

A PAST WHICH WILL NOT PASS INTO OBLIVION -
SURROGATE FOR A FUTURE
WHICH WILL NOT COME?

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How to cope with 45 years of the most recent past is one of the key topics in public discussions, in Poland just as elsewhere. The history of the People's Republic of Poland is being rewritten, partly with reversed premises. At the same time it is evident that a simple reversion of the pre-1989 value system meets with considerable opposition. One of the reasons is the fact that this entails casting doubt on millions of individual biographies. The reappraisal of the years 1945-1989 goes along with a revision of the stereotypes of Germany which have hitherto been preeminent. The discussion is underway in this regard as well, but it is becoming apparent that the pre-1945 history is causing much less emotions than what is generally understood by the term "contemporary history", which takes the end of the Second World War as its starting point. In the latter period, Poland's neighbour to the east plays a far greater part than the one to the west.