
Sławomir Ozdyk

University of Szczecin

POLAND IN THE ENTRIES OF GERMAN METAPEDIA

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ABSTRACT: German Neo-Nazi groups have not stopped their Anti-Polish activity yet. They still, in the first place, come with revisionist objectives, not matter how Cold-War-or Polish-People's-Republic-propaganda-like it can sound. The activity of the structures would not be possible without ideological backup. And so the Neo-Nazi 'white collars' determine the directions of the actions. One of such projects is Metapedia, a Neo-Nazi Wikipedia in which one can find many, shocking for us, information on Poland and the Poles. We cannot ignore it since, despite historic events, the 21st century Neo-Nazism has also many supports in our country.

Metapedia' is an extreme right-wing¹ encyclopaedia online, created as a wiki – project in 16 different language sections. The first, Swedish language version was made available on the Internet on October 26, 2006, while the German-language version appeared in May 2007 and at first it covered a few hundred entries. Definitely the greatest pool of entries is available in the Hungarian-language version; more than 100,000 entries.

The project uses the 'MediaWiki' software and developing entries is only possible after registration. The contents are developed by historic revisionism and they downplay the crimes of the Nazi regime². Even

¹ Metapedia als nationales Pendant zu Wikipedia, in: *Innenministerium des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen: Verfassungsschutzbericht des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen*, 2008. p. 88.

² Ibidem, p.87.

though the German Metapedia; calls itself as ‘Weltnetz–Enzyklopädie’, in its entries it tries, in order to maintain the purity of the German language, to avoid anglicisms.

According to the impresum of the Internet site, the company responsible for the activities of Metapedia is ‘NFSE Media AB, Sweden’, with the registered seat in Linköping³. The company is ran by Lennart Berg⁴, while the IP address is located on the American server of ‘Softlayer Technologies Inc.’ with the registered seat in Dallas⁵.

‘Metapedia; claims that in its project it will write the truth and present facts – and not what most authors claims politically correct –with what they only brainwash their readers. Although the political and ideological agitation compliant with the declaration of Metapedia itself, is undesirable, one can find there an exceptional care for revisionist truth or definite whitening Hitler’s actions, including the crime of genocide⁶.

In its articles Metapedia, e.g. attempts, in a subtle way, at questioning information on holocaust, suggesting that genuine scientific research as part of the currently binding criminal law, cannot be made with due care. A whole Metapedia tries to make an impression that there was no regular extermination of the Jews and it describes their deportations in a euphemistic way. E.g. in the entry on ‘Crystal Night’ of 1938 it denies that the attacks on the Jews and Jewish institutions were performed upon an official order of the then authorities and it marginalises the consequences of those pogroms⁷.

Metapedia, similarly as ‘Encyclopaedia Germanica’, exercises its extremist ideas cover up with scientific diligence⁸. Obviously we deal here with

³ DomainTools – Domain registration confirmation “Metapedia”, <http://whois.domaintools.com/metapedia.org>, (accessed: 28.12.2012).

⁴ Antwort der Bundesregierung auf die Kleine Anfrage der Bundestagsabgeordneten Monika Lazar Bundestags – Drucksache, 2008, Vol. 16/10215, p. 6f.

⁵ Ibidem.

⁶ Metapedia als nationales Pendant zu Wikipedia, in: Innenministerium des Landes Nordrhein – Westfalen: Report of the Office for Protection of the Constitution NRW for 2008, 2009, p.89.

⁷ Metapedia als nationales Pendant..., op.cit., p. 85.

⁸ T. Pfeiffer, Virtuelle Gegenöffentlichkeit und Ausweg aus dem „rechten Ghetto“. Strategische Funktionen des Internets für den deutschen Rechtsextremismus, in: S. Braun, A.

a demand for propaganda of the impact which, in fact, through various projects, gathers people with similar ideas or political views⁹.

The prefix 'meta' refers to the term 'meta-politics' and in that context it is understood as a conquest of the zone of politics by taking over the leadership – intellectual thinking. The founders of that approach are found on the 'new right wing'¹⁰ and the 'verbal camouflage' they use is to facilitate providing the project and its concepts to a wider audience¹¹ who will find new ideas on that website; ethno-pluralism and euro-nationalism or those devoted to pro-European cultural war¹².

In the brown alternative to Wikipedia, an overwhelmingly high percentage of entries refer to the Third Reich and Nazism. They provide detailed explanations that e.g. WWII started from 'Jewish declaring war on Germans', and the so-called German attack on Poland in 1939, was only a preventive action to protect the 'German nation' living in Poland from Polish provocations. There are also quoted never-ending fragments from 'Mein Kampf' to prove that Hitler had never planned holocaust, ergo, he even could not possibly carry it out and the use of the quote by Kurt Tucholsky, totally non-cohesive with the situation, is to suggest that the use of poisoning gas, in fact, was a Jewish idea. Hitler's official's crimes are left unsaid; e.g. committed by Hermann Goering represented in the articles in a favourable light against idyllic or family photos. Also the fire of Reichstag of 1933 remains with no comment whatsoever and arson is attributed to a Dutch, Marius von der Lubbe. The Allied bombings at the end of WWII, on the other hand, are in presented in Metapedia as 'Anglo-American bomb terror' and the Federal Republic of Germany itself is

Geisler, M. Gerster (Eds.) *Strategien der extremen Rechten. Hintergründe – Analysen – Antworten*, Wiesbaden 2009, pp. 290–309, here p. 302.

⁹ Ibidem, p. 307.

¹⁰ P. Nowak, *Rechte Wikipediakopie zwischen Anspruch und Wirklichkeit*, „Telepolis“, 10.02.2008, <http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/27/27205/1.html>, (accessed: 28.12.2012).

¹¹ T. Pfeiffer: *Virtuelle Gegenöffentlichkeit ...*, op.cit., p. 307.

¹² Wikipedia-Verschnitt: *Das rechte Online-Nachschlagewerk Metapedia*, http://endstation-rechts.de/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=367:wikipedia-verschnitt-das-rechteonlinenachschlagewerk&Itemid=386, (accessed: 28.12.2012).

nothing more than only an occupied structure – a transitional state and once it is abolished, ‘the Fourth Reich’ will emerge. Neither does Metapedia disregard the topic of ‘German living space’ which is to stretch between the Moza, Memel, Adige and Belt Rivers¹³.

The structure; both the layout and the style of Metapedia make an impression of a serious enterprise. The right-wing ideology appears only at the second glance since often while developing the entries, the entire articles are copied from Wikipedia, and only some of their fragments are changed, omitted or new imagined facts are added, which essentially distorts the truth. Additionally the posts on politicians such as Helmut Schmidt or Daniel Cohn-Bendit are to enhance the impression that we are dealing with normal encyclopaedia online. Among the quotations on respective persons, there are visible, however, comments on their origin or immigration which in the brown orientation of Metapedia get well situated¹⁴.

To confirm the above statement, we can quote an example of the entry ‘Jan Kiepura’ provided in Metapedia.

Here one reads e.g. ‘Jan Kiepura (born on May 16, 1902 in Sosnowiec, † on August 15, 1966 in Harrison, New York) was a Jewish singer and actor. Kiepura was born from the relationship of a Catholic baker and a Jewish woman, Maria Najman. Since 1925 he had been singing in the Warsaw Opera, then mostly in the German Reich. Dr Goebbels located him on a list of foreign artists, especially protege by the Reich. In 1934 he was appointed to the Berlin Opera. As an actor he appeared in many film productions and become the favourite of the German audience. In 1935 he appeared at the International Festival of Composers in Hamburg where he acted in the Polish opera ‘Halka’, one of the most frequently stages foreign operas in the Third Reich. He married Marta Eggerth and in 1938 he left for the US where he started working for the Metropolitan Opera.

¹³ B. Weber, Eine braune Alternative, „Die Tageszeitung“, 2008, <http://www.taz.de/1/archiv/digitaz/artikel/?ressort=tz&dig=2008%2F07%2F25%2Fa0034&cHash=f6287f7370>, (accessed: 29.12.2012).

¹⁴ Ibidem.

After 'the liberation' he was also very popular in RFN. He dies in 1966 in the US¹⁵.

The above entry is like honey for our Polish hearts. Jan Kiepura, the favourite of German audiences, sponsored by Goebels, acting in the Berlin Opera and, on top of it all, promoting Polish national opera 'Halka' – confounds the victimization of the Jews since after his other he indeed was a Jew himself.

One shall also note Metapedia using inverted commas for the word 'liberation'. Such phrasing aims at discrediting the legal order valid in Germany since for the Metapedia readers, Germany has been still an occupied zone.

Our country due the history of the German-Polish relations in Metapedia plays an important role. The interpretation of that history is slightly brown in colour and is exposed to ongoing editorial manipulations.

And so, according to Metapedia, Poland is referred to as 'Polen' (in Polish 'Polska', also old-fashioned 'Polackei') is located in central Europe¹⁶. The area currently occupied by the Polish state, is, to a large extent, the territory Eastern Germany, and other components of the German Reich, handed over by the victorious powers of WWII in to temporary Polish administration. It causes a considerably restriction of the sovereignty of Poland, as a vassal state¹⁷.

Developing the entry of 'Polen', they claim that according to the international law, it is only justified that the territory of Poland exists within the borders up to 1914. All the Polish annexations and occupations of the

¹⁵ G. Frey, *Prominente ohne Maske – Drittes Reich, 1000 Lebensläufe bekannter Zeitgenossen*, Monachium 1998, p. 123.

¹⁶ Literally the term 'Binnenstaat' was used which in Metapedia is defined as a country, which is continental, with no direct access to the sea. The inland countries in Europe (according to Metapedia) or especially Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland. Since 1945 the last two have been governing Eastern Germany which are part of the fully ceased and incapacitated German Reich.

¹⁷ Polen, "Metapedia", <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 30.12.2012).

territories of Germany during second thirty-year war¹⁸ are contrary to the valid Hague regulations¹⁹.

Metapedia claims that the German name 'Polen' comes from the name of the tribe of Polanen (Polish: 'Polanie') which in the 5th century settled down between the Odra and the Vistula Rivers, in the areas of pagan Germanic tribes, around Poznan and Gniezno.

The main entry History of Poland [with no additional notes] on the Metapedia website is short but full of content. Here it is: 'Poland in its entire history has been many times at the mercy of the then in power of the gentry and the power related to it. It resulted in a many-time partition of the country until its total annihilation with the greatest threat for Poland being the neighbourhood of the Russian empire under the hegemony of which Poland remained for a long time [not a single word on the Prussian annexation]. During WWI the empires of Germany and Austro-Hungary decided to create a Polish state with permanent borders [the author of the entry obviously does not specify any reasons the powers had in mind while establishing the Polish state]. On November 5, 1916, the German Empire established within the borders defined by the Congress in Vienna – the Kingdom of Poland²⁰.

¹⁸ "Metapedia" provides the following explanation to the second thirty-year war in the following way: the date which demonstrates chronological, cause and context-related relations between the First World War, the between-the-wars period and WW II. It has been used since the beginning of 1940, especially outside the territory of Germany. The term has been introduced to historiography during the debate in 1988. Another name for that period is 'the European civil war'. It has originated from the thirty-year war which took place about 300 years earlier after which Germany was also considerably devastated. The Second Thirty-Year War got intensified in Europe at the end of WWII through vast and regular expulsions, mass extermination, especially of Germans, mostly due to the bombing terror of the Allies (genocide). Politically the propaganda-correct history and construction of the formation of the German occupation (the Federal Republic of Germany) denies that fact or considers it a non-documented thesis. Winston Churchill wrote to Stalin on February 27, 1944, 'I consider WWII to be a thirty-year war against the German started in 1914'.

¹⁹ *Polen...*, op.cit.

²⁰ Polen, Metapedia, available at: <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 30.12.2012).

Photograph 1. According to Metapedia: Poland in its present borders compliant with the valid international law, without temporarily annexed territories of Germany and allocated according to the so-called 'Treaty of Versailles'the Gdańsk corridor.



Source: <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012)

And further on, 'After 1918 the victorious powers decided to define the borders of Eastern Europe according to the majority division, according to the population, residing those territories. The leading role in that matter was played by British Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lord George Nathaniel Curzon. The German Reich as the so-called the defeated, was forced with no referendum, to give up the rights to Prussian provinces; Western Prussia and Poznań (province) for the benefit of Poland. As a result, 200.000 Germans had to leave the territories allocated to Poland. At the same time, based on the so-called Curzon Line, the eastern border of

Poland was established. However, in the areas East from the line there were no Polish nationals. At that time Poland developed unprecedented and aggressive nationalism (chauvinism) which ended up in 1920 with an attack on Soviet Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. In the following period, Poland turned its look at the West. Thousands of German nationals was then murdered or expelled by the Poles²¹.

In the primary window of Metapedia on the entry of Polen, we can find a short entry on the causes of the outbreak of WWII and aggression on Poland; namely 'the causes of WWII go back to the grounds of Polish imperialism and inevitable later German reaction to Polish crimes committed on Germans between 1918 and 1939. Historian Siergiej Nikołajewicz Kovalev²² claims that Poland is guilty of the outbreak of WWII'²³.

A bigger entry has been developed for WWII itself. One can learn from it that 'up to 1938, Adolf Hitler had wanted to join Poland to the Anti-Bolshevik alliance and so his demands on clear the German-Polish relations, were very moderate. However, Poland was not willing to negotiations, and it looked as if it was looking for support for its Anti-German coalition in England and France. Only then was Hitler forced to military campaign against its neighbour²⁴. During that occupation there was created the General Government where the Poles could still quite freely develop their culture.

The topic was developed in more detail in the entry Der Polenfeldzug where one can read that 'the Polish campaign was a limited German self-defence in response to many Polish sabotage actions and later, once Poland was granted English guarantees –also the military ones. A few days before the start of military actions Adolf Hitler presented a 16-point proposal of

²¹ Ibidem.

²² Siergiej Nikołajewicz Kowaliow is a Russian historian of the military and the head of the department of scientific research in the history of the military of the North-Western region of the Russian Federation in the Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. He is a colonel and holds a degree of PhD in historic sciences; he lives in Petersburg.

²³ *Polen ...*, op.cit.

²⁴ M. Broszat, *Nationalsozialistische Polenpolitik 1939–1945*, Stuttgart 1961, p.10.

cooperation²⁵ the Polish government reacted to with general mobilization, which, in those conditions, was the same as declaring a war²⁶.

However, it makes it clear, it is explained that 'commanders in chief of the German army in their proclamation of September 1, 1939 addressed to the Wehrmacht troops, means that the Polish population 'is not their enemy' and 'all the international law regulations' must be met. On the other hand, each form of resistance was to be fought with the entire force, however, stressing the issue of discipline. The accusation that the army in its wild fury was burning down Polish villages – as shown in the Anti-Wehrmacht exhibition 'Größte Härte... – Verbrechen der Wehrmacht in Polen September / Oktober 1939' – is false by definition²⁷.

'Wehrmacht had no interest whatsoever in any destructive actions against the Polish people', one can read further in Metapedia and the climax of the Polish-German conflict after the end of the campaign in Poland in 1939 was the Warsaw Uprising of August 1944 in which Polish Domestic Army was trying right before the approach of the Red Army to conquer the city [Warsaw]. Further on one can find out that the uprising has been already covered by many papers, especially that the Polish insurgents could capitulate with honour and they were treated as war prisoners.

Despite, multiple cruelties earlier committed by the Poles on the Germans, the German troops remain humane in the way they treated the enemy prisoners.

The accusations, getting repeated against Wehrmacht, that in Poland it was shooting down accidental hostages, was burning down houses or bombing civilian facilities, have already been many times denied through evidence. The claim that the German army did not perform any purposeful extermination in Poland is also shown by the number of 16,000 of those shot during the [September] campaign with more than 20 million population [of Poland], which is not the evidence of exterminating war; just the opposite. At no time was it seriously considered to liquidate or to

²⁵ *Der-Fuehrer.org: Adolf Hitlers 16-Punkte-Vorschlag an die polnische Regierung*, <http://der-fuehrer.org/reden/deutsch/Aufsaeetze/1939-08-30.htm>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

²⁶ "Metapedia" – die alternative Enzyklopädie, Polenfeldzug, <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

²⁷ *Polen...*, op.cit.

destroy Poland, even during war actions after 1939²⁸, claims the author of the Metapedia entry.

Metapedia provides many articles on the question of the Polish-German border. It claims that, unlike many popular data, Poland does not have 528 km of the Baltic Sea shore since the entire coastal strip is part of the German Reich and Poland in its borders has been still an inland country, with no access to the sea. For 'the brown ones', according to their concept of the international law, still what is important are only those borders which as part of the Congress Kingdom of Poland, Poland was given at the Congress in Vienna in 1815. They also claim that under the so-called Treaty of Versailles, Poland was granted in 1919, to weaken Germany, a considerable part of Western Prussia and the entire German Poznan.

In Metapedia one can also read that after WWII a bigger part of Germany, was, once German nationals got expelled or murdered, against the international law, annexed by Poland; the territory temporarily administered by Poland stretches in the North to the Baltic Sea and in the West – to the Odra and the Nysa Rivers. The Neo-Nazis claim that the reason to the expropriation of considerable territories of Germany was an alleged expulsion of Polish people from the territories of Eastern Poland by Soviet Russia, which refers to moving Poland westwards. Further on they claim that 'the areas [of Eastern Poland] were in 1920 during the Polish invasion on the Soviet Union expropriated [and so the thesis about the displacement of the Poles from the Eastern territories and granting them the Western territory, is indeed false since that Poland has never had any right to the Western territory] as a result of which upon the Peace of Riga on March 18, 1921 given to the Republic of Poland. The present Poland's Eastern border is almost identical with the Curzon Line being against the international law'²⁹.

²⁸ D. Heintz, „Größte Zumutung...“. *Vergehen gegen die historische Wahrheit*, Straelen 2007, p. 91.

²⁹ *Polen ...*, op.cit.

In Metapedia there is a common belief that today's western and northern 'borders' [the word 'borders' is written in inverted commas] of Poland show the contempt to all the international conventions and they are a result of Polish crimes of expulsions of the Germans after the end of WWII.

To support those theses, there are demonstrated, out of context, parts of entries. It is reported e.g. that in the Polish Institute of Western Studies in 'Mała Biblioteczka Ziemi Zachodnich' already in 1942 the war was presented as 'the war for politically great Poland where the target is the Polish seashore of the Baltic Sea from Kłajpeda (Memel) to Szczecin and the border on the Oder River [...]'³⁰. The new Polish 'western border' should be, if need be, enforced with no international mandate. In 1943 in the memorandum it was demanded [by the Poles] for the policy of accomplished facts still before the peace conference to rule out the possibility of make the referendum [the Poles did not want repeated Silesian referenda from the period after WWI]. At the same period there was committed a crime of the expulsion of the German people perceived [by the Poles] as indispensable for a successful establishment of the new Polish 'western border'³¹.

As an example of the Polish imperialism, the authors of the Metapedia entries provide the Polish topic of the article 'O lewy brzeg środkowej i dolnej Odry'³². According to the Neo-Nazi, it is an attempt of providing evidence that the new western border of Poland should also cover the left bank of the Odra River and so the cities such as Frankfurt and Gör-litz should be included into Poland.

And so [in their opinion] already in 1946 displacements of German nationals from Szczecin got intensified for this German city to be taken over into Polish hands completely.

³⁰ Ibidem.

³¹ Ibidem.

³² Z. Wojciechowski, *O lewy brzeg środkowej i dolnej Odry*, „Przegląd Zachodni” 1945, Vol.1, No. 2/3, pp. 61–87.

Photograph 2. Poland with annexed German territories.



Source: <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

The Neo-Nazis on the Metapedia websites also refer to the question of the so-called 'Polish concentration camps'. In their opinion, those are 'the camps which were built by the government of Poland, mostly in the regions conquered by Poland or occupied and the first ones [in Europe] were created for the Germans to be imprisoned there, after the establishment of the Polish state on the former German territory of the Poznan province. That fact [again in the opinion of the Neo-Nazis] is now will-ingly left unsaid. The question covers also the camps built by the Poles after 1945 in the territory of Germany East from the Odra and the Nysa Rivers. In Polish concentration camps for German war prisoners in Poland and in the territories temporarily administrated by Poland, about 120,000 people were imprisoned and at least 20,000 lost their lives'³³.

³³ H. Hirsch, „Die Zeit” 1998, Vol. 37.

In Metapedia we also find the term ‘Polnische Wirtschaft’ (‘the Polish economy’) very popular in Germany, although slightly no longer present, is a euphemism for neglected post-German areas: Silesia, Eastern and Western Prussia which after 1945, according to the Neo-Nazis, being temporarily under Polish administration got into ruin.

According to the author of the entry, this term is today very often used as a swearing and deeply rooted in the homes of German displaced persons. In the years of unjustified use – even after illegal recognition of the border of the Odra and the Nysa Rivers as the so-called Polish border – the residents of the post-German territories did nothing to maintain the immovable properties in a good shape. The same refers to the entire infrastructure found there.

Photograph 3. According to Metapedia, the location of the concentration camps and annihilation for the Germans. Literal translation: the presentation presents annexed areas of Eastern Germany by Poland and the Sudetes Mountains joined to the Czech. German names of locations were in the meantime cancelled.



Many German owners who were able to see their property again, stated in horror that the houses were deteriorating and the fields have been laid fallow. The term of 'the Polish economy' is thus a said result of laziness and apathy, which resulted in neglect and the fall of the former 'German granaries'³⁴ – one can read in Metapedia.

The brown ideology in its propaganda [also in Metapedia] often refers to the articles in the opinion-giving periodicals, save that it publishes such fragments which correspond to other political views.

And so on the Metapedia website, in a section of article from 'Der Spiegel' one reads: '60,000 to 80,000 people who lost their lives, as evaluated by the Koblenz Federal Archives over 1945/48 in 1255 camps of the Polish communist security services; in most cases those were innocent civilians, including many elderly people and small children'³⁵.

Those actions of Metapedia, which treats some articles selectively, it is also confirmed by the quotation that 'Polish historian, Paweł Wieczorkiewicz, claims that in a Polish daily 'Rzeczpospolita' that Hitler did not want the war with Poland, only until March 1939 could see his neighbour as a potential ally, this stand was only discredited by the alliance of Poland with Great Britain. In that way the British and the French consciously got Poland into a trap'³⁶.

As an interesting fact [Metapedia] shows that 'The Polish nation almost completely consists of polonized Germans, and it is especially clear in the most popular Polish first names. They are almost only traditional German first names which got adjusted to the local colour or also simply transformed'³⁷.

However, in Polish literature one can read that 'even though the Polish stat has almost 1/2 of the population of Germany, however, it is striking that Polish literature even in half did not produce so many outstanding

³⁴ *Polnische Wirtschaft*, "Metapedia", <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

³⁵ D. Hauser, *Zu heiß zum Anfassen?*, "Der Spiegel" 1995, Vol. 11.

³⁶ "Metapedia" refers to the article in 'Die Welt' of September 20, 2005, p. 32.

³⁷ *Polnische Vornamen*, "Metapedia", <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

writers and poets as Germany; even more, even not 1/10. One shall also note that in other fields of culture and art the situation is no better³⁸.

The effect of those interpretation is the Neo-Nazi view that so the enemy's state [Poland] did not sign any peace treaty with Germany and so there are no legally binding regulations on any further procedures concerning the temporarily administered [by the Poles] German territories, one shall state that the present international, legal and constitutional statute of Poland has no permanent grounds, and so the sovereignty of Poland is considerably limited³⁹.

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³⁸ *Polnische Literatur*, “Metapedia”, <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).

³⁹ *Metapedia – die alternative Enzyklopädie, Polen – Volk*, <http://de.metapedia.org/wiki/Polen>, (accessed: 31.12.2012).