

Research & Writing Ch. 20

Poland's nationalist development is one born out of a period of constant turmoil of treaties, war, and a kindling of hope that would continue to grow and burn—fueled by an undying political existence and the cultural influence of the Positivist movement. Unfortunately, this experience began because Poland, then known as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, could not maintain a centralized political system. Which resulted in the commonwealth's land being redistributed during a series of treaties known as the Partitions of Poland. After Russia, Prussia, and Austria were finished, "Poland no longer existed on the map." (Kinney p. 1)

Upon the dissolution of Poland, continued European turmoil resulted in the 'Congress of Vienna' which was the final "conclusion to the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars;" (Encyclopedia.com - Vienna, Congress of), which re-drew the lines of the Polish borders, except their autonomy and independence during the 'November Uprising,' many of Poland's patriots and activists fled, during the Great Emigration, most of whom settled in France. Out of which came the idea of Positivism, an ideology developed by Auguste Comte, the French Philosopher and so-called 'Father of Sociology.'

"Adapted by Polish intellectuals, writers, poets, and politicians." (Kinney p. 1) Positivism, according to the American game theorist and mathematical psychologist Anatol Rapoport, "seeks to describe only the obvious - what one can really be positive." (youtube.com) Among the artists who contributed to the movement, Boleslaw Prus (Aleksander Glowacki), a Polish writer and journalist, wrote concerning the issues in Poland's national identity. In his story *The Doll*, he paints an image of Warsaw's class structure socially.

According to Nolan Kinney, Positivism argued for more "uniformity and order," and instead of doing so from a religious point of view, instead utilized the scientific. Economically, this movement also

Charles Covington
HIS114: World Civilization II: OA
03/02/2023

supported industrialism, and socially the program focus was to “uplift society across class and ethnic rifts.” (Kinney p. 4)

Works Cited

“.” Encyclopedia of Modern Europe: Europe 1789-1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of Industry and Empire. . Encyclopedia.com. 22 Feb. 2023 .” *Encyclopedia.com*, Encyclopedia.com, 3 Mar. 2023, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/polish-national-movement>.

“.” Encyclopedia of Russian History. . Encyclopedia.com. 23 Feb. 2023 .” *Encyclopedia.com*, Encyclopedia.com, 3 Mar. 2023, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/treaties-and-alliances/congress-vienna>.

“Bolesław Prus.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Boleslaw-Prus>.

Kinney, Nolan. *The Positive Reawakening of Polish Nationalism - Western Oregon University*. <https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1212&context=his>.

“What Is Positivism? (See Link below for ‘What Is Logical Positivism?’).” *YouTube*, YouTube, 7 June 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yCpTe9e-MI>.