

Institute of National Remembrance

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Gala opening of the exhibition "A Republic Lost" - Brussels, 14 January 2012



**President of the Institute of National Remembrance
Lukasz Kamiński, Ph.D.**

**Director of the Polish Center in Brussels
Zenon Lupina**

are honored to invite to ceremonial opening of exhibition

A REPUBLIC LOST

**prepared by
Public Education Branch Office
of Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw**

The Ceremony will take place on January 14, 2012,
at 8 pm at the Headquarter of the Polish Center in Brussels,
Rue du Croissant 68, 1190 Brussels
Tel.: +32 477 29 30 24, info@centrumpolskie.com

On 14 January 2012 in Brussels an opening of the exhibition "A Republic Lost" took place. The exhibit has been prepared by the Public Education Branch Office of Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw.

The presented exhibition is a journey through the Republic, which no longer exists. It has disappeared forever, not as a result of normal civilization development or natural social processes, but as a result of a disaster, which happened in 1939. It is a journey through the spiritual realm of a "crippled the nation" - losses caused by the cruelty of war on a scale until then unknown, corruption and savagery caused by war. It tells a story of the piercing experience of injustice after World War II, depreciation of values, many concepts constituting the moral quality of public and social life. It is a journey through a new canon of tradition and culture, denying - now obvious - achievements of generations. This is a world of strange-sounding meanings of "many truths" and newly written history. It also means exploring real testimonies which allow keeping hope for simple honesty, respect, tolerance and humanism.

It is a journey in the footsteps of Polish society which no longer exists, rich in multiculturalism and centuries-old tradition. A story of destruction made by two totalitarian regimes: German and Soviet. The destruction was methodically wrought on other communities (Jews, Poles, Roma, Belorussians, Ukrainians), social groups (intellectuals, military), new categories of enemies created by Nazism and

Communism, against children. This is a story of expulsion - the loss of millions of citizens of the Republic of their place on earth, breaking the basic social bonds, giving way to the erosion of tradition, patriotism and respect. This is a journey in search of Polish material culture, convicted by the two occupants to destruction. It is a travel through museums and libraries which no longer exist, through the lost Kresy with their centuries-old wealth of temples (churches, synagogues, churches, Orthodox churches, mosques), castles, palaces, cemeteries - the last witnesses of communities which disappeared. This is a journey through the world of manor houses with their cultural tradition - exposed to be "spoils of the revolution". Finally, there is a question about the consequences of all the above-mentioned losses. It is a journey into ourselves.

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