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Poland after world war III**Introduction**

The world is currently undergoing turbulent development. Preparations for a world war are underway. Geostrategists have been analyzing the changing international situation for several years now. Further dates and potential locations for a major conflict are being set. The topic is common knowledge in many parts of the world.

Cities have been selected for nuclear attack, and potential spheres of influence have been defined. Since 2022, industrial companies have been preparing for what may soon happen. As a society, we are receiving information and even instructions, such as a "safety guide," on how to behave in this hour of testing.

This paper presents several general observations based on, among other things, known history and the many discussions that have been taking place in Lower Silesia over the years. It also outlines development concepts that could be implemented after the end of any potential conflict.

A few comments about our activities in Lower Silesia

In the Lower Silesian region, things really began after the economic transformation of the 1990s. At the Krzyżowa Foundation for European Understanding, during a period of high unemployment and the exodus of educated people from Poland, we formulated a development strategy, including industrial development. Everything worked out for us. Lower Silesia is one of the most dynamic regions in Europe and, after Warsaw, the most developed, with relatively high wages and a large number of educated people working in high-tech fields.

We noticed the changes taking place in the world very quickly. In 2019, we launched another initiative in Wrocław: the G2 Forum – Geopolitics and Economy. Anticipating further changes that would occur in the global economy, it was there that we first began discussing a potential global conflict. The discussion was attended by both civilian and military strategists, from government and local government units, as well as from professional think tanks emerging in Poland at the time. Based on this knowledge, this article presents some forward-looking topics.

It's worth noting that in 2019, Konrad Tomaszewski launched the "Genius Loci" Salon, which connected people from culture, art, science, technology, and politics. One of the events, which took place over several days at the castle in Trzebieszowice, was my "SMS" (Strategic Thought Salon).

Further considerations presented in this study result, among other things, from participation in all the events mentioned and the discussions held there.

Historical outline

Using increasingly efficient AI systems, we've compiled basic, synthetic information about World Wars I and II to provide a preliminary extrapolation of what a third world conflict might look like. This is very difficult due to the many variables involved, including the

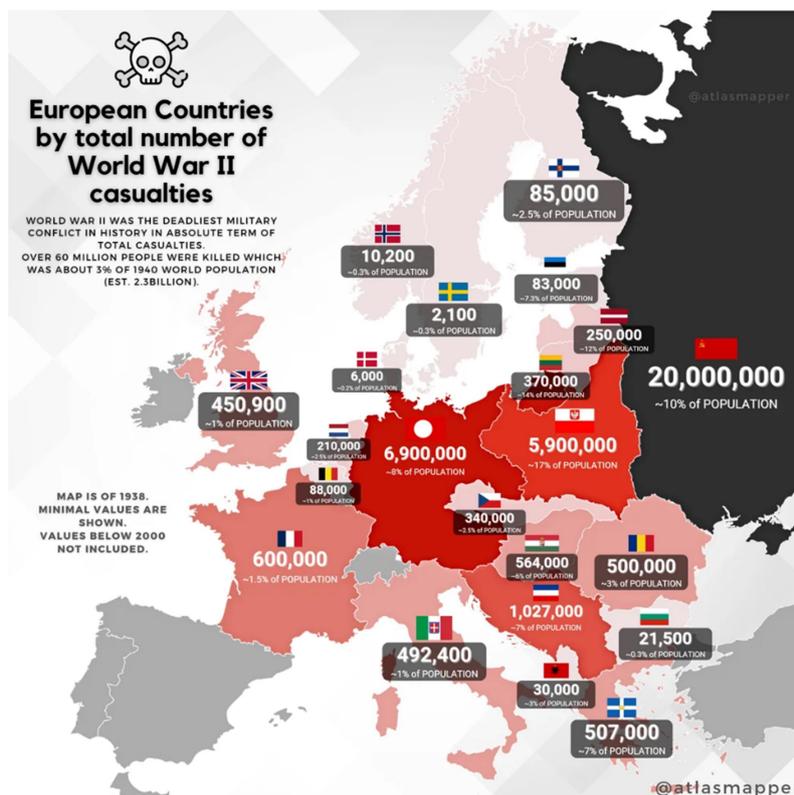
significant advancement of military technology, as evidenced by General Majewski's article in this issue of "Przegląd."

Recall that the population at the beginning of World War I in 1914 was approximately 1.8 billion. The Central Powers, which de facto triggered World War I using a familiar pretext, were Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria. During World War I, these countries suffered approximately four million military casualties and an equal number of civilian casualties, for a total of eight million casualties.

The Entente powers, which joined successively, included France, Great Britain (with its dominions), Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Belgium, Japan, Italy, Portugal, Romania, the United States, Greece, China, Brazil, and many smaller nations. In total, this group included as many as 30 countries. The total number of military casualties in this group was approximately 6 million, and the number of civilian casualties was similar, bringing the total losses in the Entente states to approximately 12 million.

Adding the losses of the Central Powers and the Entente Powers, the number of victims during World War I was approximately 20 million. This represents approximately 1.1% of the population at the time.

Losses in World War II were significantly greater. The beginning was very similar, with Germany once again starting the war by challenging the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. After five years of global conflict, the final outcome could be summarized, as shown in Figure 1 for Europe.



1. Losses of European countries after World War II

In Poland, losses amounted to 5.9 million people, representing approximately 17% of the country's population. As you can see, Poland suffered the greatest losses. We do not want a similar scenario in a third world conflict. A summary for both wars to date is presented in Table 1, with data extrapolated for the next conflict as well.

Tab.1. Results of World War I and II

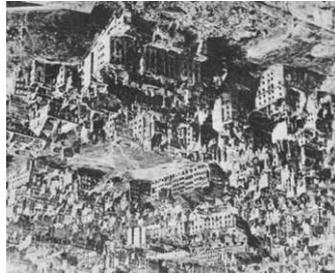
Year	Population	Killed	[%]
1914	1.8 billion	20 million	Approx. 1.1%
1939	2.3 billion	80 million	About 3.5%
2027	8.3 billion	500 million	About 6%

The information provided for World War III is an estimate and subject to significant uncertainty. We don't know how large the conflict will be, what part of the world it will affect, when it will begin, or what the losses will be. They could also be greater than those given in Table 1. Furthermore, given the continued increase in casualties, we estimate this figure for World War III at 6%, assuming a sense of calm will come and the escalation will ultimately be halted.

Let's recall a few areas characteristic of past and present conflicts. Examples from well-known locations are summarized in Figures 2-7. Many more similar images can be found online.



2. Pablo Picasso – Guernica



3. Ruins of Warsaw



4. Ruins of Hiroshima



5. Ruins of Aleppo



6. Ruins of Gaza



7. Ruins of Mariupol

Considering the accumulated arsenals and the current 50 or so local conflicts, significantly greater losses are conceivable. This is, in a sense, a positive scenario, assuming that:

- publishing alarmist predictions will prevent the outbreak of war,
- If World War III breaks out, there will be a moment of reflection and after reaching a certain level of destruction, the conflict will be over and the total destruction of the globe will not occur.

Let's also recall that over the past 4,500 years, Wikipedia has documented 10,600 battles and wars that took place in our European and Mediterranean cultural area. Remember, this description only refers to written information. In reality, there were many more conflicts worldwide.

The two world wars to date have taught us that networks and areas of cooperation are created ad hoc, that all alliances are fickle, and that after the war ends, dissatisfied parties always emerge. Organizations like the League of Nations failed when confronted with the selfish agendas of individual states, much as the UN does today. We will briefly review the strategies known in Poland after 1945. Figure 8 presents the Polish front's attack plans on Western Europe, within the framework of the Warsaw Pact.



8. Plan of attack of the Polish front on Western Europe

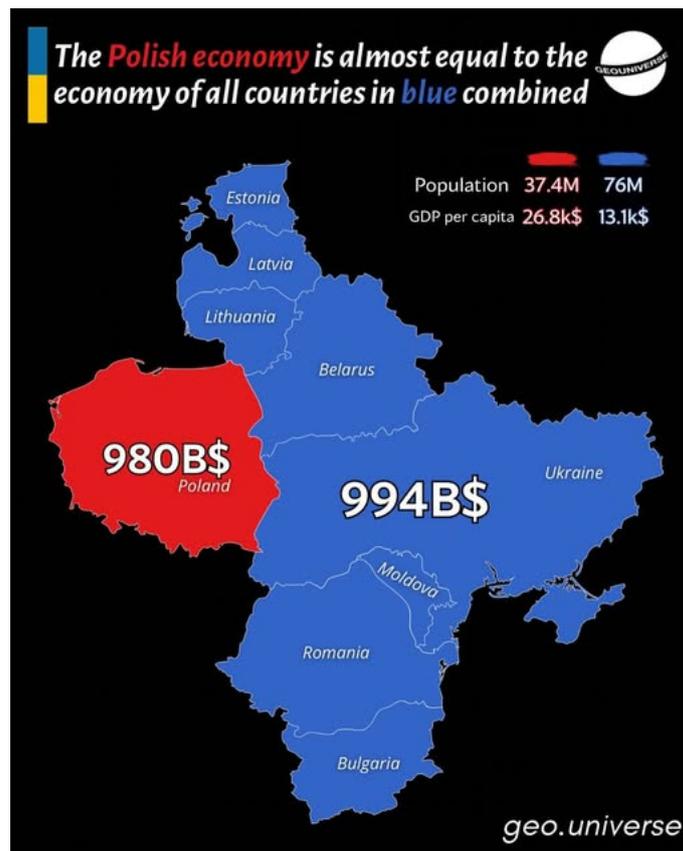
First Army was to reach northern Germany and then Denmark and the Netherlands, while the Second Army was to first occupy Germany and then reach Belgium. This strategy was in effect in Poland under Soviet occupation. In 1989, this strategy changed. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. Poland's eastern border is also NATO's eastern border. Meanwhile, the concept of a defense line on the Vistula River emerged, which is now public. It divided Poland along the Vistula into western and eastern parts, as shown in Figure 9. This would be the border between the European Union and Russia, effectively preparing the fifth partition of Poland, very similar to the borders of the fourth partition of Poland in 1939, although it runs even further west.



9. Defense line on the Vistula

This study assumes that Poland will not be completely destroyed during World War III, that there will be no "Battlefield of Europe" as there was during previous major conflicts. It is assumed that World War III will begin far from here and end without the major devastation in our country, as was the case previously. Then, the possibility of creating a buffer zone between Western Europe, which is currently culturally and historically united, and Eastern Europe, or the conventional EEC – East European Countries, will re-emerge. It is

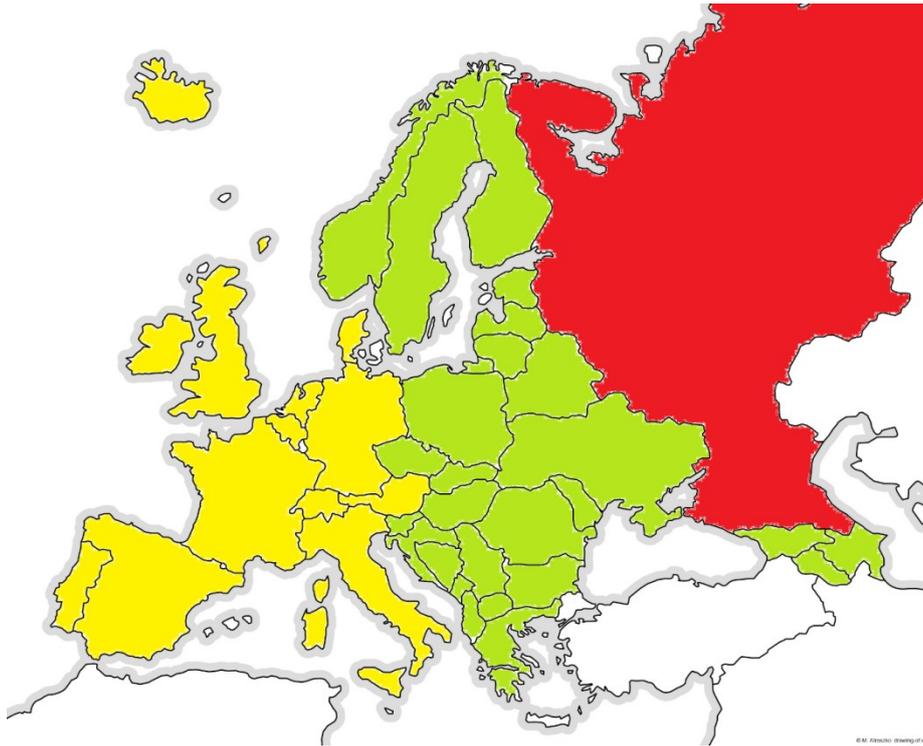
worth noting that large industrial companies divide our region in this very way. The author had the opportunity to experience this firsthand while working for the global oil company Shell. Certain groups of issues were common across the Baltic states and Greece. So, while certain solutions are already in place in business, can they also function in the political world? Local alliances are currently being formed in many places around the world. It is quite obvious that local alliances will play a significant role here, and what happens will be the result of all these forces and resources. This article presents what we believe to be the ideal solution: separating Eastern and Western Europe and creating a zone of states sufficiently strong economically and militarily to divide Western Europe and the Russian Empire. The following figures present the arguments for such a move. Figure 10 shows that by 2024, Poland's economic strength will be equivalent to that of the countries to its east.



10. GDP of Poland and countries located to the east of Poland

Poland is the leader in this endeavor. The goal isn't to dominate neighboring countries, but to cooperate with them. We demonstrated this in 1980 by creating "Solidarity," which brought freedom to all. At the heart of this movement was the equality of both people and states. It was Poland that formulated the ideas of Solidarity between states and led to the peaceful transformation of the communist system. We've already accomplished this once. Now it's about dividing East and West in the name of the great Solidarity.

Poland, the world's 20th-largest economy with an income of approximately \$1 trillion, is equivalent to all the countries to its east. Together, we can be a significant force. Figure 11 shows the potential division of the Western and Eastern worlds according to current maps, including northern European countries.



11. The potential separation of the Western world and the Eastern world of Europe

It should be noted that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe can be grouped historically (the Eastern Bloc), politically (the Visegrad Group), according to their membership in the European Union (CEE – Central-East-Europe), geographically (the Baltic, Balkan, post-Soviet states), and within the framework of international cooperation (the Eastern Partnership). This area includes the V4 (Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia), the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the Balkan states (Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania), the post-Soviet states (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova), and the Caucasus states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia).

This group should include the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Finland, and Norway. It's worth noting that this division is already in place in business and has proven effective in practice. After the end of World War III, it may become the standard for this part of Europe.

It's unclear how the maps will shape up after World War III, but it's suggested that this belt between the two parts of the continent should also include the Scandinavian countries. The first attempts in this regard were made during the G2 Forum, where this diagram was presented during a panel discussion on cooperation in space. Our goal is for countries from Scandinavia to Greece to work together for the good of all of us, but also for the good of all of Eurasia. We hope this concept will gain interest from various economic bodies, which will then convince political ones.

It should also be emphasized once again that we do not want to divide Europe. However, recent wars have demonstrated that the interests of individual parts of Europe were divergent. Poland was abandoned to its own devices by Western European countries at the beginning of World War II, and by the end of the war, a significant portion of it was taken and the remainder placed under Soviet occupation for 45 years. Both aggressors of World War II, through the "Intelligenzaktion" (Germany) and the persecution of the Home Army opposition, significantly weakened the Polish state. Only now have we rebuilt it. The behavior of interest groups from various countries around the world towards Ukraine also astonishes us, especially since the Ukrainian population is suffering. We do not want any more of this type

of action in Poland or in the aforementioned countries belonging to the contractually enlarged EEC.

This is another voice related to peace in our part of Europe and the world. Let's try to set an example by organizing everything peacefully. We can start now and try to stop the impending conflict, at least for all stakeholders in this part of Europe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

Piotr A. Wrzecioniarz

- The originator of the Lower Silesian Economic Certificate at the Forum in Krzyżowa,
- Chairman of the G2 Forum Program Council,
- Chairman of the National Committee for Space Technologies,
- The originator of the Strategic Thought Salon as part of "Genius Loci"