

WHAT DOES THE STATE SEEK TO ESTABLISH:
POLISH POPULATION OR SOCIALIST SOCIETY?

Systemic change by means of population politics:
comparing East Prussia and Lower Silesia

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This contribution examines the connection between forced migration and political system transformation in Poland after World War II, a state which had been moved to the west in its entirety and which had to contend with multiple migration processes. Using the southern part of East Prussia and Lower Silesia, two recently acquired territories, as example, the author demonstrates how communist and nationalist lines of argumentation and actions taken along these lines mutually influenced each other, and that measures aimed at influencing the social and/or national makeup of the population ranked highly on the agenda of the post-war political elites. These actions must not be viewed separately, they exerted an influence on each other that

cannot be disregarded. Arguments favoring homogenization of the population along either national or social lines did not necessarily exclude each other. In many situations, they could be fused together when the aim was to consolidate political power or to establish legitimacy with the population.