

SPIS TREŚCI

List of Maps	9
List of Illustrations.....	11
Preface	15
Chapter ONE. The First Commonwealth until 1795	19
The Polish Territory before the Emergence of the State	19
The Origins of the Polish State.	21
Struggles for a Place in Central Europe.....	26
Poland during the Period of Political Disintegration	29
Social and Cultural Transformations before the Unification	
of the State	32
A Reunited Kingdom.....	38
The Angevins and First Jagiellons.....	41
The Last Jagiellons	47
The First Elected Kings	53
The Century of Wars	55
Social and Political Transformations of the Polish Society	
in the 16 th and 17 th Centuries.....	58
Culture and Intellectual Life of the Baroque (17 th C. – 1 st half	
of the 18 th C.)	62
The Saxon Period (1697–1763).....	64
Towards the Fall of the First Commonwealth.	
The First Partition (1772)	68
The Enlightenment in Poland in the Second Half	
of the 18 th Century.....	71
The Fall of the First Commonwealth.....	74
Chapter TWO. Poland under Partitions 1795–1918	81
The Polish Independence Movement after the Third Partition.	
The Duchy of Warsaw 1807–1815.....	81
Poland under Partitions in the Period between the Congress	
of Vienna and the November Uprising 1815–1830.....	85

Cultural, Social and Economic Transformations of the Polish Society during the Romanticism	88
Political Life in Exile and in the Partitioning Zones until the January Uprising 1831–1862	93
The Political Situation in the Polish Territories in the Second Half of the 19 th Century. The January Uprising and its Consequences..	98
Towards Modern Times. Social, Economic, and Cultural Transformations of the Polish Lands at the Turn of the 19 th Century	102
On the Threshold of Independence. Polish Society before the Outbreak of World War One.	110
Polish Society during World War One 1914–1918. The Regaining of Independence	112
Chapter THREE. Twenty Years of Independent Poland and its Tragic Fate under the German and Soviet Occupations (1918–1945)	117
Early Stages in the Formation of the Polish State and Struggle for its Frontiers (1918–1921)	117
Challenges of Interwar Poland: Transformations of its Social, Political and Economic Systems between 1921 and 1935	122
The Political and Economic Position of Poland in the International Context of the 1930s.	127
Main Features of the Development of Polish Culture in the Interwar Period	130
Persecutions of the Polish Society under the German and Soviet Occupations	132
Polish Resistance Movement under the Occupation and Polish Armed Forces Abroad until the International Conference in Yalta (December 1943)	140
Towards Communist Poland. The Polish Nation in the Final Years of WWII (1943–1945)	143
Chapter FOUR. Communist Poland (1945–1989).....	151
The Beginnings of Communist Dictatorship in Poland (1945–1948).....	151
The Stalinist Era in Poland (1948–1956)	156

The Collapse of Stalinism. The Development of Communism in Poland under the Rule of Gomułka (1956–1968)	163
From March 1968 to 1980. The Gierek Era.....	169
The Origins of the Solidarity Movement. The Collapse of Communism in Poland (1980–1989)	178
Chapter FIVE. Independent Poland. On the Road to Modernity (1989–2011).....	191
On the Threshold of the Third Republic.....	191
Post-communists in Power	206
The Fourth Republic?	214
Poland under the Rule of the Centre-Right Coalition of the PO and PSL (2007–2011).....	220
Maps	229
Appendices	243
Index of persons	257