

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/digital-resources/films/8359,quot1941-War-of-Two-Totalitarian-Systemsquot-educational-video.html>

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"1941: War of Two Totalitarian Systems" (educational video)

On 22 June 1941, the German Reich launched a war against the Soviet Union; watch an educational video prepared by the IPN's Cracow branch on the eightieth anniversary of that invasion.

After the war, Moscow called it an attack by Adolf Hitler, attempting to enslave the world, on the "peace-loving homeland of the world proletariat", which was only half true. "The Great Patriotic War", a phrase coined by the Soviet propaganda, has been permanently embedded in the story of the conflict especially in Russia, and that story leaves out Soviet crimes against peace and humanity, or war atrocities. Facts that became common knowledge even during the war, as well as documents discovered later on, picture two totalitarian states joined by the desire to break up Poland and follow it with the takeover of other European nations. The German-Soviet alliance, sealed by the signing of a secret protocol to the Molotov-Ribbentrop

Pact, became the prelude to the bloodbath of the imperial conquests of both criminal regimes and the root cause of the ordeal of millions of people in the countries enslaved by Germany and the USSR. Soviet strategic resources flowed to Germany, literally fueling its 1939-1941 invasions in the north, west and south of Europe.

Contrary to the post-war communist propaganda, in Poland, occupied by Germany and the Soviet Union, 22 June 1941 brought hope for the mutual destruction of the two totalitarian empires. Nowadays, some states are rebuilding the Stalinist myth of the Soviet Union as a "peace-loving" state that "brought nations together". Again – as in the times of the communist enslavement – they try to educate young generations through narratives made up of distorted facts, narratives that hide the truth about entire nations conquered and oppressed by both regimes.

Commemoration of their victims requires that the young generation be educated in an effective way – and hence the video prepared by the Cracow branch of the Institute of National Remembrance.

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