

# DOWNLOAD PDF JOSEPH PILSUDSKI, FOUNDER OF POLISH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

## Chapter 1 : Badass - Jozef Pilsudski

*Joseph Pilsudski, Founder of Polish National Independence and Chief of the Polish State* by St. J. Boncza  
*The Russian Immigrant* by Jerome Davis  
*A World Problem, Jews Poland Humanity A Psychological and Historical Study* by Stephanie Laudyn.

They attest to the fact that the laws of greatness differ from the laws of smallness. The laws of greatness equally well applied to the speaker: His eventful and fascinating life is the subject of the book under review, written by Peter Hetherington. Not that the West was grateful. It had forgotten that Poland, in centuries past, had been a significant regional power—the largest state in continental Europe—and might conceivably wish to return to its historic dimensions or at a minimum be strong enough to keep its neighbors at bay. The First Marshal of Poland had a one-track mind: To this end, he achieved—against all odds—more than could have been expected from any mere mortal. The story of his life and achievements is colorful, and rendered colorfully here. To be a Pole—at least, one committed to the cause of Polish independence—meant that one had to be a revolutionary. He began as a socialist, but a socialist of a certain type: Hetherington tells this story well. He established paramilitary groups under Austrian aegis, and his men—transformed into the Cadre Company later part of the First Brigade of the Polish Legions—made the first military incursion into Russian territory in August. Although not decisive in the war, the existence of the Polish Legions was in itself of great psychological significance. His disdain for the quarrelsome Polish parliament ultimately resulted in his flagrant mistreatment of the political opposition. The author of this mammoth pages long! Yet Hetherington puts these seeming drawbacks to positive use. Unlike some other authors, he has no axe to grind. And he writes it as he thinks it should be written. Unusually for a biography, the author reviews the entire history of Poland! The reader will find it hard to put the book down after that. Hetherington writes with a certain flair, his style breezy and colloquial at times too much so for this reviewer, a trained historian. Despite this being the second revised edition—the first came out in —there are still a number of typos. And the continuous numbering of the footnotes not always helpful, and not all correct means that their numbering reaches well into the thousands, which can be irritating the long superscripts really break up the text. The book also contains maps and photographs many of these with extensive captions as well as several appendices.

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Chapter 2 : Józef Piłsudski | Polish revolutionary and statesman | calendrierdelascience.com

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See Article History Alternative Title: Returning to Wilno, he consorted with young socialists. In February he was incarcerated by the Russians in the Warsaw citadel. He feigned insanity so successfully that he was transferred to a military hospital in St. Petersburg , from which he escaped in May The two Polish leaders agreed to disagree. After the Russian revolution was put down late in , a split occurred within the PPS: In , with the help of the Austrian military authorities, he was able to convert his secret union into a legal Union of Riflemen, actually a school for Polish officers. Library of Congress, Washington, D. Until the three brigades of the Polish Legion, technically under Austro-Hungarian command, distinguished themselves against the Russians. On November 5, , Germany and Austria-Hungary, short of manpower, proclaimed the independence of Poland, hoping that Polish divisions could be deployed on the Eastern Front so that German divisions could be moved to the west. His position was unexpectedly reinforced by the Russian Revolution of March Four days later he was unanimously accepted as head of state and commander in chief of the Polish army. He led the Polish forces far to the east, occupying large areas that had belonged to Poland before the 18th-century partitions. He envisioned a federal state comprising Poles, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians, whereas Dmowski argued that these areas should simply be incorporated within a unitary Poland. On May 12, , during a time of political crisis and economic depression, he marched on Warsaw at the head of a few regiments, causing the government, including President Wojciechowski, to resign two days later. During the ensuing years he was the major influence behind the scenes in Poland, especially in the field of foreign policy. Later Hitler repeatedly suggested a German-Polish alliance against the U. Such were the last instructions he gave to Beck. Shortly afterward he died in Warsaw of cancer of the liver. He left Poland undeveloped economically and with an army that was ready to fight heroically but was doomed because of its composition and inadequate armament.

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## Chapter 3 : Catalog Record: Joseph Pilsudski, founder of Polish national | Hathi Trust Digital Library

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And before you assholes out there start talking about how they finally built a mosquito-proof submarine because they installed screen door hatches or some other such bullshit, you should know that on August 15, , the battered, war-torn country of Poland defended their capital against the onslaught of Leninist Soviet Russia, halting the progress of Communism across post-World War I Europe despite being outnumbered, outgunned, and almost completely surrounded by hardcore enemy soldiers wanting nothing more than to stomp Polish faces into proletariat borscht with the bootheels of militant Bolshevism. In their desperate attack, sweeping through the demoralized conscript forces of the Red Army and rolling up their flank, the Poles were led by the greatest military commander in modern Polish History – Marshal Jozel Pilsudski. Take a look at that dude for a second. Honestly, his amazing moustache and badass manly crew cut alone should convince you of his crippling badassitude, but this guy was a revolutionary, bank robber, guerilla, underground writer, General, and political activist who shanked faces with a razor-sharp saber and survived hardcore imprisonments in everything from Siberian gulags and St. Petersburg Mental Institutions to Polish castles and inescapable German mountain fortresses. Despite all the lame dad jokes about their military might, Poland has a long and amazing history of hardcore military awesomeness that has been massively underappreciated throughout time. As a result, Poland ended up spending pretty much all of the 18th century getting conquered alternately by the Prussians, the Austrians, and the Russians, and all those –ussians just kept on carving the country up between them however the fuck they wanted. Jozef Pilsudski was born in Poland in , in a place that is nowadays part of Lithuania but at the time was controlled by Russia. If that makes any sense. Pilsudski was descended from the Princes of Lithuania, back in the glory days of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but a lot of bad shit had gone down since then and now his family was pretty much broke. Especially when a couple of his buddies hatched a plot to assassinate the Tsar. He only served five years of his sentence, but spent the entire time getting the shit kicked out of him in degree temperatures, mostly because he kept trying to organize prisoner revolts and kill all the guards. Well if Pilsudski hated the Tsar before he went to Siberia, you can imagine what five years in a gulag did to his patriotism. He ran his cool secret blog for 8 years, but was eventually arrested in for treason and thrown into an inescapable prison castle in Warsaw, Poland. He did this in a very badass way – by faking insanity. Basically, he acted like he was goddamn nuts, and was so good at it that he got himself transferred to a mental institution in St. Apparently a strait jacket was a little easier to escape from, because this guy then immediately broke out of there, hopped a train car, made his way back to Poland, recruited a posse, and then started robbing banks and train cars so he could buy weapons and ammo for his one-man war on the Tsar. Are you following this shit so far? Medical student spends five years in a gulag, escapes, runs an underground revolutionary newspaper, gets literally thrown into the dungeon of a medieval castle, escapes by faking insanity, breaks out of a mental institution, then becomes a bank robber so he can pay soldiers in a private war against the Tsar of Russia. This is totally what happened, in real life. Pilsudski center, leaning like a pimp with his crew. He used this to buy more explosives and weapons, and also started traveling to see if he could get help for his cause. First he went to Japan who was fighting the Russo-Japanese war against Russia , but they told him to get lost. So he went to Austria, met with the generals there, and was able to get a little aid for his unit. He spent the next two years fighting World War I, leading Polish troops in battle after battle against the Russians as he fought to retake his homeland from the Tsar. He saw the writing on the wall, knew this Kingdom of Poland thing was just a bullshit minor concession, and figured it was only a matter of time before the country he just liberated from Russia would become a province of Germany. He refused to take the oath. He ordered his men not to either. So he got thrown in Magdeburg Prison, a mountain castle in central Germany that is basically inescapable to anyone not named von der Trenck. He missed the rest of the war, but returned to Poland as a national hero when the fighting ended in

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The war had flattened his country, and it was now in complete disarray. There were five different types of currency, and four different sizes of railroad tracks running through his country. Pilsudski finally had his dream of a free Poland, but now he needed to get it back together, defend it, and re-build it back to what it used to be in the glory days of the Winged Hussars. He made treaties with Ukraine and Lithuania. He pushed Russian forces out of the Polish lands they still held. He helped the Ukrainians re-take Kiev. He stabilized the population and worked on rebuilding the Polish national identity. The Red Army had won their army, taken control of the government, and now they were all about enacting World Communism with the points of their bayonets. Led by Leon Trotsky yes, Trotsky , the Red Army launched an all-out counter-attack across an mile-wide front that completely overwhelmed the Polish forces and sent them driving back in full retreat. Within just a few weeks, Poland had been backed up against the Vistula River, just outside the capital of Warsaw, with roughly the entire Red Army staring out across them. But Jozef Pilsudski had a plan. Their soldiers are poorly commanded, poorly led, and irresolute. Some small advance parties will fight well. The great bulk of the troops behind them are hardly soldiers at all. He knew his enemy. So Pilsudski did something insane. Something no military commander would ever recommend. He marched around the front-line Russian forces and attacked the reserves directly. They broke almost immediately. Seventy thousand men surrendered. Another thirty thousand ran the wrong way, ended up in Germany, and were captured there. Their flank completely crumbling, the rest of the front-line Russian forces made a break for it. Jozef pursued and drove them from Poland. He tried to negotiate a treaty with France so both countries would attack Hitler simultaneously in “ back when the Nazis were still building up their forces ” but France unwisely refused. So, dying of liver cancer and desperate to protect his country, he signed year non-aggressions pacts with Hitler and Stalin in and concentrated on building up his army for the war he knew was coming. Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, the greatest warrior in modern Polish history, died in at the age of He was buried alongside the medieval Kings of Poland, and to this day, his victory over the Russians is the national holiday of his country.

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## Chapter 4 : Joseph Pilsudski, Founder of Polish National Independence and Chief of the Polish State

*Joseph Pilsudski: Founder of Polish National Independence and Chief of the Polish State () (J. Boncza) at calendrierdelascience.com This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original. Due to its age, it may contain imperfections such as marks, notations, marginalia and flawed pages.*

Joseph Pilsudski The Polish general and statesman Joseph Pilsudski played a large role in the reestablishment of an independent Polish state and became its first president in . Joseph Pilsudski was born on Dec. The harsh treatment of the Poles under Russian rule and the anti-Russian feeling pervading his environment inspired him with a hatred of Russia and a desire to liberate his country from foreign domination. Suspended from medical school at Kharkov in , Pilsudski returned to Vilna and was exiled for 5 years to Siberia in for allegedly conspiring to assassinate Czar Alexander III. Pilsudski returned home in , joined the Polish Socialist party, and became its leader in . Pilsudski escaped, however, in May , and he settled in Cracow in Austrian Galicia. In Austrian Poland, Pilsudski began to form a secret force in that would become a Polish national army. By Pilsudski was receiving assistance from Austrian military forces. In order to free their soldiers for duty on the Western front, the Central Powers proclaimed the independence of Poland on Nov. Released in the fall of , Pilsudski returned to Warsaw in November , where he was proclaimed head of state and commander in chief of the Polish armed forces. Agreeing with the Polish National Committee, which was supported by the Western powers, he named Dmowski, right-wing leader, as first Polish deputy to the Paris Peace Conference. Almost immediately, Pilsudski needed to defend Polish territory against attack by the Red Army, and initially he was successful in occupying much territory that had belonged to historical Poland but that had long been under Russian rule. He favored a federal organization of the new state to include these territories, whereas Dmowski favored their outright annexation to the Polish state. A Soviet counteroffensive reached the environs of Warsaw, but Pilsudski, created marshal of Poland on March 19, , repelled it with the assistance of French general Maxime Weygand, ending the Soviet threat by August . Disillusioned with the workings of the parliamentary system, Pilsudski marched with troops on Warsaw on May 12, , and though elected president by the National Assembly on May 31, , he refused the position and served as minister of defense until his death. From late to , and again in , Pilsudski served as Polish prime minister , ruling dictatorially and arresting members of the Sejm who opposed his rule. He was the real ruler of Poland, choosing the holders of important offices. His collected works were published at Warsaw from to with selections appearing in English in . Further Reading Pilsudski wrote *Joseph Pilsudski: The Memories of a Polish Revolutionary and Soldier* trans. Alexandra Pilsudski, his wife, wrote *Memoirs of Madame Pilsudski A European Federalist*, Scolar Press; Brookfield, VT: Pilsudski, a life for Poland, New York:

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## Chapter 5 : Józef Piłsudski - Wikipedia

*Joseph Pilsudski, Founder of Polish National Independence and Chief of the Polish State [J. Boncza] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Leopold is delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection.*

Like Kosciuszko and Mickiewicz, Pilsudski was born in Lithuania, the country that as early as the XIV th century joined Poland in a voluntary union when threatened by Teutonic invasions. Poland and Lithuania together formed one State, which was later on looked upon by both nations as their father-land. The parents of Pilsudski belonged to the gentry of Poland, White-Ruthenia and Lithuania, that gentry which had for centuries protected these three nations from the invasions constantly threatening from East and West. He was born soon after the national insurrection in which the whole family took an active part. The child, brought up by his mother a woman of unusual generosity and elevation of character in traditions of family and national events, and taught to respect those engaged in simple physical labour, passed his early years under the influence of government terror menacing on all sides and under the elevating home influence, that inspired him with courage and a never failing faith for the future. Leaving home for a Russian school, the soul of the little lad was already deeply imbued with the sentiments of a future champion of freedom. His school life, during which he had to endure in silence all the worries and torments to which the government system subjected the boys, in order to efficaciously root out all that was Polish, only served to harden the character of the coming conspirator. Expelled later, when a student, from Charkov University for participation in student disorders, he entered the Polish Revolutionary Circle, a society tinged with Socialism, The following fact is most characteristic of the views of Pilsudski at this time: Being tried later on as an alleged complice in the above attempt, Pilsudski was condemned to 5 years exile in Eastern Siberia. One of his letters written to his father at that time, reflects the social political views of the twenty years old youth. It contains first and foremost the intense regret of a born man of action, who complains, not of his punishment, but that it is brought about solely by fatal chance and not by any real action of his own. It contains further the social creed of the writer: We have here also a sketch of the mode of action of the coming organizer and creator of the State: This exile became for Pilsudski a new school of political thought. All Russians", Pilsudski was wont to assert, "are more or less disguised Imperialists, not excepting the Revolutionaries. Elementary centralism is the characteristic of these people who eternally sigh for the absolute. They are unable to reconcile opposites, they reject completely even the needs of conscious social organisation, in order merely not to be compelled to think of them. Let everything be done by itself, in an elementary manner. That is the cause of the many Anarchists among them. It is an extraordinary thing however, that I never met any Republicans at all among the Russians". After his return from exile in Pilsudski joined one of the secret political groups in the country, which then had not yet created any organisation. Owing to his very energetic and prominent assistance the Polish Socialist Party P. It took as the political aim of its minimum programme: From the columns of his "Robotnik" Workman Pilsudski urged independence as the necessary and real aim in view and spoke of the necessity of preparing for an armed struggle to attain this end. As this took place during; the period of the most terrible Russian repression and the complete resignation and crushing of the Polish public, the voice of Pilsudski, according to the just expression of the contemporary writer Sieroszewski, rang like a bell amidst the darkness and deafness of the night. Pilsudski aroused the soul of his nation and taught it afresh its already forgotten idea of the sacrifices of blood for national independence. Appealing to the most numerous of the social classes, the most defenceless in suffering he said to them: Distributing his secret papers himself, Pilsudski visited in turn the different organisations, forming new ones from the working and educated classes and from Polish youth; investigating relations; becoming acquainted with the whole country, its needs and its defects. After awaking the country the turn came for public manifestation. During, this manifestation there was an encounter with the police. The young working men began to clamour for arms. This was the result so

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desired by Pilsudski. Educating in this manner and selecting persons for his ends, he was always directed by an unequalled intuition and penetration. He sought not only for capacity and intuition, but for character and conscience. He built up the future on the spiritual and moral worth of the individual and of the nation. He was sent first to the 10th Pavilion in the Warsaw Citadel and was there committed for trial. It is said that during the cross-questioning a colonel of gendarmes turned to Pilsudski and asked how he, the descendant of an ancient noble and hitherto wealthy family could be the leader of a party undermining the very foundations of private property and authority? Pilsudski is said to have replied: How then can you expect me not to fight for freedom to-day? Once back in the country he decided at once to undertake preparations for the organisation of a national insurrection. In the face of the expected Russian-Japanese war his first care was to prevent a mobilisation, as he wished that the blood which was to be shed, should be rather shed in the struggle with Russia. But after investigating conditions in the country he was convinced that such an action could not then be successful, as the fear of Russian power was predominant. He then left for Japan in order to organize an insurrection in the rear of the Russian army, backed by the strength of Japan. He was however, baffled once again. The sole protest which he was able to call forth against mobilisation was the bloody demonstration of the workmen of the Polish Socialist Party on the Grzybowski Square in Warsaw. At the time when those elements which were opposed to insurrection got the upper hand and showed a desire for common action with the Russian Revolutionaries, with a view to a change of government in Russia, Pilsudski was cut off from Warsaw by a railway strike, which was caused by these demonstrations. Thus he was enabled to hold himself aloof from all the prevailing unrest. Shortly after he formed the so-called "Fighting Organisation", collecting small detachments of volunteers and after drilling them in the use of arms, accustoming them to iron discipline, he equipped them and sent them, as the first partisans in the struggle for the freedom of Poland. The destruction of the greatest scoundrels among the Imperial police and gendarmes, the attacking of lesser detachments of the army, the breaking open of government safes all formed part of the plans of this organization. Pilsudski saw that he would not be able to call a general insurrection by these means, but he wished to make a beginning, to bring about above all the first breach in the views of the Polish public, convincing it in this or in some other way, that a revolutionary struggle, understood as a struggle between Poland and Russia was a possibility. A proof of how highly each soldier of this "Fighting Organisation" understood the political and ideal character of these struggles, is the fact that when several of the soldiers were once seized for an attempt on the Russian authorities and were sentenced to be hanged they demanded that their sentence should be changed and that they should be shot, as they were not bandits but Polish soldiers fighting for the independence of their country. Their demand was granted. The conviction grew in him that from henceforth the aim of all efforts must be the formation of a regular national army. In Cracow, where the persecution of Austrian authorities was least felt in comparison with that of the other annexed territories, Pilsudski created from two circles of young men desirous of receiving military instruction an "Rifle Club" later known as the: This was a purely non-party military organisation. At the same time he gave an impulse to the organisation of propaganda amongst the public, taking the most active part in it himself, spreading the idea that it was impossible for Poland to merely talk and haggle over matters, but she must be regained by the assistance of her national army and by the active participation of every class of society. In his at first secret, or at least semi-secret, action Pilsudski found a weak support in the public. He had to swim against the tide, "to fight with all Poland". In carrying through the legalisation of the Rifle Club, he founded according to his own plan the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers rifle schools and summer camp courses, sending instructors to found rifle ranges writing and expounding. The outbreak of the Balkan war, proving to everyone the possibility of an Austro-Russian war, was propitious, but when the danger of an immediate war was removed, the "Francs-Tireurs", at the head of which was Pilsudski, once more began to weaken and even in part fell into decay under the pressure of the secret and open adversaries to a war with Russia. Thus Pilsudski lived to see the outbreak of the universal war. Warsaw is the heart of Poland as Paris is the heart of France; it is not merely a symbol, but the centre of her real existence, and of her intellectual, political and economic

life. A Polish state without Warsaw cannot be conceived. The fact of having been divided between three usurping Powers, which in the nature of events were all hostile towards her, has been the tragedy of Poland. Pilsudski, realizing the first necessity - a struggle with Russia, as the harbinger of a general struggle for independence, and the necessity of bringing about the evacuation of Warsaw by Russia, realized in a no less degree the danger threatening Poland from the side of Germany and Austria, and that it was essential for the existence of Poland that she should be able to defend herself against these countries. In accordance with this conception Pilsudski became the creator of a force, which was directed both against the former, as well as the two other powers. The "Francs-Tireurs", formed for the struggle with Russia, were unable to develop into an independent Polish Army owing to exterior and interior conditions, even after 10 months having proved their character by the action of August 6th, i. Not wishing to let go his hold on his trump card, the organized soldier, who could be made use of when he wished and in suitable conditions, Pilsudski consented to lead the Legions, in spite of incessant political friction and collisions between himself and the Central Powers. Together with his entrance into the Legions, on August 16th, that is to say at the same time as the Legions, Pilsudski began to organize on the territory of the Kingdom, a new secret military organization called the "Polish Military Organization" P. It existed at first in the rear of the Russian Army, and carried on propaganda in favour of a struggle for a Polish State, independent both of Russia and of the Central Powers. At the same time the organization carried on reconnoitring and destructive work against Russia, in the rear of her army, showing real assistance to the Legions fighting at the front. As the army of the Central Powers advanced deeper into the Kingdom, the "Polish Military Organization" ceased to reveal itself and worked in secret, in order to be able to use its strength against the new invaders when a favourable moment arrived. At that time the Central Powers were victorious, at the! The "Polish Military Organization" organized branches in all the country, even in the strictly guarded German Poland. At that time the Legions formed a fairly important fighting unit, tried in battle, and capable of being used as the germ of a stable army. General political conditions were such that the Central Powers, in spite of victories in the East, and of Prussian terrorism applied in all its force against Poland, had to take into consideration the watchword of the Western Powers selfdetermination of peoples, and that frontiers would have to be decided accordingly. For this reason, the Germans, who, though victorious in the East, were constantly being repulsed in the West, wished to palliate their annexationist aims with regard to Poland, and to comply with the demands of the Entente, were compelled to make a certain compromise towards Poland. Although this was done in a hypocritical and partial manner, they had to satisfy her evident desire for an independent life. Pilsudski, who had previously put an end to recruiting for the Polish Legions, and distrusting the sincerity of German intentions, considered this moment propitious for creating from the already existing Legions a more numerous and independent military power, formed of Poles, and organized on the: With this object in view, he began negotiations with Austria, demanding: Austria, not consenting to these demands, which she considered too far-reaching, agreed only to the extension of the Legion formations, and to the creation, from them, of a Polish Reinforcement Corps, making however certain concessions respecting Polish badges, uniforms, and independence of organization. Pilsudski, not satisfied with this, then sent in his resignation. As a result of his position, Austria deprived him of freedom of movement, compelling him to live at Cracow. The course of events removed the investigation of the Polish question, to Germany. In negotiations, carried on with both the Central Powers, Pilsudski repeated the same demands. As far as the government and Army were concerned, the Central Powers did not wish to consent, realizing perfectly by experience, that Pilsudski was a man, who once having a certain strength in his hands, would use it against them. Desirous of insuring themselves against this, the Germans decided to form such a Polish Army, as would be subordinate to German Command and German officers. This would have been a parody of the Polish army, probably not a numerous one, but proclaiming to the world at large the joint action of the Poles and the Germans. In this manner the Germans would have settled the Polish question. In order to render any kind of counter-action from the side of Pilsudski impossible, the Germans decided to make dependent on themselves the one visible Polish force the Legions. With this end in view, they had to take an

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oath, making them dependent on German chiefs. Pilsudski, the creator and symbol of the struggle for independence, recognized as such not only by the Legions, but by the already aroused public, was in this way to be pushed on one side, and his influence destroyed. Pilsudski opposed this intention of subjecting the Legions to Germany with the whole of his moral influence, consenting rather to their complete disbandment. Knowing that the Germans were too powerful, and knowing that his strength at that time was still insufficient to enable him to carry on an open struggle, Pilsudski, having already at his disposal the secret organization, "The Polish Military Organization" P. Pilsudski then passed to the realization of the second point of his programme, namely the struggle for liberation from the 13 German yoke, which had become the heaviest, and the most threatening to the independence of Poland. Russia was at that time not merely a defeated Power, but was also subject to a very powerful interior shock, which did not permit her acting energetically for the moment. The Legions, under the influence of Pilsudski, refused the oath, and they were disbanded and interned; when the Germans realized the increasing moral influence of Pilsudski with the Polish public, he was arrested and imprisoned in the Magdeburg fortress. The Legionaries, in accordance with the device sent to them by Pilsudski, spread all over the country, in order to continue with renewed activity the development of the secret "Polish Military Organization", believing that the moment was approaching when the arms of heroic France, America and England would overcome the Central Powers, and that the Poles would be in a position to take up arms against them and drive them out of the country. Finally, when Pilsudski, re- 14 maind interned in Magdeburg, the Polish public was animated by the one, idea propagated by him:

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## Chapter 6 : Józef Piłsudski Institute of America - Wikipedia

*Excerpt from Joseph Pilsudski, Founder of Polish National Independence and Chief of the Polish State There existed, however, a second and no less cause for the Opening of new Russian horizons in that is to say, that the nearest nations, for which her hand outstretched, were also Slavonic nations, as she herself is, at the same time smaller.*

Origins[ edit ] Stamp applied by the archive to documents. The organizers of the New York research center were keenly aware of the importance of collecting documents related to such a crucial period in Polish history as World War II. The appeal made to the International Red Cross by the Polish government-in-exile for an investigation of the atrocity was used by Stalin as a pretext to break off Polish-Russian diplomatic relations. After displacing the Red Army from the eastern regions of Poland, the Nazis occupied the entire country; their aim was the destruction of Polish scholarship and cultural heritage. This plan was being implemented through the extermination of the middle class, the intelligentsia, systematic plundering of libraries and museums, and by forbidding cultural, educational, and artistic activities. These actions were reinforced by mass arrests and deportations to concentration camps such as Sonderaktion Krakau , which led to the murder of nearly all faculty of the Jagiellonian University. Matters looked grim across Axis-occupied Europe. After the surrender of France in and the addition of Italy to the German war effort, all outposts of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Paris and Rome ceased to function. Only in Great Britain and the United States did the Poles had any possibility of conducting scholarly and cultural activities. At the organizational meeting of the Institute, the following decisions were taken: Skubikowski and Jan Z. At the second meeting of the Committee on September 16 of that year, Januszewski resigned as president and was replaced on an interim basis by Ignacy Matuszewski until the General Assembly of all members and election of a new board. The final version of the bylaws was voted on, and 48 regular members joined. Other membership categories were established supporting, life and correspondent members. This activity also intended to forge bonds between pro-independence Polish communities, encourage collection and preservation of important archival documents and to have them transferred to the Institute. International recognition of the Polish government-in-exile was canceled on July 5, by Great Britain and the US and subsequently by most members of the newly created United Nations , followed by the recognition of the Provisional Government of National Unity in Warsaw and the acceptance of the results of the election held under Russian control in January In consequence, the founders of the Institute including the board opted for operating a permanent and independent research organization. Its mission was now not only to gather and consolidate documents related to current political affairs, but also to disseminate accurate historical knowledge about Poland and her recent history. From the end of the s, when the National Committee of Polish-Americans ceased to exist, the activities and statements by leaders of the Institute were perceived as sui generis instructions for the independence circles. From onwards those involved with the Institute were critical of the political stance of the great powers, accusing them of betraying Poland. That attitude isolated of the Institute, particularly in the s and s when a significant number of Polish-Americans opted for some form of contact with certain PRL organizations if only to be able to revisit the country of their birth. Drymmer , Tadeusz Schaetzel and others were active. This cooperation continued after the group moved to Lebanon. These efforts did not produce long-lasting results, however, mainly because of continuing migration of the military and politicians to London. At first it was viewed as an affiliate of the Institute in New York, but later became independent. It survived during that critical period because of the efforts of its founders and directors, who donated their time and effort from its foundation. Due to their efforts, financial support and fundraising initiatives the Institute survived and eventually flourished, developing its activities in publishing and cataloging its extensive collection. Its unique library of documents and source material unavailable in Poland or in other collections abroad continue to attract many visitors who utilize these research materials. Among those who have visited the Institute over the years for information and advice are Americans, Englishmen, Belorussians, Ukrainians, Danes, Germans, Japanese and Lithuanians.

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During the s, members of the Institute began an outreach to like-minded foreigners such as Henryk Wereszycki. These contacts were interrupted at the end of the s during Stalinism and resumed after the "political thawing" in October , when it became easier to travel from Poland to the West. Efforts were made to single out independent scholars and researchers who, after their return to Poland, would present an unbiased picture of World War II without the communist ideological influence. Since [ edit ] Exhibition hall at the Institute. Other English-language publications of scholars connected with the Institute are those of Marian K. Dziewanowski , Janusz K. The research materials assembled at the Institute have been used in exhibitions, films and publications including Bitter Glory by Richard M. Watt; The Heart of Europe: The Institute continues to present exhibitions and lectures. Lecturers and presenters at the Institute have included prominent writers, Solidarity activists and academics: The original modest archive grew significantly through donations and bequests. The total collection is estimated at around one million pages of documents. The Institute also has an audio-visual collection. The stamp collection contains postcards and stamps from as far back as , and includes postcards in a section under the heading "The Legions and their Founder". The 20,item collection of maps and photographs is a work in progress as of An art collection of some watercolors, oil paintings and drawings is preserved and displayed at the Institute. Presidents of the Institute[ edit ].

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