

ZBIGNIEW ANUSIK

**From the history of the Polish–Swedish relations
in the era of the penultimate interregnum in the history of
the Polish Republic (1733–1735)**

The aim of the article is to present the Polish–Swedish relations in the era of interregnum after the death of Augustus II. During the Great Northern War (1700–1721) both the Polish Republic and Sweden lost its previous importance in Central and Eastern Europe. The Polish-Lithuanian state for a long time could not overcome the post-war crisis. In Sweden, in turn, a profound political changes took place. Since 1719 the Swedish crown became an elective one and the states had taken full governance in the country. Sweden, increasingly depending on Russia, conducted a prudent and peaceful foreign policy. In the first period of ‘the Age of Liberty’ (frihetstiden) a dominant role in the Swedish political life played the President of the Chancellors Office, Count Arvid Bernhard Horn af Ekebyholm. His attitude was decisive in Swedish policy towards events in the Polish Republic during the era of the penultimate Polish interregnum. Since 1725 Stanislaw Leszczyński, father in law of King Louis XV, was the French candidate for the throne of Poland. The neighbors of the Polish Republic (Russia, Austria and Prussia), in turn, did not want the election of both Leszczyński and the son of Augustus II, Fredrick Augustus of Saxony. When in 1733 on February 1st died Augustus II, the head of the Polish Republic became interrex, Primate Teodor Potocki who openly supported the candidacy of Stanislaw Leszczyński. He sent the envoys of the Polish Republic abroad. Antoni Poniński went to Stockholm in April with the task of applying for a military aid and a clear political declaration in favor of Stanislaw Leszczyński. Sweden had decided, however, to remain neutral towards the events in Poland. Its possible assistance for the Stanislaw’s cause was to depend on the degree of involvement of France in the Polish affairs. In May 1733 Antoni Poniński left the capital of Sweden and went to Christiania (Oslo) for a meeting with the King of Denmark, Christian VI. Here the Polish diplomat did not achieve basically nothing as well. Both Scandinavian courts avoided the explicit declaration for Stanislaw Leszczyński. Meanwhile, on September 12th 1733 the election of Stanislaw Leszczyński was held. On October 5th Stanislaw’s opponents chose for the Polish throne the elector of Saxony, Frederick

Augustus II, who took the name of Augustus III. Events in Poland had become for France an expected excuse to declare war to the Emperor Charles VI (October 10th 1733). France launched a major offensive on the Rhine and northern Italy. In Versailles, however, no one was thinking about launching major operations in the Polish Republic. Meanwhile, in January 1734 Saxon army occupied Cracow. Here the local bishop, Jan Lipski, crowned the King Augustus III. At about the same time, Arvid Horn allowed Swedish volunteers to participate in the defense of Gdansk. More aid to the cause of Leszczyński, however, was not given because the Swedish Riksdag left the final decision on this issue in hands of Arvid Horn who did not intend to get involved in any Polish affairs. On October 5th 1735 France made a preliminary peace with the Emperor. On January 27th 1736, at the request of the court of Versailles, Stanislaw Leszczyński signed his abdication. The penultimate interregnum in the history of the Polish Republic was over. From Stockholm's point of view neutrality of Sweden during war of Polish Succession proved to be supremely wise. However, many Swedes were dissatisfied with the Arvid Horn's policy. In 1738 elections to the Riksdag were won by the opposition party of 'Hats'. In December 1738 Arvid Horn resigned and was forced to withdraw from the political life. So one can say that the former President of the Chancellors Office had paid, after all those years, a very high price for failing to support the candidate of France during the double Polish election in 1733.

WITOLD JARNO, PRZEMYSŁAW WAINGERTNER

The territorial structure of the military authorities of the Polish army at the district level in Łódź

Łódź, though doesn't play a great role in administrative and territorial structure of today's Polish Army, however, has a long and rich history in this respect. The city was the seat of the military authorities of the district-level territorial both in the Interwar Poland, as well as the People's Republic of Poland. During the second Republic of Poland they were located at Spacerowa Street 4, renamed soon on Tadeusz Kościuszko Street 4 (later at T. Kościuszko Street 67, finally at Konstytucyjna Street 81/83 – now The Legions' Street). The individual cells of the military authorities also were located for example at Piotrkowska Street, Stanislaw Moniuszko Street and

Zachodnia Street. Invasion of Poland of 1939 and the fall of the Second Republic of Poland marked the liquidation of Poland and Polish military structures in the city. Their headquarters were taken over by the Germans. Again in the role of the headquarters of the military authorities of the district level, Łódź is revived in 1945. After 1989 the role of Łódź in the territorial structure of the army began to systematically degrade, and military buildings and facilities have passed into the hands of the city, or private.

ADRIAN ULJASZ

Tadeusz Semadeni (1902–1944). A Polish sportsman, activist and sports journalist, a resistance member

Tadeusz Semadeni was a sportsman and sports journalist, one of the creators of water sports in Poland, a propagator of women's sports. He was one of the founders of the Academic Sports Association (AZS) in Warsaw and the Polish Swimming Association. He was a lawyer by profession – a judge and a prosecutor.

The time which was crucial for his development as a columnist was the beginning of his career as a journalist in the years 1923–1924, connected with the 'Stadion' weekly issued in Warsaw.

In 1936 he went to the Summer Olympics in Berlin as the head of the team of Polish swimmers.

Under the Nazi occupation, he was the co-founder of the clandestine organisation 'Znak'. He was an activist of the Armed Confederation and the Labour Party. He acted as a judge of the Union of Armed Struggle (ZWZ) and the Home Army (AK).

During the Warsaw Uprising he judged and sentenced Germans, Volksdeutsche and other collaborators. He died in the Warsaw Uprising.

MALGORZATA KARKOCHA

Material losses of the Catholic Church in the diocese of Kielce during World War II

During the Second World War Catholic Church in the Diocese of Kielce suffered significant losses in church buildings, their equipment, objects of worship, parish account books, church libraries and graveyards. These losses were caused by both military operations and predatory policy of the German occupiers. The largest losses suffered parishes located in the area near the Baranów and Sandomierz bridgehead, where from August 1944 to January 1945 bloody fighting took place. In these areas, there were destroyed almost the entire villages together with their residential buildings, outbuildings, vicarages, churches and other sacra buildings. Based on materials stored in the Archives of the Diocese of Kielce it can be said, that about 20 objects of worship were destroyed in a degree exceeding 70%, slightly more than 20 in the range of 30–70%, and 70 on a scale of less than 30%.

Destruction of churches included their furnishings as well. In many parishes, robes and liturgical books, paraments, votive offerings and even parish records registering births, marriages and deaths were lost. Devastation of Catholic churches and looting of cultural property was an integral aspect of the Nazis fight with Polish culture.

KRZYSZTOF LESIAKOWSKI

Mieczysław Broniatowski – meanders of a „dąbrowszczak’s” career in PRL

Communist machinery of state, which was formed in Polish territory since 1944, needed numerous amount of workers. One of the sources of them were participants who took a part in the Spanish Civil War in 1936-1939. In this situation it was predictable that in the post-war Poland participants of XIII ‘Jarosław Dąbrowski’ International Brigade, would be nominated for main offices in different institutions. This problem was analyzed mostly on a

base of col. Mieczysław Broniatowski history – one of near 4 thousands of ‘dąbrowszcacy’.

In conclusion it occurred that ‘dąbrowszczacy’ played symbolic role, rather than group of pressure in PRL. In times of crisis they often were in different camps. Despite the fact that they were surrounded by a nimbus of heroes of the war in Spanish, they didn’t exercise main functions. On this background, it can be said that Broniatowski’s career wasn’t specially different from experiences of his comrades from ‘dąbrowszczacy’. He quickly became one of new regime creators, however he didn’t managed to come to the top.

Aleksandra Bartosiewicz

The biggest winners and losers in the history of the stock exchange in XX–XXI centuries

The article presents profiles of chosen stock investors of the 20th and 21st century. Some of them earned a fortune in the stock market and since then have been considered the best investors of all time. Other, on the contrary, lost their reputation and ended brilliant careers in prison. The article briefly describes lives of them and studies factors that contributed to such a great success or spectacular failure in each case.