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The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939–1945

The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939–1945 examines one of the central problems in the history of Polish-Jewish relations: the attitude and the behavior of the Polish Underground – the resistance organization loyal to the Polish government-in-exile – toward the Jews during World War II. Using a variety of archival documents, testimonies, and memoirs, Joshua D. Zimmerman offers a careful, dispassionate narrative, arguing that the reaction of the Polish Underground to the catastrophe that befell European Jewry was immensely varied, ranging from aggressive aid to acts of murder. By analyzing the military, civilian, and political wings of the Polish Underground and offering portraits of the organization's main leaders, this book is the first full-length scholarly monograph in any language to provide a thorough examination of the Polish Underground's attitude and behavior toward the Jews during the entire period of World War II.

Joshua D. Zimmerman is Associate Professor of History and the Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies and East European Jewish History at Yeshiva University in New York. He is the author of *Poles, Jews and the Politics of Nationality: The Bund and the Polish Socialist Party in Late Tsarist Russia* and the editor of two contributed volumes: *Contested Memories: Poles and Jews during the Holocaust and Its Aftermath* and *Jews in Italy under Fascist and Nazi Rule, 1922–1945*.

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JOSHUA D. ZIMMERMAN
Yeshiva University, New York

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To my wife, Anna, for her warmth,
generosity, and grace

And in loving memory of her mother,
Ruth Feigenbaum Gross (1930–1994), a Holocaust
survivor from Poland

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Abbreviations and Terms

AAN	Archive of New Records, Warsaw – Archiwum Akt Nowych
AK	Home Army (successor to ZWZ) – Armia Krajowa
AKwD	*Armia Krajowa w dokumentach* Vols. 1–6 (London, 1970–1989)
AL	People's Army of the PPR (1944–1945; successor to GL) – Armia Ludowa
Antyk	Anti-Communist Division, Home Army (1943–1945) – Społeczny Komitet Antykomunistyczny
APwK	State Archives in Kraków – Archiwum Państwowe w Krakowie
BIP	Bureau of Information and Propaganda, Home Army – Biuro Informacji i Propagandy
BUW	Warsaw University Library
CAW	Central Military Archives, Warsaw – Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe
Delegate	Delegate of the Polish Republic in occupied Poland
Delegate's Bureau	Office of the Polish Republic's Delegate in occupied Poland – Delegatura Rządu na Kraj
FOP	Front for Reborn Poland (underground Catholic organization) – Front Odrodzenia Polski
GFH	Ghetto Fighter's House Kibbutz, Israel
GL	People's Guard of the PPR (1942–1943; became AL in January 1944) – Gwardia Ludowa
HIA	Hoover Institute Archives, Stanford University
IH PAN	Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw – Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk
IPN	Institute of National Memory, Warsaw – Instytut Pamięci Narodowej
Kedyw	Directorate of Subversion, the Home Army's elite combat units – Kierownictwo Dywersji Komendy Głównej Armii Krajowej
KWC	Directorate of Civil Resistance (1941–July 1943), Delegate's Bureau – Kierownictwo Walki Cywilnej
KWK	Directorate of Conspiratorial Struggle (1941–July 1943), Home Army – Kierownictwo Walki Konspiracyjnej
KWP	Directorate of Underground Struggle (July 1943–1945), Delegate's Bureau and Home Army – Kierownictwo Walki Podziemnej

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MBP	Ministry of Public Security in Communist Poland – Ministerstwo Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego
NOW	National Military Organization (SN's underground militia) – Narodowa Organizacja Wojskowa
NSZ	National Armed Forces, right-wing Polish underground (1942–1945); splits in March 1944 with one part joining the Home Army – Narodowe Siły Zbrojne
ONR	National-Radical Camp (1934; 1937–1945) – Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny
Operation Tempest	Home Army's code name for the general uprising
OZON	Camp of National Unity (coalition government, 1937–1939) – Obóz Zjednoczenia Narodowego
PAL	PAL Polish People's Army (1943–1945) – Polska Armia Ludowa
PKP	Political Advisory Committee of the Polish Underground, 1940–1944 (became the RJN in March 1944) – Polityczny Komitet Porozumiewawczy
PKWN	Polish Committee of National Liberation (formed in July 1944) – Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego
PPR	Polish Worker's Party (Polish communists, established January 1942) – Polska Partia Robotnicza
PPS	Polish Socialist Party – Polska Partia Socjalistyczna
PPS-WRN	PPS–Freedom-Equality-Independence (wartime PPS faction) – PPS Wolność, Równość, Niepodległość
PSB	*Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (Polish Biographical Dictionary)
RJN	Council of National Unity, 1944–1945 (successor to the PKP) – Rada Jedności Narodowej
SD	Democratic Party – Stronnictwo Demokratyczne
SIA	Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum Archives, London
SL	Peasant Party – Stronnictwo Ludowe
SN	National Party (formerly Endecja, or National Democratic Party) – Stronnictwo Narodowe
SP	Party of Labor – Stronnictwo Pracy
SPP	Polish Underground Movement Study Trust, London
Szmalcownik	A Polish blackmailer of Jews
SZP	Service for the Victory of Poland, 1939–1940 (renamed ZWZ in 1940) – Służba Zwycięstwa Polski
UBK	Cadre Strike Battalion – Confederation of the Nation's military wing under Bolesław Piasecki (1942–1943). Joined Home Army in August 1943 – Uderzeniowe Bataliony Kadrowe
USHMM	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
WBBH	Military Bureau of Historical Research, Warsaw
WBH	Military Historical Bureau, Home Army – Wojskowe Biuro Historyczne
YVA	Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem
ŻIH	Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw – Żydowski Instytut Historyczny
ŻKK	Jewish Coordinating Committee – political arm of the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB) in the Warsaw Ghetto – Żydowski Komitet Koordynacyjny
ŻKN	Jewish National Committee – political representation of Zionist groups in the Warsaw ghetto – Żydowski Komitet Narodowey

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ŻOB	Jewish Combat Organization (founded July 1942) – Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa
ZPP	Union of Polish Patriots (Soviet Russia, 1943–) – Związek Patriotów Polskich
ZWZ	Union of Armed Struggle (1939–1942); successor to SZP; renamed Home Army in February 1942 – Związek Walki Zbrojnej
Żydokomuna	Lit. "Judeo-Communism"
ŻZW	Jewish Military Union, Warsaw ghetto – Żydowski Związek Wojskowy

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Note on Terms and Figures

In the present study, the term "Polish Underground" in uppercase refers to the legal underground organizations in occupied Poland recognized by, and swearing allegiance to, the Polish government-in-exile. Use of the generic term "Polish underground" in lowercase, on the other hand, refers to all Polish underground organizations in the occupied homeland, including communists and ultra-nationalists who neither swore allegiance to nor were recognized by the Polish government-in-exile. Note also that the term "Warsaw Uprising" refers to the Polish armed rising in August–September 1944, while the term "Warsaw ghetto uprising" refers to the Jewish armed revolt of April–May 1943.

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MAP 1. Poland on the eve of World War II

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