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**POJEDNANIE**  
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**AUSSÖHNUNG**

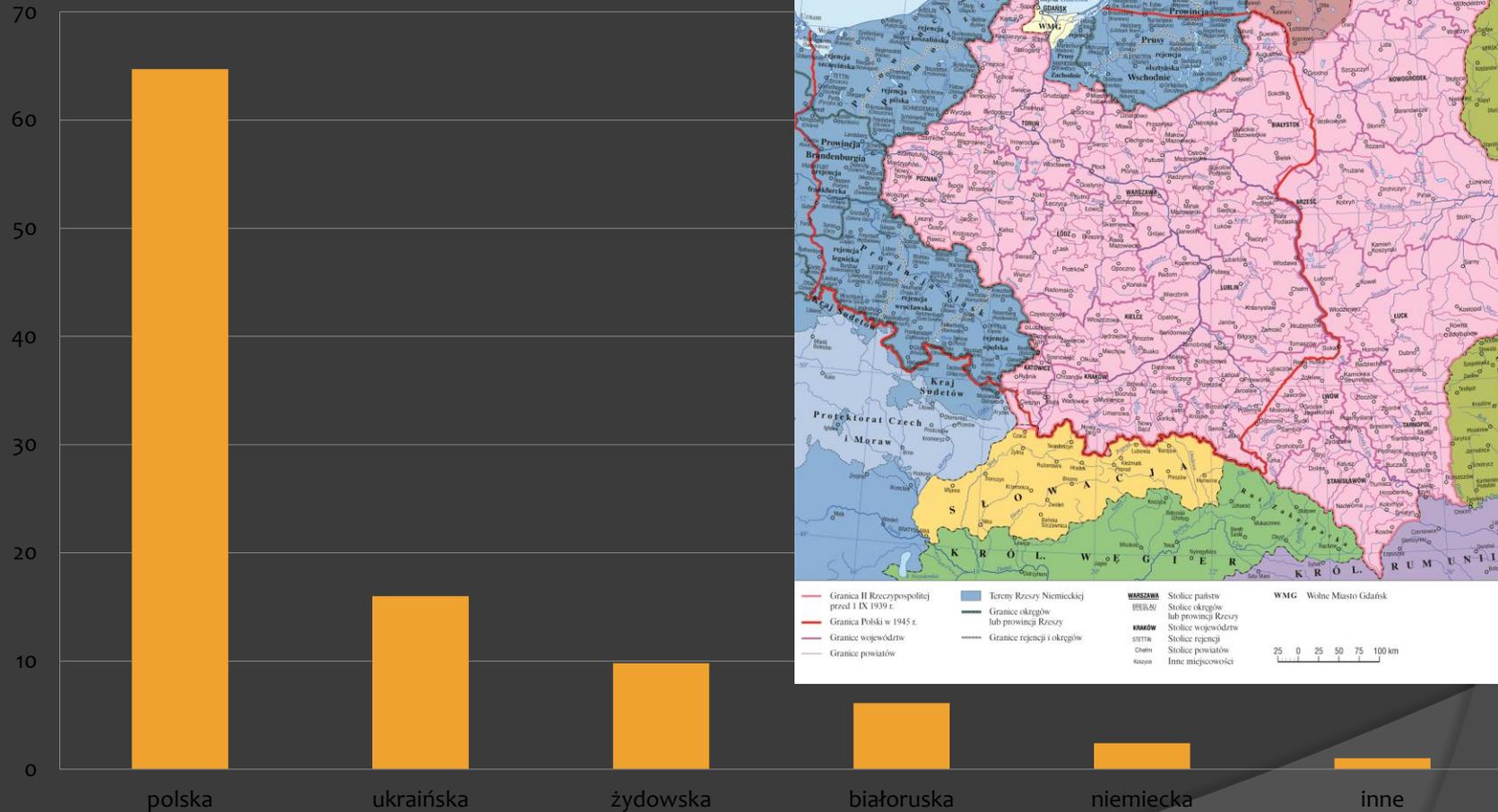
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Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation

Conference  
Political and Societal Leadership in Encouraging  
Reconciliation  
October 22, 2013, Berlin

**What are the characteristics of societal leaders  
who have played a key role in reconciliation?**



# Territory and ethnic structure of Polish population



Source: Statistical Yearbook, GUS

According to the census of December 9, 1931 the Polish population was 32 107 000  
 21 million Poles, 10 million - ethnic minorities

# Human losses of World War II

## The special case of Poland

- ❑ After repeating for almost half a century the number of **6 million polish citizens** murdered during World War II, became a historical truth, although the demographic data shows that the losses were almost twice as big. The political basis for this forgery is the report of the Office of War Compensations from 1947, whose statements are not difficult to question, but nevertheless polish historians are not eager to rectify them
- ❑ Comparing all the countries that fought against the Third Reich and counting human losses per 1000 citizens, Poland had the highest rate of human losses, because 220 people, next to USSR – 124 people and Yugoslavia – 108 people, for comparison the losses of for example the Netherlands – 22 people, France – 13 people, Belgium – 12 people, United Kingdom – 8 people , Norway – 3 people, United States – 1,4 people, Denmark – 0,3 people

# Tragedy of the World War II in Poland

- Demographic catastrophe and real civilization collapse.
- Shortage of Poland territory in 20 %.
- Population diminished in 11mln or in 1/3 that it was before the war
- Material losses were enormous – the biggest in Europe – Poland lost 38% of its national wealth. For example, France lost 1,5% of the national wealth, Great Britain – 0,8%
- In comparison with 1938 agricultural manufacture dropped to 40% in 1946, which is less than a half that was produced before the war.
- Industrialist production, despite of the fact that Poland obtained Silesia, was in 30% less than in 1938.
- It is worth mentioning the migration process that was effecting the millions of people.
- Nearly 8 million people were dislocated, deported, and resettled voluntarily or forced to .
- Poland has been retrieved from this catastrophe only several decades later.
- Population in Warsaw has reached the same amount as before the War only in 1970.
- In January 1945 the left-bank part of Warsaw was counting 11 thousands of people, while right-bank part Praga - 140 thousands.
- The population of Poland reached its pre-War amount only in the mid 80's.



# Catholic Church in Poland and its important leaders



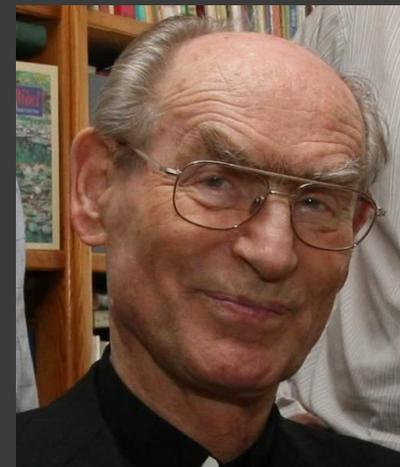
**Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński**  
(1901 – 1981) Primate of  
Poland (called the Primate of  
the Millennium)



**Bolesław Kominek**  
(archbishop of  
Wrocław)



**Karol Wojtyła** (archbishop of  
Krakow, Pope John Paul II)



**Alfons Nossol** (bishop emeritus  
of the diocese of Opole)

The courage, faith and love

*People are divided into our brothers and those who do not know that they are our brothers.*

*Stefan Wyszyński*

# The political opponents in the communist People's Republic of Poland - politicians in the free Poland



**Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski**

**Persistence and consistency in action**

1997 speech in the German Bundestag  
*Not me, you have changed.*



# Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland and Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany during the visit in Gdańsk, 2008



# Specialized institutions and organizations

## Foundation for Polish-German reconciliation



### Open-mindedness and honesty

These are the three basic principles of the foundation activity:

- Help for the victims of Nazi persecution,
- Education, information and research
- Initiation of projects aimed at reconciliation and understanding between peoples, especially between Poles and Germans.

nasi **bliscy** nasze **dzieje** nasz  
i **bliscy** nasze **dzieje** nasza **hi**  
nasza **historia** nasi **bliscy** na

[www.straty.pl](http://www.straty.pl)

Straty osobowe i ofiary represji pod okupacją niemiecką





Polish-German inter-governmental consultations held in Warsaw in 2011 on the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation signed on June 17 1991 between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany.



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*„Polska i Niemcy powinny być jednym państwem, Poland and Germany should unite”*

*Lech Wałęsa*