

NEW SOCIETY ON NEW TERRITORY: DISINTEGRATIVE
AND INTEGRATIVE FACTORS IN THE SZCZECIN
DISTRICT, 1945-1956

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After the Szczecin region, later an administrative district of its own, had become part of Poland as one of many changes to the territory of the Polish state in the wake of World War II, the new rulers undertook many efforts to gainfully employ the newly added territory in order that Poland as a whole would benefit politically, ideologically, economically, and socially. By means of a quick influx of Polish colonists concurrently with the ethnic German population being made to leave, the authorities sought to form a new, homogeneous society where Polish nationality would be combined with the communist system. However, there were a number of detrimental factors, among which were the scarcity of elementary goods which was noticeable throughout the country, as well as a nationalities policy which would not take into serious consideration the possibility of persons having more than one ethnic affiliation and which sought to accelerate homogenization by means of oppression, stigmatization, and forced migration. Another burden for the region was the presence of the Red Army. Thus, although in contrast to wartime conditions a degree of stability was doubtless reached, the population was subject to disintegrative factors as well. These led to people leaving the region, to local conflicts, and to a sense of the new accommodation not being permanent. With some of the new arrivals, this suspicion would not disappear even after decades had passed.