



True Voice from **Poland**

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PART ONE

Prince Pepi

In Polish historiography, national tradition and widespread reception, Prince Józef Poniatowski is a special figure. Undoubtedly a national hero, he was born in Vienna, spent his youth in Prague (hence his nickname Pepi, which is Józef in Czech), and was buried in the Wawel Royal Castle. He served in the Austrian and Polish armies, and eventually became a French Marshal. Infamous for being a ladies' man, enjoying parties and dances, fun and frolic, yet he was remarkable for his fortitude and military talent. The protection of the last king of Poland, unpopular monarch Stanisław August Poniatowski, secured him goods, enabling him financial existence and military education. The army was his lifelong passion, which he validated with his death in the currents of the Elster river in the battle of Lipsk, a battle of nations, in 1813. His military talent, yielding him success both during the time of peace and the time of war, was recognized equally by his friends and enemies. Remembering this figure, one may ask if his story is long gone now? In a unified Europe, could exceptionally talented Poles pursue his outstanding military, academic, economic, and political career? These questions seem rhetoric, as there is always a de-

mand for true talents in any era and in every circumstance.

Youth

The Poniatowski Family, though Polish by family name and tradition, was, as most aristocratic families in the 18th century, cosmopolitan in nature, in possession of many goods and related with families scattered all over Europe. The future prince, Józef Antoni Poniatowski, was born in the Kinsky Palace in Vienna on May 7th 1763. His father, Andrzej Poniatowski, the brother to king Stanisław August, obtained along with his brothers, the hereditary title of princehood. He served in the Austrian army, where he came to the rank of lieutenant general and, subsequently, of field marshal. The marriage to Miss Teresa Kinsky-Hertula, from a well-known aristocratic Czech-Austrian – Italian family strengthened his position. Young prince Józef was of ill health, however his mother's constant protection was becoming more and more of a burden to a young man. Raised in the Kinsky Palaces in Prague and Vienna, he was the apple of his royal uncle's eye, who spared no effort nor expense for Prince Józef's military upbringing. The prince knew four languages native to the countries

(...) You shared intense afflictions with us
Great sacrifices, duties with no reward,
And in place of sweet hopes of fulfilment
Bitter disillusionments.

(Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz “
The Funeral of Prince Poniatowski”)



ADAM
MAKSYMOWICZ



where he was raised, lived and had his family. However, he was not fluent in any of them. While being spoiled by his whole family, he indulged in all kinds of entertainment, parties and dances with his aristocratic peers. He started his military career in 1780 as a 17-year-old young man in the Austrian army in the rank of second lieutenant in the 2nd Carabinieri Regiment, deployed in the Czech province. During his military service he met many famous Austrian commanders in chief and generals, with whom he later had to fight under the command of Napoleon. He would often visit Poland at the invitation of his uncle and king, where he enjoyed participating in various parties. In 1788 he was appointed adjutant to the Austrian Emperor during the war campaign in Turkey.

First Polish War Campaigns

Prince Józef was little interested in political affairs of his era. His first patriotic feeling was awakened by Catherine II the Empress, when she demanded that he hand in the Order of Virtuti Militari presented to him on January 7th 1794, which he found humiliating. When coerced by the fearful king, he gave in. Nonetheless, he published a protest letter. Initially, he did not join in the Kościuszko Uprising, which was also his royal uncle's doing. Later, when he resolved to engage, he was not enthusiastically accepted by Tadeusz Kościuszko. He was assigned to defend Warsaw in the area of the present-day Bemowo district. Having underestimated the Prussian ene-

my, he allowed these positions to be taken over, which forced Kościuszko to recall Poniatowski and appoint General Henryk Dąbrowski in charge of this region's defense. Trying to defend the lost positions, Poniatowski nearly lost his life. False and unfair rumors of the Prince's betrayal spread throughout Warsaw. He was again entrusted with the defense of the Marymont region. The Prince, due to internal disagreements within the leadership of the Uprising, as well as his uncle's coercion, left the Insurrection, anticipating its rapid capitulation. Following the defeat of the Uprising, its commanders in chief were put in hard imprisonment or sent to Siberia. The Prince, treated with honors, returned to his previous easy and care-free life.

Energy Independence – Opening of the Baltic Pipeline

A History in the Making



AGNIESZKA MARCZAK

September 27th 2022 marked a historic day in the history of Poland, as the day of gaining gas independence from Russian supplies. Goleniów, a city in the north of Poland, was hosting the celebrations with special attendees: President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Minister of Climate & Environment Anna Moskwa and a few other members of the Polish government. Representatives of the governments of the Kingdom of Denmark and Kingdom of Norway were also in attendance. In their statements, both president Duda and prime minister Morawiecki, stressed the importance of the independent gas flow from Russia, not only to our country, but also to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and East Central Europe. The new interconnector will deliver gas directly from the gas fields in the Norwegian Shelf.

Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen, stressed in her address the importance of the prompt and unified international measures when facing the energy crisis caused by Putin. She also mentioned preparations for the upcoming winter, which will pose serious challenges for both the industry and households in Europe.

During the event, the Polish Climate Minister Anna Moskwa signed an agreement with the Danish Minister of Climate, Energy and Provisions, Dan Jørgensen. The document established cooperation guidelines for both countries. Denmark and Poland will cooperate in the development of energy transformation and increased energy security in our region.

The only holder of the Baltic Pipeline will be PGNiG Company, as it acquired the majority of the pipeline's transmission capacity, which in 2023 will be 10 billion cubic meters. The gas flow will be lower till the end of



2022, as there are two sections of the pipeline in Denmark that are not yet finished. In 2021 the work was postponed due to withdrawal of environmental permits. According to Tomasz Stepień, the CEO of Gaz-System Company, a strategic gas pipeline operator in Poland, the gas flow from the 1st of October will be 200 thousand cubic meters per hour; ultimately reaching 1 million cubic meters per hour.

The pipeline has four gas compressor stations; its length is 900 km – starting from the gas depositories on the Norwe-

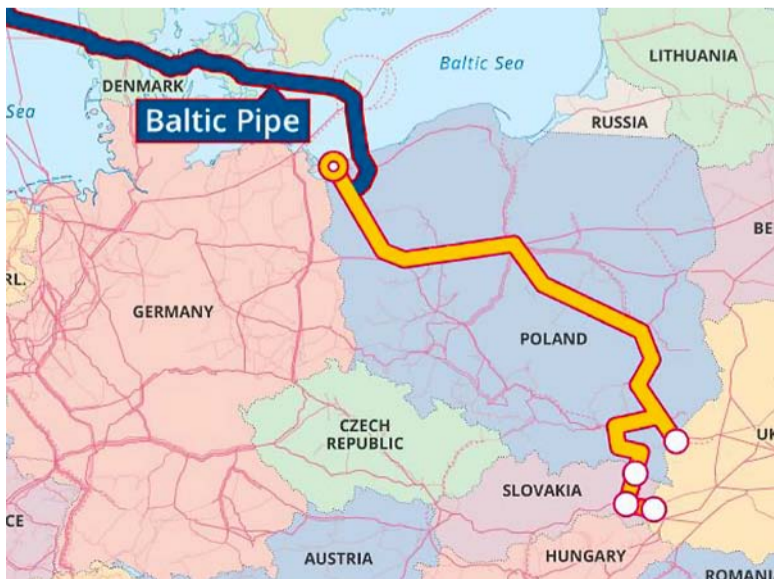
gian Continental Shelf, through Denmark and the bottom of the Baltic Sea until reaching Poland. The cost of the project in the amount of 1,6 billion Euro was incurred by the investors – Polish Gaz-System and the Danish Energinet. The European Union financed 250 million EU towards the project.

The history of the pipeline goes back to 1991, when Piotr Naimski, the former energy security advisor to the prime minister, put forward a proposal for the independence of gas supplies from Russia. He con-

tinued his work for a long time. Ten years later, first contracts were signed with the Norwegian companies and PGNiG for the deliveries of gas in 2004 from Denmark and in 2008 from Norway. Unfortunately, after the elections in 2001, when Leszek Miller became the head of the government, the project was rejected. In 2007 it was brought back, but due to the engagement of the Skanled company in the building of Nordstream 2 it was again suspended.

The gas pipeline project came back in 2016. Gaz-Systems and Energinet companies worked on the feasibility studies of the pipeline and after getting satisfactory results, signed a cooperation agreement in November of 2018.

Today we witness the positive effects of engagement of the governments of Poland, Denmark and Norway which predicted the adverse results of dependence on the only one supplier of energy from the east. Western European countries should follow the example from that historic project. Will they try? Only time will show.



Two Weeks in a Glance

On Monday, 3rd of October, Polish foreign affairs minister, professor Zbigniew Rau, signed an official diplomatic note addressed to the German government in Berlin, regarding reparations for the losses incurred during World War II. Comments of the German side were not positive, although there is no official response yet.

Former minister of foreign affairs, Radosław Sikorski, caused an international diplomatic and political scandal. His satirical tweet "thanking USA" for the sabotage of the Nordstream 1 and 2 which caused a leakage of methane gas, was immediately used by Moscow. It was shown by the Russian representative in the UN, who commented "how well Sikorski knows what is going on in the world". State Department spokesperson Ned Price, commented the tweet as the Russian disinformation. Sikorski, an international affairs expert, thus became well known on both sides of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, being a Polish citizen, he represents foreign interests.

There are talks in Brussels regarding the eight package of sanctions against Russia. Belgium stance is as hard as diamonds – it does not agree to place diamonds on the list, as they are an important part of the jewelry business in Antwerp. We might have to announce a boycott of diamond rings.

Almost 1500 soldiers from the voluntary basic military service took an oath on October 2nd. They were from four military universities: Military University of Technical, Military Land Forces Academy, Air Force Academy and the Naval Academy. Those young boys and girls represent true Polish patriotism and show how one can learn how to pilot planes and defend the borders at the same time. There were 572 students in 2015 – today 2030 students commenced the new academic year.

The One and Only **Film Festival** in the World



KRZYSZTOF
BRZEHCZYN

■ An international Film Festival NNW ((Rebellious, Defiant and Cursed) took place from 28th of September till 1st of October for the XIV time in Gdynia. We could say without any hesitation, that this is the only festival in the world showing movies and documentaries with an ideological message. The knowledge of history should serve to strengthen the community, defend the freedom and strengthen the historic legacy of forgotten heroes and events of the past. All participants could choose to watch from over 100 movies and documentaries, Polish and foreign as well as attend debates, books promotions and meetings with authors and directors.

The awards this year were given in ten categories. The main award in the Polish Film category received "1939 Siege of Warsaw", directed by Eugeniusz Starky. In the international documentary category, the award was presented to "PLAI. The road through mountains", directed by Eva Dzhysyashvili from Georgia. In the historic feature film category, the award received "Moorish", directed by Kevin Macdonald. There were also radio presentations and video clips categories.

Among eight shown exhibits there were two worth mentioning: "Mission: USA – Kornel Morawiecki in the United States in 1988" and the "July's". The latter was organized by Pilecki Institute and showed photographs of the Augustow manhunt, where over 500 men, women and children were arrested by the Soviets in July 1945 and killed in an unknown time and place.

Among twenty debates one discussed important events from the past: on the first day participants of the „Fighting Solidarity (Solidarność Walcząca) – defiant, winning and inspiring organization” debate were

those who witnessed that history: Marek Czachor, Andrzej Kołodziej, Jan Nebcio and Roman Zwiecan, as well as historians: dr Pawel Piotr Warot, director of the Gdansk IPN, Mateus Smolana, a director of the In-

stitute of the Solidarity Heritage, dr Andrzej Chmielecki, a director of the Radio Gdansk. The debate was moderated by Jan M. Ruman, who led the discussion about the beginnings of the Fighting Solidarity in the Trojmi-

asto region – all remembered in a different way by the panelists.

The organizers honored also people and institutions, who served to honor the memory of the historic events or actively worked to gain freedom and independence. The awards are called in a very particular way – a “resistor”, to honor all those who resisted the occupying forces and a “Ring of Freedom”, to honor those who fought to gain independence.

A Platinum Resistor of the XIV Festival received Miroslaw Chojecki, and the Ring of Freedom was given to Piotr Majchrzak (posthumously), who was the youngest victim of the martial law in Poznan, beaten to death by ZOMO in May of 1982. The Ring of Freedom was also given to captain Krzysztof Flizak, the youngest soldier of general Wladyslaw Anders and a Korean War veteran. Another

unusual award was “A Door to Freedom”, presented to journalists from the Parisian Radio Solidarity and Radio Free Europe.

There are many other events during the festival: Film Academy, which organized screenplay and film editing workshops for young adepts of the movie industry; Polonia Media Academy, which organized workshops remotely for journalists and all active members of the media created by the Polonia worldwide.



The festival could come to a town near you in Poland and abroad, although in a shortened version – in the past it took place in Prague, Paris, London and Chicago.

More information about the NNW Festival are listed on their website: <https://festiwaln-nw.pl/nagrody-glowne-xiv-miedzynarodowego-festiwalu-filmowego-nnw/>.



Photo: Artur Waszkiewicz

He Always **Listened**

Kornel always listened to others, even if he did not agree with them. This was unheard of, as usually people want to convince their interlocutors about their own point of view and are not interested in theirs. Kornel asked everyone what they thought and reflected on their answers. He spoke with me about upcoming articles in the newspaper (Gazeta Obywatelska). He was pondering over every word when he was writing himself. Sometimes I suggested a change in the sentence or use a synonym of a word. He then would ask everyone in his and the editors' office if they agreed with me. I remember a surprised look of a man, who came to his office with an unrelated matter and had to answer a question regarding a style of an article. The man answered in shy way.

Krystyna Jagoszewska

In memory of Kornel Morawiecki – on the 3rd anniversary of his death

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