

Polish Minds That Shaped World Philosophy

By Piotr Nowak

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Explores the turbulent lives and ideas of 20th-century Polish thinkers shaped by war, totalitarianism, and ideological struggle, culminating in a reflection on Marxism and liberalism's enduring influence

The philosophical biography penned by the eminent Polish philosopher and translator Professor Piotr Nowak presents the difficult fate of Polish thinkers who reflected and created their philosophies in the 20th century—the century of three Polands, three wars, and two totalitarian regimes. Building his narrative around three key words, the author presents the lives and work of Władysław Tatarkiewicz, Tadeusz Kroński, Leszek Kołakowski, Andrzej Walicki, Adam Schaff, Bronisław Baczko, Krzysztof Pomian, Zbigniew Kuderowicz, Stefan Amsterdamski, Jerzy Szacki, Zygmunt Bauman, Jan Garewicz, Barbara Skarga, Juliusz Domański, Ryszard Legutko, Krzysztof Michalski, Marek J. Siemek, Józef Tischner, Roman Ingarden, Henryk Elzenberger, Tadeusz Kotarbiński, Kazimierz Adjunkiewicz, Marian Przełęcki, Bogusław Wolniewicz, Józef Maria Bocheński, Alfred Tarski, Leon Chwistek, and Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz. The book concludes with a transcript of a conversation between Zbigniew Janowski (an American philosopher of Polish descent) and the author of this book, discussing the influence of two powerful ideologies born in the 19th century, Marxism and liberalism, on the intellectual and political life of contemporary nations.

Key selling points

Political philosophy, history of analytical philosophy, Jews, Polish/Poles, history of contemporary philosophy, communism, totalitarianism, conservatism, Leszek Kołakowski, God, evil, truth, liberalism, The Lvov-Warsaw School, revisionists, biography

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Piotr Nowak is Professor of Philosophy at the Bialystok University in Poland, deputy editor in Chief of the annual Kronos. Philosophical Journal, and the author of *The Ancients and Shakespeare on Time: Some Remarks on the War of Generations* (2014) and *After Jews. Essays on Political Theology, Shoah and the End of Man* (2022). He published among others in *Philosophy and Literature* ("Gods and Children: Shakespeare Reads The Prince," Vol. 41, No. 1A, 2017).

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