

SUMMARY

Almost the entire issue is dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. However, the presented materials do not concentrate on the military history of the war but they try to determine its significance and consequences for today. The text *From the Editor* already introduces this approach by placing Poland's decision to resist the German aggression as taken in defence of the values of truth and justice. Since the Augsburg Resolution of 1555 modern history has been dominated by the principle that might is right – „Plus vis quam ratio”. Poland rejecting this principle on September 1, 1939 in the name of truth and freedom even of the weakest nation – „Plus ratio quam vis” – suffered terrible consequences marked by such tragedies as Auschwitz, the occupation, the Katyń massacre, Yalta and forty-five years of a communist rule. However, it seems that Poland's choice was right. The world today witnesses nations' return to self-determination and independence: the philosophy of Augsburg is being rejected by numerous states and countries.

The central part of the issue is a discussion on the genesis and effects of Second World War, especially as they concern Poland. The discussion gathered Polish historians, among others T. Strzembosz and A. Juzwenko, members of the „Ethos” editorial board as well as prominent specialists: Norman Davies, a historian from Oxford and Rocco Buttiglione, a philosopher of history from Rome.

The articles are divided into four sections. *September and History* deal with the genesis and the beginning of the War. It opens with the text of a Secret Protocol to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of August 23, 1939. L. Moczulski tries to prove that Beck and Rydz-Śmigły were right in their policy to have rejected the German demands provoking the war. The opposite opinion is presented in this matter by A. Bień. H. Batowski examines Poland's pre-war relations with neighbouring countries. The consequences of these relations right after the outbreak of the war in Eastern Poland are presented by J. Gross, and in Silesia by Z.W. Janke. Finally, B. Królikowski writes about the last chapter of the cavalry in the Polish army.

The second sections entitled *Education for Defence* take up such dimensions of social culture as religion, education and youth movements which had the strongest impact on the great moral mobilization of the Polish nation facing the coming war. Rev. K. Michalski, a philosopher, introduces the problem of Christian attitude and duties towards war; I. Ślawińska recalls religious and patriotic formation on the young generation in the pre-war Wilno; A. Radziwiłł analyzes educational policy of the Sanacja period; M. Melchior reconstructs the ethos of struggle in the „Szare Szeregi” (The Grey Ranks), and T. Przeciszewski describes the structures of ideological struggle against the enemy among the clandestine youth groups of the nationalist orientation.

The third section, *The Victims and the Winners*, concerns the resistance and its consequences. An interview with Wanda Ossowska, a nurse, carried by A. Semkowicz, illustrates well the Polish lot during the war: participation in resistance, imprisonment by the NKVD, then by the Gestapo, Auschwitz and a miraculous survival. J. Ficowski writes about a less know history of the Gypsies, a nation in addition to the Jews condemned to extermination. A. Hlebowicz presents a heroic priest from the war-time Wilno – Rev. Henryk Hlebowicz. B. Berdychowska on the basis of memoirs points to the qualities of generosity, altruism and solidarity among people at „the time of contempt”. A. Pawełczyńska, a sociologist of culture, evaluates the losses caused by the war and the Stalinist period, but also social values which remained destruction. The other articles in this section deal with art (B. Mansfeld) and literature (A. Łukowska and K. Dybciak).

The last group of articles refer to contemporary times and to today's remains of 1939 September. Hence its title: *Today's Poland, Germany and Europe after September*. We have a philosophical essay evaluating Second World War from the Christian view by R. Buttiglione; German voices on the past and the need for reconciliation: a well-known letter of President R. von Weizsäcker to President of People's Poland W. Jaruzelski, and the comments of A. Horten and Ph. von Bismarck. The present changes occurring in Europe and the world as well as the place of Poland in these changes are examined in the materials connected with the visit of Z. Brzeziński to the Catholic University of Lublin in May, 1989. Of particular interest are his guest lecture and an interview with „Ethos”. Published here is well-known address of the „Solidarity” leader, Lech Wałęsa, to both Houses of Congress of the United States of America on November 15, 1989 in Washington, D.C.

Notes and Reviews are also dedicated to the problem of the war. Worth mentioning are the following: an analysis of the Polish underground ethos by A. Konderak; a review of the Z. Siemaszko book on the political ideology of the National Armed Forces (NSZ) by M. Moczulski; and a review of books on the Katyń massacre by M. Siwiec. W. Chudy introduces a new kind of review articles dealing with the problems of mass-media versus Christian values.

Another new section of the quarterly is *Chronology of Events* noting the most important events in the activities of John Paul II compiled by M. Filipiak. The Chronology will appear in the last issue of each year. *The Pontificate in the Eyes of the World* presents a review by K. Klauza of the book summing up the ten years of the pontificate from the view-point of Italian journalists, and also the comments by Fr J. Machnacz on the special session organized by the Jagiellonian University on the 10th anniversary of the event.

Another standing section of „Ethos” is an essay *Thinking about Fatherland....* In the present issue. *Reports* include a comment (by B. Pańczak) on Polish-Ukrainian relations on the basis of a session held at the Catholic University of Lublin and dedicated to this problem. There are also accounts of other symposia held at KUL: one on Polish immigration (by A. Jabłoński) and the other, an annual philosophical session called *Philosophical Week at KUL* (by J. Wojtysiak). The remaining standing sections of „Ethos” also deal with the September anniversary: the opening *Papal page* presents a selection of the Pope's statements on this occasion, the closing part of the issue, *Bibliography* lists the Pope's statements on war and peace (comp. by M. Filipiak and K. Klauza). The issue is closed by *Notes about Authors*.

Translated by Andrzej Jaroszyński