

Peace at Any Price:

A Historical Analysis of the Sacrifices of the Polish Nation amidst Suffering and Betrayal Leading to World War II

By: **Bogumił Misiuk**

Part 2 of 2

Only after having addressed {in the first part of this essay} certain major historic German and Russian attitudes and actions towards Poland can one focus on the more immediate events that led to World War II. Among the most critical international failures to guarantee peace throughout Europe was the Locarno Treaty (1925), which confirmed Germany's western border but did not do the same in the east. Its initiator, the German foreign minister Gustav Stresemann, considered it a success for Germany because it diplomatically opened the potential for "the readjustment of our [Germany's] eastern frontiers; the recovery of Danzig [Gdańsk], the Polish corridor, and a correction of the frontiers in Upper Silesia."¹¹ It is appropriate to mention that Stresemann received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926 for his work on the prejudiced Treaty. The outraged Polish statesman Józef Beck responded that "Germany was formally invited to assault the east, in return for peace in the west."¹² The Locarno Treaty was indeed a foreboding sign of future attempts at Western appeasement of Germany at the expense of Eastern Europe. In addition, it was yet another German declaration of refusal to admit their culpable role in the heinous Partitions of Poland: they were laying claims to Polish land stolen by Prussia during the Partitions.

Furthermore, the proceedings surrounding the Locarno Treaty and other international accords provide crucial insights into the complicated foreign relations of the various European countries. At the center of the diplomatic unrest of interwar Europe lie the tense interactions with Germany. Even at Versailles, Great Britain had been a foremost advocate on behalf of German rehabilitation at the sacrifice of Poland. The vehemently anti-Polish British Prime Minister David Lloyd George considered reborn Poland "a historic failure" and declared that he would not give, for instance, Upper Silesia to Poland any more "than he would give a clock to a monkey."¹³ The anti-Polish, pro-German policies of the British in the 1920s hastened Germany's rise to prominence in

the European political theater while further aggrieving Poland. For example, after the First World War, the British preferred to destroy captured German military equipment rather than send it to Poland, which was building her own Army virtually from scratch.

After World War I — while the United States essentially retreated into isolationism — France was considerably weakened, and the unstable internal political situation only further contributed to France's plight. At the same time, French verbal support for Poland did not materialize during the interwar period. During the Polish-Bolshevik War, France did not send substantial support to Poland — leaving the reborn Polish Army to defeat unaccompanied the formidable Russian Army, to the astonishment of the world. Therefore, when in 1925 Poland and France confirmed their supposed military alliance, the Polish Marshal Józef Piłsudski correctly, warily predicted that when a critical situation will arise in the future, France will not come to Poland's aid.

Poland after the First World War was left in rumble. Although Poland achieved her long awaited and well-merited independence, uniting territories that were under three different despots after 123 years of oppression was exceptionally complex as each had different regional laws, employed different bureaucratic languages, and faced different economic conditions. In addition, the Army needed to be organized, the new principal seaport of Gdynia needed to be constructed, and — since each region used a different currency — a stable economy based on the zloty needed to be established. Also, World War I, the Polish-Bolshevik War, and widespread Polish uprisings securing Polish independence left cities and towns damaged, farmland destroyed, and infrastructure and industry devastated — not to mention thousands of killed soldiers and heartbroken families mourning loved ones. Historian Michael Alfred Peszke numerically evaluates the losses Poland suffered: "Poland embarked on her independence in 1918 with industrial output at 20 percent of the 1913 production. The loss of Polish industry in that period was estimated at 73 billion French francs. Furthermore, the worldwide crisis of 1929 hit Poland severely with every fourth Polish worker being unemployed."¹⁴ After examining such bleak statistics, to say that these were not favorable circumstances to rebuild a

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**A California Bat Mitzvah – Late 70s style**

By: **Justyna Ball**

<http://justyna-polishdelight.blogspot.com>

Let's say I want to hide a million dollars or some other amount of cash – the safest place in my house would be the bottom drawer of my fridge. Nobody – and I repeat – nobody besides me ever opens it. My other half could be starving and the drawer could be filled with delicacies, but if it's not on the shelf, it's not there. (And if it is not Heineken, it's not beer...)

You could very well call Roman Polański's apartment in Paris a "hide-out," but what's "hiding" exactly if you are invited to some famous film festival, named an honorary guest, and receive your lifetime achievement award and then take off and make yet another movie?

The fugitive Roman Polański is a fugitive no more. He is not hiding - actually he never was.

Just recently, he spent three months in Germany. Germany and the US are treaty partners, the same as Switzerland. So what happened? Two things - an overzealous policeman with an eagerness for a promotion and Polański's radar detector stopped functioning. So by losing his ability to sense, the upcoming danger, happened.

There are other options, according to some foreign reports; Polański's arrest was linked to "exchanges of banking secrets" such as names of US clients who keep their money in Swiss banks. ..Interesting possibility...

Support from the artist world poured in as directors like Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi (known for being John Paul's favorite director) gave their vocal support. The Polish Minister of Defense Sikorski and French Minister of Culture Mitterand sent letters to Hilary Clinton.

Within days, Mitterand's support fell flat as his own sex preference (young Asian boys) was questioned.

The public remains divided probably because many still don't know the details of the trial but rather basic information provided by the media. The then 47 year old famous pedophile director raped a 13 year old child and escaped justice by fleeing to France.

For the record, Roman Polański was born in Paris as Rajmund Liebling, the only child of Polish Jewish immigrants who moved back to Poland in 1936. His Jewish father survived the Holocaust; his Catholic mother was gassed in Auschwitz, a German Nazi concentration camp.

Roman was educated in Poland. As we know he graduated from the prestigious

filmmaking school in Łódź. He possesses dual citizenships, French and Polish. He is well received in both countries. He travels to Poland regularly. His wife, actress Emmanuelle Seigner is the new face of a Polish cosmetic line by the famous Irena Eris. He is our Polish (Jewish) Roman.

Back in the 60s, after winning several awards in Poland (his "Knife in the Water" received the Oscar nomination for the Foreign film category in 1962), Polański then moved to England where his career started to pick up some speed and after the success of "Repulsion" tried his luck in the US.

"Rosemary's Baby" secured his position as a director, so it was only natural that his character attracted the rich and famous of the entertainment industry. And then on one August night his fortune turned on him and the tragedy occurred... and we all know about the murders on Cielo Dr., "Manson family," helter-skelter... Later on, on his return from Europe, Polański restored his position with "Chinatown" as well as "restoring" his reputation of a playboy. Naturally, a flock of girls followed him around and movie stars opened their homes to him - everyone wanted to be friends with Roman.

The rape trial stirred the media frenzy. He became world's most famous fugitive...for decades it did not, until now, disturb his career as a director.

From time to time his name appeared in one paper or another, either when he received another film award or became the honorary resident to the town of Łódź, his name was always accompanied by the notion of his famous escape...

In 2008, scrupulously collected material on Polański's trial was presented in the film by Marina Zenovich. Those of us who watched "Wanted & Desired" had a chance to view the case from a different perspective.

Worthy mentioning is the fact that Zenovich's interest in making such a film was triggered by the interview with Samantha Geimer on Larry King in 2003 and the comments made by her attorney Lawrence Silver. Asked by Larry on his opinion Silver replied "Well, what the judge did was frankly outrageous. We had agreed to a plea bargain. It wasn't what the prosecution wanted. It certainly wasn't what Polański wanted, but it was what we wanted. We were the victim and this is the way in which Samantha would not be in trial, her name would not be exposed at the time, and she would be allowed to recover.

"And the plea was proposed to the judge, the judge approved it. And then the day before he called us in the chambers and said he was getting a great deal of pressure and he was concerned about criticism of him in the press. He was going to sentence Polański rather than

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Calendar of Events

November 8, Rainbow Fund Bazaar in Szarotka

12 - 15 - Paso Robles, CA - Paderewski Festival (See page for info)

15, 2:00 pm, Friends of John Paul II, Annual Meeting, Information: 626-281-0516.

15, Sun. Polish American Congress Meeting - Pope John Paul - 3999 Rose Drive 12 NOON

28, Sat., Andrzejki Dance sponsored by PNA-ZNP Piast Lodge at the Polish Center of

John Paul II, 3999 Rose Drive in Yorba Linda. Information: Greg at (714) 744-2775

28, Sat., Andrzejki - Krakusy - Our Lady of the Bright Mount 3424 W. Adams Blvd. in

Los Angeles, Information:(626) 282-5298

December 6, Sun., Christmas party organized by the Polish Women's Alliance - "The

Monterey" at the Encino Glen Country Club 16821 Burbank Blvd.

Information: Helen (818) 360-7707

13, Jaselka, Nativity play and Christmas Eve Dinner sponsored by the Polish School -

Polish Center of John Paul II 3999 Rose Drive in Yorba Linda. Information: (760) 863-5302.

20, Sun., Polish Club of Laguna Woods - Traditional Christmas celebration Clubhouse 7

Info: Irena (949)206-9122.

SYLWESTER - New Year's Eve Dances

Our Lady of the Bright Mount - 3424 W. Adams Blvd. - Los Angeles (page 24)

Pope John Paul Polish Center - 3999 Rose Drive - Yorba Linda

Please send information for the calendar to Bish Petryka - e-mail: zbyskoopet@aol.com ★

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