely useful. On 27th December 1918, the Wielkopolska Uprising broke out in Poznań.

Module III

Wielkopolska Uprising 1918-1919

Olaf Bergmann, Piotr Grzelczak

Summary

The end of hostilities on the western front (11th November 1918), and especially the November Revolution spreading throughout Germany, which plunged the country into chaos and led to the collapse of the Hohenzollern monarchy, gave Poles in the Prussian partition a rare chance to regain their freedom. It was necessary to act in that place and in that moment. The success of this struggle depended, to a large extent, on the prudence of the Polish elite in Poznańskie, led by politicians of such calibre as Władysław Seyda, Wojciech Korfanty, Rev. Stanisław Adamski or Adam Poszwiński. Until that time, they had conspired in the Central Civic Committee, which had its local counterparts on the district level and aspired to be the representation of all Poles in the Prussian partition. It was mainly thanks to them that it was possible to take control over the civilian revolutionary authority in the city - the Workers' Council, and then, after joining forces with the Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition, to carry out the so-called city hall assault on November 13, 1918, thanks to which the Poles managed to gain direct influence over the German-dominated Soldiers' Council. These successes provided the impetus to stop working underground and contributed to the disclosure of the Central Civic Committee, which on 14th November 1918, proclaimed the establishment of a new leadership body for Poles in Germany: Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council. It called for the creation of Polish people's councils in the provinces and convened the Polish District Sejm in Poznań on 3rd December. This great political movement of a clearly pro-independence character would not, of course, have been so broad and effective had it not been for several generations of experience in social self-organisation born on the basis of organic work. These experiences determined the building of social capital, the uniqueness of which was determined, among others, by the ability to solve problems together, the willingness to cooperate and mutual trust.

Sessions of the Polish District Sejm (3rd-5th December 1918), as well as a rival congress of German People's Councils, contributed to increased political tension in Poznań. It grew even more due to the Ignacy Jan Paderewski's arrival to the city on 26th December 1918, which led to the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising on the next day. Efficient coor-

dination of the insurgents' activities in Poznan, as well as the effect of surprise, which significantly weakened the already poor German morale, resulted in relatively quick liberation of Poznań. The same method of operation worked well in the countryside of Wielkopolska, where divisions composed of Poles appeared almost simultaneously and efficiently began to occupy the individual cities and towns. The success of these "local uprisings" resulted in almost all of Wielkopolska being controlled by the insurgents within a dozen or so days. The Supreme People's Council, as well as the Uprising command, remaining at first in the hands of Stanislaw Taczak and later in the hands of Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki, took full advantage of all military and political opportunities resulting from the crisis consuming Germany, defeated during World War I. They were guaranteed first by insurgents-volunteers, and since mid-January 1919 by the regular Army of Wielkopolska. Parallel diplomatic efforts of the Polish authorities, the Polish National Committee in Paris and the Allied countries, especially France, led to the signing of the armistice in Trier (16th February 1919), which was extremely favourable to the insurgents. The success of the Wielkopolska Uprising was confirmed by the final decisions of the Versailles Conference and signing of the Versailles Treaty granting Wielkopolska to Poland on 28th June 1919.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor knows that the final period of World War I was a time of rapid political and social change in Europe, which determined the new balance of power and created unprecedented opportunities for action on behalf of the Polish cause.
- b) The visitor understands that the people of Wielkopolska took advantage of the opportunities created by the international situation and the weakening of Germany in late 1918.
- c) The visitor remembers that the success of the Wielkopolska Uprising was determined by many different factors, among which the key ones were:
 - i. ability to self-organise and cooperate (transcending political divisions and despite different concepts of liberating Wielkopolska from German rule) developed over decades thanks to the phenomenon of organic work in Wielkopolska,

- ii. effective and pragmatic leadership, able to respond quickly to changing circumstances and to fight both militarily and politically, with particular emphasis on successful diplomatic efforts that determined the ultimate victory,
 - iii. building of transparent and stable institutions of power by Polish political organisations that had the social mandate to do so (and partially also the consent of the German authorities weakened by the November Revolution) owing to the trust they had gained during the earlier underground activity, which prepared a solid foundation for the future Uprising and its success.
- d) The visitor knows that Ignacy Jan Paderewski's arrival in Poznań on 26th December 1918 was also of particular symbolic significance to the outbreak of the Uprising - the presence of this important statesman became a "symbol of the idea" of the fight for independence.
- e) The visitor remembers that in military terms the Wielkopolska Uprising began as a series of spontaneous uprisings constituting the "sum of local uprisings", which took with time the form of an organised, regular war between Poland (Wielkopolska) and Germany.

Themes

6. *From conspiracy to Polish authority*– **level 2.**
7. *“The symbol of an Idea”. Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań and the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising* – **level 1.**
8. *"Surprise and prevail." The sum of the "local uprisings" in Wielkopolska* – **level 1+** (the most important theme not only on the scale of the module, but also of the whole exhibition).
9. *Army of Wielkopolska and the war between Poland (Wielkopolska) and Germany* – **level 1.**
10. *A victorious truce. Trier and Versailles* – **level 2.**

Key concepts:

Compiègne, conspiracy, revolution, people's councils, Polish District Sejm, Supreme People's Council, scouts, Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition, People's Guard, Guard and Security Service, Paderewski, Uprising, volunteers, street fights, Ławica, arms and colours, aviation, conscription, Army of Wielkopolska, front, war, battles, Grenzschutz, Heimatschutz, Trier, Versailles

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme 1: *From conspiracy to Polish authority*– level 2.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor knows that although Germany suffered defeat in the Great War and was further weakened due to the ongoing revolution against the authority of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Compiègne Peace Agreements stipulated that Wielkopolska would remain within the borders of the German state, which caused extreme discontent among the people of Wielkopolska, who were hoping to see actions in aid of independence taken in other parts of the Polish lands.
- b) The visitor understands that the leaders of the Wielkopolska independence organizations made active efforts to make Wielkopolska Polish in political and public dimensions - they convened the Polish District Sejm, which entrusted the right to represent all Poles under German rule (including those living in the hinterland of Germany) to the Supreme People's Council.
- c) The visitor knows that the institutional actions (sometimes also legal) taken by Poles in the Prussian partition in November and December 1918 were in line with the Polish *raison d'état* and largely determined the subsequent success of the Wielkopolska Uprising.

Thematic range

- a) The international situation at the end of World War I - Wilson's 14 points and the activities of the Polish National Committee in Paris.
- b) 11th November 1918 on Polish soil and the beginning of the restoration of the independent Polish Republic.
- c) The armistice of Compiègne and its consequences for Europe, Germany, Poland and Wielkopolska.
- d) Revolution in Germany and its aspect in Wielkopolska.
- e) "All power in the hands of councils." Workers' and soldiers' councils (including the first council in Jarocin; "Republic of Ostrów").
- f) Disclosure of the Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council and the establishment of Polish people's councils in the countryside.

- g) Armed formations: Polish (People's Guard, Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition) Polish-German and Polish-dominated (Guard and Security Service); Polish District Sejm and the establishment of the Supreme People's Council (Stanisław Adamski, Władysław Seyda, Wojciech Korfanty, Józef Rymer, Stefan Łaszewski, Adam Poszwiński, Zofia Sokolnicka, Anna Łubieńska, Leon Janta-Półczyński).

Historical description

There would have been no insurgent victory had it not been for the defeat of the Kaiser's Reich in World War I and the building of a new political order in Europe based on President Wilson's 14 points. The state apparatus that had been considered the world's most efficient collapsed like a house of cards in November 1918. It was a paradox of history that the foundations of the German system were swept away from the "public arena" with the renunciation of obedience to Wilhelm II by the army that he loved so much. The revolution, which broke out among the Kiel sailors in early November 1918, quickly swept into Berlin, where it gained a win, marked by the abdication of the Kaiser. Poznań and Wielkopolska were not just white spots on the map of this rebellion, which initially had a decidedly military and German character, as evidenced by the composition of the Poznań Soldiers' Council, established on 9th November 1918. The actual revolutionary wave poured into the streets of Poznań the following day, and the chaos was further amplified when information began to reach the city about the terms of the Compiègne Agreement, i.e., the truce between the Entente and Germany. It provided for the immediate withdrawal of German troops from France and Belgium, but in the east it still retained the 1914 border, which for Poznań meant maintaining the partition status quo.

Therefore, when Józef Piłsudski was taking over the power from the Regency Council in Warsaw, the fight for Polish identity in Wielkopolska started for good. Its success depended to a large extent on the prudence of the Polish elite, led by politicians of such calibre as Władysław Seyda, Wojciech Korfanty, Rev. Stanisław Adamski or Adam Poszwiński. They had conspired within the Central Civic Committee, a body aspiring to be the representation of all Poles in the Prussian partition, which was made possible by a dense network of local, secret civic committees operating in the cities and towns of Poznań. It was mainly thanks to their political maturity and organisational efficiency that it was possible to take control over the civilian revolutionary authority in the city - the Workers' Council, and then, after reaching an agreement with the Polish Military Organization of the Prussian partition (POWzb), to

carry out the so-called assault on the city hall on 13th November 1918 and gain direct influence over the German-dominated Soldiers' Council. These successes provided the impetus for concluding the conspiracy and contributed to the disclosure of the Central Civic Committee (CCC), which on 14th November 1918 proclaimed the establishment of a new leadership body for the Polish population in Germany: Commissariat of the Supreme People's Council. He called for the creation of people's councils (and People's Guards!) in the countryside and convened the Polish District Sejm in Poznań (3rd-5th December 1918). It was the Polish District Sejm (convened with the acquiescence of the German authorities) that elected a proper Supreme People's Council and recognized it as the sole Polish representation in the Prussian partition. The new SPC Commissariat consisted of Rev. Stanisław Adamski, Władysław Seyda, Wojciech Korfanty, Józef Rymer, Stefan Łaszewski and Adam Poszwiński. From the very beginning, the SPC, back then still CCC, underlined its ties with the Polish National Committee in Paris. The basis of its action was to restore the lands of the Prussian partition to Poland. With the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising, the SPC, in spite of initially being opposed to commencing armed struggle at that particular moment, assumed leadership over it, and the two Polish factions (supporters and opponents of armed struggle) began to work together.

Theme 2: “*The symbol of an Idea*”. *Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Poznań and the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising* – level 1.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that Ignacy Jan Paderewski's arrival in Poznan had a symbolic meaning – it was a kind of spark that contributed to the outbreak of the Uprising due to constantly growing socio-political tensions between Poles and Germans.
- b) The visitor knows that Ignacy Jan Paderewski was one of the most eminent Polish statesmen of his time, enjoying fame and international recognition not only as a musician, but also as an advocate of the Polish cause - for the people of Poznań and Wielkopolska, the presence of such a figure symbolized the chances for Wielkopolska to join the reborn Polish Republic.
- c) The visitor remembers that the scale of tensions between Poles and Germans in Poznań in late 1918 was evidenced by a peculiar war of national symbols waged in the city space.

- d) The visitor learns about the circumstances (Paderewski's arrival), the time (27th December 1918, about 4:40 p.m.) and place (near Bazar Hotel, later Liberty Square and German Police Headquarters) of the outbreak of Wielkopolska Uprising in Poznań.

Thematic range

- a) Ignacy Jan Paderewski: world-renowned composer and piano virtuoso, a politician committed to the Polish cause in the United States, close friend of U.S. President T.W. Wilson.
- b) The expedition of I.J. Paderewski to Poland in December 1918 and his arrival in Poznań:
- i. train journey from Gdańsk and German attempts at stopping his mission,
 - ii. the rapid self-organisation of people of Wielkopolska, who prepared a welcome for an unexpected guest in a dozen or so hours, Polish euphoria and welcoming of Paderewski at the Summer Railway Station by tens of thousands of Poznań citizens,
 - iii. a triumphant ride to the Bazar Hotel in the light of torches,
 - iv. the speech from the windows of the Bazar Hotel directed to thousands of Poles,
 - v. delegations from individual classes and communities going to the Bazar Hotel on 27th December to pay tribute to I.J. Paderewski (including the famous children's march).
- c) Polish-German fight with symbols in urban space (national flags: Polish, German and Allied lanterns in national colours, posters, stickers, placards, etc.).
- d) German aggression: the march of the 6th Grenadier Regiment from Jeżyce to the city centre.
- e) 27th December 1918 and the "first shot" in the immediate vicinity of the Bazar Hotel protected by Poles (about 4.40 pm).
- f) First Polish victims: Franciszek Ratajczak, Antoni Andrzejewski, Jan Mertka.
- g) The Poles' conquest of strategic buildings in Poznań: the railroad station, the post office, the Presidium of Police, offices (the city hall) and subsequent barrack complexes.
- h) "Free Poznań" - the liberation of Poznań, the organisation of the Polish administration and everyday life in the city during the first days of the Uprising.

Historical description

Despite his international fame and success among the elite, Ignacy Jan Paderewski never forgot about his home country. He took special care to be presented as a Polish artist, he selected repertoire exposing the achievements of eminent Polish artists, with Frederic Chopin at the forefront, and he frequently got involved in the life of the American Polish community, often financially supporting the activities of Polish organizations and associations in exile. He felt more and more at home in politics, which was reflected, among other things, in the famous foundation of the Grunwald Monument, unveiled in Kraków on the 500th anniversary of the battle, and above all, in his activity during World War I. During that time, he became not only a mandatary of a great charity campaign conducted for the benefit of his compatriots in Poland (like the Veveyski Committee of H. Sienkiewicz, Polish Relief Fund in London, hundreds of concerts, on the occasion of which he agitated for the cause of enslaved Poland), but also, mainly thanks to his extensive connections in the world of American and English politics, an ambassador of the Polish cause in the West. From 1917 onwards, he was the official representative of the Polish National Committee in the USA, having direct access to the most important American politicians, including President Thomas Woodrow Wilson.

The exceptionally strong political position that Paderewski had earned overseas during the Great War led him to return to Europe in December 1918. Here, after talks with the British Foreign Minister, Lord Arthur Balfour, and in agreement with Roman Dmowski and General Józef Haller, he decided to travel to Poland by sea. Even the choice of the destination port and the route through the country was highly symbolic, as the route led through Gdańsk, where he arrived on 25th December 1918 with a delegation of the English military mission. The delegation was ceremoniously greeted by representatives of the Supreme People's Council, including members of the Commissariat of the SPC – Wojciech Korfanty and Stefan Łaszewski, and the chairman of the Department of Public Security of the Commissariat of the SPC – Jan Maciaszek. In the evening, a courier brought from Poznań a letter from a member of the Commissariat of the SPC, Rev. Stanisław Adamski. After consultation with Korfanty and Col. Henry Wade, Paderewski announced his decision to travel to Poznań. The delegation left Gdansk on 26th of December at 11 am. The German General Staff ordered the commanders of the 2nd and 5th Army Corps not to allow the delegation to enter the capital of Wielkopolska and to escort it to the border of the Polish Republic, but the people of Poznań did not allow the German officers with the message from the staff to enter the railway station. For protection against German violence, there were Guard and Security Service units consisting of Poles on standby. When the news of the possible arrival of the most famous of contemporary

Poles at Poznań reached the Wielkopolska region, feverish preparations – taking only about a dozen hours, but very well organised – began everywhere. Therefore, when at 9.10 p.m. the train with Paderewski and the accompanying delegation entered Poznań's railway station, they were greeted at the station and in the streets by crowds of Poznań citizens, lighting their way with torches, as there was no light from street lamps in the city centre. At the Bazar Hotel, where the delegation arrived at about 10 p.m., a welcome speech was given by Dr. Bolesław Krysiwicz, chairman of the Presidium of the SPC, Korfanty addressed the English mission, and Colonel Wade responded to the people gathered. Finally, Paderewski spoke, concluding with the following words: "Long live Poland, harmony, unity, and our free homeland, united with our Polish coast, will live forever". Paderewski's speech, repeated from the window of the Bazar Hotel, was heard by tens of thousands of Poznań citizens gathered in front of it. On 27th December, Poles again gathered in front of the Bazar Hotel. At noon, a parade of children with red and white pennants marched through the downtown streets. In the afternoon, the Germans organized a counter march - singing German songs and raising anti-Polish shouts. German soldiers forcibly entered Polish homes and offices, tore down and destroyed Polish and coalition flags, and demolished the interiors of Polish institutions, including the offices of the Commissariat of the SPC and the Bank of Commercial Companies. Before 5 pm the first shots were fired - in the area of Wilhelmowskiego Square (present day Liberty Square) in front of the Bazar Hotel. This met a reaction of the Polish units of the Guard and Security Service and the People's Guard, guarding Paderewski's safety. Bazar Hotel became the Polish headquarters. Around 6 pm, fruitless negotiations with the Germans about a ceasefire took place. Germans recommenced firing from the building of Police Presidium. The Poles responded with heavy fire and on that very evening they took hold of the following buildings: the museum, the post office, the main railway station, the arsenal on Wielkie Garbary Street, Prittwitz and Rauch forts and district soldier's quarters.. At night, Colonel Wade sent a telegram to the Truce Commission in Spa and the Foreign Office in London with information about the fighting in Poznań. Ignacy Paderewski left Poznań at 3 a.m. on 1st January 1919.

Theme 3: *"Surprise and prevail." The sum of the "local uprisings" in the countryside of Wielkopolska – level 1+*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor notices the spontaneous and impetuous character of the Wielkopolska Uprising in its first phase - he gets to know the phenomenon of many "local uprisings" as an insurrectionary *modus operandi* applied in the countryside, where on hearing the news of the outbreak of the Uprising in Poznan, local troops were quickly organized, thanks to which they were efficiently taking over the power in subsequent cities and localities..
- b) The visitor understands that despite the dispersed nature of the military operations, the achievements of the insurgents often exceeded the local dimension - he knows about the capture of the Ławica airport, considered "the Polish booty of all time", and about Paweł Cymys's "Kuyavia" raid which ended with the capture of Inowrocław.
- c) The visitor understands that even in the initial phase the military action was accompanied by the building of Polish institutions of authority and administration, which were the centres enabling the coordination of further military actions and the actual management of the freedom won.
- d) The visitor knows that in the first period of the Uprising the function of Commander-in-Chief was given to Maj. Stanisław Taczak.
- e) The visitor understands that the insurgents' uniforms and armaments had a clearly improvised character in the initial phase of the Uprising.

Thematic range

- a) "The sum of local uprisings," its symbols and heroes:
 - i. Ostrów Wielkopolski – "Accelerated freedom in the Republic of Ostrów" (Michał Lange, Bogdan Szembek, Marian Modrzejewski, Stefan Rowiński),
 - ii. Inowrocław – "Attack of the raider from Wielkopolska" (Paweł Cymys),
 - iii. Kruszwica – "The Polish flag on the Mouse Tower" (Wacław Sołtysik, Roman Marcinkowski, Aniela Styło),
 - iv. Nakło – "Sometimes it is enough to scare" (Stefan Graczkowski, Bronisław Gehrke),
 - v. Szubin–Rynarzewo – "Conquest of the Dragon" (Walerian Cerkaski, Rev. Mieczysław Buławski, Ignacy Wiśniewski),
 - vi. Wągrowiec – "Monument to William I with a rope and herring" (Stanisław Kuliński, Stanisław Bobkowski, Franciszek Czerwiński, Włodzimierz Kowalski),
 - vii. Wronki – "Storming the prison" (Jan Rzepa, Wawrzyn Rembacz),

- viii. Szamotuły – "Father of the Enigma's success" (Maksymilian Ciężki, Wawrzyn Rembacz)
 - ix. Zdziechowa and a skirmish at Łopienno – "With a medic as the leader" (Zygmunt Kittel, Wojciech Jedlina–Jacobson, Wincenty Dondajewski, Teofil Bojanowski, Władysław Wiewiórkowski),
 - x. The offensive on Żnin and Szubin (Kazimierz Grudzielski, Marcei Cieśliski, Mieczysław Paluch)
 - xi. Rakoniewice – "A visit to Drzymała" (Bolesław Marciniak, Michał Drzymała),
 - xii. Środa Wielkopolska – "Four brothers in the Uprising" (Alfred, Jan Kanty Maria, Józef, Janusz Witold Milewski),
 - xiii. Leszno–Rawicz – "Ladder cart tactics" (Józef Górecki, Michał Kaźmierczak),
 - xiv. Kościan – "Scouts gain weapons" (Józef Kamiński, Roman Simiński, Maksymilian Tomaszewski),
 - xv. Gostyń – "A priest and a father of football of Wielkopolska" (Rev. Stanisław Grzęda),
 - xvi. Osieczna – "Battle of the Windmills" (Franciszek Muszyński, Ignacy Talarczyk),
 - xvii. Pleszew – "Future voivode" (Ludwik Bociański),
 - xviii. Barcin – "Exotic 'Falcon' and Insurgent" (Joseph Zdzisław Chen De Fu),
 - xix. Czarniejewo and Łabiszyn (Maria Skórzewska),
 - xx. Zdziechowo – "Count, uhlán and horse lover" (Ignacy Mycielski),
 - xxi. Margonin–Białośliwie – "A ruse worthy of Zagłoba" (Maksymilian Bartsch),
 - xxii. Bambers from Luboń (Jan, Józef, Paweł and Stanisław Meller).
- b) The Wielkopolska Uprising as "the sum of local uprisings": liberation of subsequent towns and communes (including Środa Wielkopolska, Śrem, Kościan, Szamotuły, Jarocin, Ostrów Wielkopolski, Września, Gniezno, Wągrowiec, Żnin, Pleszew) during the first dozen or so days of the conflict.
 - c) Creating a Polish administration in the countryside.
 - d) The Battle for Ławica, the occupation of the Zeppelin Hall in Winiary, and "the Polish spoils of war of all time."
 - e) The Uprising in Pałuki and Kujawy: Paweł Cym's raid on Inowrocław.
 - f) Cpt./Maj. Stanisław Taczak as the first commander-in-chief of the Uprising, subordination of all the insurgent units to the High Command, division of Wielkopolska into military districts and introduction of uniforms.

- g) Weapons and colours of the volunteer insurgents.
- h) Insurgent infrastructure: sanitary services (including Red Cross Stations run by women of Wielkopolska), provisioning, public collections etc. (Barbara Łazarkiewicz, Zofia Tucholska, Waleria Solińska, Zofia Szyfter, Emilia Hanke, Maria Dutkiewicz, Pelagia Łukomska, Wanda Niegołewska, Maria Kurnatowska, Zofia Sokolnicka, Aleksandra Bukowiecka).
- i) "Image of the Enemy" - the nature of German resistance in the first phase of the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- j) Echoes of the Wielkopolska Uprising in the international arena.

Historical description

As a result of the German side's misunderstanding of the situation and the insurgents' decisive and bold actions, almost all of Wielkopolska was taken over by the Poles within about a dozen days. They occupied successive towns quite efficiently: Wągrowiec, Gołańcz, Kcynia, Kościan, Oborniki, Jarocin, Krotoszyn, Mogilno and Nakło. By 5th January, the insurgents had additionally increased their holdings by adding Czarnków, Jutrosin, Kruszwica, Miejska Górka, Strzelno and Wolsztyn. By about mid-January 1919, the front line between Wielkopolska and Germany had stabilised. From the first hours of the Uprising, the civilian population, including many women, often mothers, wives, sisters or daughters of the insurgents also worked for the benefit of the Uprising (participation in auxiliary services, public collections, financial support, provisioning, logistic assistance, etc.).

Calendar

27th December 1918: Fighting broke out in Poznań in the afternoon. The first shots were fired at the Police Presidium and Bazar Hotel, and the first victims among the insurgents were Franciszek Ratajczak and Antoni Andrzejewski. Poles managed to capture the main railway station, post office, and several redoubts of Poznań's fortress system. Fighting also broke out in the countryside. One of the first fallen was Jan Mertka, who fell near Boczów. It was Jan Mertka's mother who received the "Wielkopolska Matkom Poległych" ("From Wielkopolska to Mothers of the Fallen") Cross with number 1 from the hands of General Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki (Announcement of Supreme People's Council regarding Poznań events of 27th December).

28th December 1918: Further successes of Poles during the battles for Poznań. They captured, among others, the citadel, the Grollmann's redoubt and the arsenal at Wielkie Garbary. The Commissariat of Supreme People's Council appointed Cpt. Stanisław Taczak the temporary commander-in-chief of the Uprising. The insurgents captured Środa Wlkp., Grodzisk Wlkp., Gniezno, Jarocin and Pleszew.

29th December 1918: The fighting continues in Poznań. Kórnik, Grodzisk, Klecko, Witkowo, and Wielichowo were liberated in the countryside. Skirmish at Łopienne.

30th December 1918: A momentous Polish success in Poznań - capturing the barracks of the 6th Grenadier Regiment. The unit left Poznań the same day.

30th-31st December 1918: The victorious battle of Zdziechowa.

31st December 1918: The following localities were liberated Ostrów, Oborniki and Kościan, and on previous days, among others: Śrem, Wągrowiec and Wronki. The beginning of the Polish offensive under the command of Paweł Cymys from Gniezno towards Kujawy.

1st-5th January 1919: The liberation of subsequent localities, including: Jarocin, Nakło, Mogilno, Strzelno, Krotoszyn, Kruszwica, Nowy Tomyśl, Czarnków, Miejska Górka, Jutrosin and Wolsztyn.

6th January 1919: Insurgents captured Ławica airport. Battles broke out at Czersk and Kościerzyna in Pomerania (in West Prussia). Thus, an attempt was made to expand the Uprising beyond Wielkopolska.

7th January 1919: Germans captured Chodzież, which had been occupied by the insurgents the day before.

8th January 1919: The battle of Chodzież, the insurgents managed to retake the town. Czarnków, temporarily captured by the Germans, was also regained. Victory of the insurgents at Ślesin and liberation of Sieraków. Gen. Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki was appointed the commander of the Uprising.

9th January 1919: The insurgents were forced to leave Nakło.

10th January 1919: Fights in southern Wielkopolska, in the area of Leszno, near Rydzyna and Kąkolewo, the capture of Sarnowa by the insurgents.

11th January 1919: The battle for Szubin ended with the victory of the Polish side. Not only Szubin, but also Żnin, Łabiszyn and Złotniki were captured by the insurgents. Significant activity of the Polish side could be noticed also in other regions of northern Wielkopolska. In the west, however, there was a setback at Zbąszyń, and in the south the Poles lost Sarnowa.

12th January 1919: Fights in Leszno area, near Lipno.

13th January 1919: The insurgents lost Szamocin.

15th January 1919: Failed insurgent operation at Szamocin.

Theme 4: *Army of Wielkopolska and the war between Poland (Wielkopolska) and Germany*
– level 2.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that one of the important factors determining the success of the Wielkopolska Uprising was the ability to change strategy and knows that in view of the need to coordinate many "local uprisings" and to counteract German mobilization after the initial surprise phase, the function of commander-in-chief was given to Gen. Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki, which contributed to the professionalisation of military operations and the formation of the Army of Wielkopolska as a regular army.
- b) The visitor remembers that the Army of Wielkopolska was a well commanded, armed and effective army.
- c) The visitor knows that starting from the implementation of the decision to conscript recruits to the Army of Wielkopolska (17th January 1919) the Wielkopolska Uprising evolved into a clash of two armies, a regular war between the German state and Wielkopolska.
- d) The visitor learns about the structure of the Army of Wielkopolska, as well as its colours and weapons.
- e) The visitor understands the circumstances under which the German attitude towards the Uprising changed: from surprise to mobilization and taking actions aimed at crushing the "Polish rebellion".
- f) The visitor learns about the course of the insurgent fronts and the nature of the battles fought within them.

Thematic range

- a) Gen. Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki as the commander-in-chief of the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- b) Announcement about conscription of further age groups to the Army of Wielkopolska (from 17th January 1919).
- c) Transformation of volunteer insurgent forces into regular Army of Wielkopolska.
- d) The Oath of the Army of Wielkopolska (text of the oath's formula).
- e) The oath of office of Gen. J. Dowbor-Muśnicki and the insurgent army on Liberty Square in Poznań (26th January 1919).
- f) Armament and number of Polish troops (quantitative summary).

- g) Armament and numbers of German troops (quantitative summary).
- h) The other side of the front: the commander-in-chief on the German side.

- i) German resistance: Grenzschutz troops, Heimatschutz troops, Freikorps volunteers.
- j) Fronts of the Uprising and most important battles fought within them (northern front, western front, southern front, Leszno Group).

Historical description

The fighting that began in Poznań required a unified command. One day after the outbreak of the Uprising, Captain (soon promoted to the rank of Major) Stanislaw Taczak was appointed as the commander in chief. The arrival of Gen. Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki to Poznań in early January, and his subsequent appointment as the commander-in-chief of the Uprising, led to the insurgent army gaining the form of a regular army in a short amount of time. The culmination of these changes was the swearing in of the Army of Wielkopolska, which took place on Sunday, 26th January 1919 in Poznań at the contemporary Wilhelmowski Square (today's Liberty Square). The arrival of General Dowbor-Muśnicki also solved the pressing problem of the lack of adequate command staff – especially senior officers. The effect of his orders was also an increase in the number of insurgent forces and improvement of their equipment, armament and supply.

Calendar

Starting from 16th January 1919 , battles were fought on the three fronts of the Uprising aiming at maintaining its gains:

16th January 1919: battles in the Międzychód area; Gen. J. Dowbor-Muśnicki officially took the position of commander-in-chief.

17th January 1919: Conscription was announced. People born in years 1897, 1898 and 1899 were called up to arms. It was an important stage in the transformation of volunteer insurgent forces into regular Army of Wielkopolska. Gen. J. Dowbor-Musnicki made an appeal to soldiers.

21st January 1919: The SPC established the text of the oath of the insurgent army.

22nd January 1919: Fighting on the northern front intensified - Germans captured Potulice. In the south the insurgents were successful at Robczysko near Leszno.

23rd January 1919: Successful insurgent defence of Miejska Górka.

25th January 1919: As a result of a daring action the insurgent forces captured Kargowa and Babimost.

26th January 1919: The solemn oath of Gen. Dowbor-Muśnicki and insurgent troops on Liberty Square in Poznań.

28th January 1919: Germans launched the offensive on the northern front, in the area of Bydgoszcz and Nakło. In the following days heavy fights took place near Rynarzewo. The insurgents lost Szubin.

3rd February 1919: The previously successful German offensive in the north collapsed. The enemy was pushed back behind Noteć river. The insurgents recaptured Rynarzewo and were victorious at Kcynia. Szubin was recaptured the following day.

4th February 1919: Offensive actions in the south. The insurgents reached the outskirts of Rawicz but were repulsed. Heavy fighting in this section continued in the following days.

7th February 1919: Heavy fighting for Kolno, which was passing from hand to hand. The SPC Commissariat appointed 122 Polish non-commissioned officers from the former Prussian army to the rank of second lieutenant.

9th February 1919: To the west, in the area of Trzciel, the insurgents repulsed a German attack.

10th February 1919 Repulsion of German attack near Rawicz.

12th February 1919 A German attack with the support of armoured trains on Kargowa and Babimost was successful. A German attack was stopped near Kopanica.

14th February 1919 The Germans moved the headquarters of their high command to Kołobrzeg, which indicated their offensive plans against Wielkopolska.

Theme 5: A victorious truce. Trier and Versailles – level 2.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that the military actions conducted by the insurgents were used effectively in international peace negotiations – both by the institutions established in Wielkopolska and by the diplomacy of the resurgent Polish state.
- b) The visitor gets recognises various concepts of territorial determination of the western border of the reborn Poland, prepared at that time by politicians and diplomats of the Entente states.

- c) The visitor remembers that the guarantee of Wielkopolska's presence in the Republic of Poland was established in Trier in February 1919, with the active support of France and Marshal Ferdinand Foch, and confirmed in the Treaty of Versailles at the end of June 1919.
- d) The visitor knows that besides the actions taken by public institutions on behalf of the Wielkopolska cause, the personal diplomatic talents of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Roman Dmowski contributed greatly to the favourable outcome of international negotiations.

Thematic range

- a) "Foreign Policy" of the Supreme People's Council.
- b) The efforts of the diplomacy of the resurgent Poland and the Polish National Committee for the truce result in Trier that would be advantageous for the Wielkopolska Uprising (with particular emphasis on the actions of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Roman Dmowski).
- c) Truce at Trier (16th February 1919): Ferdinand Foch - Allied negotiations with Germany.
- d) Inter-Ally Mission in Poznań.
- e) Armistice decisions concerning the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- f) Polish-German battles and skirmishes fought in the spring of 1919 along the demarcation line.
- g) Unrealized plans for a German revenge: Operation "Spring Sun" ("Frühlingssonne").
- h) Peace conference in Paris.
- i) Treaty of Versailles ultimately sanctioning the outcome of the Wielkopolska Uprising.

Historical description

The truce at Compiègne was signed for only a month and was to be renewed in that manner. And while in December 1918 and January 1919 the German side managed to maintain the truce *status quo* without any major complications, already in February a real battle for including the Germany-Wielkopolska front in the truce broke out. This was due to the military successes of the Wielkopolska insurgents, which the Western Allies could not ignore. Another factor supporting the Polish cause internationally was the fact that it was lobbied for not only by the Polish National Committee, which was in direct contact with the Supreme People's Council, but also by Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the new Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the reborn Poland, who was accepted in Western Europe. Finally, the attitude of the German

authorities, which effectively discouraged even the British, who were reserved towards the fighting Poles, also had an impact on the truce negotiations planned for February. All this meant that in mid-February 1919 the eyes of all fighting people of Wielkopolska were looking towards Trier, where another meeting of the Armistice Commission took place without Polish participation. German diplomats eventually succumbed under pressure from an ultimatum issued to them by the chief architect of the Allied negotiating strategy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch. He threatened to leave Trier on the evening of February 16, 1919, which, in view of the expiration of the existing truce, would mean a resumption of hostilities between the Allies and Germany. In the end, the German side surrendered and on the same day a document was signed extending the Compiègne truce for an indefinite period of time and supplementing its contents with a paragraph that was crucial for the fighting Wielkopolska, according to which the Reich was to "immediately cease all measures against Poles in Posen", while its subordinate forces were forbidden to cross the demarcation line drawn along the German-Polish front. In fact, it meant the formal recognition of the Wielkopolska Uprising result by the Western powers and exclusion of Poznań from the German rule.

The truce in Trier and the demarcation line between armies of Germany and Wielkopolska made German plans for a counter-offensive against the Uprising in Wielkopolska unrealistic, as it would be treated as a declaration of war against the victorious Entente states. However, the fighting along the demarcation line did not cease, and the truce of several months proved uneasy. However, it ended with a complete victory approved by the decision of the Paris Conference and the Treaty of Versailles, which confirmed that Wielkopolska belongs to the Polish state. This would not have been possible without the various activities of Polish diplomacy at the Paris Conference, and in particular without the talents and determination of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Roman Dmowski.

Calendar

16th February 1919 At Trier, Germany's truce with the Entente states was extended. It also included the Wielkopolska front. Thus, the insurgent army was recognized as an allied army.

17th February 1919 Despite the armistice, fierce fights continued at Rynarzewo, on the Noteć River and at Nowa Wieś Zbąska.

18th February 1919 Insurgents captured a German armoured train near Rynarzewo.

By the end of **February 1919**: Armed clashes at Margonin, Bydgoszcz, Chodzież, Nakło, Kępno, Krotoszyn, Ostrzeszów.

9th March 1919: The Poznań-Lviv volunteer company set out for Małopolska to fight the Ukrainians.

14th March 1919: The departure of the group of Col. Daniel Konarzewski (among others, 1st Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment) to Lviv.

24th January 1919: Further expansion of the insurgent army. The SPC Commissariat called to arms the people born in years 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1901.

30th May 1919: The People's Guard was transformed into the National Defense.

6th June 1919: Clashes in the Bydgoszcz area.

19th-20th June 1919: Fights near Rynarzewo.

22nd June 1919: The departure of another group of Gen. Konarzewski (among others, 10th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment) to Lviv.

28th June 1919: Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles, as a result of which almost all of Wielkopolska was returned to Poland, with the exception of small patches. The armed deed of people of Wielkopolska ended also with a diplomatic success.

Module IV

The people of Wielkopolska in the battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic:

Olaf Bergmann

(also based on texts of: Michał Krzyżaniak and Mariusz Niestrawski)

Summary

The victory of the Wielkopolska Uprising 1918-1919 did not mean the end of fighting of the Wielkopolska soldiers. Beginning in March 1919 with the clashes near Lviv, the people of Wielkopolska became involved in the struggle to maintain the regained independence and to delineate the borders of the Polish Republic. Especially in the period before the official incorporation of Wielkopolska into the Polish state, this required great dexterity on the part of Warsaw and Poznań politicians, seeking agreements across political divides (mainly between the supporters of the left and Piłsudski and the national democrats and Dmowski), and sometimes diplomatic tricks in the international arena. The following months increased this involvement, as evidenced by fighting on the Lithuanian-Byelorussian front, the capture of Minsk and Bobruisk and participation in the Kiev expedition. Also, the Battle of Warsaw in August 1920 took place with a very significant participation of soldiers from Wielkopolska, and many of them finished their combat trail in the Battle of Niemen in the autumn of 1920. They also took part in the revindication of the lands granted to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles in the western borderlands and became known as heroic and often leading participants in the Silesian uprisings.

Soldiers of the Army of Wielkopolska fought and shed blood in the delineation and defense of all borders of the reborn Republic of Poland and their contribution to the work of regaining and maintaining independence was very significant. The enemy feared the well-armed Wielkopolska and Pomeranian units, whose soldiers constituted in the Polish army its best educated and technically trained personnel (with experience from the German army, and often from the Wielkopolska Uprising). Already in June 1919, the Army of Wielkopolska Army that had been formed since January by Gen. Dowbor-Muśnicki consisted of 102 thousand soldiers grouped in three infantry divisions, three light artillery regiments, two heavy artillery regiments, a horse artillery division, an aviation group, two sapper battalions, two communications battalions, a railroad battalion, sanitary units, vehicle units, gendarmerie and military

schools. Józef Piłsudski, the Chief of State, took symbolic authority over such an impressive army in Poznań (25th-27th October 1919).

Wielkopolska was also a "granary" for soldiers fighting on various fronts and for the population of districts ravaged during the warfare of 1914-1921 (e.g. central Poland and eastern borderlands) or having problems with provisioning due to their industrial character (e.g. Upper Silesia). This assistance, in addition to the shoulder-to-shoulder battles with soldiers from other partitions and districts of the reborn state, which became the nucleus of tradition and brotherhood of arms and the cornerstone of the common army – was also the foundation for the integration and unification of the three former partitions and their Polish citizens.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor recognises that the victorious Wielkopolska Uprising was for many of its participants only a prelude to further battles, not only for their own district, but for all the borders of the Second Polish Republic.
- b) The visitor knows that over 100 thousand Wielkopolska soldiers from the former Prussian partition serving in the Army of Wielkopolska participated in battles for the borders of the Second Polish Republic, including: the relief of Lviv, other battles for Eastern Galicia, the Polish-Bolshevik war and the Silesian uprisings, which became the basis for the birth of a common Polish nationwide tradition and the brotherhood of arms of Polish soldiers from different partitions.
- c) The visitor can see on concrete examples the strengths of Wielkopolska soldiers: their excellent training, discipline, equipment and combativeness, which were often the result of experiences gained from the German army in World War I and the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- d) The visitor learns about the generosity of the citizens of Wielkopolska in many areas of non-military aid provided in 1919-1921 to the inhabitants of other regions of Poland and understands the importance of this aid for the later integration and unification of the Polish state and nation.

Themes

1. *In the battle turmoil. On the frontlines of battles for borders of the Second Polish Republic – level 1*

2. *Wielkopolska's contribution to recovering the lands granted to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles - level 2.*
3. *"Granary" of the Republic. Wielkopolska as the supply base for fight for the borders of the Second Polish Republic – level 2.*

Key terms

war, Army of Wielkopolska, Lviv, relief, Galicia, Lithuanian-Byelorussian front, Bobruisk, Berezina, uhlans, riflemen, Kiev, Dnieper, Auta, retreat, Warsaw, Wieprz, Battle of Warsaw ("Miracle over Vistula"), battle of Niemen, Niemen, Virtuti Militari, Cross of Valour, Pomerania, Silesia, Legislative Assembly, Wojciech Trąpczyński, Paderewski government, revindication

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme 1: *In the battle turmoil on the fronts of the struggle for the borders of the Second Polish Republic - level 1.*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor knows that the people of Wielkopolska, including the soldiers of the Army of Wielkopolska formed from insurgent units, despite the fact that at first their district was not yet formally part of the Polish state, were among the first to rush to the aid of the Poles fighting on other - eastern and western - fronts of the fight for the borders of the Polish Republic.
- b) Visitor understands that the participation of the Army of Wielkopolska in fights on various fronts, especially for eastern borderlands of Poland, was an effect of many (often informal) far-sighted agreements and compromises (often over political divisions) on the line between Warsaw (Chief of State and Government of Poland) and Poznań (Supreme People's Council).
- c) The visitor gets to know the self-sacrifice and highly developed national consciousness of the people of Wielkopolska and their feeling of connection with compatriots from distant

territories, as well as the natural feeling of connection between people of Wielkopolska and Polish inhabitants of Silesia, originating from many similar experiences under Prussian rule, and the connection on the Poznań-Lviv line stemming from the “borderland” experiences.

- d) The visitor notices the invaluable significance - for Poland, Europe and the world - of the Polish victory over the Bolsheviks in 1920, as well as the participation of individual units of the Army of Wielkopolska and their commanders in the battles against Soviet Russia.

Thematic range

- a) Fights for Lviv and Eastern Galicia (1st Poznan-Lviv Volunteer Company, Wielkopolska Group of Col. Daniel Konarzewski, Wielkopolska Aviation Squadron).
- b) Fights for Vilnius and Vilnius Region in 1919 and 1920 (Poznań Volunteer Death Battalion, 17th Infantry Division and 15th Uhlan Regiment).
- c) Bobruisk, Minsk and the Berezina Line 1919: Combined Wielkopolska Division (later 1st Wielkopolska Riflemen Division), 14th Infantry Division and other support units.
- d) To Kiev: 2nd Wielkopolska Riflemen Division (15th Infantry Division), 16th Uhlan Regiment, 7th Uhlan Regiment, 3rd Aeronautical Battalion, 2nd Aeronautical Battalion, 15th Fighter Squadron, 21st Destroyer Squadron, 14th Recon Squadron (in the final period of the war - Volhynia).
- e) Against Tuchaczewski (near Warsaw and on the Niemen River) - July-October 1920: 14th Infantry Division, 15th Infantry Division, 17th Infantry Division, 16th Infantry Division, 7th Reserve Brigade, 15th Poznań Uhlan Regiment, 16th Wielkopolska Uhlan Regiment, 1st Wielkopolska Aviation Group (12th, 13th and 14th Recon Squadron), 1st Aeronautical Battalion, 1st Aeronautical Regiment.
- f) People of Wielkopolska in the first, second and third Silesian uprising.
- g) Great battles of the Army of Wielkopolska.
- h) Statistics of participation of the Army of Wielkopolska in battles for borders of Second Polish Republic.

Historical description

For the Army of Wielkopolska, including many of the insurgents of 1918-1919, the years 1919-1921/22 passed under the sign of further battles, far from their native homes. The first of these, which began right after the end of World War I operations, was the conflict with

the Ukrainians over Eastern Galicia. The dispute over its nationality stemmed from the fact that it was inhabited by both Poles and Ukrainians. The parties to the conflict were: on one side, the West Ukrainian People's Republic, proclaimed on 1st November 1918 by the Ukrainian population of Eastern Galicia; on the other side, the Polish population of Lviv and the local Lviv Committee for the Protection of and Public Welfare and Order.

People of Wielkopolska, who in the initial phase of this conflict could only watch what was happening in Warsaw or Kraków, played an extremely important role in the following months in shaping the borders of the reborn Polish Republic. The help provided by the borderland city of Poznań to the borderland city of Lviv was both symbolic and very tangible, becoming the beginning of close cooperation between the largest borderland cities in the Second Polish Republic throughout the twenty-year interwar period. From material aid (trains with supplies escorted by the People's Guard) to actual military assistance, the involvement of the people of Wielkopolska was extremely clear. The gratitude of the people of Lviv, accumulated during that time, could be felt for many years to come. The Cemetery of Eaglets in Lviv, a symbolic place for the Poles, has the same meaning for Wielkopolska, as many of its sons found their final resting place there. The most important locations of fights of the people of Wielkopolska near Lviv were Dołhomościska, Wołczuchy, Narajów, Stawczany, Lviv, Stryj and Gniła Lipa.

People of Wielkopolska also fought for the north-eastern borderlands of the country, including Vilnius. One of the first Wielkopolska units involved in fighting against the Bolsheviks was the Poznań Volunteer Death Battalion (it was one of the most controversial episodes in the history of the formation of the Army of Wielkopolska). This formation, composed of "volunteers", punished at the first possible opportunity for insubordination, was sent from Poznań to fight in the eastern borderlands. They wore characteristic Wielkopolska horned caps additionally decorated with skulls and cross-bones. Their specific approach to discipline made them exceptionally difficult for commanders to control, but also extremely valiant in battle. The battalion was detached to the 6th Legion Infantry Regiment and fought in the Vilnius region near Vilnius, Mejszagoły and Malaty. At the end of August 1919, it was disbanded and its soldiers distributed to other units.

After the fighting of the Battle of Warsaw in August 1920 and the subsequent pursuit of Soviet troops, a serious threat from the Lithuanians emerged. Soon, in order to secure the Suwalszczyzna region, the 17th Infantry Division (3. Wielkopolska Rifle Division) was moved there and its task was to guard the demarcation line and, additionally, to cover the northern

wing of the 4th Army during the Niemen operation. The entry of provisions of the League of Nations into force and the creation of the neutral belt allowed the division to return to garrisons as early as late November 1920.

The fighting against the Ukrainians in Eastern Galicia was merely a prelude to further action. Soon it became clear that the participation of the formations from Wielkopolska in fighting against the new threat, the "red" Bolshevik troops, would be indispensable. It was also then that a new chapter in the glory of Wielkopolska's arms began. In the following months, the participation of the "Horned Devils" or "Horned Czorts" (this was the nickname of soldiers from Wielkopolska used by the Ukrainians near Lviv) in the fights against the Red Army was increasing. In August 1919, the Wielkopolska Combined Division of Gen. Konarzewski (a brigade of riflemen, a regiment of uhlans, artillery, aviation, and sappers) went to the front in the region of Minsk. After capturing Bobruisk, it soon grew to a full four-regiment division. Here, on the banks of the Berezina, the soldiers of the 1st Wielkopolska Riflemen Division (later 14th Infantry Division) remained until July 1920, successfully holding off any offensive attempts by the Bolsheviks. In 1920, after the Treaty of Versailles came into force, other divisions from Wielkopolska (15th and 17th and 7th Reserve Brigade) found themselves on the eastern front.

The Kiev expedition in the spring of 1920 brought the 59th and 60th regiments of the 15th Infantry Division to Kiev. In the following months (July and August 1920), as a result of Tuchaczewski's offensive, the units from Wielkopolska fighting on the Lithuanian-Byelorussian front faced an extremely difficult challenge. Particularly heavy losses were suffered by the least experienced 7th Reserve Brigade, and the Polish armies, pushed westwards after more than a month of fighting in retreat, stood at the gates of Warsaw. As it turned out, soldiers of Wielkopolska played a very important role in the Battle of Warsaw. All the divisions from Wielkopolska (14th, 15th, 17th, and the newly formed 16th) had a significant role in the victory on the outskirts of Warsaw: 14 Infantry Division striking from the Wieprz River, 15th Infantry Division defending the south-eastern outskirts of the capital and 17th Infantry Division fighting effectively on the northern section of the front, including in the area of Nasielsk. Finally, the Niemen operation, which led to the end of the war, also took place with the significant participation of soldiers of Wielkopolska. The armistice of 18th October 18 1920 stopped the fighting on the frontlines and the final shape of the eastern borders of the Second Polish Republic was finally confirmed by the peace treaty, which was signed in Riga on 18th March 1921. The most important battles fought by Wielkopolska troops during the Polish-

Bolshevik War were: Mińsk Litewski, Ihumen, Pukhovichi, Polotsk, Bobruisk, Berezina, Zhlobin, Yakimovskaya Sloboda, Yelen, Sielishche, Shatilki, Kozulichi, Stolpishche, Kiev, Bereza Kartuska, Brześć Litewski, Janów Podlaski, Battle of Warsaw, Mińsk Mazowiecki, Łomża, Kobryń, Pruzhana, Baranovichi and Kojdanów.

People of Wielkopolska also did not remain indifferent to the events in Upper Silesia, starting from plebiscite and ending with the subsequent Silesian uprisings (1919, 1920, 1921). Already in the first months of 1919, airplanes from Wielkopolska appeared over Silesia, distributing leaflets to the Poles living there. Originally, these were the planes of the so-called "Battle Group" from the Ławica Airport, but in the springtime, the planes flying over Upper Silesia were those of the 2nd and later the 3rd Wielkopolska Aviation Squadron. After the massacre of Poles by Grenzschutz soldiers on the night of 16th-17th August, an anti-German uprising broke out and the inhabitants of the Poznań province began to form relief committees for Silesia and a campaign to send food, money, and armaments to this industrial region. However, the uprising, spontaneously triggered and lacking any major assistance, was doomed to failure. On 24th August the Silesian insurgents stopped fighting.

In the night of 18th-19th August 1920, when the life and death struggle with the Red Army was taking place on the outskirts of Warsaw, the Second Silesian Uprising broke out in Upper Silesia. After a week, the fighting stopped. The separation of Silesia from the Weimar Republic was not achieved, but Germans were forced to make concessions. Although the efforts of Wielkopolska were focused on saving Warsaw, they did not leave Silesians without help. One of the commanders of the Second Silesian Uprising was Cpt. Mieczysław Paluch. In February 1920, Wojciech Korfanty brought him to Silesia.

It was only after the October 1920 armistice with the Bolsheviks that the Poles could finally pay closer attention to Upper Silesia and the people of Wielkopolska to increase their aid to Silesia. In January and February 1921, donations were collected to finance the Polish plebiscite campaign – for example, in March an Albatros B.II airplane from the 15th Fighter Squadron flew along the Polish-Silesian border, bearing on its lower wing an inscription reading: "Save Silesia". Over the area where the plebiscite was scheduled, Polish crews were dropping leaflets and other propaganda materials. In order to counteract any possible political repercussions, the planes sent to Upper Silesia were deprived of Polish chequer symbols. They were replaced by single squares on each wing: blue and white (the colours of the Silesian Piasts), both with a navy blue border. The intensity of the propaganda campaign was increasing. Lectures and educational activities were conducted. Clothing and food was sent

from Wielkopolska to Silesia. Additionally, some citizens of Wielkopolska – officers of the Polish Army – were infiltrating this area.

On 20th March, a plebiscite was held in Upper Silesia. Within the entire plebiscite area, the majority of voters were in favour of Upper Silesia remaining part of the German state. However, in many districts the majority of the population voted for this area to be annexed to Poland. According to the information reaching the Polish side, the pro-German option started to prevail, so in the last decade of April Wojciech Korfanty, the Polish plebiscite commissioner, decided to start another uprising. Fighting broke out on the night of 2nd-3rd May 1921.

About 2 thousand people of Wielkopolska took part in the Third Silesian Uprising. Weapons, ammunition, uniforms, food, money, and medicine were sent south from Poznań province. Among the people of Wielkopolska who came to the aid of Upper Silesia there were many outstanding characters. It is worth mentioning, for example, a landowner from Wielkopolska, Lt. Col. Maciej Mielżyński, who was appointed Commander-in-Chief. In June, Mielżyński was replaced by Lt. Col. Kazimierz Zenktele, one of the most distinguished officers of the Western Group of the Wielkopolska Uprising. Cpt. Alojzy Nowak (former commander of the Września Battalion of the Wielkopolska Uprising) took command of the "North" Group, while Lt. Col. Bronisław Sikorski (who fought in Poznań) headed the "South" Group. Mieczysław Szrejbrowski, a veteran of fighting with Germans in southern Wielkopolska, became the Head of Communication of the Supreme Command of the Insurgent Army. In the "North" group there was active the 9th Lubliniec-Opole Infantry Regiment (formerly known as the "Linke Subgroup"). The adjutant of the 3rd Battalion of this regiment, and later the commander of the 2nd company, was Sgt. Tomasz Frankowski - a veteran of the Wielkopolska Uprising fights in the area of Grodzisk Wielkopolski and Lwówek. Another of the Silesian insurgent units was commanded by Cpt. Paweł Cymś, who became famous in January 1919 for his raid on Inowrocław. After more than a month of bloody fighting, an agreement was reached on 11th June under pressure from the inter-ally commission. In October 1921 the council of ambassadors of the Entente states decided on the division of Upper Silesia in favour of Poland.

Theme 2: *Wielkopolska's contribution to recovering the lands granted to Poland under the Treaty of Versailles – level 2.*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor learns about the shape of the Polish-German border (which left many Poles on the German side and many Germans on the Polish side), delineated by the decisions of the Treaty of Versailles and the subsequent arrangements of the victorious Entente states.
- b) The visitor gets acquainted with the course of individual actions within the Polish re-vindication of the Polish-German borderland and participation of troops from Wielkopolska in them, including units in which former insurgents from Wielkopolska served.
- c) The visitor learns about the final territorial and national shape of the Second Polish Republic.

Thematic range

- a) Re-vindication of lands (Wielkopolska, Pomerania, plebiscite in Warmia, Masuria and Powiśle).
- b) The final territorial and national shape of the Polish state after 1921.

Historical description

The Treaty of Versailles granted Poland the Poznańskie province (without Wschowa, Babimost, Międzyrzecze and Skwierzyna) and most of the Royal Prussia. In total, it was 45,463 square kilometres of land with just over three million inhabitants. According to the provisions of the treaty, the Free City of Danzig was established, and the problem of the nationality of Warmia, Masuria and Powiśle (as well as Upper Silesia) was to be settled by means of plebiscites. Many citizens of Wielkopolska took part in the plebiscite agitation. Both in the north and south of Wielkopolska they participated in meetings, printed leaflets and distributed them, and even organised orphanages for Polish children (Zofia Rusinowska, Anna Łubieńska).

The lone fact of the entry of the Treaty of Versailles into force in January 1920 involved the Wielkopolska formations. They took part in the revindication of lands that had been granted to Poland under the treaty. It was, in a way, a reward for the units originating in a straight line from the insurgent forces. In addition, these units were often stationed the closest to the areas to be revindicated, so their involvement in these actions did not require complex logisti-

cal operations. Some of the more important localities that the Army of Wielkopolska entered in 1920 were: Kępno, Zduny, Leszno, Rawicz (3rd Wielkopolska Riflemen Division), Zbąszyń (Western Group) and Bydgoszcz, Nakło, Chodzież, Świecie, Tuchola and Chojnice (2nd Wielkopolska Riflemen Division).

The revindication process began in January 1920. On the 17th day of that month, small Polish infantry and cavalry units garrisoned Leszno and Rawicz, which at the moment of the truce with the Germans remained outside the area controlled by the insurgents of Wielkopolska. The lands north of Wielkopolska were occupied by the Pomeranian Front of Lt. Gen. Józef Haller – 15th and 16th Infantry Division (the former 2nd and 4th Wielkopolska Riflemen Division). In each village Polish units were enthusiastically welcomed by the Poles living there. On Haller's left wing the 15th Infantry Division was advancing. Its 59th Regiment (former 5th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment) reached Chojnice after setting out from Żnin. A little to the east of it, the revindication of post-German lands was carried out by the 62nd Infantry Regiment (former 8th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment). On 20th January, its soldiers took Bydgoszcz. Also entering the city at this time were the 6th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment and the 16th and 17th Uhlán Regiments. Subsequently, all the five above-mentioned units found themselves in Ukraine. The land of Chodzież, the land of Wyrzysk and Nakło nad Notecią were occupied at that time by the 61st Infantry Regiment (7th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment). The regiment was soon sent to southern Wielkopolska and garrisoned along the border between Kępno and Rawicz.

The units of the 16th Infantry Division reached much further towards the Baltic Sea. The 63rd Toruń Infantry Regiment (9th Wielkopolska Riflemen Regiment) moved from Inowrocław towards Toruń and, after a clash with the Germans near Gniewków, entered the latter city. Later it continued its march north, taking Wejherowo, among others, and reaching Kaszuby. The front guard of the forces occupying Toruń featured the 18th Uhlán Regiment. However, it was not until June 1922 that Polish military units entered Upper Silesia. As if in recognition of the contribution of the people of Wielkopolska to the struggle for this most industrialized region of the state, Katowice and the adjacent area were occupied by the 23rd Infantry Division, formed on the basis of the 7th Reserve Brigade from Wielkopolska. It was headed by a distinguished insurgent of Wielkopolska and Silesia - Lieutenant Colonel Kazimierz Zenkteler.

Theme 3: *Granary of the Republic: Wielkopolska as the supply base for fight for the borders of the Second Polish Republic – level 2*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that after the victory of the Wielkopolska Uprising, Wielkopolska, being the region that was ravaged the least during the war, began to play an important economic role, becoming a natural source of provisions for the remaining and still fighting districts and a logistical base for the Polish army.
- b) The visitor learns about the commitment, dedication, and excellent organization of the Wielkopolska society (a legacy of over a century of organic work) in helping Poles fighting on various fronts of the war for the borders of the Second Polish Republic.

Thematic range

- a) Provisioning granary.
- b) Weapons storage and repair facility.
- c) Training centre.
- d) Generosity of civilian population.

Historical description

The favourable conditions resulting from the fact that Wielkopolska was not directly affected by consequences of the war of 1914-1918 made it a natural logistical base for the Polish military during the border wars, particularly with Soviet Russia. During this difficult time, this region functioned as an authentic "granary" of Poland, where the entire society of Wielkopolska provided support and cared generously for its soldiers fighting at the front. Particularly generous in this regard was the aid for Upper Silesia, a district directly adjacent to Wielkopolska and having a lot in common with it through a common heritage and experience of German rule. After the outbreak of subsequent Silesian uprisings (1919, 1920, 1921) the people of Wielkopolska showed their support for their compatriots by organizing rallies, fundraising and material help. The Relief Committee for Upper Silesia, established in Poznań in 1919, sent considerable supplies of food, uniforms, weapons, ammunition and medicines by rail. As already mentioned, there was no shortage of Wielkopolska volunteers who took part in the fights of all three Silesian uprisings - their number is estimated to be at least 2,000 and sometimes even 6,000. Another, no less important support of the people of Wielkopolska for

Silesia was communicated through the report of the Commissariat of People's Councils of Silesia: "Without exaggeration, and at the same time with deep gratitude, we confess that had it not been for Poznańskie, the whole crowd of insurgents and refugees from Upper Silesia would have been doomed to severe starvation, since both Congress Poland and Małopolska could not have helped us much in terms of food".

Module V

“The Third Capital”. Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic

Olaf Bergmann, Piotr Grzelczak

Summary

Victory in the Wielkopolska Uprising brought freedom to the people of Poznań and made it possible to incorporate Wielkopolska into the independent Poland, which thus gained a prosperous and well-developed region. In the interwar period, Poznań successfully aspired to be the capital of the so-called Western Poland (or the Western borderlands, as it was emphasized in the journalism), or even the "third capital of Poland", while the city itself and the whole region developed dynamically (perhaps with the exception of the years of the Great Depression), in a way taking advantage of the organisational experience gained during the period of partitions. After all, most associations, organisations, unions and companies retained their natural continuity. A measure of Wielkopolska's success was the establishment and development of the University of Poznań (1919), which naturally contributed to changing the face of the city and region. The paradox of this situation was also that Wielkopolska as a whole had to contend with a certain feeling of being underestimated by the central authorities in their wide sense, which intensified especially after the May Coup of 1926. The nationally tight-knit region, the westernmost centre of Polish culture, populated by patriots raised on the basis of many years of Polish-German rivalry, had great political ambitions that involved a desire not only to radiate to Pomerania and Upper Silesia, but also to play a leading role on a national scale. However, the political choices of the elites in Wielkopolska, which were mostly national democratic and Christian democratic (which was a derivative of the political landscape of Wielkopolska in general), condemned Poznańskie to functioning outside the mainstream of social and political life of the Second Polish Republic. This does not change the fact that the people of Wielkopolska, sometimes unjustly accused by the Sanation authorities of "separatism", zealously worked for the success of the Second Polish Republic. This concerned not only the struggle for its borders and extensive efforts towards re-Polonisation and unification of the new state, but above all the great visionary project of organizing in Poznań in 1929 the General National Exhibition, which was the crowning event of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the reborn Poland. The symbolic culmination of the processes described here was the change in the boundaries of the Poznań province in 1938. It consisted of those districts in Wielkopolska which were part of the

Russian partition before World War I (Kalisz, Konin, Koło, Słupca and Turek). Finally, it should be added that among the architects of Wielkopolska's success in the Second Polish Republic were the insurgents of Wielkopolska and the next generation of Wielkopolska's organic workers. Their individual and collective fates seem to illustrate well the story of the "fruits of victory" of the Wielkopolska Uprising, which included having Wielkopolska within the borders of the Second Polish Republic and the contribution of the people of Wielkopolska to the social, economic and cultural development of the reborn Polish state.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor notices that many of the insurgents, and later soldiers of the Army of Wielkopolska fighting for the borders of the Second Polish Republic, returned after the end of the fighting to the practical continuation of the tradition of organic work, established stores and workshops and educated themselves, thus aspiring to be members of the local elite, and sometimes even leading them.
- b) The visitor notices the high level of economic and civilizational development of Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, as well as that of Pomerania and Silesia (in comparison with the Republic's central, southern and eastern regions), which was in a way a derivative of the significant differences characterizing the Polish lands included in the various partitions before 1918.
- c) The visitor understands that Wielkopolska was an unusually strong centre of social and political life (with clear national democratic and Christian democratic sympathies), in which the largest number of various organizations, associations, and unions were active in the Second Polish Republic, which stemmed directly from the experience of Polish-German rivalry in the times of partitions.
- d) The visitor understands how important an event for the development of Wielkopolska and the so-called Western Poland in the Second Polish Republic was the establishment of a university in Poznań (1919), which was effectively blocked by the Prussian invaders in the 19th century.
- e) The visitor notices the high aspirations of Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, the measure of which was the organization and great success, also international, of the General National Exhibition in 1929.
- f) The visitor gets to know the specifics of everyday life in Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic and notices the dynamics of the modernisation processes resulting from

the social changes – in a broad sense – taking place at that time. This was true for both metropolitan Poznań (tenements/tenement houses; professional occupation: large industry, petty trade, and crafts) and many towns (petty bourgeoisie) and villages (palace, manor, manor village and peasant village) of Wielkopolska.

- g) The visitor understands the reasons for the rift between Wielkopolska and "Warsaw" (especially after 1926) resulting from the political face of the region (strong national democratic and Christian democratic influences), which created a certain structural conflict with the Sanation camp.
- h) The visitor notices the important influence of the Roman Catholic Church on the attitudes of the people of Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, and the fact that Poznań, as the seat of the Primate of Poland, was the capital of Polish Catholicism at the time.

Themes

1. *Unification - political Wielkopolska – level 2.*
2. *General National Exhibition - socio-economic Wielkopolska – level 1.*
3. *University of Poznań - scientific and cultural Wielkopolska – level 2.*

Key terms

independence, re-Polonisation, unification, Western Poland, Western borderlands, University of Poznań, General National Exhibition, associations and unions, architecture, science, politics, trade, city, countryside, countryhouse, manor, petty bourgeoisie, landowners, agricultural workers, Great Depression, National Democracy, Sanation

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme 1: *Unification - political Wielkopolska – level 2*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands the processes associated with the several years of political, economic and social unification of Wielkopolska (or, more broadly, the former Prussian partition) with other districts of the independent Polish state (different legal systems, offices

and institutions, currencies, nature of the economy, markets for goods, mentality of residents, habits, etc.), including the activities of the Supreme People's Council in this field, and then of the Ministry of the former Prussian District.

- b) The visitor notices the processes of re-emigration of Poles from Germany and other European countries or even the United States, which were important for Wielkopolska and took place after 1918.
- c) The visitor notices the invigorating nature of the arrivals of Poles from other partitions to Wielkopolska, who were mainly intelligentsia and administrative workers.
- d) The visitor notices the dilemmas of the German and Jewish populations in Poznańskie, most of whom decided to leave Wielkopolska in 1918.
- e) The visitor sees the causes of the political rift that has been growing since 1926 between the national democratic, Christian democratic and conservative Poznań and Wielkopolska and the Sanation authorities in Warsaw. This was highlighted, among other things, by the nomination of compulsory presidents and mayors of cities to replace those elected in local government elections, as well as by the so-called “era of colonels” in the position of Poznań province governor (voivode).
- f) The visitor learns the history of the Poznań garrison in the Second Polish Republic and understands the impact of the military on the image of socio-political life in the city (the course of national holidays, celebrations of the anniversaries of the Wielkopolska Uprising, the so-called “rule of the colonels” in Poznań after 1934).

Thematic range

- a) Wielkopolska on the map of the Second Polish Republic, administrative borders, change of province borders in 1938.
- b) Political sympathies and preferences of Wielkopolska in comparison to other regions of the Second Polish Republic.
- c) Re-emigration of Poles from Germany and other countries, arrival of Poles from other districts of the reborn Polish Republic, emigration of Germans and Jews from Wielkopolska.
- d) The Ministry of the Former Prussian District and its activities (Władysław Seyda, Władysław Kucharski, Juliusz Trzciniński), integration with the other partitions (including the construction of the Strzałkowo-Kutno railroad line).

- e) Re-Polonisation of Wielkopolska, e.g., local governments, administration, education, and public space, including the famous night of demolition of Prussian monuments in Poznań on 3rd/4th April 1919 (Jarogniew Drwęski).
- f) Wielkopolska's political elite (including Marshal Wojciech Trąpczyński, Zofia Sokolnicka Marian Seyda, Jarogniew Drwęski, Władysław Mieczkowski, Witold Hedinger, Cyryl Ratajski, Adolf Bniński, Zygmunt Zaleski, Stanisław Karpiński, Józef Żychliński).
- g) The role of Wielkopolska during the May Coup of 1926 (including the issue of the attitude of the so-called regiments of Wielkopolska, the resolution of the University of Poznań, public mood).
- h) Sanation and sanators of Wielkopolska (Erwin Więckowski, Tadeusz Ruge, "Dziennik Poznański").
- i) Command of Corps District No. VII (Kazimierz Raszewski, Kazimierz Sosnkowski, Oswald Frank and Edmund Knoll-Kownacki, among others).

Historical description

Wielkopolska and its people undoubtedly played an important role in the work of integration of the Polish Republic torn apart as a result of the partitions. The inhabitants of the westernmost borderlands of the reborn Poland not only shaped its western borders into what they were, but also brought with them enormous material and political achievements. In the first years of independence, Poznań and the entire region, not ravaged by war and considered the most prosperous, experienced great waves of migration. Above all, Poles who had left Wielkopolska before the Great War (mostly in search of better jobs and higher living standards) for more industrialized regions of Germany, western Europe or even America, returned to their cities, towns and villages. The relatively prosperous city of Poznań was also visited by intelligentsia of various levels from Galicia and the former Congress Kingdom, searching for a better life. At that time, Poznań and Wielkopolska suffered from a shortage of teachers, clerks, people of free professions (including university professors), etc. The arrival of compatriots from other districts had a very beneficial effect on Wielkopolska, although sometimes it caused conflicts between "natives" and "incomers," which resulted from the differences in mentality acquired during the partitions and was associated with the newcomers taking prestigious positions in the administration, judiciary and education. At the same time, the great exodus of Germans and Jews from Wielkopolska began, which did not cause any major

changes in the social structure and economic characteristics of Wielkopolska, but changed its national structure, making this region the most nationally homogeneous area in the Second Polish Republic. In the first period (1919-1922), most of the effort to unify Wielkopolska with the rest of the country fell on the shoulders of officials of the Supreme People's Council and the Ministry of the Former Prussian District, which was initially headed by Władysław Seyda. At the same time the representatives of the political elites of Wielkopolska, mostly oriented towards national democracy and Christian democracy, played a significant role on the national scene. The first Speaker of the Legislative Sejm and later the first Speaker of the Senate was Wojciech Trąpczyński, and the subsequent governments included Józef Englich, Kazimierz Hącia, Cyryl Ratajski, Stefan Piechocki and Marian Seyda, while the already mentioned Władysław Seyda was, among other things, the First President of the Supreme Court. The situation changed after the May Coup of 1926 when Wielkopolska clearly supported the government, which entailed people of Wielkopolska being removed from their positions in the central authorities of the state. In the 1930s, in turn, the power in Wielkopolska's cities and municipalities was sometimes assumed by compulsory presidents and mayors appointed by the government in place of persons legally elected in local government elections. This was also the case of the so-called “colonels” designated for the position of the Poznań Voivode. No less important for understanding the political image of Poznań and its region was the high standing of the Command of the Corps District No. VII and local army garrisons, which became important centres remaining under the influence of Sanation, especially in terms of officer staff, on the territory dominated by the National Democratic party

Theme 2: *General National Exhibition - socio-economic Wielkopolska – level 1*

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor notices the momentum of the 1929 General National Exhibition, its organisational success and propaganda-promotional dimension, important to all Poles (including the large Polish community abroad) and playing a major role in the international context and understands that the Exhibition would not have been possible without the initiative and effort of the people of Poznań and Wielkopolska (including veterans of the Wielkopolska Uprising) involved in its organisation.

- b) The visitor notices that the economy of relatively prosperous Wielkopolska was based to a great extent on small and medium-sized family enterprises forming a vast layer of petty bourgeoisie (merchants, trade, crafts, small manufacturing), as well as on the highest level of agriculture dominated by large land estates, which was accompanied by the food processing industry (sugar plants, distilleries, mills, oil mills, dairies, breweries, etc.).
- c) The visitor notices the gradual expansion of Wielkopolska's great industry (e.g. Cegielski Plant, Stomil).
- d) The visitor understands that Wielkopolska was in the Second Polish Republic a region characterized by the largest number of grassroots and voluntarily created organizations, associations and unions (today we would say "NGOs") in the country, which were particularly active in the countryside of Wielkopolska.
- e) The visitors gets acquainted with the picture of everyday life of the people of Wielkopolska living and working in a big city (Poznań), a town (e.g. Szamotuły, Śrem) and a manor village.

Thematic range

- a) Economy and socio-professional structure of Wielkopolska in comparison with other regions of the Second Polish Republic.
- b) The phenomenon of "NGOs" of Wielkopolska.
- c) Specificity of the economic profile of Wielkopolska:
 - i. small and medium-sized family-owned businesses (e.g., the Leitgeber family),
 - ii. merchant and artisanal profile (among others: Stefan Kałamajski, Kazimierz Greger, Jan Deierling, Józef Mańczak),
 - iii. perfectly developed agriculture dominated by large manors,
 - iv. processing and food industry well integrated with agriculture,
 - v. development of large- and medium-sized industry (Cegielski Plant, Stomil, Samolot, Henryk Żak's perfume and soap factories, Tukan and Nivea chemical factories, Maggi factory, Venetia chocolate factory, Prems radio company, porcelain factory in Chodzież).
- d) Everyday life in Wielkopolska:
 - i. the big city (urban villas, tenements, big-city "aristocracy," middle class and the impoverished),
 - ii. town (workshop, warehouse, townhouse),

- iii. a manor house, a manor village (fourplexes) and a peasant village.
- e) The idea of organizing the General National Exhibition (Cyryl Ratajski, Stanisław Wachowiak, Adolf Bniński).
- f) Preparations and opening of GNE; managers and architects (Roger Sławski, Władysław Czarniecki, Bohdan Lachert, Józef Szanajca, Szymon Syrkus).

- g) A great success of GNE in terms of image, organisation, and investment, though underutilized in subsequent years due to the Great Depression.
- h) Problems of the time of crises (post-war crisis and the Great Depression of 1929-1933).

Historical description

One of the most important elements distinguishing Poznań and Wielkopolska from the rest of the country was the impressive number of various grassroots associations and unions, to which a significant percentage of Wielkopolska residents belonged, thus building a civil society. In almost every town and city in Wielkopolska there were from a few to several dozen associations with an impressive number of members and supporters. No other province had such extensive structures, which today we would call NGOs. Another important element making Poznań and Wielkopolska stand out from the rest of the country in the Second Polish Republic was strongly developed, wealthy and nationally conscious merchants and craftsmen, who had a major contribution to the economic face of the local cities and towns, as well as modern agriculture, both individual as well as conducted on large manor farms, which dominated the countryside of Wielkopolska at that time. This resulted in a different social and professional structure of the rural population than in other parts of Poland: a relatively small number of farmers (who ran large and prosperous farms) and a large group of farm workers, who also lived in relative prosperity while working in landowner's manors.

It is worth noting that Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic was an informal bridge between Poland and Western Europe. An important element supporting this thesis was the organization of the Poznań International Fair (held since 1925), which gained the rank of the largest and most important trade event in the country and quickly rose to the top of the most important events of this type in Europe. It was on the expanded PIF grounds that the General National Exhibition of 1929 was organized, which was "a great review of national creativity" in the decade "after Poland's resurrection." The General National Exhibition thus became a key symbol of the united Polish Republic. From May to September 1929, on an area of 65 hectares, 1427 exhibitors presented their achievements, while the exhibition itself was visited by over 4.5 million visitors, including 200,000 from abroad. Thanks to GNE, Poznań became for a few months the economic, commercial and cultural capital of the country. Suffice it to say that during the Exhibition 140 various conventions and accompanying congresses were organized in Poznań. In the architectural and urban sphere, GNE marked the triumph of modernity, and the efforts of many architects, including the Exhibition's chief builder Rog-

er Sławski, fundamentally changed the face of the city. From a provincial centre, Poznan became a much more modern, extensive, European city, although the architecture was still dominated by the "Prussian" heritage. Outside of Poznań, the people of Wielkopolska were also able to organize events showing their individual achievements, as well as those of the whole Poland, an example of which were agricultural exhibitions in Lisków in 1925 and 1937.

Theme 3: *University of Poznań - scientific and cultural Wielkopolska* – level 2

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that the creation of the University of Poznań in May 1919 is one of the most important events in the history of Poznań and was crucial for Wielkopolska, and more broadly for the whole of western Poland.
- b) The visitor notices that the earlier lack of a university in Poznań was a result of deliberate policy of the Prussian authorities, who did not want to allow for the development of the Polish intelligentsia in Wielkopolska in large numbers and also tried to protect the interests of German universities (e.g. in Berlin and Wrocław).
- c) The visitor notices that the creation of the university in Poznań would not have been possible without the active participation of scholars from academic centres in Lviv, Kraków, Warsaw, etc.
- d) The visitor learns the achievements of the most important Poznań scientists that placed them among the national or international leaders (e.g. Florian Znaniecki and the Poznań School of Sociology, Józef Kostrzewski, Zdzisław Krygowski - the tutor of the Enigma "breakers" etc.).
- e) The visitor notices the fact that during the Second Polish Republic Wielkopolska finally managed to break away from the harmful stereotype of "Wielkopolska-Boeotia".
- f) The visitor notes the high level of cultural life in Wielkopolska, which, although not dominant on a national scale, played a significant role in some areas (e.g. music, film and cinema, Poznań Radio).

- g) The visitor recognizes the role of Poznań and Wielkopolska in the development of the so-called Polish Western thought (Polish Western Union).
- h) The visitor sees Poznań as the capital of the Polish Catholic Church.

Thematic range

- a) The culture and science of Wielkopolska in comparison with other regions of the Second Polish Republic.
- b) The Prussian "no" to the university in Poznań: facts and contexts.
- c) The role of the Poznań Society for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences in the establishment of the University of Poznań.
- d) Founding of the University of Poznań (University Commission).
- e) "Professorial enlistment". The important role of scholars coming from beyond Wielkopolska in the creation of the University of Poznań.
- f) The first rector of the University of Poznań - Prof. Heliodor Święcki - and distinguished scholars and famous graduates of the Poznań *Almae Matris* (e.g., Rev. Stanisław Kozierowski, Michał Sobieski, Józef Kostrzewski, Florian Znaniecki, Kazimierz Tymieniecki, Adam Wrzosek, Rev. Szczęsny Dettloff, Zdzisław Krygowski, Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski, Jerzy Różycki, Stefan Korboński, Jan Nowak-Jeziorański).
- g) Other higher education facilities of Poznań: The Higher School of Commerce, the State School of Decorative Arts and Artistic Industry and the State School of Mechanical Engineering.
- h) Students and their activity in the life of the city and region: scientific, cultural and political (sharp political divisions).
- i) The most important aspects of Wielkopolska's cultural life (theatre, opera, music, cinema, radio, press, literature, fine arts, sports and entertainment), including, among others, the Polish Theater, the Poznań Radio, singing societies, Feliks Nowowiejski, the "Słońce" ("Sun") cinema, Wydawnictwo Św. Wojciecha publishing house, "Kurier Poznański", Leon Prauziński, Arkady Fiedler, Nuna Młodziejowska-Szczurkiewiczowa, Artur Maria Swinarski, Roman Tadeusz Wilkanowicz, Arkady Fiedler, Kazimierz Greger, Feliks Stamm, Józef Noji and other Olympic athletes from Wielkopolska etc.

- i) Wielkopolska as the Primate's capital and the cradle of Polish Christianity (Edmund Dalbor, August Hlond, as well as "Przewodnik Katolicki" ("Catholic Guide") and Drukarnia i Księgarnia Św. Wojciecha printing house and bookstore.
- j) Polish Western thought.

Historical description

One of the greatest successes of Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic, besides the General National Exhibition, was the creation of the University of Poznań. This triumph was all the greater because during the entire period of the Prussian partition the invaders themselves deliberately did not allow for the establishment of a university in Wielkopolska, realizing that a significant and uncontrolled increase in the number of Poles with higher education feeding the intelligentsia could not only delay but also destroy the far-reaching plan for the "integration" of Wielkopolska into the Kingdom of Prussia. Eventually, the University of Poznań was established in May 1919 (as *Wszechnica Piastowska*), although the first Polish activities in this area date back to November 1918. Supplied with scholars from other academic centres, primarily from Kraków and Lviv, in just 20 years it became one of the most important universities in the country. The tangible effects of the scientific position of Poznań and Wielkopolska in the Second Polish Republic can be seen in the form of successes of the scholars and graduates of the University. Let us mention, for example, the creation of the Poznań sociological school (Florian Znaniecki), the discovery of Biskupin (Józef Kostrzewski) or the spectacular success of three young mathematicians working on breaking the codes of the German Enigma encrypting machine (Zdzisław Krygowski was their tutor). Following the University of Poznań, other higher education facilities were established in the city (including the State School of Decorative Arts and Artistic Industry, the State School of Machine Building, and the Higher School of Commerce), which made Poznań an important scientific and cultural centre. The current position of Poznań as Poland's third largest academic centre is, to a large extent, a legacy of the pre-war University of Poznań.

The creation of the University also allowed to destroy once and for all the harmful stereotype of "Wielkopolska-Boeotia". And although it was difficult for Poznań to compete with Warsaw, Kraków and Lviv in terms of cultural life, this does not change the fact that in some cultural areas the capital of Wielkopolska was developing excellently. This is especially true of music life in its broadest sense (Feliks Nowowiejski), the singing movement, publishing (Wydawnictwo Św. Wojciecha publishing house) or establishing in 1927 the Poznań Radio, which was the third institution of this type in the country (after Warsaw and Lviv). Additionally, Wielkopolska was a thriving centre for sports, especially boxing, athletics, soccer and rowing.

Because of its thousand-year tradition and the seat of the Primate, Wielkopolska, with its two cathedrals in Gniezno and Poznań that are very important in Polish history, played a

significant role as the capital of the Catholic Church in the country. On the other hand, the city's scientific potential and Wielkopolska's location on the Polish-German border made Poznań an important centre for German studies or, more broadly, for Polish Western thought.

Module VI
Remembrance
Piotr Grzelczak

Summary

In the Second Polish Republic the Wielkopolska Uprising was undoubtedly one of the most important (if not the most important) event in the historical calendar of Poznań and Wielkopolska, or more broadly - the Poznan Voivodeship (including Pałuki, Kuyavia and the eastern areas of today's Lubuskie Voivodeship), and to some extent also of Upper Silesia. This is evidenced by the grand-scale of celebration of its subsequent anniversaries, a number of activities and initiatives of a commemorative nature (monuments, commemorative plaques, literary and artistic works, historiography, etc.), as well as the number of active veterans' unions and organizations. During World War II, many insurgents died at the hands of the German occupier, who were equally zealous in destroying all material traces of the memory of the Uprising. Another group of insurgents died at the hands of the Soviets in the Katyń death pits. Right after the World War II the tradition of the Wielkopolska Uprising began to recover, which was ultimately stopped in the Stalinist era. During that time the veterans gathered in the Union of Wielkopolska Insurgents were forced to dissolve their organisation and to join the Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy (ZBoWiD), supported by the communist authorities.

This condition persisted until 1989. Starting from 1956, the Polish United Workers Party (PZPR) gave permission to cultivate the memory of the Uprising, which does not change the fact that it used its tradition instrumentally to achieve its own political goals (see the construction, program and ceremony of the unveiling of the Wielkopolska Insurgents monument in Poznań). Through recognition of its important historical role ("popular", "mass", "anti-German") it became an object of the official remembrance policy of the communist authorities. After the political transformation of 1989/1990 the proper revival of the memory of the Uprising took place only on the wave of celebrations of its 90th anniversary in 2008. This process culminated in a successful jubilee of its 100th anniversary.

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor remembers the nature of the official actions taken towards the remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising by the political authorities of the Second Polish Republic (living memory), the Polish People's Republic (regulated/appropriated memory) and the Third Republic of Poland (regained memory) and the German occupation authorities during World War II (*damnatio memoriae*).
- b) The visitor understands the circumstances surrounding the uprising and the functioning of the most important carriers of memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising (monuments, commemorative plaques, urban onomastics, literature and art, museums, historiography, decorations, etc.) in public space.
- c) The visitor learns the fate of the insurgents of Wielkopolska after the fall of the Second Polish Republic (an attempt to build a certain model on selected examples, especially in the context of the insurgent sacrifice in the era of World War II, Stalinism and the Polish People's Republic), their martyrdom resulting from the fact of having not only a veteran past, but also belonging to the organic work elite during the Second Polish Republic.
- d) The visitor remembers the activity of veterans' organizations functioning in the Second Polish Republic and in the People's Republic of Poland, as well as notices the differences resulting from political conditions determining the scope of their activities (especially in the Second Polish Republic they were mostly bottom-up and excellently-organised).
- e) The visitor learns the mechanisms of the so-called private memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising and its multi-generational persistence, independent of official actions, as well as the phenomenon of biographical memory stored by direct participants and witnesses of the events.

Themes

4. *Living memory (1919-1939) - level 1*
5. *Forbidden remembrance and martyrdom of Wielkopolska insurgents (1939-1945) - level 2*
6. *Remembrance appropriated; remembrance regained (1945-1989; 1989-2019) - level 2*

Key terms

collective memory, historical memory, historical politics, propaganda, commemoration, memorial sites, memory carriers, *damnatio memoriae*, celebrations, anniversaries, patriotism, veterans, combatants, martyrdom, Nazism, communism

Narrative, thematic range and historical description

Theme 1: *Living memory (1919-1939)* - level 1

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor knows that during the Second Polish Republic the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising was a key element in the historical experience of the inhabitants of the so-called western borderlands.
- b) The visitor understands that in the interwar period the celebrations of successive anniversaries of the Wielkopolska Uprising were extremely ceremonial, which, especially in the first half of the 1920s, was reflected in visits to Poznań by politicians of the highest rank (J. Piłsudski, I.J. Paderewski).
- c) The visitor remembers the most important memorials of the Wielkopolska Uprising, with particular emphasis on: the monument in Górczynski Cemetery, the Freedom Monument (unrealised) and the so-called Gratitude Monument in Poznań.
- d) The visitor learns about the most important achievements in the field of literature and art that perpetuate the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- e) The visitor understands that the political divisions in the Second Polish Republic (mainly between the National Democrats and the Sanation) had a direct impact on the number and activity of the veterans' associations that brought together former insurgents and soldiers of the Army of Wielkopolska.

Thematic range

- a) Celebrations of successive anniversaries of the Wielkopolska Uprising in the Second Polish Republic ("municipal" and "provincial" committees of commemorations, celebrations outside of Poznań (Katowice, Lviv), also those organized in Warsaw in the 1930s, visits of central government representatives during the uprising celebrations in Poznań: Józef Piłsudski, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Edward Rydz-Śmigły, etc.).
- b) Freedom Monument in Poznan - a material symbol of remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising in the Second Polish Republic, never realised despite the competition for its construction being concluded in 1927.

- c) Monuments (with particular emphasis on the monument in Górczyński Cemetery and the so-called "Gratitude Monument" in Poznań), commemorative plaques, cemeteries, museums, other places of remembrance; the necessity to prepare a list of insurgents' monuments erected in the times of the Second Polish Republic (especially those commemorating the "nebula of small uprisings") - see module III.
- d) Building the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising in Poznań and Wielkopolska around the figure of Ignacy Jan Paderewski (including his visits to the city, honorary doctorate from the University of Poznań in 1924 and the foundation of the Wilson monument in 1931).
- e) The Wielkopolska Uprising in literature, art and historical research in the era of the Second Polish Republic.
- f) Mosaic of veteran insurgent organizations in the Second Polish Republic.

Historical description

In the Second Polish Republic, despite strong political divisions and disputes, the Uprising retained an exceptionally strong position and constituted an important, sometimes even formative element of the collective identity of a considerable part of the Polish people. This is evidenced, among others, by rich celebrations of its successive anniversaries, to mention the first one at the very least, attended in the capital of Wielkopolska by Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who was bidding farewell to the presidency over the Council of Ministers, his successor Leopold Skulski and also by the Chief of State Józef Piłsudski, who received an impressive military parade at the foot of the castle. And although the visits of guests from Warsaw on subsequent anniversaries "varied", to say the least, the reverence with which the municipal and voivodeship authorities approached the organization of the uprising anniversaries must be appreciated. In this field, the mayor of Poznań, Cyryl Ratajski, led the way. He was personally involved in a number of the most minute matters that made up the "solemn celebration of December 27th".

The strongly perceptible political fracture characterising the times of the Second Polish Republic was reflected in the veteran circles associating the participants of the Uprising. Unlike in the communist era, they were free to operate, but their fragmentation did not help in having their specific demands met. The character of these embarrassing divisions is well reflected today, among other things, by the content of the press organs issued by individual societies and associations (including "Wolność" ("Freedom"), "Żołnierz Wielkopolski" ("Soldier

of Wielkopolska”), "Jutro" (“Tomorrow”), "Głos Powstańca" (“Insurgent's Voice”)), while their end came only in 1938, with the creation of the Association of Wielkopolska Insurgents. Apart from the organisations of the Uprising veterans, the representatives of the creative circles undoubtedly played an important role in preserving its memory. Here it is necessary to mention Czesław S. Sonnewend (1885-1939) and his portfolio of lithographs entitled *Ver Sacrum*, Leon Prauziński (1895-1940), a painter and illustrator, murdered by Germans at the threshold of World War II, the works of whom were reproduced in many thousands, or a well-known Poznań battle artist Leon Wróblewski (1895-1975), author of a series of oil paintings devoted to the insurgent fights. The representatives of the visual arts tried to keep pace with the writers, among whom we should mention the greatest bard of the Uprising, Roman Wilkanowicz (1886-1933), the author of *Bezimienni bohaterowie Powstania Wielkopolskiego* (Nameless heroes of the Wielkopolska Uprising), or Stanisław "Myrius" Rybka (1884-1937), who wrote numerous soldier songs, including *Marsylianka Wielkopolska* (La Marseillaise of Wielkopolska), the music for which was written by Felix Nowowiejski.

The basis for frequent accusations against the Second Polish Republic expressed in the post-war period was the fact that, unlike in the case of the Polish People's Republic, no central monument to the Wielkopolska Uprising was erected in Poznań during the twenty years of the interwar period. Although monuments commemorating that December uprising quickly appeared in dozens of cities and towns in Wielkopolska, the capital of the region was not receiving one. Interestingly, the idea of building the "Freedom" monument, as that was its proper name, was officially approved at the City Council as early as 1919. However, a number of matters that were more urgent from the Magistrate's perspective resulted in the fact that the competition for its construction within – what is important – Liberty Square, was not decided until November 1927. In a prestigious competition among thirty artists, the final winners were Władysław Marcinkowski and Marian Andrzejewski, who proposed a monumental solution in the form of a towering column topped with a statue of a man with ancient features, on whose wrists one can see broken chains. Unfortunately, we do not know why the project the city purchased did not happen. Perhaps this omission had a purely mercantile genesis, easily explained by the impending economic crisis. This state of affairs was probably influenced by the controversy surrounding the location of the future monument, which was repeatedly raised by well-known architects and urban planners, as well as by the fact of simultaneous acceleration of the works on the Monument of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, also known as the Gratitude Monument, which to a large extent dealt with the issue of commemorating the "Rebirth of

Poland and the Wielkopolska Uprising," as did the monument to the 15th Poznań Uhlan Regiment, unveiled in 1927. In this way, mainly in the 1920s, an important place of remembrance, around which the celebrations of subsequent anniversaries of the Uprising were focused, was the monument to the fallen insurgents by Stanisław Jagmin, unveiled in 1924 and very successful, located in the Górczyński cemetery. To make the picture of the situation with monuments more complete, we should also add that the statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko in Poznań was also unveiled – not by accident – on the anniversary of the Uprising (on 27th December 1930).

Theme 2: Forbidden Memory and the Martyrdom of Wielkopolska Insurgents (1939-1945) - Level 2

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that during World War II the insurgents of Wielkopolska, viewed by the German occupiers as the "Polish leadership element," fell victim to extermination.
- b) The visitor knows that the German occupier was methodically destroying all material traces of the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- c) The visitor remembers that the insurgents of Wielkopolska (mostly as soldiers of the Polish Army, State Police, etc.) were victims of the Katyń Massacre.
- d) The visitor knows that the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising was cultivated within the underground structures of the Polish Underground State, the Polish Government in Exile and the Polish Armed Forces in the West.

Thematic range

- a) German crimes / genocidal character of actions against the environment of Wielkopolska insurgents (e.g. Operation Tannenberg, Fort VII, Camp in Żabikowo).
- b) *Damnatio memoriae* - German project of destroying all material traces of memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising.
- c) Soviet crimes - Katyń and other places of martyrdom of Wielkopolska insurgents in the east.

- d) The Polish Underground State and the memory of Wielkopolska Uprising in conspiracy: conspiracy celebrations of subsequent anniversaries of Wielkopolska Uprising, Wielkopolska Uprising in conspiracy press.
- e) Remembrance of the Wielkopolska Uprising in exile (e.g. Polish Government in Exile, Polish Armed Forces): official celebrations of successive anniversaries of the Wielkopolska Uprising, celebration of its anniversaries within individual military formations, the Uprising in the emigration press and in emigration journalism (Władysław Anders).

Historical description

With the outbreak of World War II, the German occupier immediately began a ruthless struggle against the legend of the anti-German uprising, which in fact took place on two levels. The first was purely symbolic and boiled down to the methodical destruction of all material evidence of the Polish victory of 1918/1919. This included dozens of insurgent monuments, commemorative plaques, burial sites, etc. The second was strictly genocidal in nature and involved the planned extermination of the Wielkopolska Uprising insurgents, e.g., as part of the operation codenamed "Tannenberg," which was motivated not only by a desire to physically eliminate the Polish "leadership element," but also stemmed from a desire for bloody revenge against those who had given the lie to the myth of an invincible German army twenty years earlier. It is worth mentioning that many insurgents who escaped execution by the Germans ended their lives in camps and NKVD death pits (about 250 people).

In the extremely difficult conditions of the wartime occupation, maintaining the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising was understandably extremely difficult, pushed into the deeply hidden private sphere. For this reason, the symbolic gestures and initiatives which were born on the conspiratorial ground within the structures of the Polish Underground State should be strongly emphasized. In this context it is particularly necessary to mention the decision of Florian Marciniak, the first commander of the Grey Ranks and a citizen of Wielkopolska, who set the following days as fixed dates for nominating instructors in this formation: 3rd May, 15th August, 11th November and 27th December. Another issue is the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising shaped during the World War II within the structures of the Polish Government in Exile, in the ranks of the Polish Armed Forces in the West (including Anders Army) or within the Polish Army in the USSR (the so called Berling's Army).

Theme 3: *Remembrance appropriated; remembrance regained (1945-1989; 1989-2019)* - level 2

Narrative objectives

- a) The visitor understands that after 1945 the official memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising changed and served different purposes; the visitor recognizes the successive stages of memory formation:
 - i. 1945-1948 – Uprising as a grassroots, popular, *de facto* plebeian uprising,
 - ii. 1948-1956 – Uprising marginalized and *de facto* thrown out of public discourse,
 - iii. 1956-1989 – "anti-German uprising", memory of the Uprising regulated and instrumentalised by the authorities, pressed into the frames of current historical policy of communist authorities and at the same time limited almost exclusively to Wielkopolska,
 - iv. 1989-2019 – sovereign memory; the revival of the memory of the Uprising in free Poland; the social phenomenon of the Uprising, especially in the 2000s, the question of social responsibility for the remembrance of the Uprising.
- b) The visitor understands that during the communist period the reactivation of the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising was possible after 1956, but it was subordinated to the political needs of the Polish United Workers Party as an instrument of anti-German historical policy.
- c) The visitor understands the mechanism of the grassroots, social revival of the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising after 1989. In particular, the visitor notices:
 - i. the role of intergenerational ties in the transmission of memory in insurgent families,
 - ii. the importance of the Uprising as a vehicle for supra-local pride and patriotism that unites people holding different convictions,
 - iii. the private dimension of the memory of the Wielkopolska Uprising with particular emphasis on the insurgents themselves as witnesses of history.
- d) The visitor recognizes the fact that, in fact, only after 1989 did the process of effective commemoration of the phenomenon of organic labour in Wielkopolska, its most important proponents and places associated with it begin.

Thematic range

- a) Veteran community (reactivation of the Union of Wielkopolska Insurgents and its absorption by the Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy (ZBoWiD)).
- b) Difficult remembrance - the tradition of the Wielkopolska Uprising in the Stalinist period.
- c) "Mass", "popular", "anti-German" - the Uprising in the Service of the historical politics of the Polish People's Republic.
- d) Official celebrations of successive anniversaries (with particular attention to the major ones: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978).
- e) Monuments (with particular emphasis on the Wielkopolska Insurgents Monument in Poznań), commemorative plaques, museums, cemeteries and other places of remembrance, Wielkopolska Insurgents Cross; pointing to new foundations and reconstructions of pre-war monuments (taking into account the various semantic and program-related interferences introduced by the communist authorities on this occasion within the sites of remembrance).
- f) Insurgents as "living monuments". Remembrance of the Uprising in the accounts of the insurgents themselves. The death of the last of them, Jan Rzepa, in 2005, as an important symbol of the end of the insurgent memory of the Uprising.
- g) Insurgent literature and art, historiography, etc.
- h) The phenomenon of reviving the memory of Wielkopolska Uprising in free Poland,
- i) Commemoration of the phenomenon of organic labour, its leaders and places associated with it (monuments, plaques, onomastics, etc.).

Historical description

Right after the end of the World War II there were many indications that the anti-German Wielkopolska Uprising would become a key element in the new authorities' historical policy. However, it soon became apparent that it was extremely difficult to reconcile this anti-Germanism with the unambiguously conservative tradition behind its success in Wielkopolska. This, in turn, caused the party propaganda to launch an operation with a fundamental ideological imperative: the Uprising itself, in contrast to its "reactionary" leadership, had a purely popular, plebeian character. With the advent of Stalinism, even such a concession proved to be insufficient, which not only resulted in the liquidation of the Union of Wielkopolska Insurgents (by forcing it into the rigid framework of ZBoWiD), which was revived right after the war and was "politically unstable", but also entailed throwing the Uprising out of the public

discourse.

A revision of historical policy understood in this way was not possible until 1956 and remained in close relationship to the changes that took place in the People's Republic of Poland during the "thaw", an important part of which was the Poznań June of 1956. Władysław Gomułka, newly elevated to power, was clearly looking for various ways to win the favour of the rebellious city and its inhabitants. In addition, he emphasized all anti-German elements in his policy, which was aimed primarily at legitimizing the incorporation of the so-called Recovered Territories into Poland. One of them was supposed to be the appreciation of the historical role of Wielkopolska Uprising and opening towards its veterans, which resulted, among other things, in finishing the legislative works establishing the Wielkopolska Insurgent Cross, as well as establishing the National Committee of Wielkopolska Insurgents 1918/1919 within ZBoWiD.

With the stabilization of the political situation in the country by Gomułka, the party's centre of power clearly lost interest in the Uprising. Although celebrations of the Uprising's anniversaries were possible, and even welcome, they had a distinctly local flavour, as evidenced by the so-called second suit of party officials sent from Warsaw to Poznań for the uprising ceremonies. One way or another, the verification of the Uprising evaluation paradoxically resulted in time with the idea of building a monument of Wielkopolska Insurgents in Poznań, which was not realised in the Second Polish Republic, being greenlit. This fact was actually a very handy argument to speak in favour of the Polish People's Republic in the dispute about which authority did more to commemorate the Uprising. It was used in a not entirely fair way by the party "builders" of the monument (designed by Alfred Wiśniewski), which was originally supposed to be ready on the 20th anniversary of the Polish People's Republic [!]. The central element of the monument, which was finally unveiled in September 1965, was a dozen or so meters high shaft, encircled by bronze reliefs fastened with the Piast eagle. The reliefs included the children of Września, Michał Drzymała, Franciszek Ratajczak, and... Marcin Kasprzak. The reliefs were intended to be a narrative and program-related complement to the second segment of the monument, proposed, as it is rumoured, by Jan Szydłak, the 1st Secretary of the Polish United Workers Party Provincial Committee in Poznań, who shunned abstract forms. It was a free-standing figural sculpture depicting two uniformed insurgents: an officer and a private.

However, the spectacularity of this undertaking, which in the late 1960s and early 1970s entailed, especially in the provinces, the construction (and reconstruction) of more insurgent

monuments and the founding of dozens of commemorative plaques, cannot compare in any way to the grandeur with which the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Uprising were arranged in Poznań. They can be boldly defined as the informal peak of the communist authorities' organisational capabilities on the insurgent plane. This was largely due to the arrival of Edward Gierek at the "central celebration", and also resulted to some extent from the atmosphere in Poznań under the "technocrat" Jerzy Zasada. The number of various events, celebrations, competitions, book and art premieres, etc. was in the dozens in December 1978. Some symptoms revealing a change in the historical policy of the communist authorities towards the Uprising did not appear until the 1980s. In this context, let us mention, for example, the reconstruction of the monument to the 15th Poznań Uhlan Regiment, the ceremony of unveiling a monument to the Conquerors of the Ławica Airport – which, however, was accompanied by a highly ideological plaque, bringing the ashes of Gen. Stanisław Taczak to the Cemetery of Distinguished People of Wielkopolska and burying them with military honours, or the premiere of the first successful feature film devoted to insurgents, entitled “Męskie Sprawy” (“Men's Affairs”), directed by Jan Kidawa-Błoński. It is also necessary to mention the most outstanding and already deceased researchers of history of the Wielkopolska Uprising, including Antoni Czubiński, Tadeusz Fenrych, Ludwik Gomlec, Zdzisław Grot, Tadeusz Jabłoński and Benon Miśkiewicz.

During its first decade, the free Poland did not turn out to be too kind to the tradition of the Wielkopolska Uprising. The conviction of its local and minor significance, stemming directly from the political practice of the communist era, meant that "Warsaw" did not show much interest in it, and even in Poznań itself and in Wielkopolska the successive anniversaries were rather modest in character. This sad picture changed in the 2000s, when inhabitants of Poznań and Wielkopolska rediscovered the heritage of their ancestors, the best evidence of which is the extensive celebrations of the 90th and 100th anniversaries of the Uprising.