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THE POLISH AND THE CZECH NATIONAL PROPAGANDA IN TESCHEN SILESIA IN THE PERIOD 1919–1920

(Summary)

The article focuses on the Polish and the Czech national propaganda in Teschen Silesia in the period 1919–1920, which received a wide range after the settling of the territorial dispute between Poland and Czechoslovakia by a plebiscite – a decision taken at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Entente on 11th September, 1919, and finally confirmed on 27th September of that year. Based on rich documentary material in Polish and Czech, mainly from the archive "Książnica Cieszyńska", the author presents the pro-Polish and anti-Czech and pro-Czech and anti-Polish propaganda campaigns conducted by a variety of means: most frequently posters, texts, photo materials, leaflets. Such materials were spread on streets and in public places, read at public meetings during processions and rallies, stuck on walls, fences and pillars. Some of them were published in the press. The article also presents the groups of the population targeted by this propaganda. The author concludes that this propaganda not only did not help to regulate the conflict between the two countries but also became one of the factors for its deepening, which justified the intervention of external forces in the tension between Poland and Czechoslovakia.