



True Voice from **Poland**

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We bring everyone together

That is the motto of Kongres 590 – an annual meeting organized in Rzeszów for large and small corporations, scientists, politicians, legislators from Poland and around the world.

Is Polonia going to join their Three Seas initiative?

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We bring everyone together

PIOTR WINIARSKI



- Polonia for itself, motherland for itself – we are living in incredibly important time – it is time for a change!

That significant time we live in, most likely will change the geopolitical, strategic and economic situation of Poland. Our essential goal should be a joint venture of Polonia's business with Poland, for the good of the country and for the whole region.

Could Polonia's business become a trigger for the economic development of Poland and the cooperation of the Three Seas countries?

Let's take an example from the United States: the largest diasporas are Chinese, Indian, Israeli and Polish.

And what did the Chinese do? They transferred a large part of the production to China; the Indian diaspora led to an unprecedented technology transfer to India, which enabled that country to build satellites, spaceships and have atomic weapons. Many Israelis were developing their own, well run and vital private startups and were growing private research departments. Why they did it? Because, at one point, the state of Israel created a tax and other economic mechanisms, making moving their business to Israel quite profitable.

And the Polish diaspora – it has a potential...

It is very important for the Polish government to become the driving factor for the Polonia's business. We should enable similar knowledge and technology transfers to Poland. In that respect, the business environment in the US – and not only there – is not that well organized. We can and should change it!

A good solution could be an institute – a think tank, that could deal with Polonia's business and establish which persons, organizations, possibilities and resources exist in the world. There are tens – hundreds – of people and companies that have the knowledge as well as potential, and could be invited to cooperate with the institute. That organization would establish a development plan and the world plan of activities.

The legislative term should be "Economic Polonia".



If there was a Ministry for the Polonia and the Polish People Abroad, with a department of Economic Polonia, it could fulfill the institute's plan and use its analytical abilities for their current activities.

A cooperation in the triangle – the institute – the ministry – Polish Press Agency – would significantly influence the goal and effectiveness of the politics of the Polish state media information, going both ways. Polonia today have access to an incomplete and even false information.

The Economic Polonia is comprised of scientists and high-level managers in many companies, including global ones. We should establish and keep the contacts with all the upper-level management all over the world. An important part of building relations and information exchange between Polonia and Polish enterprises are international fairs and congresses.

Large companies, such as Chinese Haier and Indian Tata, successfully used ethnic marketing. That should be an example for the Polish companies. It is possible.

A future shape of an institute and the activities of a Ministry will be presented in the World Forum of Economic Polonia in 2023. The possibilities are enormous and should not be underestimated.

A special panel during the seventh Congress 590 in Rzeszów, which took place on the 17th of November 2022, presented the subject "Could Economic Polonia become a trigger for the development of the Polish economy and cooperation of the Tree Seas Countries?"

We are suggesting a similar panel in the next year's World Forum of Economic Polonia in 2023.

We would like to invite Economic Polonia from the Tree Seas Countries, as well as Polonia from all over the world. The panel's aim will be forming initiatives and proposals addressed to the Polish government, that would emphasize the importance of the Polish people living in the Tree Seas countries. We would like to hear, what the Polish companies expect from the Economic Polonia and if they would see the importance of ethnic marketing.

We could create together **Made in Poland brand!**

Let our proposals and conclusions become the beginning of the titles and subjects for the World Forum of Economic Polonia 2023 panels. Let's work on them together! The war in Ukraine is requiring us to make fast decisions.

Immediate strengthening of the Economic Polonia's ties with the motherland is our raison d'état and should become the base for action, not just the discussions. Now, the most important is the concept of the whole enterprise – we invite you to take part in creating a coherent plan.

Share with us your ideas, take part in the work of the Association Think Tank and write to:

info@PolandBusinessCenter.World

It's time for a change!

Piotr Winiarski

Conclusions of the panel's participants:

Economic Polonia is an indispensable source of informa-

tion that could be used by the Polish State to be inspired by good solutions existing in other countries in the areas of the economy, social policies and many others.

A central coordination is required in case of the Economic Polonia, with activities centralized in either an Institute of Polonia and Polish People Abroad or a Ministry of Polonia and the Polish People Abroad, to take full advantage of an already existing potential, to promote Poland abroad.

A further consolidation and internationalization of the e-commerce in the Tree Seas region is inevitable, which will enable us to compete with giants like the Amazon as well as survive the present difficult economic period.

Marcin Pondo

Director of Consulting Hungary, Hungary

<https://kongres590.plosoby/marcin-pondo/>

I think that Polonia in the Tree Seas countries not only could help to develop the region, but is already doing it. Their best attribute is an excellent knowledge of market of the country they live in, understanding the mentality and customs of that country, notwithstanding its language. Could the Tree Seas region develop without Ukraine? Due to its location and a potential, Ukraine certainly should be part of our common market, as many economic projects were already functioning there for a number of years. For sure, a priority will be our assistance in rebuilding that potential.

Katarzyna Iwona Bielik

Expert, Slovakia

<https://kongres590.pl/osoby/katarzyna-iwona-bielik/>

A big problem is an information policy for Polonia about Poland (for example, the US lacks free access to the internet services of TVP); this should be addressed to specific groups of the society. Business people need to have a clear mes- ▶

► *sage about current regulations, tax law and investment opportunities. The scientists should have an information service about present research areas, especially in the strategic fields.*

The Polish state and its institutions should especially solicit investments from Polonia's businesses. If there are special economic zones, used by big German and French compa-

nies, then it should be worth it to establish legal and organizational conditions for companies of Polish background. Especially important are investments by high tech.

I am for the establishing an Institute of the Polonia and the Polish People Abroad, which would remove existing barriers for Polonia in Poland. I am especially for intensification of contacts with renown scientists

of Polish origin. In my field of the artificial intelligence, a good mechanism already exists in India. We could use such an example in Poland.

PhD. Eng. Jacek Leśkow

Professor at Cracow Polytechnics, USA
<https://kongres590.pl/osoby/jacek-leskow/>

A shortened link of the K590 Rzeszów panel video:

<https://tiny.pl/wd1vp>

A full link of the K590 Rzeszów panel video:

https://vod.infomaniak.com/redirect/winiarskialina_vod/pbcw-51503/mp4-12/piotrwin-iarski-kongres590-trjmorze-poloniagospodarcza-panelrzeszw17-11-2022c_1.mp4

QR code of the K590 Rzeszów panel video:



“Anyone who shall leave us alone...

ANDRZEJ
MANASTERSKI



■ ... is our companion. Yet, anyone who shall attack our independence and political integrity shall face a war! We, the Swiss people, shall not be the first to go on a pilgrimage abroad.” These were the words spoken by the Swiss minister Hermann Obrecht on the 16th of March 1939.

At one of the flea markets, I got interested by a small, plain brochure entitled “Polen” published in Meilen in 1944. It was the reprint of the article from *Volksblatt des Bezirkes Meilen*, a local Swiss newspaper issued in Meilen. The brochure was signed A. J. Latini. There was a little about Poland, was written in German, and issued during the fifth year of the war. What can this be? I bought it out of curiosity. The seller was not able to help; he knew neither the author nor the content of the brochure; he said he had found it in the dustbin. Most likely, someone was spring-cleaning their flat and must have discarded it as something of little value. For them, not for me though. The more puzzles, the greater the curiosity. A close study of the brochure gave a clear picture of its provenance. The author turned out to be prof. Adam Vetulani (1901-1976), law historian at the Jagiellonian University, specialising in Cannon Law. A. J. Latini was the pen name of the author, assumed after the maiden name of the wife – Irena Latinik, who lived and raised children in Cracow. Vetulani, as a volunteer soldier, fought in World War I and II, as well as in the Polish – Bolshevik war in 1920. Following the September campaign in 1939, he escaped to France where he fought in the 2nd Division of the Rifle Infantry. Following the French defeat, along with the 2nd Division, he crossed the French-Swiss border. At this point an interesting remark can be made – the Swiss, who were not in the position to accommodate the French soldiers, con-

finied the Polish soldiers into internships camps. It would be a rare situation for the Swiss to allow foreign soldiers to remain on their territory. They got rid of the French people as soon as they could, on the false pretence of the French-German truce, ending the French campaign. The Poles were treated differently – they did not call the truce with the Germans and continued to wage war. The Swiss decided to let the Polish soldiers stay, excluding them from the French army. Switzerland, with its neutrality policy in place since the 19th century, have strived to avoid any cause of conflict with other countries. Letting the Polish soldiers remain in Switzerland, not handing them over to the Germans, could have been the excuse for Germany to attack its neighbouring country. And the Germans considered this as an option.

Year 1863. The January Uprising broke out in the Kingdom of Poland. The struggle of the Poles against the Russian occupier had become very popular in Europe. Volunteers from different nations began to join the Polish partisan troops. Even among the Russians, the Uprising had numerous supporters. It was the first such large-scale combat with the occupiers, in which partisan warfare was employed. And the first, in which representatives of all social groups took part: the nobleman, the craftsman, the burgher, the peasant, the scholar, the student, the professional officer, and the merchant. This was the national army, which Tadeusz Kościuszko and subsequent commanders failed to

form before. Later Józef Piłsudski strived to organise this type of army when he formed the Polish Legions. The insurgents, poorly armed with peasant scythes, among other weapons, could successfully fight with the Russian troops. How was it possible? This very question was asked by the Swiss, who sent their experts to the Kingdom of Poland to learn about the effectiveness of the fighting and to answer the question: “Would this type of troops be equally effective in Switzerland?” One of the envoys was the artilleryman Franz von Erlach. While staying in the Podlasie and Lubelszczyzna regions, he learnt about the effectiveness of the peasants’ scythes and about equally effective dedication of the Poles, who fought for their independence. An important remark should be made at this point. Indeed, the use of scythes in the first few months of the Uprising was predominant, as they were used as weapons by the peasants who participated in the Uprising. Few insurgents had access to firearm, and on top of that, it included hunting rifles and shotguns, which more often than not, remembered old times. However, as the fighting progressed, more firearm was being secured from the Russian soldiers. In addition, transports from abroad, mainly from Austria and France, were coming in. An interesting fact can be added – Polish emigrants from the United States bought at least one piece of the Gatling gun, considered as the first multi-barrel machine gun. Von Erlach included his insights in a special report presented to his supervisors

in 1866. This was the most analytical study which was completed during the January Uprising, and constitutes a good historical resource for the historians. The presented analysis was used by the Swiss to utmost extent. The Swiss government recognised that natural conditions of Switzerland along with universal military training, would yield the most effective defence against the invader. They pointed to the fact, that a volunteer army, defending its home, town, region and, ultimately, its country, taking advantage of natural conditions best known to them, was the most successful in the fight against the enemy. The words spoken by minister Obrecht testify not so much to determination as to the conviction of the politician, who knew the combat value of citizens of his country.

In 1940 Germany was at the peak of its power. The swift French campaign caused euphoria among the Germans and prompted a question: “Who is going to be next?” This question was directed to the commanders-in-chief of the German army by Hitler. “How about Switzerland?” Surrounded by the Axis countries, and with a relatively small army, it could have been an easy target. The Germans seemed to have examined all the possible scenarios. One of the factors, that led to ruling out a war with Switzerland, was the fact that they possessed weapons and were militarily well-trained. Furthermore, they had a good fortification system in the mountainous surroundings. In such conditions it was impossible to employ blitzkrieg tactics, which were

perfectly used before but in lowland surroundings. Moreover, the Swiss were not like the French – they would not have given in easily. The Polish soldiers were kept, so that they could be employed in fighting. The Swiss realised that Polish troops were ‘fired upon’ by the enemy, and had experience in combat, which was lacking in the Swiss army. In the meantime, they separated internship camps, and employed the Poles to repair road infrastructure. At the same time Polish soldiers came into contact with the Swiss, learning German and French. The command of the 2nd Division allowed the soldiers to participate in workshops and training. Some of them had lectures about Poland for local people. Adam Vetulani used his historical knowledge and wrote to local papers. He brought into context the Polish history to the Swiss, with particular emphasis to the past two hundred years, when the Poles fought with the occupiers for independence. The brochure “Polen” was a good example of Polish efforts, that could make the Swiss realise how crucial it was to defend your own national identity. Vetulani referred to the works of a Swiss writer and poet Gottfried Keller, who helped to organise support for the January Uprising.

If up until World War II Switzerland had merely been a blend of cantons, then the joint threat of losing independence from the Germans made them a unified nation. And this could as well be credited to the Poles.

Two Weeks in a Glance



Old Polish traditions: Andrzejki

On November 30th Poland celebrates St. Andrew's Day – an old tradition dating from few centuries ago that survived till the end of the 20th century. First written information about Saint Andrew's Day in Poland was found in the notes of Marcin Bielski, a poet and a soldier from XVI century. The feast was celebrated in few different ways, but the main tradition is quite unique: folks were melting wax from candles and poured it through a keyhole to a dish with water. The shape of wax, that formed on the water, would predict the future – mainly a name or a silhouette of a future husband for young women or some good luck symbol. The celebration used to start the day before and had to end at midnight on the 30th since usually the next day, or on December 1st was the beginning of advent, when Christians start preparing for Christmas. Apart from pouring wax, the St. Andrews Day was always a good reason to have fun – during the com-

munist's times student's clubs were organizing concerts and parties under different name, but everyone knew that it is the "Andrzejki" event. Unfortunately, it is not as popular as it used to be – we hope that both Polonia around the world and folks in Poland will continue to celebrate that day and have fun. Remember, you do not have to look into your cell phone, to predict the future...

Eufonie Festival: from November 18th till 26th Warsaw hosted for the 4th time International Music Festival of Central and Eastern Europe. It presents a different and unique music, not always heard or promoted in the concert halls of the rest of Europe. The composers are from Romania, Austria, the Balkans, Baltic countries, Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Some of those countries were for centuries influenced by other cultures and offer fascinating musical amalgam of incredible music. This year's them was the time of Romanticism, which was an important period for composers of all nations in Europe. The festival's focused on presenting the musical heritage of the traditional culture of each country, heard in the compositions coming from the 'nation-

al schools', which included folks' themes and historical references. The music played during the November event included Jan Sibelius, Norwegian Edward Grieg, Antonin Dvorak and Leos Janacek. The final concert at the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw, presented a premier composition based on the theme of Ukrainian culture by composers Ivan Taranenko, Stanisław Krupowicz, Marcin Bortnowski and Marcin Rupociński.

The music was played by many orchestras – among them the Bogdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra, the Latvian Radio Choir and of course Sinfonia Varsovia, the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra from Katowice. The event was organized by Narodowe Centrum Kultury (National Cultural Center), that organizes many interesting events. If you are planning to visit Warsaw, it is worth checking their website: <https://www.nck.pl/en/>

Jacek Malczewski: paintings of Jacek Malczewski, a last century renowned artist, were transported from the National Lviv Gallery to Poznan. They were moved for two reasons – to shelter the beautiful works of art from possible war damage, and to

show the cultural heritage of both countries to the public in Poland. The exhibition titled "I am going to the world and remain. 34 paintings of Jacek Malczewski from Lviv National Gallery of Art" will be open until march 2023, but will remain in Poznan as long as it is necessary. The exhibit was prepared quickly due to the war by the Poznan Museum, but the result is a fascinating display of the renown artist's paintings. Jacek Malczewski was born in 1854 in the city of Radom. His paintings express an art period he was associated with, called Young Poland, which reflected the patriotic movement after over century of partition of Poland. He is regarded as the founder of the Polish Symbolism art movement.



Who was Benedict the Pole? Part Two

ARTUR
ADAMSKI



The location where Carpine and Benedict started off in November of 1245, was the Wrocław Franciscan Monastery, situated at today's Nankiera Square in Wrocław.

On their way, they passed through the Boleslaw Wstydlivy (Boleslaus the Chaste) Court in Krakow, as well as the Konrad Mazowiecki Court in Leczyca. The travelers were given more and more gifts from Polish princes, magnates, monks and townspeople to help in their trip to the pe-

ripheries of the known world. Most of the offerings consisted of rare, perfectly seasoned badger furs. As recounted later by Carpine, the conditions of the journey were extremely difficult, but eased by amazing skills of Benedict the Pole. He was able to secure shelter and safe accommodation by making ditches in deep snow and lining them for overnight stay. In February of 1246 the papal envoys reached Kiev. A month later they encountered the Tatar guards of Batu Khan, who

was the governor of the Great Khan. They managed to communicate effectively enough to be received five weeks later by Batu Khan in his command post in the Astrachan area. The honor of meeting the chief came at the cost of 40 beaver furs and 80 badger furs. It turned out, however, that it all paid off.

First, Batu Khan asked for the letter written by the Pope to be read to him, and received an immediate response from Benedict, who translated

it easily into the language of the host. Being informed about the contents of the letter, Batu Khan decided positively that his guests have to reach the Great Khan. For the travelers, it meant that the road to Karakorum was wide open.

According to the trip report presented later to the Pope, the camp of the Tatar Chief consisted of leather yurts, however the interiors were dazzling with huge amount of gold and other valuables.

True Voice from Poland

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