

## Streszczenia w języku angielskim

**Anna Potyrała**

**Keywords:** the Nuremberg tribunal, international crimes, individual accountability, International Criminal Court, international arrest warrant

This paper aims to analyse the concept of individual accountability and its practical implementation in the 21st century. The idea is to demonstrate that despite the declared commitment of members of the international community to preserving peace and security and protecting human rights: (a) the position of states towards the concept of holding individuals accountable for international crimes is shaped by the current balance of forces in the international arena, particular interests and existing bilateral or multilateral alliances, (b) as a result, the concept of individual accountability for international crimes is losing its normative nature.

The subject matter of this article and the research hypothesis have determined the research methods applied. The study employs methodologies commonly used in the social sciences, in particular political science, international relations and legal sciences. A key role was assigned to the method of legal analysis, the comparative method and the genetic historical method. The case-study analysis demonstrated a lack of political will to unwillingness to fulfil the international obligation to prosecute and try individuals suspected of international crimes, thereby undermining the normative character of this concept.

**Izabela Paszko**

**Keywords:** memory culture, Germany, Second World War, infrastructures, socio-cultural transformations

This paper seeks to investigate contemporary memory culture in Germany within the context of socio-political developments of the past four years, as well as the post-migrant and post-socialist nature of German society. Public discourse often portrays memory cultures as monolithic constructs based on symbols and activities legitimised by the state. However, the formation of Germany's memory culture suggests that it is more accurately described as an amalgam of diverse factors, shaped less by state institutions and more by the actions of

individual participants, situated in a specific "here and now." Furthermore, transformations in memory culture are also driven by factors such as local governance, funding mechanisms, and technological availability.

The author puts forward two hypotheses. The first posits that German memory culture is undergoing a process of "glocalization", shaped not only by the country's historical experience of division, but more significantly by decisions and actions taken at the local level. The second hypothesis relates to the updating of memory content in response to ongoing social, political, and technological changes. Based on these assumptions, the author poses several key research questions: What factors shape the current commemorative landscape? Are these factors unique to Germany? How are paradigms of memory culture evolving, and what are the potential consequences?

To address these questions, the author employs discourse analysis to investigate news stories in influential press outlets, alongside a historical approach enriched with elements of decision-making analysis. This methodological framework enables the reconstruction of selected institution-building processes and the interrelations among various actors involved in memory culture. In conclusion, the article underscores the complexity of influences shaping contemporary German memory culture, i.e. a heterogeneous society or emerging domains of historical inquiry, such as the history of immigrant communities, which have thus far played only a marginal role in the Polish context of memory culture.

**Joanna Modrzejewska-Leśniewska**

**Keywords:** Afghanistan; Pakistan, Second World War; Cold War; Durand Line

The Second World War was an event that had a determining impact on all countries in the world – those that existed at the time, those that gained independence as a result of the war, and those that remained neutral in the face of the global conflict. The East-West rivalry in the Cold War similarly shaped the destinies of individual countries, including those that sought to distance themselves from the competition between the superpowers. One such country was Afghanistan, which managed to remain neutral during World War II and, after its conclusion, aimed to pursue economic development without aligning itself with any of the dominant powers. However, the legacy of British rule in India - specifically the Durand Line - made it

impossible to settle relations with neighboring Pakistan and ultimately led to Afghanistan's entanglement in the U.S.-Soviet rivalry.

For this reason, it is worth asking questions about the enduring influence of events that occurred over 80 years ago, as well as those between 1947 and 1991, on Afghanistan's contemporary situation. How did World War II affect Afghanistan, which declared neutrality and maintained it until the end of the armed conflict? Did Afghanistan suffer any consequences from the war despite its lack of involvement, and if so, what were they? How did the decolonization of India and the British failure to fulfill its commitments complicate Afghanistan's situation during the Cold War and ultimately push it toward the Soviet Union? How did Cold War rivalry affect Afghanistan's domestic and international position?

The answers to these questions will be based on an analysis of source materials produced by British, Soviet, and American administrations, complemented by relevant scholarly literature.

## **Olaf Bergmann**

**Keywords:** Second Polish Republic, Western Poland, integration, unification, economy.

One of the most important and challenging tasks faced by the Polish state and its citizens after 1918 was the unification and integration of the newly reborn homeland. Prior to this, and as a consequence of the partitions, Polish territories had been under the political, administrative, and economic control of the three partitioning powers for more than a century, constituting integral parts of their respective empires. The long-standing ties between Poland's historic regions and provinces were severed, and after regaining independence, Poles had to reconstruct them from scratch. These processes were marked by both successes and failures. One valuable source that facilitates analysis of these phenomena is the monthly journal "Gospodarka Zachodnia" ("Western Economy"), published in Poznań between 1936 and 1938.

This paper aims to examine the role and significance of the Western Territories — particularly the Greater Poland region — as well as to assess these developments from the perspective of specialists (primarily economists) associated with the western borderlands of the Second Polish Republic. Answers to these questions, along with others pertaining to the very nature and key components of integration and/or unification in interwar Poland, will be sought in a single, yet exceptionally insightful, press source. The paper seeks to evaluate these

processes — both their achievements and shortcomings — as reflected in the opinions of scholars and publicists who were direct witnesses to them and who, by the late 1930s, had the benefit of nearly two decades of hindsight.

The presentation of these press statements draws upon established methodological approaches used in historical research, and more specifically, in press and media studies.

### **Marceli Tureczek**

**Keywords:** Poland's Western and Northern Territories, post-migration communities, identity, memory, Polish-German relations.

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. One of the key aspects of how 1945 is remembered in Poland concerns the territories annexed from Germany and incorporated into Poland. This topic has been widely covered in the existing literature.

The questions that, in the author's view, deserve renewed attention today concern the current condition of these territories, particularly in relation to social and identity transformations, as well as their present-day economic situation. This text does not aim to provide definitive answers, but rather seeks to initiate a discussion on the need for a new perspective on these areas.

The framework for these reflections is shaped by issues of identity and memory within the context of German-Polish relations, education aimed at shaping the attitudes of younger generations, and the economic realities of these regions. While the selected elements may seem dissimilar, they are in fact interrelated. Taken together — though not offering a comprehensive analysis — they suggest new and thought-provoking contexts that define the specificity of these territories in contemporary Poland.

## **Justyna Kijonka**

**Keywords:** Upper Silesia, collective memory, World War II, Upper Silesian Tragedy, art in Upper Silesia

The 2025 anniversary of the Upper Silesian Tragedy marks 80 years since a series of events that fundamentally altered the region's character. For decades, the memory of World War II and the "liberation" of Upper Silesia by the Red Army was veiled in silence. As a result, the collective processing of wartime trauma and the confrontation with the past occurred significantly later in Upper Silesia than in other parts of Poland.

As a cultural borderland, Upper Silesia has long followed a historical calendar distinct from that of Poland, shaped largely by its shifting state affiliations. These changes consistently carried serious consequences for the region's inhabitants, but the most dramatic experience came with the outbreak of World War II. The war's consequences did not end with the cessation of military operations; they continued to affect the local population, who suffered under the postwar regime, which viewed them with deep suspicion.

This paper investigates the social memory of Upper Silesians concerning these events, exploring their historical, identity-related, and societal dimensions. The focus is placed on literary and theatrical representations that engage with this legacy. The impetus for the paper was the overwhelming popularity and reception of the television play "Mianujom mie Hanka" (They Call Me Hanka) broadcast on Polish public television in January 2025, an event that proved to be a moment of catharsis for many Upper Silesians.

## **Ks. Dariusz Śmierchalski-Wachocz, Bożena Grabowska**

**Keywords:** Lubusz Land, forced labour camps, Nazism, Warsaw uprising, German railway.

The Third Reich built and maintained its oppressive system through a vast network of repressive institutions. One of the key tools for sustaining this machinery of exploitation and terror was the establishment of camps of various types and purposes across its territories.

Lubusz Land, which remained an integral part of the Reich until the end of World War II, was home to camps of all categories.

One such forced labour camp operated in Gross Gandern (present-day Gądków Wielki) between 1943 and 1945. It was a relatively small facility, created to support the construction of railway infrastructure. In 1944, a group of approximately 300 Warsaw Uprising participants — women, children, the elderly, and the wounded — passed through the camp. Transported from the transit camp in Pruszków, they were held briefly in Gross Gandern before being deported to the Dachau concentration camp.

In 1968, the District Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Zielona Góra opened an investigation into the forced labour camp in Gądków Wielki. The inquiry lasted from 21 May 1968, to 18 March 1971. Its full documentation is preserved in a file housed in the archives of the Poznań Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance.

This paper revisits the history of the Gross Gandern camp through the lens of that archival file, offering a retrospective view from the perspective of 80 years since the camp's liquidation and the end of World War II.