

# Lecture I

## Poland: Life and Death in the “Devil’s Playground”

- I. The Polish Backstory**
  - A. Previous Occupations
  - B. “Independent” Poland under Russian Domination, 1815-1918
  - C. The Polish Republic, 1919-1939
    - 1. Internal Divisions
    - 2. Authoritarian Populism under Pilsudski, 1926-1935
- II. Invasion and Conquest in 1939: Poland Redivided**
  - A. Hitler Takes the West
    - 1. German Goals in Poland: Mass Murder, Starvation, Slavery
    - 2. Blitzkrieg as Harbinger of Occupation Brutality
  - B. Soviet Attack in the East
    - 1. Responses of the Polish Populace
  - C. The Polish Government’s Flight into Exile
- III. Life on the German-Occupied Polish Homefront, 1939-1941**
  - A. Realities of the “Generalgouvernement” under Hans Frank
  - B. West-Central Poland as Heinrich Himmler’s Playground
  - C. Socio-Economic and Cultural Conditions
    - 1. Voluntary and Forced Labor
    - 2. Education
    - 3. Mass Entertainment
  - D. Collaboration and Resistance
    - 1. Little Polish “Collaboration” – Except as Slaves
    - 2. Resistance the Best Available Option
    - 3. Poland’s Underground Resistance State
    - 4. Warsaw as Resistance Inspiration and Model
    - 5. Birth of the Polish Home Army
    - 6. Modes of Opposition: Mockery, the Underground Press
    - 7. Cultural Resistance: Education, Literature, Theater, Graphic Arts
    - 8. Polish Football: “Kick ‘em in the Kulki”

**IV. USSR-Occupied Eastern Poland, Fall 1939-Spring 1941**

- A. Moscow's Democratic Show
- B. Class-Cleansing in Poland's East
- C. Caught in the Crossfire: Jews in Soviet-Occupied Poland
- D. Mass Deportations to the Gulag
- E. The Katyn Massacre, Spring 1940
- F. The Two Devils' Embrace: Nazi-Soviet Collaboration in Poland

**V. Post-Barbarossa Poland: Summer 1941-Spring 1945**

- A. The Meaning of Hitler's Russia Invasion for Poland
- B. More Mass Deportations and Himmler's "Lebensborn" Program
- C. Terror against Terror: The Resistance Turns Violent
- D. The Case of Warsaw
- E. German Reprisals
- F. The Homemade Holocaust: Jewabne
- G. The Warsaw Ghetto and Uprising
- H. Allied Bombing: "Bomb Them into Freedom"
- I. The Warsaw Uprising, August-September 1944
- J. "Liberation" of Poland by the Red Army

**VI. Legacies**

- A. Scale and Scope of Wartime Losses
- B. Poles and Germans: Russians and Poles
- C. The National Memory Bank: Selective Withdrawals