

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY
THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE IN WARSAW
DURING 16-18 JUNE 2020

THE YEAR 1920 – WAR OF THE WORLDS



CALL FOR PAPERS

THE GREAT WAR LEFT EUROPE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DAMAGED. In the central part of the continent the old monarchies fell, new states were being reborn or established, and new borders were being negotiated and fought for. Social unrest broke out throughout Europe but the real social revolution began in Russia.

THE BOLSHEVIKS ROSE TO POWER AS A RESULT OF AN ARMED REVOLUTION, their slogans calling for destruction of the old order and its representatives: the aristocracy, officers, landowners, wealthy peasants, and the clergy. The Bolsheviks' objective was not just to liquidate ownership, turn the social hierarchy upside down, and build a completely new political system based on one party's omnipotence. They intended to completely rebuild the system of values – the individual was to mean nothing and societies were to become objects of engineering. The ideal of communism was supranational, and even though the Bolsheviks declared that 'nations had the right to self-determination', in fact they aimed at 'exporting the revolution' and the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' to the most developed European countries. Reborn Poland stood in the Bolsheviks' way, with her borders still not marked out, having been put together from three partitions (Prussian, Austrian, and Russian), inhabited by a multicultural population, politically divided, and still in the process of building her army.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT THAT REVIVED POLAND, which still had not taken its final shape, became a representative of Europe in the confrontation with Bolshevik Russia, which can be seen as a war of the worlds or a war of civilizations? How did it happen that Poland emerged victorious from that conflict? What social phenomena, international events, and military operations were connected with that? How was memory of that 'clash of worlds' shaped in the Polish and Russian society? Are the Western societies aware of its significance? These are the basic questions which we wish to find answers to during this conference.

Languages of the conference:
POLISH, RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH.

Submission (abstracts and information about the authors) should be sent in by **30 April 2019** to the organizers:

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The selection of the submitted topics shall conclude by **31 May 2019.**

The organizers shall cover the cost of transportation and accommodation. Authors of the texts accepted for printing shall be remunerated.



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TOPICS FOR PAPERS AND ARTICLES:

- Reborn Poland's position on the international arena
- The Bolshevik revolution and the civil war in Russia
- Communist ideals and the Bolsheviks' actions
- The Comintern as an agent of the export of revolution
- Relations with neighbors (the Weimar Republic, Czechoslovakia, and the Baltic States)
- The attitude of Western countries (France, Great Britain, and the United States) to the conflict between Poland and Soviet Russia
- Communist revolts in Europe: the Hungarian Soviet Republic, the Slovak Soviet Republic, the unsuccessful communist coup in Austria, the Bavarian Soviet Republic, and the revolutionary upheaval in Germany
- Communists in France
- Polish communists whilst waiting for the Red Army
- Communist agitation on Polish territory
- Mutinies in the army
- Polish conceptions of relations with the Whites and Reds in Russia
- The Ukrainian question – alliance with Petlura
- The Provisional Polish Revolutionary Committee in Białystok
- The Battle of Warsaw – military aspects
- Political consequences of the war (the establishment of the borders, the fiasco of the concept of a federation with Ukraine, the Comintern's change of tactic)

- The voluntary character of the fighting armies. Myth or a justified statement?
- Foreigners on both sides of the front line
- 'White' detachments on Polish side
- A nationwide mobilization of the entire society?
- A clash of the worlds: Bolsheviks' policy on the seized territories
- Social consequences of the war in Poland
- Symbols of victory
- Religion as a mobilizing factor in the Polish-Soviet war – the role of religious associations
- Symbols of the war: Józef Piłsudski – the father of victory (?), Father Ignacy Skorupka, Budyonny's Cavalry Army, 'Polish Thermopylae' – Battle of Dytiatyn
- Polish and Soviet prisoners of war
- Image of the war in Soviet culture and propaganda (film, literature, and poster)
- Memory of the war in Poland – testimonies of military men and civilians
- Was Stalin responsible for the defeat at Warsaw?



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