

The Legacy of the January Uprising. Commemoration. Historiography. Political Thought. Collected essays

Summaries

Alicja Kulecka

The January Uprising in the history of Poland and Europe

The history of the 19th century would be difficult to understand without reflection on the history of the January Uprising. This historical episode influenced the fortunes of many individuals, societies, nations and states. Resulting from a combination of a number of political and cultural factors, the Uprising was a part of the European tendency towards the formation of modern national states and civic society. It must be perceived as a search for new formulas in the relationship between the authority and the governed. Polish political programs of the period preceding the outbreak of the Uprising and of the Uprising itself embodied a yearning for the concepts of a constitution-based state and a society provided with parliamentary representation, as well as of citizens equal before law and provided with development opportunities. The Uprising was a confrontation of various conceptions and methods of attaining these crucial political goals. It was another try in a sequence of Poland's attempts to return to the congregation of Europe's states. It constituted a search for modern formulas of Polishness. It demonstrated the viability of the nation as a community, and the society's desire to live in well-organised structures that would guarantee respect for human dignity. The history of the Uprising provided inspiration for new political ideas, as well as for many works of literature, art and music.

Commemoration and mythology of the January Uprising became important elements in literature, art, historiography and political thought, creating a continually enriched political testament written in blood, sacrifice and intellectual effort. Without these elements the emergence of the independent Polish state would have been impossible, because the independence of Poland was the key point of the Uprising's message.

Piotr Wiland

Doctors and students of medicine in the January Uprising

The article presents reflections on the state of medical service in the Kingdom of Poland in the second half of the 19th century, the first years of existence of the Medi-

cal and Chirurgical Academy in Warsaw, the operation of health service during the January Uprising and the fortunes of leading doctors participating in it. The focus is on the activities of Tytus Chałubiński, Polikarp Girsztowt, Władysław Stankiewicz, Stanisław Markiewicz, Walery Antoni Wróblewski and Włodzimierz Dybek.

Henryk Bałabuch

Freedom of speech versus censorship. A triumph or a failure of the January Uprising?

The insurgent press provides many examples of various limitations pertaining to freedom of speech in underground newspapers. On their basis, it is possible to formulate a more complex image of the reality of the era. The fact that the underground press was a platform for a debate on many topics impossible to present in officially authorised press not necessarily means that the underground press operated in the conditions of unfettered freedom of speech. The extent to which those limitations were imposed by the insurgent authorities, and to what extent they were accepted by journalists and essayists of the underground press, depended solely on the context of individual cases and on the fluctuating conditions in the complicated reality of internal conflicts and internecine feuds. Regardless of the answer to the question posed in the title of this article, it seems that meanders evident in issues linked with freedom of speech and censorship interestingly illustrate the complexity of the then-current dilemmas.

Andrzej Szwarc

Political contexts of debates on commemoration of the January Uprising. Conflict between the former Whites and the adherents of Aleksander Wielopolski

The article presents reflections on the polemic between the former Whites and the adherents of Aleksander Wielopolski. Almost at every occasion, zealous supporters of Wielopolski's policies of the years 1861–1863 refused all attempts at a profound reconciliation with the "former Whites", always perceiving the latter's contrition to be insufficient and insincere. A quarrel about past events and particular individuals' former choices and attitudes turned into a dispute about the truth and unarguable principles. The current connotations of the debate were played down, but in vain. To the "former Whites", to unconditionally agree that the adherents of Wielopolski had been right would mean to renounce leadership in the informal conservative and conciliatory camp, which they were unwilling to do because of their own greater numbers and wider influence. It was also quite obvious that no amount of distancing themselves from the errors of the past would satisfy their adversaries. After all, a capitulation would be tantamount to a renunciation of

political aspirations in the future – who would ever trust politicians who had not only been so thoroughly mistaken, but also admitted the infallibility of their old adversaries. In addition, Zygmunt Wielopolski and the relatively meagre group of his faithful supporters assumed an extremely inflexible stance. The dictate of tradition forced them to repeat, again and again, futile attempts at building a political camp according to the principles of leadership and unquestioning obedience. Such principles could not be universally approved by the circles of conservative landowners from the Kingdom of Poland or Galicia. Thus both these informal groups remained, as in the period of the January Uprising, entrenched on two sides of a barricade. The situation was not altered by sporadic signs of cooperation at various occasions.

Alina Hinc

Commemoration of the Uprising in the Poznań province in 1864–1914

In the period from 1864 to 1914, the manner of commemorating the January Uprising in the Poznań province was gradually developing from brief notices on anniversaries, holy masses for the souls of the insurgents and modest gatherings of veterans to complex anniversary ceremonies elevated to the level of national holidays. Evidently, not only the frequency with which the Uprising was being commemorated, but also the forms of celebrating it were changed. This, of course, depended on numerous factors, impossible to analyse in a concise essay; however, it is worthwhile to focus on the fact that the residents of the Poznań province heeded the January Uprising in this period, and on their attempts to evaluate the insurrection. Negative assessments of the chances and aims of the Uprising dominated in Poznań newspapers, but opposite views were voiced as well. Consecutive anniversaries of the Uprising certainly fuelled the debate; incidentally, it is evident that this is still the case.

Anna Skowronek-Józefiak *Sławomir Józefiak*

Commemorative monuments of January Uprising in the Konin Land

The Konin Land boasts a considerable number of commemorative monuments of January Uprising. They demonstrate that knowledge of the events of the years 1863–1864 is present in the local historical awareness. The level of this knowledge is varied and each case must be reviewed individually. Care extended to the graves of insurgents is a manifestation of this phenomenon. Where the memory is alive and cultivated, the graves are renovated and well tended, and ceremonies to commemorate the fallen insurgents are regularly organised. Yet such places are only a few in the entire voivodship. Where the Uprising has been virtually forgotten or the knowledge of it is limited to basic facts, the graves are unkempt and the persons laid

therein are practically unknown. The Konin Land stands out in this respect against the background of the voivodship. The majority of commemorative monuments in the region is well-tended, and some of them have been the topic of historical descriptions, albeit of varying quality. Many historians of the region are active here, taking care that the events of the years 1863–1864 are remembered.

Ewelina Maria Kostrzewska

In the circle of love and struggle. January Uprising in the memory of men and women (1864–1914)

The January Uprising was a *sui generis* epitaph of knightly actions, as symptoms of the twilight of the domination of landowning nobility elites, with the axiom of *noblesse oblige* inherent in their tradition, were increasingly evident. This tradition cemented the family-cum-political alliances of the Uprising era, and later for over half a century was used to shape the memory of those alliances. Linked with or opposed to the love-and-struggle duo, they accumulated and concurrently subverted national legends and myths. This duo, echoed in Stefan Żeromski's tale, has been shaping the Polish memory for over a century. *Wierna rzeka* (1912) provides a template for thinking of and remembering the constantly mythologised and de-mythologised love and struggle in January.

Jolanta Załączny

Guardians of memory. Veterans of the January Uprising in the 2nd Republic of Poland

The article presents and discusses various ways, used after the restitution of the Polish state in 1918, of acknowledging participation in the January Uprising in order to honour the veterans of the 1863 insurrection. They clearly demonstrate how great an importance was attached in the 2nd Republic to shaping the patriotic attitudes by means of raising respect towards the veterans. It is worthwhile to recall and publicize this topic in the year 2013, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the January Uprising.

Michał Ceglarek

Commemoration of the January Uprising in the life and activity of Father Józef Jarzębowski MIC (1897–1964)

Before the 2nd World War, the collection of January Uprising mementoes gathered by Father Józef Jarzębowski and held in the Museum at Fawley Court College was

one of the three largest collections of such memorabilia, ranging equal with those in Rapperswil and the Polish Library in Paris. The two latter, however, suffered much damage during the war. Thanks to Father Jarzębowski, who saved those mementoes during the upheavals of the war, this is most probably the largest extant collection, of inestimable historical and archival value. To many young Poles in the country and in emigration, the collection gathered by Father Jarzębowski is of greatest educational and patriotic importance. These memorabilia are a part of our identity, our history and the remembrance of the events of 1863.

Tadeusz Paweł Rutkowski

Celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the January Uprising. Between history and politics

Celebrations of the anniversary of the January Uprising demonstrated the power of national tradition in Polish society. Swayed by this power, the authorities of the Polish United Workers' Party decided in favour of a relatively broad scope of the anniversary celebrations, at the same time attempting to keep them in the framework of the obligatory interpretation of history – an aim which turned out not entirely possible to reach. It may be assumed that the relatively large interest in the Uprising and considerable social response were dictated by the opportunity to express genuine patriotic feeling within an official framework. The anniversary of the Uprising rekindled the debate on the sense and import of national uprisings; it had a generally positive tone, sympathetic to the insurrectionary movement, which attested to the gradual overcoming of pessimism characteristic to the early post-war years and to the communist propaganda.

Anna Ostrowska

January Uprising in the accounts of nuns of the Order of St. Felix of Cantalice

The article contains reflections pertaining to the activity of nuns of the Order of St. Felix of Cantalice, whose calling was to aid the poorest people, abandoned children, the elderly and the disabled. In the accounts of the nuns, the period of the Uprising is mentioned as unhappy, sad and tragic. Their stories reflect the awareness that the Uprising was an unequal duel, during which the ill-prepared if patriotic insurgent troops battled the well-armed and trained Russian army. After the fall of the Uprising, the Order was forced to close its operation in Warsaw and the Kingdom of Poland, and resettle to Galicia.

Daria Domarańczyk

January Uprising in Piotrków Trybunalski and its vicinity in the recollections of its participants Walenty Koleczko and August Osuchowski

The article presents the recollections of Walenty Koleczko and August Osuchowski regarding the uprising and fighting in Piotrków Trybunalski and the resultant repressions, among others the execution of insurgents on the meadow behind the local cemetery.

Sergiusz Leończyk

Life after 1863. The Siberian fortunes of Narcyz Wojciechowski

The article presents the activity of Narcyz Wojciechowski, a participant of the January Uprising deported to Siberia. He did not return to the Kingdom after the amnesty of 1883, but remained in his place of deportation. His activity encompassed various fields; for instance, he managed a soap-making plant. Large part of his income came from the operation of Abakan saltworks and a salt shop co-owned with Aleksander Skoczyński. His most profitable ventures were prospecting for gold and exploitation of a gold mine he owned. Narcyz Wojciechowski's biography illustrates the Siberian Poles' mobility, entrepreneurial spirit and ability to adapt to life in difficult conditions.

Adam Buława

Lt Col Ludwik Żychliński (1837 – after 1901), leader of a guerrilla squad and commander-in-chief of the Warsaw and Rawa district during the January Uprising. Historical figure in the light of the sources

The figure of Lt Col Żychliński, one of the most involved commanders and at the same time activists of the left wing of the Red party, gives rise to several interesting observations. It is evident that material derived from autobiographical sources or brief records regarding a particular person is situated on more than one level of informativeness. Firstly, it contains data pertaining to the course of events, their date and location, the role played by given individuals, the origin and details of particular decisions. Regarding guerrilla fighting in the period 1863–1864, memoirs of commanders are in fact the only detailed sources pertaining to concrete actions of the insurrectionary movement. Information referring to people helps to draw their psychological and physical portraits, discover the features of their characters, mentality, manner of acting. Information pertaining to the sphere of manners and behaviour is helpful in reconstructing motives of actions; interpersonal contacts, assessments and opinions outlined in those materials are especially valid here. Determinants of social and national awareness can also be found. Finally, great importance must be

attached to information pertaining to given individuals' social mobility, as the possibility to follow their fortunes and careers is an opportunity to observe groups and active circles vital to the entire nation.

Jacek Feduszka

Victories of Kobylanka on 1st and 6th May 1863 in the accounts of participants and witnesses

The battles of Kobylanka on 1st and 6th May 1863 remain a lasting trace of the heroic struggle for freedom. What was written about the battle fought on 6th May: "It was a splendid victory, in which, during an unequal battle, a handful of untrained but valiant youths three times resisted attacks of the [many times] more numerous enemy", is indeed true.

Krzysztof Latawiec

The image of the January Uprising in the research of Michail Petrovych Chernushevych

Chernushevych's publication delineates the image of the January Uprising viewed as a rebellion against the Russian rule in the western borderlands of the Romanov empire. The insurgents are treated as ordinary criminals standing against the existing order and disturbing universal peace. Such stance is not at all surprising. As the historiographer of the Russian border guard, Chernushevych perceived the January Uprising as no more than another attack by the members of the Polish nation, directed against the rule of the House of Romanov in the Vistula land. His work accentuates the participation of the border guard, because this was his motive even before he undertook the writing of his text. The question remains whether, overlooking his one-sided perception of the January Uprising, Chernushevych was guided by integrity in his research, and whether it is reliable as a consequence. Undoubtedly his account does contain passages where the magnitude of the border guard's achievements is somewhat too striking. It is, however, notable that, he was able to publicise facts about the victories of the insurgent troops which are in keeping with the extant source reports.

Emil Noiński

Bertold Merwin as a researcher of the history of the January Uprising

Bertold Merwin seems to have been more interested in the history of the Polish Legions, to which he devoted several works. His interest in the January Uprising was accidental, occasioned first by the legacy of Langiewicz, which occupies a sig-

nificant place in his oeuvre, although he was not always able to fully and correctly use the materials in his possession. His research on the participation of the Jews in the Uprising, on the other hand, was of a rather emotive nature. The approaching 50th anniversary of the Uprising provided a perfect opportunity to recall the fraternisation between Poles and Jews in the days of the Uprising; a fraternisation which in the early 20th century was slowly being forgotten. This had a special significance to Merwin, who was an activist of the assimilation movement, in which the Jewish insurgents were regarded as heroes and exemplars worthy of emulation.

Anna Kiezuń

Literary series about Year '63

An overview of prose works referring to Year '63 reveals many texts that do not follow linear narration, favouring cyclic or fragmentational narration instead, all originating from the period of general desire for a legend of the January Uprising. Among them are *Gloria victis* (1910) by E. Orzeszkowa, *Ojcowie nasi* (1911) by A. Strug, *Kryjaki* (1913) by M. J. Wielopolska, but also texts by S. Żeromski and T. Miciński in his so-called “middle era” (1905-1914), typified by distinctive tendencies towards patriotic activism (a period including the 50th anniversary of the uprising). Those writers, displaying considerable intuition towards the transformations of the tradition of Year '63, relinquished stereotyped narrative patterns and documentary or polemicist ideas (typical to e.g. Kraszewski) in order to capture images of the Uprising in the formulas of mythological tale or a fable. As their model, they accepted various forms of oral tradition, as well as the graphic cycles by Artur Grottger, which to a certain extent heralded the romantic/symbolic trends of Modernism. Durability of this new artistic image of the January Uprising is confirmed by, among others, a prose experiment of the inter-war era: *Rok 1963* by J. Wołoszynowski (including collage and a ballad-like refrain instead of a previously announced saga of the January era). This novel, published in 1931 and referring by its title to a cycle of lectures by J. Piłsudski, sealed the modernist and at the same time literary subversion of historical determinism by making use of the principle of repetition and parallelism in the narration, in keeping with the intuition bracketing the text: that the Uprising turned out to have been armed with “some never-ending melody”.

Karolina Mazur

The role of a “matron” in the January Uprising according to Józef Ignacy Kraszewski (*Dziecię Starego Miasta* and *Żyd*)

The cycle of “contemporary pictures” by Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, documenting the events of 1860–1864, must needs be included into the legacy of the January Uprising, while the realistically presented portrayals of female protagonists, especially of

older women – the “matrons”, clearly demonstrate how crucial a role in the history of this patriotic revolt was played by the mothers of the young insurgents. They not only instilled the love of homeland in their sons, but also actively participated in demonstrations and pro-national church services. Their heroic stance, incredible fighting spirit, and above all their devout piety were an unattainable model for emulation. Finally, it must be emphasised that Polish historiography allocates much too little space to the participation of older women, the “matrons”, in national uprisings, from the Kościuszko Insurrection to the January Uprising, as described in the prose of Kraszewski and other writers.

Alicja Kulecka

Attitudes of the intellectual elites of the People’s Republic of Poland to the January Uprising: Tadeusz Konwicki and *The Polish Complex*

Konwicki presented the Uprising as an important factor in the shaping of Polish collective mentality. He viewed it as one in the string of national failures, and considered it a corroboration of the Polish people’s inability to create an independent state in the 19th century, or a good, well-governed administrative structure in the 20th century. The concept of his ideological isolation, also in the circles of the intellectual elites of the People’s Republic, is very strongly revealed in his novel; nevertheless, the desire to accentuate his association with this circle is also present. The novel was an expression of Konwicki’s protest against Poland’s status in Europe and in the world, and against its relations with the Soviet Union. It was meant to inspire debates and actions aimed at changing the status quo. It indicated that immutable dreams of freedom and true independence are a great force shaping social and political behaviour. It also described the dilemma of the opposition: whether to assume a passive attitude and wait, or whether to openly oppose the oppression. The People’s Republic was viewed as a form of political dependence from the Soviet Union, reminiscent of the Polish nation’s position in the 19th century. Konwicki pointed to the lack of freedom and independence as the fundamental source of the feeling of inferiority and worthlessness, as in these circumstances socially active individuals are sentenced to vegetation, and the path to becoming a fully-fledged participant in political life in the European and universal dimension is closed.

Piotr Drab

Szwadron by Juliusz Machulski as an example of a celebration of January Uprising in operation in contemporary audiovisual space

The film *Szwadron* is clearly a modern, much-needed and eagerly awaited, if perhaps slightly belated element of the January Uprising legacy. Its value to the continuation of its celebration is inestimable, even more so since the film attempts to shape the

way the Uprising is remembered (as is perhaps unavoidable given the character and themes of the film's subject matter) in a noticeably more sophisticated manner than our other epic and monumental film productions referring to historical topics.

Maciej Wojtyński

The January Uprising in films and programmes broadcast by the TVP until June 2012

A brief overview of selected programmes broadcast by the TVP (Polish Television) and involving themes pertaining to the January Uprising prompts the conclusion regardless of the political configuration existing in Poland, this event was never among the TVP's priorities. Initially, the reasons for this omission were related to censorship; after 1989 these were replaced by financial issues tinged with opportunism and lack of education displayed by the TVP bigwigs. Yet during all these years some of the staff at Woronicza Street were willing and able to ensure that at least a modicum of information about the January Uprising reaches the audience. References to the Uprising were present in over five hundred of the extant films and programmes. A monograph does not, in practice, exist. The answer to the question whether this is much or little for six decades of activity seems obvious.

Tłumaczenie: Klaudyna Michałowicz