

# **Instytut Pamięci Narodowej**

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## **Editorial**

**Institute of National Remembrance Review 4, 2021-2022, page 1.**

Dear Readers,

The fourth issue of the *Institute of National Remembrance Review* contains papers concerning the Soviet and Post-Soviet propaganda and narratives touching the matters of the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945).

The opening paper of this issue is a presentation of the institution of remembrance. The so-called “Katyn case”, i.e. the handling of the Katyn Forest Massacre (the mass murder of Polish reserve and career officers, policemen, and others imprisoned by the Soviet authorities in 1939–1940) is a representative example of all the relevant elements of Stalin’s policy: from cooperation with Germany in 1939–1941, through the claimant policy towards the Allies (1941–1945), to the propagation in the postwar years of a lying and ideologically subordinated picture of history. For this reason, the presentation of the activities of the Katyn Museum in Warsaw, undertaken by Bartłomiej Bydoń and Sławomir Frątczak required a broad overview of the context and a general description of the many years of efforts by numerous Polish circles to clarify the issue of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Soviet propaganda during the Great Patriotic War is the subject of study by Tomasz Gliniecki, PhD of the Stutthof Museum. The myth created around the Battle of Lenino (October 12–13, 1943) served as one of the most important components of the legitimacy of the Communist power in Poland. Kamil Anduła of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and the Military Historical Office in Warsaw presented a description of the battle in wartime propaganda (1943–1945) and Polish postwar military historiography.

Contemporary policy towards memorial space in Lithuania is the subject of the article by Professor Jarosław Wolkonowski, who described the actions of contemporary Lithuanian authorities towards Soviet war cemeteries.

In the Documents section, we publish excerpts of the English-language brochure *Falsifiers of History (An Historical Note)*, prepared in 1948 at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and personally revised by Joseph Stalin, edited by Professor Jan Szumski and Professor Bogdan Musiał. Researchers have discovered which parts of the official interpretation of the history of the outbreak of World War II came directly from Stalin — and it should be noted that these interpretations have been surprisingly durable.

The Books section contains the overview by Mikołaj Banaszkiwicz, PhD, presenting the contents of a Russian history textbook of the 20th century *Россия – Германия. Вехи совместной истории в коллективной памяти* [Russia-Germany. The signposts of the common history and collective remembrance] (2015), compiled by a select group of Russian historians in the course of the work of the German-Russian Joint Commission for Research on the Recent History of Russian-German Relations (*Совместная комиссия по изучению российско-германских отношений*). The question of the contemporary perception of the history of the Soviet bloc, and its presentation in the proposed common German-Russian textbook was raised by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

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## **PLIKI DO POBRANIA**

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