

STUDY GUIDE



SEJM

Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Open Agenda (1934)

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2. Letter from the Secretary-General



3. Letter from the Deputy Secretary-General

Distinguished Delegates and Participants of CEZERIMUN'25

First and foremost I would like to welcome you all to the first edition of CEZERIMUN. My name is A. Sina TÜRKDEMİR and I will be serving as your Deputy Secretary-General for the duration of the conference. I am a third year student at Cezeri Green Technology Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School with a keen interest upon subjects regarding all however, not as much as mathematics, physics and most importantly history and politics.

The committee of Sejm is a one and only for I, as it has been a long expected parliament of mine that I have wanted to see be put together for a while and finally it has thanks to our most respected and indulgent Under-Secretary-Generals, İlhan Yaman and Abrek Durgut.

I would like to personally extend my gratitude to all of the Academic Team starting from the Under Secretary-Generals for the creation of quite the comprehensive study guides. These study guides have been created to introduce you, our delegates, to their committees; specifically, they have been chosen to extend our participants' knowledge in critical matters from government corruption to the near history of the Balkans and the Caucasus.

And lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the conference Umay TAMER for the extreme interest, work-ethic and effort alone that she had displayed throughout the making of this conference. Additionally, I would like to thank my Head of Crisis, Beran Kurtuluş BOLAT for his excessive knowledge of niche topics, quick wittedness and for being the greatest wingman duo anyone could ask for.

I hope that CEZERIMUN'25 will be an enjoyable conference for all, I wish you the best of luck during the conference.

Best regards,

Ahmet Sina Haluk TÜRKDEMİR

Deputy Secretary-General of CEZERIMUN'25

4. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Esteemed Participants of CEZERIMUN'25

Greetings, I am Yavuz Ilhan Yaman. I'm currently a student in Milli Eğitim Vakfı Ankara Okulları Anadolu Lisesi who is aspiring to study History in the future.

With my Co-USG and Academic Trainee's we worked to give you a detailed document to prepare for the Sejm committee in CEZERIMUN, of course as the Under Secretary General I strongly advise all delegates to read the guide, however also as someone who's been a delegate before we've made this guide as informative and fun as possible for you to read so you do not get bored while reading this study guide.

We've decided to do this committee as it was pretty much the closest to a crisis management, with a authoritarian government in control and two superpowers: The German Reich and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics you will be in the shoes of Members of Parliament and Ministers attempting to prevent the potential destruction of the Second Polish Republic.

Last but not least I would like to thank my Co-USG Abrek Durgut, my Academic Trainee(s) Toprak Artun and İnci Yiğit, Our esteemed Secretary General Umay Tamer who has helped me in this process a lot, our Deputy Secretary General Ahmet Sina Haluk Türkdemir and Director General Betül who I specially thank as Ronnie Cowan (Inside Joke) I hope that while reading this study guide and handbook you will enjoy your time and prepare for the committee well.

With Kind Regards,

Ilhan Yaman

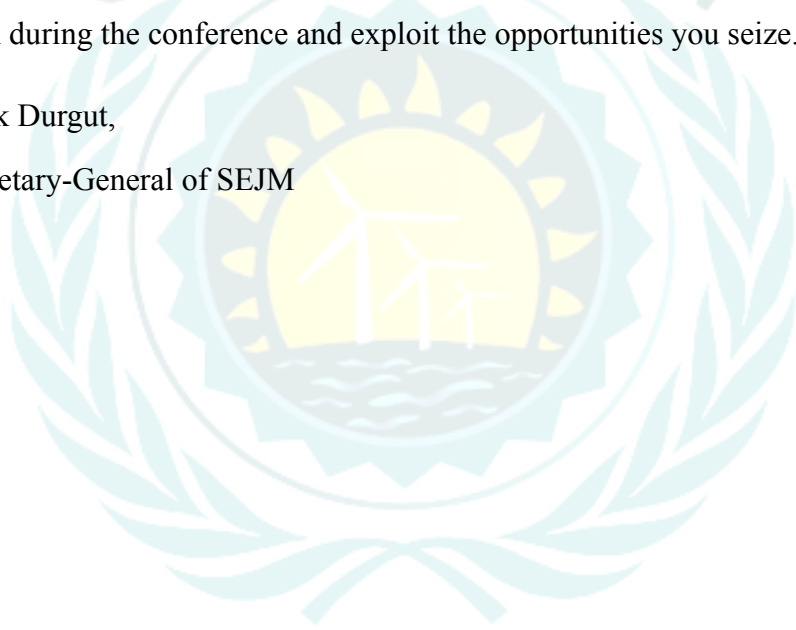
Under-Secretary General of SEJM

5. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretary-General

My name is Muzaffer Abrek Durgut. I am currently a student in Ankara Atatürk High School. We tried to give you a detailed insight of this committee with this study guide we prepared for your interest. I believe this committee will give the participants wonderful memories alongside the taste of politics, success and failure. Poland is in a shaken position, and it is up to you delegates whether it will rise or “capitulate”. I hope everyone will come to CEZERIMUN having conducted their research, ideas in mind and ready to be a deputy.

I would like to thank our secretary general Umay Tamer and director general Betül Kunter for making this conference possible against all odds. I would like to thank my USG İlhan Yaman for all of the efforts he has put in for this committee and making me a part of it, our academic trainees İnci Yiğit and Toprak Artun. And lastly, I would like to thank all of you delegates for choosing our committee (or being forcibly allocated to it). Have fun reading the guide, have fun during the conference and exploit the opportunities you seize.

Muzaffer Abrek Durgut,
Co-Under-Secretary-General of SEJM



6. Introduction to the Sejm

6.1. Overview of the Sejm

The Sejm is the lower house of the Second Polish Republic. In 1934, Poland was ruled by the Sanacja Movement, which was a direct influence from the regime of Józef Piłsudski.

On May 10, 1926, a coalition government of Christian Democrats and Agrarians were formed. That day, Józef Piłsudski criticized Sejmocracy and promised a "sanation" of politics.

On May 12, Piłsudski's military units seized bridges in Warsaw, sparking fighting. President Wojciechowski and Prime Minister Witos refused to capitulate, but after negotiations failed, Witos' government resigned on May 14 to prevent civil war. A new government

was formed under

Kazimierz Bartel, with Piłsudski as minister of military affairs. Piłsudski declined the presidency, but Ignacy Mościcki was elected, with Piłsudski holding real power.



6.2. Sejm's Composition in 1934

The Sejm was a bicameral legislature that was composed of two chambers:

The Sejm

The Sejm has 444 members which are elected by adult males only, these members serve a 5 year term. The Sejm is responsible for state budget modifying, ratifying treaties and passing laws.

The Senate

The Senate consisted of 111 members which were elected and served a 6 year term, it was more of a ceremonial legislative branch and had far less powers than the Sejm

Sanajca: In order to prepare for the military coup that took place in May 1926, J. Piłsudski and his faction adopted the slogan sanacja (derived from the Latin sanatio, “healing”), which pointed to Poland’s political and economic problems. The sanacja regime kept watch over the interests of major landowners and holders of Polish and foreign monopolistic capital, maintained an aggressive anti-Soviet policy, and worked with the Nazis.

Endecjka: Endecja is the name of the political movement and ideology connected to Roman Dmowski's National Democracy (Narodowa Demokracja) in Poland. The late 19th-century movement rose to prominence as one of Poland's most powerful political groups during the interwar years.

Endecja was founded on conservative, nationalist, and frequently right-wing beliefs. It frequently emphasized the significance of Polish race, culture, and Catholic values while promoting a powerful, independent Polish state founded on Polish national identity. This movement developed anti-Semitic stances that became essential to its ideology because of its strong skepticism of liberalism, socialism, and Jewish influence in Polish society.

Peasant’s Party: The Peasant’s Party was a political party in the Second Polish Republic They thought that land tenure was critical for ensuring peasants' livelihoods and advocated for land reform to allocate vast estates to impoverished rural communities. This posture was a reaction to significant economic disparities, in which a tiny number of affluent landowners owned large agricultural resources while the majority of peasants lived in poverty.

Communist Party of Poland: During the Second Polish Republic, the Communist Party of Poland operated in Polish politics, the communists were a minor opposition but were violent in the Sejm.

The radical Left was represented by the Communist Party of Poland, which was known as the Communist Workers' Party of Poland until 1925. The party's goal was to establish a Polish Socialist Republic in accordance with Rosa Luxemburg's principles.

Christian Democratic Party: The Polish Christian Democratic Party allied to the right-wing Christian democracy faction in Poland.

Socialist Party: Since its founding in 1892, the Polish Socialist Party (Polska Partia Socjalistyczna, or PPS) has been one of the most significant political organizations in Poland. The PPS is more nationalist and focused on Polish independence.

Polish People's Party: An agrarian political party in Poland is called the Polish People's Party (Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe, PSL). Currently, Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz is in charge of it. Although its current name was adopted in 1903, its history dates back to 1895, when it was known as the People's Party. The Polish People's Party was represented by several parties under its name throughout the Second Polish Republic. They ranged from the left to the center-right on the political spectrum, but they were all in favor of agrarian policies. Shortly after the Sanacja dictatorship came to power, it was reorganized as the People's Party.

Liberal Democratic Party: They supported democratic values, individual freedoms, and market-driven economic reforms and strictly opposed the Sanacja.

The Sejm in this setting will be having 1 Prime Minister, 6 Ministers in the following roles:

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Interior, Minister of Defence, Minister of Justice, Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Industry and Trade.

These Ministers will also be members of the Sejm and can be replaced with a change in the cabinet, a presidential decree issued to the Sejm or from a vote of non-confidence. Including the Ministers there will be 10 Members of the Sejm from Sanacja, 4 from the Endecjka (National Party), 4 from the Peasant's Party, 4 from the Communist Party of

Poland, 2 from the Christian Democratic Party, 4 from the Socialist Party, 6 from the Polish People's Party and 2 members from the Liberal Democratic Party.

The Presidency of the Sejm will also have political allegiances as they are members of the Sejm who were elected by the Sejm to be in the Presidency.

The Presidency consists of 3 members consisting of the Speaker of the Sejm, currently Mieczysław Lepeck. Deputy Speaker of the Sejm, Stefan Starzyński and The Secretary of the Sejm, Kazimierz Świtalski who are all also members of the Sanacja.

They are permitted to vote on legislative proposals if there is a tie in the Sejm during voting.

6.3. The Role and Power of the Sejm

The Sejm was the first national parliament of the Second Polish Republic which held a crucial role in the legislative process of the Second Polish Republic. It extends from the topics of extensive legislative, financial power and supervisory of government and private businesses and places. It's the main democratic institution of the Second Polish Republic.

Legislative Functions

Proposing Laws: Members of Parliament and mostly the government is able to propose laws to the Sejm.

Debate and Voting on the Legislation: Once the bills are submitted to the Sejm they are discussed, amended and voted.

Ratifying Treaties: The Sejm is also responsible for ratifying international treaties however this process must also pass the Senate (Upper House)

Supervisory Functions

Scrutinizing the Government: The Sejm hold the absolute power to hold a vote of no confidence in which if it passes the Prime Minister or ministers can be dismissed of their duties for the President to appoint new ones.

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the Sejm hold the power to ask questions to the government in which they demand answers about government institutions.

Control over Finance: The Sejm may approve and examine the state budget to ensure proper expenditure and transparency.

Financial Functions

National Budget: The Sejm is responsible for approving the National Budget which gives the Sejm power over the finance and budget of the Second Polish Republic.

Tax Legislation: Any proposals that are about new taxes or tax reforms must be approved by the Sejm before being put to use.

Appointment Process

Judicial Appointments: After the President's nominations the Sejm holds power to vote on the Judge's appointment on the Constitutional Tribunal or other Tribunals of the government.

Cabinet Appointments: The Sejm approves the appointment of the Prime Minister and Ministers.

Constitutional Powers:

The Sejm plays an important role in the constitution of the Second Polish Republic.

Amendments to the constitution: The Sejm is able to amend the constitution with a super-majority (three-thirds of vote).

7. Historical Background

7.1. Overview of Poland from its Independence to the Interwar Period

The Polish people had been living in a Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth between 16th and 18th century. The Commonwealth was ruled by one king who was elected by the nobles of the country, *szlachta*. This bore disastrous consequences in the latter times of the Poles when they started to be influenced heavily by other major powers such as Russia, who influenced the nobility in order to delay the king from finding a worthy successor and chose

successors whom they believed would protect the Russian interests. As corruption was widespread between the szlachta, election processes sometimes dragged longer and longer resulting with the nation being weakened due to the lack of a king. The parliament of Sejm was mostly ineffective in legislating due to the procedure they had to commit to. Every member of the Sejm had the right to veto a document, and this could not be changed due to oppression from the nobility in order to protect their position as the sole governors of the nation and external powers who found it easier to control just the nobility rather than the people itself. This resulted with Sejm not functioning properly since there was a line drawn between complete approval and utter disagreement, everything else had been grouped up in one of these groups. The parliament could not pass laws around two-thirds of their sessions. The incompetence of Sejm and corruption within the nobility led the country into turmoil, now functioning as a shaky confederation rather than a state with authority.

With the spread of new ideas caused by the French Revolution, Poles managed to write the first written constitution in Europe on 3 May, 1791. It was a noticeably liberal document by contemporary standards, promising a raft of political, legal, educational and administrative measures that would benefit all sections of society. The constitution also upheld the long-standing Polish tradition of religious toleration, above all towards the Jews, who had originally found a welcome home in Poland in the Middle Ages. The constitution abolished the right of veto for each deputy in Sejm and tried to put an end to confederalism.

What followed was 3 brutal wars, ending with even more brutal 3 territories getting the name of “Partition of Poland”. Third Partition in 1795 erased Poland from the map of Europe altogether, while the Russian, Prussian and Austrian empires expanded still further at her expense. Several unsuccessful uprisings took place, but failed to contribute to the eventual independence gained officially in 1918. Due to the collapse of expansionist and authoritarian regimes of Austria-Hungary, Tsardom of Russia and the German Empire; a power vacuum in the region led to the independence of Poland with a considerable size and a population euphoric with liberation from oppressors. The Polish National Committee made the following statement in Paris:

“Our aim is to create an independent Polish State composed of all Polish territories including those which provide Polish access to the sea; a strong state which would be able to keep in check its western neighbours, the Teutonic empires, and would be a bulwark against their expansion in Central Europe and the east. We fully appreciate the fact that it is only

with the assistance of the great free nations, in conflict with the Central Powers, that we shall be in a position to achieve the unification as well as the independence of Poland; and firmly trusting in their ultimate victory, which will mean at the same time the triumph of liberty and justice, we consider ourselves as their ally, not only for the duration of the war, but also after the conclusion of peace. We feel ourselves bound to those nations by unity of thought and struggle against the common enemy in order to safeguard the solemn rights of nations which are the basis of humanity's peaceful development. The Polish State must have a democratic constitution. It must govern according to the principles of liberty and justice, together with principles of order. Without such principles, no effort towards civilisation or progress is attainable. No privileged classes should exist in the new Poland: Polish citizens without distinction of origin, race or creed must stand equal before the law”

Józef Piłsudski, the personality most intimately associated with the cause of Polish independence in the public mind, arrived in Warsaw on 10 November 1918, following his release from Magdeburg Castle, where he had been interned since July 1917 for having refused to cooperate fully with the German occupation authorities over the creation of a sponsored Polish army. There were 3 governments when he arrived in Poland: a German Regent government under Prince Zdzisław Lubomirski, a so called ‘Polish People’s Republic’ in Lublin under the veteran socialist Ignacy Daszyński and the Polish National Committee led by Roman Dmowski in Paris continued to be recognised as the official Polish Government by the Western Allies. The Regency Council appointed Piłsudski as commander-in-chief on 11 November, giving him permission to form a National government under one leadership. On the same day, the independence of Poland was proclaimed. On 14 November he became the provisional head of state which further strengthened his position. During the peace negotiations, Poles were unable to gain control of Upper Silesia and Danzig which angered Polish nationalists. Numerous plebiscites were held by organisations biased one way or another which resulted with the countries starting a non-official state of warfare amongst each other. Numerous Germans in Poland and Poles in Germany were displaced from their residence, with the Polish population in Germany staying more alive. Thanks to rights previously gained by a “Minorities Agreement”, Poles managed to secure more rights in German territories which helped them to pursue their own agenda in the areas they claimed.

Newly born country of Poland had to participate in a lot of wars just like the other newly formed countries of Eastern Europe. As these newly found states had no defined

borders between them due to the centuries long incorporated states and non cultural splits between empires. The bitter struggle with militant Ukrainian nationalists for Lwow and Eastern Galicia in 1918-19; the battle with Czechoslovakia for control of Cieszyn/Teschen (Austrian Silesia) in 1919-20; the war with Lithuania for Wilno, the city which was so dear to J6zef Pilsudski, who was born close by; and finally, and most important of all, the war against Soviet Russia in 1919-20 were the wars to the east which Poland had to face on the start of her independence.

As the Polish forces managed to secure Lwow and Eastern Galicia by July 1919, the danger to Poland from the Bolsheviks increased as they were gaining the upper hand in the Russian Civil War. It began in early 1919 in the wake of the withdrawal of German troops from the Eastern Front at the end of the First World War. Both Polish and Bolshevik forces then sought to fill the vacuum and assert their territorial claims, and by the end of that year the momentum of conflict had picked up considerably. Piłsudski dreamed of a confederation made up of Eastern European countries under the leadership of Poland as an independent entity both from the West and the East. With this dream in mind, Poland fought vigorous battles with the Bolsheviks who aimed to regain the lost territory of the Tsardom and cut off the so-called “imperialist, bourgeois spearhead” of the west. The war initially went rather well for Poland. Polish forces, appreciating the strategic importance of the Ukraine, and exploiting the internal preoccupations at that time of the Bolsheviks, successfully mounted a pre-emptive strike, penetrating as far as Kiev by May 1920 by also forming alliances with Ukraine. But as the White Army became less of a threat, the Bolsheviks could now shift their focus to the East in order to deal with this offensive. Within a few months, their counter-offensive had expelled the Polish forces from the Ukraine altogether; by the beginning of August 1920, twenty of their divisions, well-equipped, battle hardened and well-motivated and spearheaded by a notorious elite cavalry division were converging under the command of General Mikhail Nikolayevich Tukhachevsky on Warsaw.

Polish were alone in this war. Both the British people and the Prime Minister were tired of providing aid for Poland and remained neutral. France had their own problems even though they tried to call out for diplomatic help and every country that bordered Poland favored a weakened state due to the ideals of Piłsudski and the unclear lines drawn between the states. In this moment of isolation, the Poles managed to unite in order to defeat a common enemy and stand against communism. The Polish Army, which had been reformed into a cohesive unit by Piłsudski, was bolstered by conscription and by a flood of volunteers.

Harsh measures were implemented against disloyal citizens, almost all of whom came from the ranks of Poland's ethnic minorities, especially the Jews, who, like the industrial working class and peasantry, were singled out by Bolshevik propaganda. Otherwise, and more decisively, the Red threat evoked only a sense of national unity and patriotism throughout ethnic Polish society as earlier social and political differences were set aside in order to prepare for battle.

The Battle of Warsaw was won thanks to a daring counter-offensive conceived by Pilsudski and executed with the aid of his top commanders in the field. 4 of 5 Russian army groups were devastated with 3 of them being encircled, sending the fifth one on route. In early September, the Polish victory at the Battle of the Niemen completed the rout and ended the war. The battle was the most devastating battle ever fought by the Soviets until the war in Afghanistan in 1980's. The treaty of Riga was signed in 1921, ending the war with Polish victory.

Treaty fixed the eastern border as it was more or less a mess after the Second Partition of 1793. Some articles of the Treaty of Riga reads:

“Article 3: Both Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine abandon all rights and claims to the territories situated west of the agreed border. Similarly, Poland abandons in favour of Soviet Ukraine and Soviet Belarus all rights and claims to the territory situated east of the border

Article 7: Russia and Ukraine pledge that persons of Polish nationality in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus shall enjoy free intellectual development, the use of their national language, and the exercise of their religion. Similarly, Poland recognises the same rights for persons of Russian, Ukrainian, and Byelorussian nationality in Poland

Article 11: Russia and Ukraine shall restore to Poland all war trophies, libraries, archives, works of art, and other objects of historical, ethnographic, artistic, scholarly, and archaeological value that have been removed from the territory of Poland by Russia since 1772.

Article 13: Russia and Ukraine agree to pay to Poland within one year after ratification of the present treaty the sum of 30 million gold roubles in specie and in bars, based on the active participation of the territory of Poland in the economic life of the former Russian state.

7.2. The May Coup of 1926

In 1925 there were no less than 92 registered political parties, of which 32 were represented in the Sejm and organized in 18 political clubs. Political atomization made it difficult to establish stable and lasting administrations. The March Constitution of 1921 established a parliamentary democracy, but no single party secured a majority, leading to frequent changes in government. This period saw the assassination of Poland's first elected president, Gabriel Narutowicz, in 1922 by an extreme nationalist, showcasing the intense political divisions. The Socialist Party (PPS) was in a dilemma. On the one hand as one of its leading Sejm deputies, Dr. Herman Lieberman, explained to the Sejm military affairs committee, the Socialists regarded Piłsudski's return to the army as indispensable, for they considered him Poland's most competent military figure. On the other hand, they opposed his notion that the Inspector General of Armies should be independent of the War Minister and not accountable to the Sejm. They insisted, however, on civilian supremacy and vainly sought to persuade their onetime party comrade, Piłsudski, to moderate his adamant stand. The financial and economic crisis was simultaneously becoming acute and on November 13, 1925, Grabski submitted his cabinet's resignation, which a reluctant President Wojciechowski accepted the next day. Piłsudski immediately seized the opportunity to demonstrate his strength. At two o'clock on the afternoon of November 14, 1925, he appeared at the Belweder, the presidential residence, and handed Wojciechowski a memorandum, which he obliged the President to sign, cautioning him against permitting any further assaults on the moral interests of the army. Piłsudski declared that he considered himself justified in undertaking this intervention with Wojciechowski by virtue of his positions as former Chief of State, as creator of the Polish army, as its victorious commander and as the bearer of the highest rank "First Marshal of Poland". The president reluctantly signed the document which further consolidated Piłsudski.

On February 7, 1926, Minister of Public Works Moraczewski resigned on the issue of the cabinet's inability to resolve the chronic dispute over the proper organization of the supreme command of the armed forces to Piłsudski's satisfaction. The military plan suggested by Piłsudski was seen inadequate by Piłsudski, so Sejm was caught in a stalemate trying to devise a military strategy. It is believed that Moraczewski resigned to protest an idea being

discussed in order to be approved later on in the Sejm which had not been approved by Piłsudski.

On 10 May 1926, the coalition government of Christian Democrats and Agrarians (PSL) was formed. On the same day, Józef Piłsudski, in an interview with the newspaper *Kurier Poranny* ('The Morning Courier'), said that he was "ready to fight the evil" of sejmocracy (a contemptuous term for a rule by Polish parliament) and promised a "sanation" (restoration to health) of political life. The newspaper edition was confiscated by the authorities. In the night of 11-12 May, bridges over the Vistula river were captured by soldiers loyal to Piłsudski.



Soldiers on the Bridge

A state of emergency was declared and the government mobilised its soldiers. negotiations were held on for 2 days alongside the skirmishes that broke out after the failure of each one. As the Socialists declared their support to Piłsudski choosing their side, railwaymen union went on a strike and blocked all railroad usage to government, immobilising their troops and supply lines. The coup ended with Wojciechowski and Witos resigning, letting Piłsudski to do essentially whatever he wanted to do with the government. Ignacy Mościcki was made president and Kazimierz Bartel the Prime Minister. Piłsudski decided to serve as the Minister of War, although controlling the politics by placing ones loyal to him in power and using the loyalty of the army.

7.3. The Political, Social and Economic State of Poland in 1934

a. The Political State

The Second Polish Republic was created as a parliamentary democracy with a broad range of political parties able to compete in elections, a parliament (Sejm), an upper house (Senate), and a head of state with the title in due course of President. Piłsudski's key priority, the re-establishment of stable, effective government, led inevitably to the deterioration of parliamentary democracy within an increasingly authoritarian framework, where he was the ultimate source of power, even if his nominees formally occupied the major offices of state. As restrictions of one kind or another were placed on the political opposition, Piłsudski sought to build up support for his regime with key groups, such as the army, of course, and also the large landowners, at a special meeting on the Nieświerz estate in October 1926. The situation was very complicated during the rule of Piłsudski due to constant changes of government, assassinations and impact from the external powers. In 1929, Piłsudski's government faced one of the biggest challenges of his lifetime. From March 1932 the government was granted vast powers of legislation by decree, which it used to the full. Laws were passed restricting the right of railwaymen to strike and restricting the freedom of assembly. Press censorship was intensified in the period after the election and in addition the government acted to remove its opponents in the universities, dismissing about fifty university professors when the autonomy of the universities was curtailed in March 1932. Calls for expropriation of large estates without compensation became more frequent, and in 1932 and 1933 there were rural 'strikes' when peasants refused to allow agricultural produce to be transported to the towns. An attempt was made to cut down the power of the cartels which were held to be largely responsible for the way the price scissors had worked to the disadvantage of the peasants. The worth of agrarian products plummeted, and access to industrial goods became even harder. The regime was, moreover, faced with the difficult problem of what to do with the politicians arrested during the electoral campaign. Ugly rumours soon leaked out of the brutal treatment they had been subjected to in the fortress at Brzesc. Here they had been forced to perform humiliating tasks such as cleaning lavatories. The government's own ranks were badly shaken by the affair. Bartel made a personal protest to President Moscicki. Three BBWR deputies and a former minister, Witold Staniewicz, left the bloc, while even the president confessed to being "left with a disagreeable impression". It proved even more difficult to win support by the propagation of the vague cult of Piłsudski

which made up Sanacja's only real ideological content. The clash between the conservatives and radicals in the block became much more bitter. International condemnation of these rather brutal developments made little impact on the regime, particularly as in parliamentary elections in November the same year, the BBWR dramatically increased its share of seats.

The marshal's premature and unexpected death from cancer on 12 May 1935 shocked and saddened the whole nation, even if, when alive, he had as many detractors as admirers.

b. The Social State

According to the national censuses of 1921 and 1931, about 14 percent of the population were Ukrainian, 4 percent Byelorussian, 2 percent German, 10 percent Jewish, and a further 1 per cent composed of much smaller numbers of Russians, Czechs, Lithuanians and so-called 'locals' of no determinate nationality. This meant that the predominantly Roman Catholic Poles were joined by some five million Orthodox Ukrainians, three million of the Jewish faith, and three-quarters of a million Protestant Germans. A strong Jewish presence could be easily seen when looking upon any large and developed Polish city. Almost all big cities had at least 30% Jews settling them, Warsaw even being named "the mother city of Israel" by the Jews. About 31.9 million in 1931 was composed of the small holding peasantry and landless labourers, which amounted to more than 60% of the population. At the bottom was a small but expanding, mainly Polish, industrial proletariat: in 1933, it constituted 16 percent of the total workforce.

Relations with the national minorities were not good. The 'pacification' of eastern Galicia, which led to the arrest of nearly 1,800 persons, cast a shadow over Polish-Ukrainian relations after 1930.

c. The Economic State

The Polish natural resources included coal (in Silesia after 1921 and the Dąbrowa basin), timber, lignite and crude oil (in the south-east around Drohobycz, Jasło and Stanisławów), large deposits of rock salt and much smaller deposits of iron ore, zinc and lead. Textile (in Łódź), iron ore and crude oil industries were the most dominant fields of production and excavation. Due to the religious approach supported by the catholic church, industrialisation and urbanisation was seen as "un-Polish" and something that should be avoided. One direct and important consequence of this antipathy was that Poland lacked

throughout the interwar years a substantial indigenous entrepreneurial class: industry and commerce, as well as the artisanal and handicrafts sectors of the economy, were dominated by Jews as owners, managers and shareholders, while Germans retained a significant presence in factory and coal-mine ownership. This resulted with the Polish being further isolated into the agrarian sectors.

A major problem in the Polish economy was the inability to attract investment capital into the country. Foreign businessmen were generally either uninterested altogether in Poland, or, if they did become involved, demanded quick returns.

The Polish economy took heavy damage from the Great Depression. In spite of the revival after 1926 the Polish economy, dependent as it was on agricultural exports and largely short-term foreign credits, was extremely vulnerable to the collapse of international trade and investment which began with the Wall Street crash of October 1929. The impact of the slump in Poland was very harsh. It has been estimated that Polish national income fell 25 per cent between 1929 and 1933 compared with the 4 per cent fall in Britain. The index of industrial production dropped from 116.1 in 1929 to 71.2 in 1932, a decline exceeded in Europe only in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Unemployed numbers rose to 500.000 which put a burden on the economy. The value of zloty was somewhat preserved in the international market.

8. Political Climate in Poland

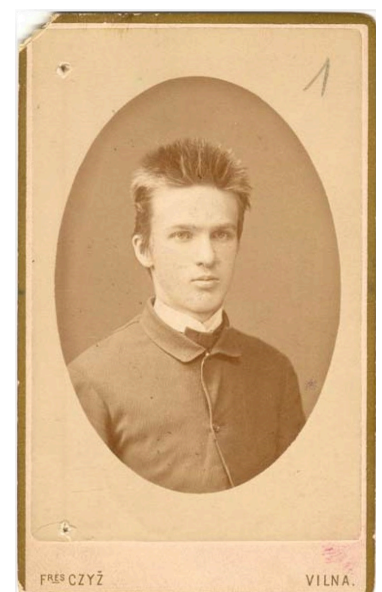
8.1. Influence of Józef Piłsudski and the Sanacja on the Sejm

Biography of Józef Piłsudski

Józef Piłsudski was born in Zalavas, Lithuania in 1867. He was born to a patriotic family, his father being a Commissioner in the National Government and his mother from a noble family.

During his study in 1st Vilnius Gymnasium, from a young age he was already engaging in nationalist acts such as creating a self study group that opposed the russification that had been occurring in education.

In 1885 he started studying medicine in the Imperial University



of Kharkov. During his study he was associated with “Narodna Volya”, a group that was against the Russian oppression in Poland. However, after participating in a demonstration in the 25th year of the emancipation he was one of the 150 students arrested by the tsarist police.

For this reason he tried to transfer to the Imperial University in Dorpat, however he was denied because of his criminal record.

In 1887, he was arrested in a plot to kill the Tsar and was sent to Irkutsk. He returned to Vilnius in 1892.

Piłsudski came back to Vilnius on July 1, 1892. There, he became involved in the socialist movement, first serving as the Vilnius correspondent for the underground publication "Przedświt,"

Starting in February 1893, as part of the PPS, he took part in the activities of the so-called Lithuanian Section of the PPS.

In May 1893, he released a proclamation for the PPS directed at Jewish socialist comrades in the annexed Polish regions, where he alleged that Jews were enforcing the Russian language in Lithuania as a cultural weapon, provoking resistance from the Polish and Lithuanian working class, and called for the cessation of the country's Russification.

He was chosen as a delegate for the Lithuanian Section in the recently formed Central Workers' Committee of the PPS and became the editor-in-chief of "Robotnik".

During his work on this magazine and his involvement in the Central Executive Committee (CKW) sessions, he encountered the future president of the Second Polish Republic, Stanisław Wojciechowski. Because of the arrests and exits of activists, Piłsudski was the sole member of the CKW at that moment to carry out his responsibilities continuously. Inside the party, he mainly focused on producing the magazine, but he was also engaged in raising funds for additional activities, which required several trips.

In the early 1900s, nearly all political groups in Russian Poland and Lithuania adopted

a conciliatory stance toward the Russian Empire, seeking to negotiate a limited autonomy for Poland within it.

The PPS led by Piłsudski was the sole political power willing to combat the Empire for Polish freedom and to use violence to attain that aim.

At the onset of the Russo-Japanese War in the summer of 1904, Piłsudski made his way to Tokyo, Japan, where he attempted, without success, to secure the nation's support for a rebellion in Poland. He proposed providing Japan with intelligence to assist its war against Russia and suggested forming a Polish Legion from Poles, conscripted into the Russian Army and captured by Japan.

He additionally proposed a "Promethean" initiative aimed at dismantling the Russian Empire, a goal he later continued to strive for. During a meeting with Yamagata Aritomo, he proposed that initiating a guerrilla conflict in Poland would divert Russia's attention and requested Japan to provide him with arms. While the Japanese diplomat Hayashi Tadasu was in favor of the plan, the Japanese government, including Yamagata, expressed more doubt. The Japanese provided Piłsudski with significantly less than he anticipated; he obtained assistance from Japan in acquiring weapons and ammunition for the PPS and their military organization, yet they rejected the Legion proposal.

In the 1905 Russian Revolution, Piłsudski was a key figure in the happenings in Congress Poland. In early 1905, he instructed the PPS to initiate a general strike there; approximately 400,000 workers participated, and it continued for two months until it was suppressed by the Russian authorities.

In June 1905, Piłsudski provided paramilitary support to an uprising in Łódź, which was later referred to as June Days. In Łódź, violent confrontations erupted between Piłsudski's paramilitary forces and gunmen supporting Dmowski and his National Democrats. On 22 December 1905, Piłsudski urged all Polish workers to revolt; however, his appeal was mostly ignored.

On 11 November 1918, the Regency Council appointed Piłsudski as Commander-in-Chief of Polish forces and tasked him with establishing a national government for the newly independent nation. Later that day, which would soon be

recognized as Poland's Independence Day, he declared a sovereign Polish nation. That week, Piłsudski arranged for the withdrawal of the German garrison from Warsaw and other German forces. More than 55,000 Germans left Poland peacefully, surrendering their arms to the Poles. In the next few months, more than 400,000 in total left through Polish lands.

On 14 November 1918, Piłsudski was requested to temporarily oversee the administration of the nation. On 22 November, he formally obtained the title of Provisional Chief of State of Reborn Poland from the new government. Different Polish military groups and provisional governments backed Piłsudski. He formed a coalition government mainly composed of socialists and implemented numerous reforms long advocated by the Polish Socialist Party, including the eight-hour workday, free education, and women's voting rights, to prevent widespread unrest. As the leader of the nation, Piłsudski felt it was essential to stay detached from party politics.

The Constitution of Poland from March 1921 deliberately restricted presidential powers to stop Piłsudski from engaging in conflict. This led Piłsudski to refuse to pursue the position. Prior to the inaugural presidential election, a parliamentary vote took place, where Piłsudski supported two lists: the National-State Union and the State Unity in the Kresy, neither of which gained any seats in the Sejm. On December 9, 1922, the Polish National Assembly chose Gabriel Narutowicz from the Polish People's Party "Wyzwolenie"; his election faced opposition from right-wing parties, leading to public discontent. On December 14 at the Belweder Palace, Piłsudski formally handed over his authority as Chief of State to his ally Narutowicz; the Naczelnik was succeeded by the President.

Piłsudski condemned General Stanisław Szeptycki's suggestion for civilian oversight of the military as an effort to politicize the armed forces, and on 28 June, he stepped down from his final political position. On that same day, the leftist representatives of the Sejm passed a resolution expressing gratitude for his efforts. Piłsudski retired in Sulejówek, near Warsaw, at his countryside estate, "Milusin," gifted to him by his past soldiers.

During this time, he authored a collection of political and military memoirs, among which is *Rok 1920* (The Year 1920). In the meantime, Poland's economy was in disarray. Hyperinflation sparked public discontent, and the government struggled to devise a rapid solution to the escalating unemployment and economic turmoil. Piłsudski's friends and followers continually urged him to re-enter politics, leading him to establish a new support

network focused on ex-members of the Polish Legions, the Polish Military Organization, and various leftist and intellectual parties.

In 1925, following the resignation of several governments in quick succession and an increasingly chaotic political environment, Piłsudski grew increasingly critical of the administration and ultimately issued demands for the Witos cabinet's resignation. When the Chjeno-Piast coalition, which Piłsudski had heavily criticized, established a new government, Piłsudski returned to power during the May Coup on 12–14 May 1926, backed by the Polish Socialist Party, Liberation, the Peasant Party, and the Communist Party of Poland. Piłsudski had anticipated a peaceful coup, but the government refused to yield; 215 soldiers and 164 civilians were killed, and over 900 individuals were injured.

On 31 May 1926, the Sejm chose Piłsudski as president of the Republic, but he declined the position because of the presidency's restricted authority. One of his former friends, Ignacy Mościcki, was chosen to take his place. Mościcki subsequently named Piłsudski as Minister of Military Affairs (defense minister), a position he maintained throughout his life across eleven consecutive governments, two of which he led from 1926 to 1928 and briefly in 1930. He additionally held the position of General Inspector of the Armed Forces and was the Chairman of the War Council

Piłsudski did not intend to implement significant reforms; he soon separated himself from the most extreme of his leftist followers and proclaimed that his coup would be a "revolution without revolutionary outcomes".

His objectives included stabilizing the nation, diminishing the power of political parties (which he held responsible for corruption and ineffectiveness), and reinforcing the military. His involvement in the Polish government in the years that followed has been characterized as a dictatorship or a "quasi-dictatorship."

Józef Piłsudski's Effect on the Sejm

Józef Piłsudski had a deep influence over the Sejm (Polish parliament) during his ascent to authority after the May Coup in 1926 up until 1934. The Sejm had previously been seen as powerless and fraught with political fractionalization and corruption. Piłsudski himself was, prior to this commitment, an old advocate for strong, central administration. The

parliamentary system seemed, to him, to be useless and insecure in a youthful, newly revitalized Poland.

Declined Power of the Sejm

After the May Coup, Piłsudski's Sanacja movement (translated as "sanation" or "healing") took charge, greatly diminishing the power of the Sejm. Even though the Sejm officially stayed in existence, Piłsudski and his allies started to strengthen their influence in the executive branch, sidestepping parliamentary discussions and procedures. The government, led by Piłsudski's close associates, gradually took over decision-making, marginalizing opposition parties and constraining the Sejm's capacity to contest government activities.

The May Constitution (Preparation Starts in 1934) of 1935

The May Constitution was passed in 1935, but the stage had been laid many years prior for the transformations it would bring. In 1934, Piłsudski had already made major steps toward restructuring the political establishment. The state's growing domination of the Sejm, realized through election manipulation and discouragement of dissent, laid the foundation for the passing of the constitution. The new constitution transferred power from the Sejm to the presidency and increased the authority of the president, such as the right to dissolve the Sejm and have more influence over the legislative process.

Repression of Dissent

Piłsudski also attempted to repress political dissent in the Sejm. Through legal and illegal means, he weakened opposition parties so that those who were against his policies had minimal power. The leaders of the opposition were frequently intimidated, jailed, or exiled. Through this, by 1934, the Sejm was more or less subservient to Piłsudski's wishes, minimizing its ability to act as an independent legislative institution.

Sanacja's Effect on the Sejm

The Sanacja movement, which was set up in Poland following the May Coup of 1926, had a direct influence on politics, for example, proceedings of the Sejm, the lower chamber of the Polish legislature. Sanacja, or "sanation," or "healing," was initially characterized as a reform movement to cleanse the Polish state of corruption, inefficiency, and political

instability. However, its long-term impact on the Sejm and Polish democracy was more complex, in the way that the movement pushed Poland towards an authoritarian state and reduced parliamentary independence.

The Rise of Sanacja and the May Coup

It was in 1926 that Józef Piłsudski, a brilliant military leader and former president, organized the May Coup in an attempt to topple President Stanisław Wojciechowski's administration and Prime Minister Wincenty Witos's administration.

The coup was driven by Piłsudski's exasperation with the inefficiency of the Second Polish Republic's political system, namely its fragmentation and corruption intrinsic to the parliamentary system. Piłsudski, disliking the factional politics that characterized his time, believed that Poland could thrive only if the political environment were "purified" or "sanitized" of such influences.

Although Piłsudski's coup was relatively bloodless and endorsed mainly by sections of the military and citizenry, it initiated the Sanacja regime. Sanacja began as a movement for reform intended to steady the Polish state and restore national honor. It ultimately led, however, to the accumulation of power in the hands of Piłsudski and his allies and the breakdown of Poland's democratic institutions, including the Sejm. Loss of Parliamentary Sovereignty.

Prior to the May Coup, the Sejm had extensive powers, reflecting Poland's commitment to democracy. The Sanacja movement, nevertheless, promptly set out to curtail the powers of the Sejm and undermine its position in the government.

Loss of Parliamentary Control

The immediate impact of Sanacja on the Sejm was reducing its legislative powers.

Although the Sejm existed under Piłsudski's rule, the government used constitutional manipulation, political maneuvering, and violence to reduce the authority of the Sejm. A key element in the strategy involved the manipulation of parliamentary elections, in which Piłsudski's allies made sure that the government maintained a majority in the Sejm. This worked to marginalize opposition parties and limit their ability to set policy.

The Piłsudski regime rigged proportional representation systems, gerrymandered electoral constituencies and used the authority of the military to keep the opposition in check. This established a culture whereby the Sejm was dominated by Piłsudski loyalists or those willing to work with the regime, reducing the assembly to a rubber-stamp legislature rather than an independent organ of democratic governance.

The Decline of Opposition in the Sejm

One of the most profound impacts of the Sanacja movement on the Sejm was the continuous suppression of political opposition. The movement's authoritarianism led to exclusion and, in certain cases, the total elimination of oppositional voices from the Sejm.

Repression of Opposition Political Parties

Opposition was viewed as a danger to stability by the Sanacja government, and a variety of methods were used to break up or incorporate opposition parties. The Opposition Bloc, i.e., left and right opposition to Piłsudski, was being systematically removed from the Sejm through manipulation of the electoral result and the dissolution of non-conformist parties.

The government also practiced extensive censorship and intimidation of the political opposition, allowing minimal room for any oppositional voice to criticize the regime's policies.

Political organizations like the Peasant's Party and the Polish Socialist Party were either absorbed within the Sanacja regime or delegitimized through government action. The Piłsudski movement, for instance, united with the National Democrats on a regular basis, thereby co-opting them into the political establishment, which delegitimized the function of the Sejm as an arena for pluralistic political debates.

Political Detention and Exile

Sanacja's regime also used legalistic methods of silencing opposition leaders. The majority of the key opposition party leaders were either arrested or banished, especially after the 1930 trial of the Polish Socialist Party. The Brześć Trial had the majority of politicians incarcerated, apart from opposition leader Witold Jodko-Narkiewicz, who criticized Piłsudski's totalitarian behavior. Through these methods of political repression, the Sanacja movement made it very clear that no form of opposition or resistance to its rule would be

tolerated. The Sejm in the early 1930s was controlled to a large extent by Piłsudski and his allies, undermining further its function as a democratic institution. The Political Atmosphere of the Sanacja Regime Sanacja transformed Poland's political culture, its dispersal and exercise, in a highly dramatic manner. The Sejm, once a forum of active political discussion, became symbolic, where the emphasis was placed on legitimizing policy choices taken by Piłsudski and his inner circle, not on participation in the policy-making process. Sanacja encouraged the cult of the leader, in whose toughness and charm lay the very legitimacy of the regime. Although the Sejm still met and legislated, it was common knowledge that actual decision-making was taking place outside the Piłsudski government and its inner circles. The Sejm was an adjunct institution, in many of whose members apathy or unavowed fear disenfranchised them from open challenge to the regime.

8.2. Authoritarian Dominance of Military on the Sejm

Authoritarian Domination of the Military over the Sejm

The relationship between the army and The Sejm radically changed in the late 1920's, promoting the increased authoritarian domination of the army over the Sejm, particularly following the 1926 May Coup. The army increasingly dominated civilian political organizations, such as the Sejm, Council of Executives and the Government.

Following Poland's regaining independence in 1918 after over a century of partitions, the newly born Polish Republic had to battle the political instability, economic crisis, and the problems of nation-building. The country's territorial boundaries were established based on the Versailles Treaty. However, the parliamentary democratic political system was not stable. The Sejm, as the republican parliament designed, was dominated by various political parties, and most of them did not have governing experience, political incompetence and frequent government changes were the order of the day.

At the same time, the Polish military, which had been a central player in the struggle for independence, remained a powerful institution. Józef Piłsudski became the prominent figure in interwar politics following World War I. assuming the office of Chief of State (Naczelnik Państwa) in 1918, Piłsudski and the military's influence on politics only increased during the interwar years.

Following the coup, Piłsudski did not immediately ascend to power as president but assumed the de facto position of leading Poland by virtue of his control of the government. His success marked the beginning of the direct and indirect governance of the state by the military. Piłsudski established the Sanacja movement, a reformist and political faction that, claiming to be a cure for the political incompetence of the nation, relied more and more on authoritarian rule to maintain order. The military was now in the forefront of Polish political life, and the Sejm's role was reduced to secondary status to the rule of Piłsudski and his military allies.

The Sanacja Regime and the Fall of Parliamentary Power

Following the coup, Piłsudski and his allies worked hard to decrease the power of the Sejm and other democratic institutions and substituted them with ones that were more pleading to the military and to Piłsudski himself. The Sanacja movement tried to stabilize the country, but did so increasingly by authoritarian methods.

The government, under the leadership of Piłsudski, introduced a series of legislative reforms aimed at concentrating power. The Sejm, although retaining constitutional legislative powers, had its authority increasingly limited. Piłsudski and his supporters controlled most of the machinery of the state, and important decisions were often made without including or even consulting the parliamentary body. The elections to the Sejm in 1928 were marked by mass manipulation, and parties aligned with Piłsudski and the Sanacja movement were guaranteed a preeminent position.

By 1934, Piłsudski's hold on Polish politics was indomitable, and the influence of the military in the government was undeniable. The Sejm, technically still functional, had minimal ability to act against the policies of the Sanacja regime.

During the 1930s, authoritarian-type rule began to attract increased notice, as military pressure governed every level of government. Piłsudski, through preserving his networks in the military, solidified his control by extending civilian institutions and establishing an environment of political influence that dampened opposition.

9. The Sejm in the International Field

9.1. Poland's Foreign Relations Towards the Soviets, Germans, British and French

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Once the Poles had gotten their independence from the Bolsheviks, the Russians were still a risk for the stability of the nation with their aggressive nature. The Polish state feared an exportation of the revolution to Polish lands hence had stayed away from the Russians.

A conflict broke out between the Soviets and Poland as the USSR had hoped a widespread revolution in Poland would spark a Socialist uprising in Europe.

Soviet forces successfully advanced up to Warsaw, however were defeated at Warsaw commonly known as the “Miracle on the Vistula” which turned the tide of the war and resulted in the USSR losing the war.

With the signing of the Treaty of Riga in 1921, Poland had gained both land and halted the Soviet campaign temporarily.

Piłsudski followed the “Prometheism Policy” which was to support independence movements in USSR areas such as Ukraine and Belarus to weaken the USSR, however during this both with Germany and the USSR non-aggression pacts were signed in 1934.

The German Reich

When Poland had its independence in 1918 under the leadership of Marshal Józef Piłsudski the Polish state still faced territorial confusions and disputes with the Germans.

With the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the League of Nations gave Poland Upper Silesia and East Prussia due to its significant Polish populations.



Border disputes occurred between the German and Polish, especially in Upper Silesia due to the Polish and German mixed communities living together which resulted in the Upper Silesia Uprising in 1921, in 1922 most of Upper Silesia was granted to the Second Polish Republic.

After the May Coup d'état with Józef Piłsudski taking charge, Piłsudski aimed to improve relations with the Germans as they did not dare to face an open confrontation. A non-aggression pact between the Germans and the Poles was established in 1932 as Piłsudski was aiming to focus on defence against the Soviets and befriending the Germans.

However, with the appointment of Adolf Hitler as the Chancellor in 1933 and the rise of the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) Poland had understood that the non-aggression was fragile and would not last.

British

In the formation of the Second Polish Republic although the British had supported Polish independence they were still cautious as the new Polish state could destabilize the region.

A Diplomatic Agreement was reached between the British and Polish in 1919, even though it wasn't official the United Kingdom stretched its recognition to the newly formed Polish Republic and extended their help on economy and military.

The United Kingdom had given diplomatic support to the Second Polish Republic during the Polish-Soviet war and after the war had actively supported Poland as it was a stabilizer in the region against the Soviets as the British feared the spread of Bolshevism

With the rise of Adolf Hitler, the British sought a more open approach to supporting Poland, openly assisting them diplomatically to keep the stability in Europe.

French

France was one of Poland's best allies in the early stages of their independence, the

French had supported Poland openly and proudly both economically and in military matters helping them grow to being a strong state to ensure the stability in the region.

During the Polish-Soviet war, the French had helped the Polish army, providing them equipment and military training, further on being a key on the Battle of Warsaw's success.

The Franco-Polish Alliance Treaty was signed in 1921, which stated that France was to help Poland in case of an invasion from the Soviets and the Germans in their full capacity further improving the relationship between the two nations.

However, during the 1930's both due to the authoritarian regime change and Poland seeking a more independent foreign policy the alliance began to fade.

9.2. Poland's Military Power and Policies on How to Deal with Foreign Threats

Poland's Military Power in 1930's

Army

From 1920's to 1930's Polish army had been adapting new ways of modernization such as a 6 year-plan of expansion, implementation of new strategies, tactics and equipment. New ways to organize were adapted alongside.

Poland was heavily affected from World War I which led to a more defensive approach regarding army structure. Borders were prioritized and structured around safety against Germany, Austria-Hungarians and Soviets. Utilized weaponry was a blend of equipment owned prior to World War I and modernized and improved utilities. Poland had around 400.000-700.000 active armed forces ready to defend which made them one of the more advanced armies of Europe..

Major Units

Poland disposed of some 30 infantry divisions in 1934, each numbering 10.000-15.000 men.

There were several quick maneuvered and elite cavalry divisions in the army, their number was around 4 cavalry brigades with each brigade consisting of 3.000-7.000 men.

There were also countless fortifications along the German western frontier, particularly in the Polish corridor which had been fortified since the end of WW1.

Equipment

Rifles: The Karabinek wz. 98a was the standard rifle used, a Polish variant of the German Mauser 98.

The Polish army also used MG08 Machine Guns made in Germany and domestic designs such as the "Ur" machine gun. Tanks: Poland had just a handful of FT-17 light tanks, which were employed mainly for reconnaissance. Poland was manufacturing its own light tank, the 7TP, in 1934, which would see action in the late 1930s. Artillery: The Polish armed forces had a number of field guns and howitzers, including the 75mm wz.

Navy

The army consisted of main weapons: infantry, cavalry. Even though it wasn't tremendous, the Polish Navy had been up and had been in development through and after World War 1. The Navy was equipped with smaller ships such as minesweepers and destroyers with the exception of a few bigger ships.

The army registered around 20,038 officers and military officials, 1,583 ensigns, 248,835 soldiers and 67,390 horses.

The primary base of the Polish Navy was the city of Gdynia, the greatest port of Poland on the Baltic.

The fleet continued to keep its presence in various regions of the Baltic Sea, especially keeping an eye on the naval movement of Germany and the Soviet Union.

Air Forces

Although it wasn't massive, Poland had air forces which were considered advanced, equipped by fighters and bombers. In 1934 the Polish Air Force consisted of 3.000-4.000 personnel.



The Polish Air Force PZL P.11 Biplanes which were considered modern for their age and were able to do as much as its German and Soviet counterparts.

They also had PZL.23 Karaś Light Bombers and PZL.37 Łoś Heavy Bombers.

Policies

Nazi Germany

In 1934 a non aggression pact was signed with Nazi Germany to temporarily ease worries about a possible invasion to help with focusing on east borders. Intending to lessen the possibly great and effective threat caused by Adolph Hitler's strategies. Leading to some amount of stability and sense of safety.

However, the pact was not effective and ended up with more tensions caused by Hitler's expansionist movements.

Soviets

Considered as a regular safety concern under Stalin. Relations with Soviets were not looking as clear because of the ongoing tensions taken as a major threat. There were no clear pacts made creating a more prepared Polish army on the eastern borders. Creating a stable situation throughout the entire duration without any alliance to reach peace.

Regardless of the stated strength of the Army there were restrictions due to economical and industry power as they couldn't reach opposition forces' military based productions. Leading to lessened mobility and scale regarding mostly offense.

France

After the death of Piłsudski, France created more alliances with European countries. Considered as an important ally to Poland through a safety pact.

The French were treated as a safety net toward German invasion hoping for counter assistance in order to defend from a German attack. Although France's alliance was considered crucial, France wasn't actively seized for prevention as Nazis' impact strengthening the alliance was seen as more important.



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