

POLISH-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS 1939–2004

SUMMARY

This book, a collection of articles with the same title, is an outcome of the scientific conference held on 5th June 2004, in Warsaw, under the honorary patronage of Janusz Wojciechowski, Vice-Speaker of the Sejm (Parliament) of the Polish Republic. The articles are written by well-known researchers of Polish-Ukrainian relations. The issues raised in the articles were presented from the political-science, historical, legal, and sociological points of view. The authors focused on the genocidal actions of the Ukrainian nationalists of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) and UPA (Ukrainian Uprising Army). They carried out a bloody process of ethnic cleansing in the SE borderlands of Poland. Professor Bogumił Grott discussed the doctrine of Ukrainian nationalism on the broad comparative background. He concluded this doctrine was closely related with the Hitler and Italian fascists' doctrines.

Professor Viktor Poliszczuk pointed out numerous blanks in the researches into Ukrainian nationalism, as well as methodological errors made whilst studying it, which, according to him, made it very difficult to properly qualify and evaluate Ukrainian nationalism. Prof. Ryszard Szawłowski presented legal aspects of the 'Vistula Action' and judged it as the indispensable preventive measure provoked by the Ukrainian nationalists themselves. Prof. Marian Malikowski criticized the Ukrainian policy adopted by the authorities of the Third Polish Republic; he saw the major bane of Polish-Ukrainian relations in the fact that Ukrainian nationalists, perpetrators of genocide on borderland Poles and Jews, were never morally condemned by our official authorities. Articles written by Prof. Czesław Partacz, Lucyna Kulińska, Ph.D., Zdzisław Konieczny, Ph.D., Zenon Kaczyński, M.A., Paweł Popiel, M.A., and Włodzimierz Ważniewski, M.A., highlight the following issues: criminal actions carried out by the Ukrainian nationalists against Polish people in various regions of Poland; structures of Polish and Ukrainian organizations, and some diplomatic activities. One of the articles, by Dr. Lucyna Kulińska, "Driving out Poles from the Eastern Małopolska Province by the end of World War II and shortly thereafter", is very interesting. The author described the enormity of suffering of Poles expelled by force from their hitherto 'near' homeland not only by the Ukrainian nationalists but, also, by the USSR authorities.

The book "Polish-Ukrainian Relations 1939-2004" is a substantial scientific achievement, has an interdisciplinary character, and fills many missing pages in the historical knowledge. It is a continuation of another book written by several authors "The Poles and the Ukrainians: in former days and today" edited by Prof. Bogumił Grott in Cracow, 2002.