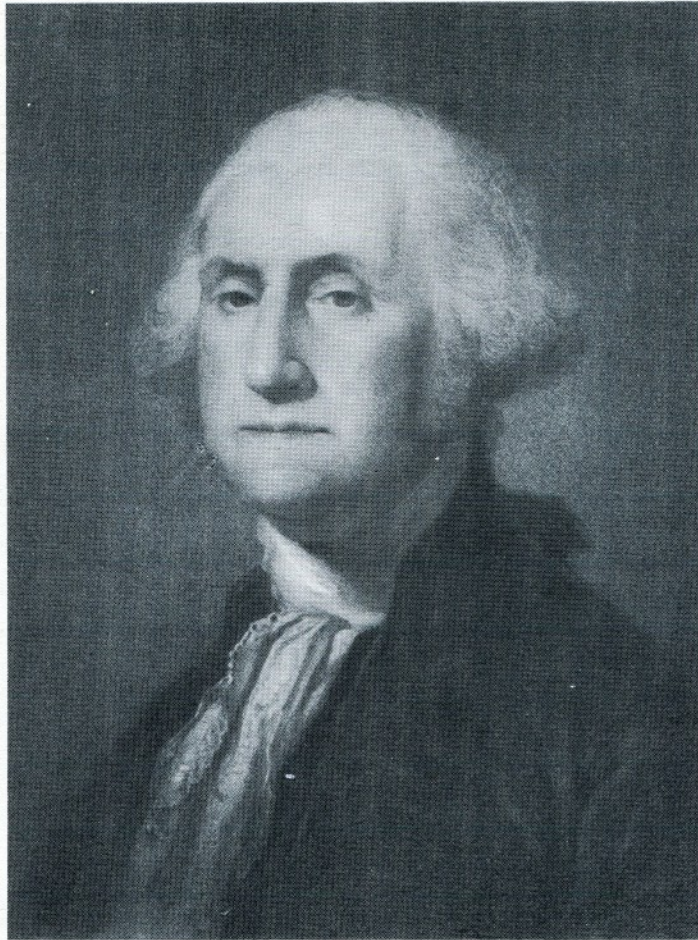


JOZEF
PILSUDSKI
INSTITUTE
OF
AMERICA

Honorary Members

ALEKSANDRA PIŁSUDSKA

KAZIMIERZ SOSNKOWSKI



GEORGE WASHINGTON

FATHER OF THE NATION

(1732—1799)



JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI

LIBERATOR OF POLAND

(1867—1935)



ALEKSANDRA PILSUDSKA

Aleksandra Pilsudska was born in 1882 of a highly respected farming family of modest means. She studied at the Warsaw School of Commerce, teaching and working in an office to pay her expenses. As a 20 year old girl, she was already working for the revolutionary movement of liberation from tsarist oppression. She became chief of the distribution of arms and explosives, hourly risking arrest. She was apprehended by Russian police in 1909 and placed in the Warsaw political prison. Upon leaving that prison, she disguised herself and fled to Kief, here she first met her future husband, Jozef Pilsudski. In 1908, she participated in an attempt on a Russian train carrying funds for the forces of oppression in Poland. She then fled to Lwow in Austrian occupied Poland and took an active part in the Polish liberation forces being organized there. She translated French, German and Russian works, dealing with the war tactics, which were later used by the Polish Legions. At the same time, she was preparing for intelligence work. Beginning with August 1914, she was actively engaged in intelligence work at great personal risk, traveling repeatedly from one side of the front to the other. She was arrested by the Germans in 1915 and was interned in the Szczypiorna concentration camp. After release, she worked in a Warsaw factory organizing the Women's League. She suffered great privation with her first small daughter at that time, her husband, Jozef Pilsudski, being then a political prisoner held by the Germans at Magdeburg. From the time of Pilsudski's triumphant return to a free Poland, she was the inseparable secretary, confidante and collaborator of the great Marshall. For better or for worse, she stood by his side till the very end as the first lady in her own land, as well as in exile. She was nameless in the struggle for Polish liberty, and she remained nameless all her life, although fate has placed her in a most exalted position. Faithful to her past, she fights on. Unable to help her country at home, she now appeals to you from exile . . .

I APPEAL . . .

The contemporary span of the history of Poland is the most tragic which it has ever befallen a nation to traverse. Mired in the secular imperialism of her neighbors using instruments of revolution and scientific extermination and terror, Poland was sold into slavery on the morrow of one score years of free constructive effort.

Because of being a target for the covetous eye of her power-mad neighbors, she was reviled abroad for decades, to prepare a fertile ground for the day when the plans carefully laid down by Kremlin, abetted by Hitler, would become the ghastly reality of today's unspeakable rape of a nation.

In the dark of the night of my country, where even whispers are choked in tears and free thought strangled by abject debasement of the dignity of man, my thoughts go back to one who made an offering of his whole life for that liberty of which we are now bereft. Marshal Pilsudski foresaw the dawning threat of collusion between the two revolutions propelling bolshevik-nazi imperialism at the expendable happiness of the Polish people. The nightmare of the Communist flood over the fair lands of our beloved country, depraving the minds of our children, enslaving education in a bog of falsehoods and falsifying historical facts, was ever present in his prophetic vision, engendered by an overwhelming love for the people to whom he gave his all.

In the abject travail of our days, when the whole nation wreathes in the unexpressible tragedy of the extermination of body and soul, once more sly voices are heard that perhaps Poland has merited her fate. The same untruths are unearthed to sling mud at the dying people. The same dark sources frantically drive the last nail into the coffin of a brave and friendly nation whose sole desire is to live in spiritual union with the free mankind of Western persuasion.

This is the eleventh hour for a dispassioned appraisal of contemporary history before the living eye-witness testimony is silenced forever. Is it not the sacred duty of those who enjoy the liberties denied to our nation, to rise in common testimony against the falsehoods heaped upon the muted people of Poland? The gathering of documents, eye-witness depositions, publication of materials, long wilfully concealed in secret archives and libraries; these are the first steps in ascending, hand in hand, the road of Golgotha of the Polish people. Then will come the scientific analysis of the material by the historic method which allows no emotion to becloud irrefutable truths. This must then be publicized to reach every library, every lawgiver, every college, every commentator, every source of public information, in fact, all those who preside at the formation of true public opinion. Let there be the light of facts to dispel the shadows created by false witnesses who sold their testimony of lies for pieces of silver.

The task of the Pilsudski Institute of America is one of scientific research by erudite historical method and by establishing irrefutable testimony for the true facts of contemporary Polish history and making the results of this research available to American institutions of learning. It is the exalted duty and the sacred privilege of those of you who are given the opportunity to participate in this work to restore and vouchsafe the good name of the nation which gave birth to your ancestors; to dispel the calumny which lurks in the shadows of hearsay; to re-establish the facts besmirched by propaganda of the evil forces of mankind and once more to proclaim to the free world the magnificent, enduring and patient loyalty of the Polish people to that which Western Civilization cherishes. I appeal to you mindful of the first Marshal of a free Poland, moved by the burning love which he felt for the humblest of our own people, our history and for our fairest land.

Aleksandra Pilsudska

THE ELEVENTH HOUR

The geographical situation of Poland has made her vulnerable to attack from the East and the West by her powerful and aggressive neighbors who, often in history, availed themselves of opportunities to attack the open and friendly frontiers of Poland. In order to undermine any assistance to Poland from her Western Allies, the aggressors have always used methods of defamation, applying large funds for adverse propogandà against Poland, thus trying to kill sympathy for their intended victim. By dint of constant repetition, many distortions became embedded in the public mind. Poland has long had the thankless task of repeatedly clearing herself of an unending flow of calumny.

Absorption of Poland Prepared

In particular, Russia has been intent on spreading all kinds of false information and using her army of agents throughout the world to distort facts about Poland. Now preparing the absorption of Poland into her political system, she is making a supreme effort to alienate sympathy for the Polish martyrdom. Since withdrawal of recognition from the Polish legal Government in Exile, there is no longer in this country a free official Polish agency to take issue with these fabrications and counter with documents and facts the continuous campaign of slander. This duty devolves on American friends of Polish freedom and on those amongst us whose ancestry is Polish and who desire to vouchsafe her blameless reputation, because it is so closely knitted with their own past.

In order to counteract this malicious dissemination of propaganda, the purpose of which was the liquidation of Polish independence, an organization was formed in Poland prior to the 2nd World War to combat this activity by bringing to light true historical facts and by substantial research upon the realities of contemporary Polish history. The name of the organization was that of the founder of independent Poland, Marshal Jozef Pilsudski. The organization was called "Jozef Pilsudski Institute." During the destruction of Warsaw the archives of the Institute were demolished. On the morrow of the war and after occupation of Poland by Russia, the propaganda of lies was stepped up with the obvious intent to render permanent Polish enslavement.

Communist influence everywhere tried to estrange sympathies for the Polish people, as well as to destroy any confidence in Polish statesmanship by a hailstorm of lies and distortions. Thus it is that no common sarcophagus was built to render public testimony to the Polish soldiers who fell on 28 battlefields of our cause. Their ashes were scattered by the winds of all the continents, as those of so many unknown warriors for our freedom, which we have denied to them.

Defenders Against Calumny

A group of Americans of Polish descent undertook to counteract this vicious slander by the formation of a counterpart of the erstwhile institution in Warsaw and founded the Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America for research in the modern history of Poland. The Institute was inaugurated in 1943. During the seven years of its existence, its archives have acquired about 16,500 documents and 25,000 more were promised from various sources. It also located and secured about 18,000 other documents outside the Institute. These items are composed of state documents immediately preceding World War II, originals and photostatic copies of documents during the war and after it, army documents, including those dealing with the Underground Army in Poland and the Warsaw Rising, personal depositions, secret documentary memoirs and, finally, letters from private individuals, both from present Poland and from Poles abroad giving eyewitness testimony to facts and historical happenings.

The Institute analyzed certain groups of these documents in a number of monographs dealing with questions of particular interest. Further, the Institute possesses a large collection of several hundred thousand clippings from all Polish publications during and after the war, which is unique and has no counterpart in any existing library, constituting a valuable source of detailed information.

Another significant work of the Institute was the preparing of a card index of books, or excerpts from books, dealing with the history of Poland, which are to be found in various libraries and archives in this

country. The number of cards so indexed is more than 15,000. This also is the only complete source of information existing in the United States for the study of the various aspects of Polish history. The Department of Maps, Films and Photographs of the Institute has more than 2,000 items.

The Institute published several historical works, the most important of which was the first of the three volumes of discussions in the British Parliament concerning Polish matters between 1939 and 1945, supplying a significant body of historical data. Prominent historians cooperate with the Institute in bringing to light facts hitherto unknown or wilfully concealed. Lectures are given before learned historical societies and before university audiences. Contact with faculties of all the important colleges throughout the United States and abroad is maintained.

Problems of Survival

An important project is being set afoot aiming at the appraisal of various essential aspects of Soviet influence on occupied nations. Research will analyze several topics of vital interest not only to Poland but also to all the other captive nations of Europe, and will permit the Institute to collaborate effectively with the Henry Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as the History and Sociology departments of the universities of Michigan, Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, Northwestern and Stanford. The following studies are being organized:

- (1) Economic transformations in Poland and the other occupied nations. The trend of changes and their probable end results in the permanent economic structure of Eastern Europe.
- (2) The inner mechanism of the Communist Bureaucracy and the formation of the "Bolshevik Superman." The communist caste system and its influence on the social composition of the after-bolshevik society. What kind of people shall we face in the captive nations rid of the bolshevik scourge.
- (3) Professions under the bolshevik system. What has happened to applied learning in its various branches under Soviet Occupation.
- (4) Russian methods of penetration and disruption of religious life of the adult. The various stages of the system as witnessed in Poland.
- (5) How does the farmer live in Russian captivity. Effects of life in the small and the gigantic Kolhoz upon the mentality and habits of the peasant-farmer. His productivity and the process of industrialization in relation to agriculture.

- (6) Science, learning and propaganda. What is the net result upon the scientist of the state-guided learning bent to serve propaganda goals of a system imposed from abroad.
- (7) What is happening to the school children under the Russian occupation of Poland. How does communist infiltration affect college life. The family and communist influence on children and youth.
- (8) Labor unions, social insurance and health insurance under communist rule. The practice of slogans and the reality. The pay systems used and their value in terms of living standards. Forced labor and its influence on the labor market.

Here are several subjects of vital interest to us when it is considered that Soviet bolshevism has already brought up one generation of people who have never seen freedom and whose outlook upon every topic is warped by calculated misrepresentation. The same is now applied to 110,000,000 people in Europe and 500,000,000 in Asia. This has become the paramount world problem and the Institute, possessed of documentary evidence, can play an outstanding role in bringing a scientific digest and analysis of such evidence to the notice of American learned societies, colleges and those who mould public opinion. Our own survival as a free people is at stake, and the fate that overtook Poland is an object lesson, the tragedy of which far surpasses anything history has seen in the past. The tragedy of a friendly nation may reawaken our own appreciation of the terrible danger to this country, and permit at the same time justly to assess the true facts concerning the realities of life in occupied Poland.

The Enslaved Cannot Attest

Never before has historical research had the importance for any nation such as it has for Poland today. We are witnessing a gradual absorption of Poland by bolshevik Russia. Day after day, more middle class people, those with college educations, professional classes, clergy, university professors; generally speaking, all the people who formed the elements capable of resisting communist penetration, are first reduced to destitution and then gradually deported to Russian forced labor camps where they die of exhaustion after a short time. This activity progresses on a scale unknown to western history. It is not unusual for the Russian authorities in Poland to deport, during the night, several thousand people from one town alone. During times of political tension, thousands of people disappear from Poland every month, gradually to be exterminated in the labor camps of the frozen north, and are never heard of again except in the prayers of their families, wives and children left behind in destitution.

And yet during these days, subversive sources proclaim to the world every kind of untruth about the Polish people and suggest that the terrible fate of Poland is well earned.

People of Poland cannot rise against this slander. All they can hope for is that those of their own ancestry who enjoy the freedom of democracy will speak up in a loud voice in their behalf and correct malicious propaganda and hearsay rumors by presenting documentary evidence for the testimony which they give.

Victims Implore Your Help

A whole united nation, subjected to the unbelievable atrocity of bolshevik barbarians, prays and hopes that the truth under God will see the light. Poland begs for your help and knows that none will be forthcoming unless the truth about Poland becomes the by-word of public opinion.

The Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America is a research institution. It is not a propaganda mill, not an agency to cover activities of a foreign power. It is an American organization working honestly and assiduously to bring to light and make known to other American institutions of learning, and to those who business it is to make decisions shaping American policy, the true facts of Polish contemporary history. For this reason, the Institute brings untold advantages to our own country, because it permits us to weigh facts in their true light and to build our own strength based on secure knowledge of things as they are, and not upon the mirage presented to us by agents of subversion, undermining our clear vision and our will to resist by willful distortion of reality.

The Josef Pilsudski Institute of America appeals to everyone who wants to help us in fighting communist aggression within our own borders and abroad, to help the Institute in its work. Especially it appeals to those of Polish ancestry to help us stop the slander heaped upon the land of their forefathers, because there is no one else to stem this abuse.

After-Bolshevik Europe Takes Shape

Assistance is urgently required at this time, because the whole set of ideas about after-bolshevik Poland begins to take shape. Decisions will be made on what to do after Russian bolshevism is no more. The role of Poland in a new European community of nations is shaped by information embedded in adverse propaganda by subversive sources. If the Institute does not have enough funds to present the Polish case clearly and in a documented form, the whole thinking on the role of Poland and the Eastern European nations will be wraped beyond repair, leading to more injustice to an already martyred nation. Now is the eleventh hour to make your contribution so that truth about Poland may still prevail.

The Eleventh Hour Has Struck . . .

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