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STATE ARCHIVES IN KATOWICE

A REGION WITHIN A STATE – A STATE WITHIN A REGION

UPPER SILESIA IN THE HOHENZOLLERN
AND HABSBURG STATES (1742–1918)

KATOWICE, RYBNIK 29–30 MAY 2014

In 1742 Upper Silesia was separated into two parts, that became a part of two different state systems. A peace treaty in February 1763 in Hubertusburg, which ended the last Silesian war, sealed the region's separation between the Habsburg and Hohenzollern monarchy. For the west part it meant entering a new administrative, political and mental sphere, while the east part remained in the previous state structures and developed with it during the entire 19th century, until the fall after I World War.

The two countries developed in different ways. One became a multinational empire with a constant clash between ethnic and political interests, which also lost a lot of its universalism during the 19th century. The other one, after losing a war to Napoleon, found enough strength and determination to undergo significant and vast reforms, that allowed a social, political and economic consolidation, which translated into reinforcing its international position. A policy of building an efficient administrative system, supporting economic growth, maintaining a strong army and initiating social changes had been conducted with different methods in both countries, which eventually resulted in dissimilar effects, however alike in terms of creating a modern country and society with great ambitions and

possibilities, but also with certain limitations and problems, that became particularly noticeable in the 20th century.

The purpose of the conference is to present and compare the influence of Hohenzollern and Habsburg countries on the development and functioning of the Silesian region in four different areas:

- political, administrative and legislative – understood as creating legal norms and structures by the state, that allowed an efficient and effective administration; bureaucracy development and its meaning (M. Weber); the influence on creating a municipal and local government as a part of a legal system formed by the state; the relations between the state and the church and defining a religious policy; the state's efficiency in achieving set goals, such as a tax system, social security or education system;
- social – presenting the development of the Upper Silesian society against the changes the Hohenzollern and Habsburg monarchies went through at the time, such as a modernization of society, democratization, literacy tuition, political participation, deconfessionalization, a higher awareness in terms of medicine and hygiene, investing in communal in-

- frastructure: water supply systems, gas pipelines, electrification;
- economical – introducing the role of the state as an initiator of economical enterprises, a regulator and supervisor of the functioning of various branches of industry; showing the significance of Upper Silesian industry to the economy of the entire state, as well as supporting technological development;
 - cultural – showing the evolution of architecture and art in Upper Silesia, against the changes and trends happening at the time in Europe, Prussia and the Habsburg empire; the participation of

Upper Silesian artistic circles in the artistic life of the country; the relations between the capital and provinces; a national and local cultural patronage.

The purpose of the conference is a comparison between the regional politics conducted on the Upper Silesian territories by two different states, which used dissimilar development and administration patterns. It seems particularly interesting to show the typical and unique qualities of the region's development, in contrast with other territories within these countries.

Did the significant distance from Berlin and Vienna result in a marginalization and a delay in introducing changes and modernizing progress? Was the Upper Silesia a periphery, a province far away, where the changes happened a lot later than in other parts of the country? Or maybe the economical meaning resulted in a completely different effect and turned Upper Silesia into a region pioneering in some areas, or even initiating some of the changes, not just on an economical, but also social and cultural level?

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PROF. DR HAB. RYSZARD KACZMAREK
PROF. DR. MARK SPOERER
DR HAB. PIOTR GREINER
DR BOGDAN KLOCH

The conference takes place in both Katowice and Rybnik. A post-conference publication is intended (2015), which will be an attempt at presenting all the issues and problems introduced during the conference.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS BY 31 OCTOBER 2013
TO THE ADDRESSES OF CONFERENCE SECRETARIES, GIVEN BELOW.**

CONFERENCE SECRETARIES

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