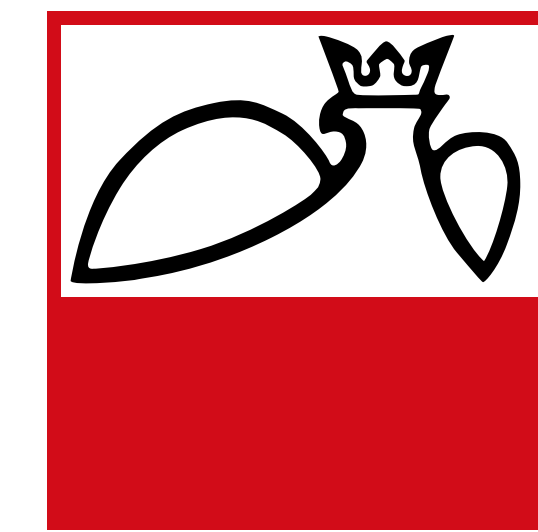


IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”



LECH KACZYŃSKI - BIOGRAPHY

Lech Kaczyński was born in Warsaw on the 18th of June, 1949. He is the son of Jadwiga Jasiewicz and Rajmund Kaczyński, the identical twin brother of Jarosław Kaczyński who is the president of the Law and Justice party. His mother was a Polish philologist, teacher, and employee of the Institute of Literary Research. During the war she was a nurse in the Gray Ranks (Szare Szeregi) paramilitary group. His father was an engineer, an employee of the Technical Infrastructure Design Office, a lecturer at the Warsaw University of Technology, a Home Army soldier, and participated in the Warsaw Uprising. He attended Joachim Lelewela high school in Warsaw and XXXIX Polish Aviation high school in Bielany. In 1967 he began his studies in Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. After completing his Master's Thesis, he conducted research in the Department of Labor Law at the University of Gdansk. In 1980 he completed his PhD and in 1990 he completed his tenure.

DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION

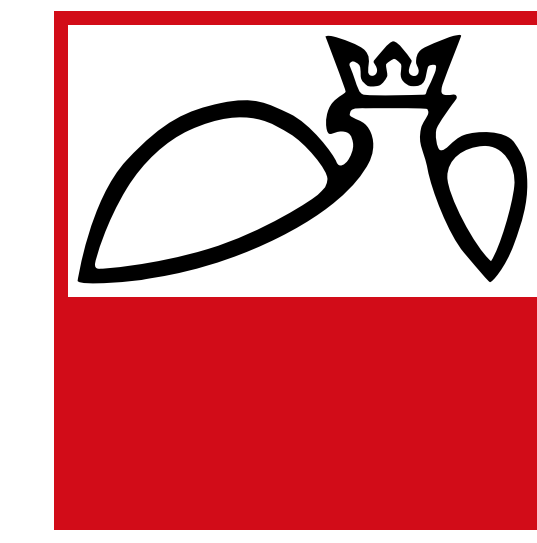
After responding to the appeal of the Workers' Defense Committee (Komitet Obrony Robotników) in 1976, he started collecting money for repressed workers. In 1977 he started cooperating with the Workers' Defense Committee Intervention Bureau. A year later he joined the Free Trade Union. Later he conducted training and lectures for workers in the field of labor law and history. He wrote for the independent press „Robotnik Wybrzeża” and distributed the following magazines to workers: „Robotnik” and „Biuletyn Informacyjny KSS KOR”.

In August 1980 at the Gdansk Shipyard he became an advisor to the Gdansk Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee. He was the author of some of the provisions in the August Agreements. As well, he contributed to some of the “Solidarity” statutes describing strikes, industry segments, and collective agreements. He was the head of the Intervention Bureau and the head of the Bureau of Current Analysis of the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee.

On the 17th of September, 1980 he supported the concept of Jan Olszewski, Jarosław Kaczyński and Karol Modzelewski where all newly established unions would unite into one nationwide union - “Solidarity”.



IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LECH KACZYŃSKI - BIOGRAPHY

SOLIDARITY

In 1981 he was delegated to the 1st National Solidarity Congress (NSC) and later was the chairman of the 11th Congressional Committee Group for the Polish United Workers' Party. From July 1981 he became a member of the NSZZ (Independent Self-Governing Trade-Union) Solidarity regional board in Gdansk. During martial law he was detained from December 1981 to October 1982 for his activity in the Solidarity movement. After his release he returned to his trade union and was a leading member in the underground Solidarity movement. From 1983 he participated in the Provisional Coordination Commission meetings and both he and his brother Jarosław were advisers. From 1985 he was a member of the regional Aid Council that served Political Prisoners in Gdansk. From January 1986 he was a member of the TKK (Temporary Coordinating Commission) and later participated with the secret Regional Coordinating NSZZ Solidarity Committee. From July 1986 he was the TKK secretary. From December 1987 after the merger of the TKK and the Temporary „S” Council, they became part of the Secretariat of the National Executive NSZZ “Solidarity” Committee. In September 1988 he took part in talks between the opposition and the authorities of Magdalenka. He was a member of the so-called „six”, i.e. the main leadership of the Solidarity movement that spoke at the round table. From December 1988 he became a member of the Lech Wałęsa Civic Committee. From February to April 1989 he participated in the round table to discuss trade union pluralism. From April to July 1989 he was a member of the so-called „Commission of Cooperation” between the government and the “Solidarity” movement.

From April 1989 he became a member of the Presidium of the National Executive NSZZ Solidarity Committee, replacing the incumbent chairman. In May 1990 he became the 1st vice-chairman of NSZZ Solidarity Union (he managed the union during Lech Wałęsa's presidential campaign and after). In February 1991, he ran for the position of Solidarity chairman. In the elections he took second place, losing to Marian Krzaklewski.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

In the June 1989 parliamentary elections he became a senator representing the Gdansk region. In the period from March to October 1991 he was the Minister of State Security in the Chancellery for the President of the Republic of Poland. He supervised the work of the National Security Bureau. In the 1991 parliamentary elections he became the deputy to the parliament during the first term chosen from a list of candidates provided by the Center Agreement party. He was active in committees that were dealing with matters related to legislation and social policy. From November 1991 he was the chairman of the Administration and Internal Affairs Committee. From the beginning of his political activity in a free Poland, he postulated the vetting and decommunization in people's public lives. On the 14th of February, 1992 he was elected as president of the Supreme Audit Office. He held this position until 1995. He was a member of the Administrative Council of the International Labor Organization in the United Nations and a member of the Presidium of EUROSAI - the European association of state audit bodies. In the years 1995-97 he served as vice-chairman for the program board of the Institute of Public Affairs. From 1999-2000 he was a member of the Codification Commission in the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. On June 12, 2000 he was appointed by Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek as the Minister of Justice. In 2001 he headed the „Law and Justice” National Committee. A new right-wing party that he co-founded with Jarosław Kaczyński. He was elected as a Sejm deputy for his 4th term in the Gdansk constituency. He was the chairman of the Sejm Constitutional Responsibility Committee. On November 18, 2002 during a direct election for the Mayor in the Capital City of Warsaw he won by a significant margin. He began his reign in the capital with promises of liquidating corruption and restoring law and order. He took effective action to improve security in the city. On the 1st of August, 2004, on the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising he opened the Warsaw Uprising Museum. He relinquished his mandate as mayor on the eve of assuming the office as the President of the Republic of Poland.

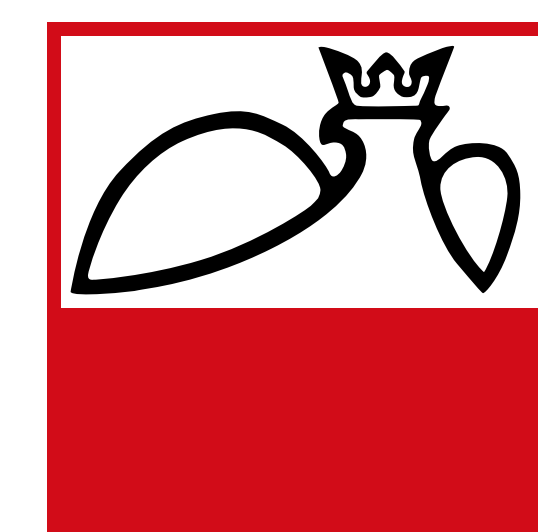
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

On the 23rd of October, 2005 he won the presidential election in the second round after receiving 54.04% of the vote. He took office on the 23rd of December, 2005 under oath before the National Assembly.

He died in an airplane crash flying in a government TU-154 on the 10th of April, 2010 near Smolensk on his way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. The president, together with his wife Maria and the accompanying delegation flew to Katyn where together with the representatives of families of the Katyn massacre, as well as members of parliament, clergy, veterans, and soldiers were going to pay tribute to the Poles murdered by the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs).



IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG COUNTRY – ACTIVE CITIZENS



This is my message for today: a country that from five and a half centuries has been called the Republic of Poland is something of value, it's something we must focus on today, it is so important that our future success depends on the productivity of this Republic, this country. Not only as patriots who are connected with their community and experience success positively and failures negatively, but also for the opportunities for the people who are Polish – both here and even more so abroad. Thanks to the opportunities in their careers, thanks to the success in their personal and family life.

The president Lech Kaczyński

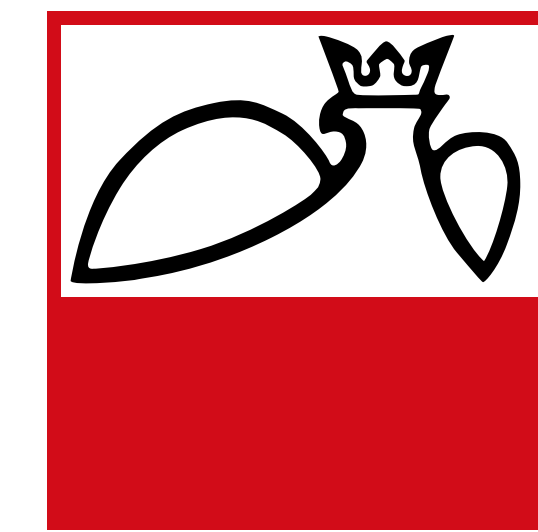
An excerpt from a speech given during the presentation of awards and nominations in the Presidential Palace,
November 11, 2009

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG COUNTRY – ACTIVE CITIZENS



The strength and efficiency of a state, and the quality and effectiveness of its institutions are not only determined by its regulations and procedures. Our country needs competent, impartial, and loyal officials with high moral values and modern thinking.

The president Lech Kaczyński

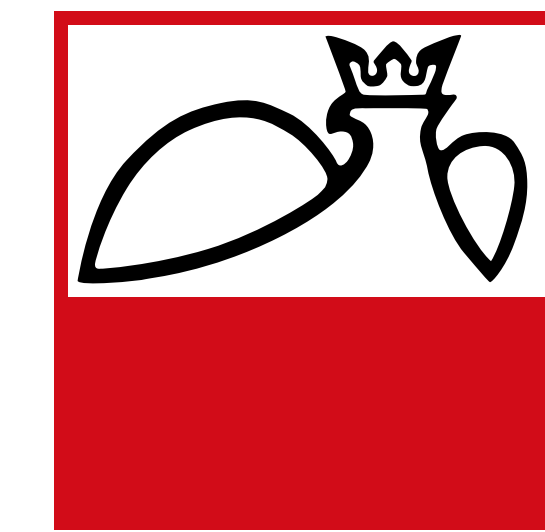
An excerpt from a letter from October 6, 2007 that was written for the 2007/2008 academic inauguration at the Center for Local Government Studies and Local Development at the University of Warsaw

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG COUNTRY – ACTIVE CITIZENS



Readiness to sacrifice, attachment to freedom, and love of the homeland – these attitudes are necessary for the development of the state in peace and safety. Without them, Polish society can not be a true community bound by the bonds of solidarity and trust.

The president Lech Kaczyński

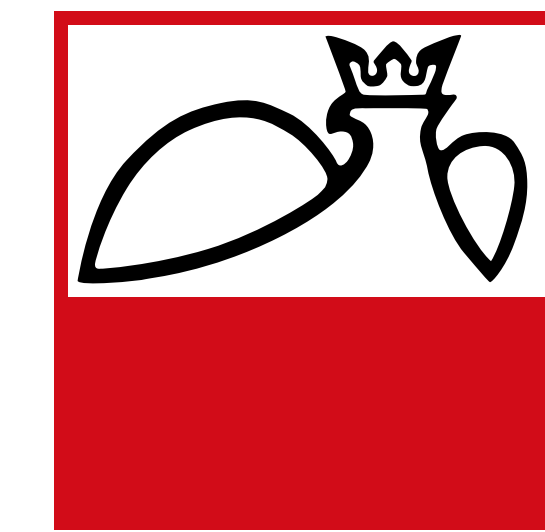
An excerpt from a letter written in April 10th, 2010 during the recognition ceremony for scoutmaster Florian Marciniak, member of the Wielkopolska Scouts Regiment of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG COUNTRY – ACTIVE CITIZENS



If freedom is the foundation of a state ruled by law, then truth is the building block upon which the entire edifice of such a state can be built up on. Justice is the crowning achievement of this edifice. Throughout history, in political and legal thought, justice is considered as an absolute must from the point of view of life in human communities.

The president Lech Kaczyński

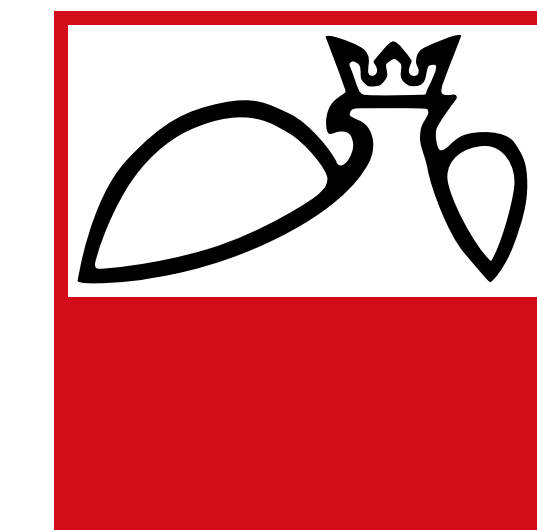
An excerpt from a letter of May 15, 2008 for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Warsaw

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

SOCIAL ORDER IN POLAND



Social solidarity, the idea of a solidary state is not an empty slogan. It is an idea that strives to create such a social order in which exclusion and limitation in the exercise of human and civil rights are counteracted, and the country actively cooperates for the economic and civilizational advancement of the country.

The president Lech Kaczyński

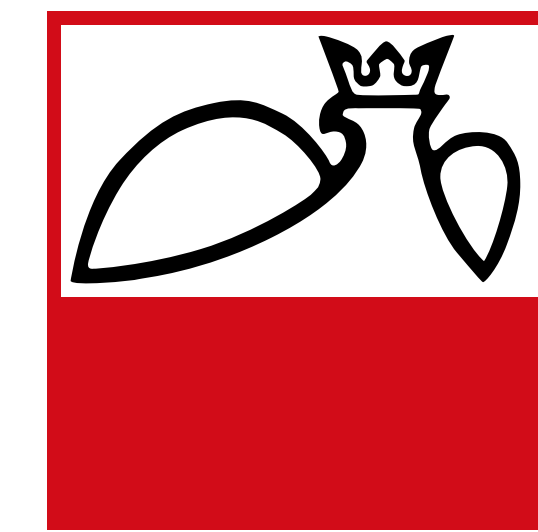
An excerpt from a letter written on the 21st of, 2008 to the organizers and participants of the „Equal Opportunities Company 2007” competition

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

SOCIAL ORDER IN POLAND



We need to feel more than ever that we are a community.
A community bound by ties of solidarity. Our country must
develop quickly, but in a way so that no one is left behind.

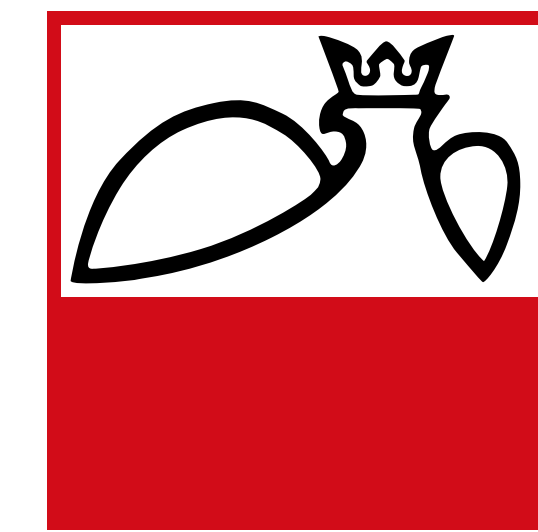
The president Lech Kaczyński
An excerpt from his New Year's Message, December 31, 2005

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

SOCIAL ORDER IN POLAND



We need a solidary Poland. One in which economic goals are reconciled with social goals. One where the fate of the weaker is not subordinated to the interests of the stronger. I am thinking about a very strong opposition to unemployment, homelessness, and other forms of social exclusion; creating the conditions for proper healthcare for all citizens and their old age security and in the event of a disability that will make independent living a problem; guaranteeing equal access to education. Without the former we will not ensure a continuous and sustainable growth for Poland.

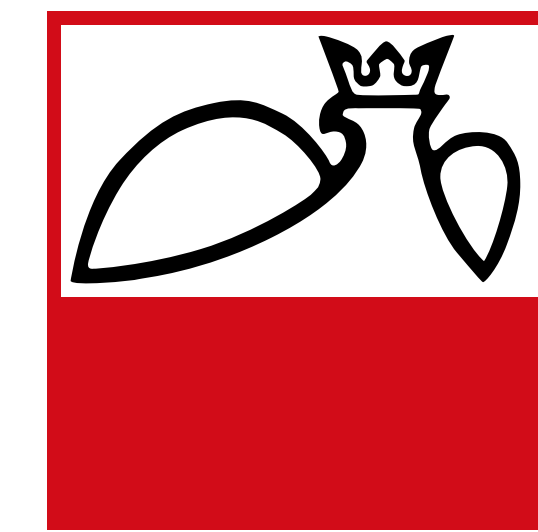
The president Lech Kaczyński

An excerpt from a message to the 4th Lisbon Strategy Forum in Warsaw, on the 12th of October, 2006

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

SOCIAL ORDER IN POLAND



The social fabric of solidarity and cohesion are as necessary for economic development as competition in multiplying profits and individual ambitions.

Freedom and solidarity should support each other.

The president Lech Kaczyński

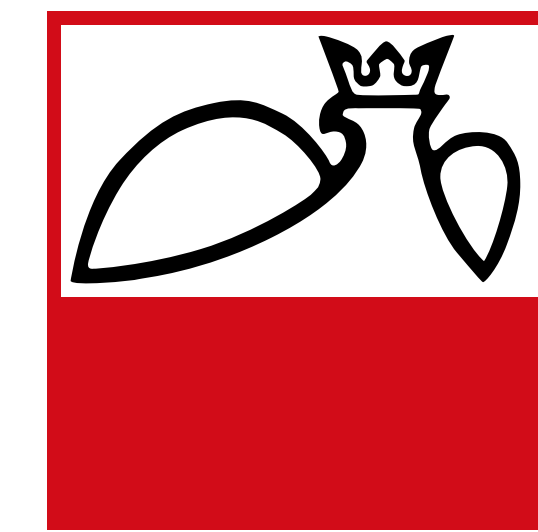
An excerpt from a message to the Sejm during the economic crisis on the 22nd of May, 2009

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

SOCIAL ORDER IN POLAND



The family model is changing: relations between spouses, also between parents and children are becoming more partner-like, and also the professional lives of spouses are being shaped differently. Despite these changes, the family consisting of a husband, wife, and children remains a fellowship, wholly, united by affection, trust, and responsibility.

The president Lech Kaczyński

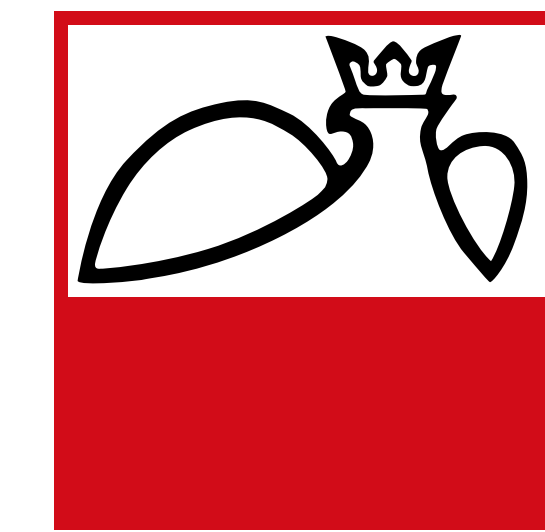
An excerpt from a letter written on the 5th of March, 2010 to the 4th International Forum of Fathers
“Father. The most important career in a man's life”

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



It's worth being Polish; it is worthwhile for the Polish nation and its state - the Republic of Poland - to remain in Europe. These words are the foundation, the deepest foundation of patriotism, they are the guidepost for you and me.

The president Lech Kaczyński

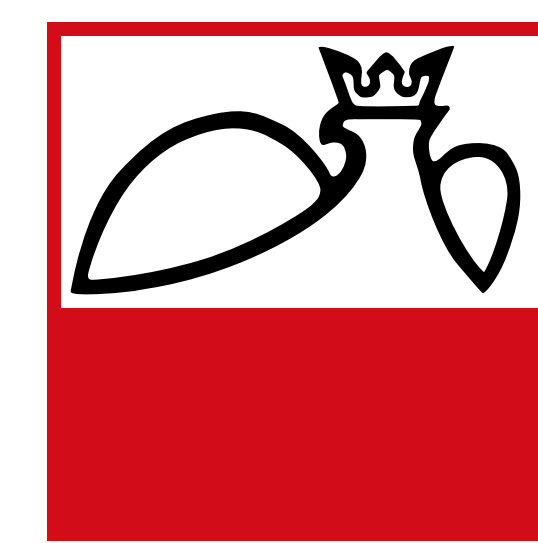
An excerpt from his speech during the 2nd Law and Justice Congress on the 3rd of June, 2006 in Łódź

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



Poland is one. From Świnoujście to Ustrzyki Górne, from Puńsk to Bogatynia - we are one country. We have different beliefs and aspirations, often different origins, and sometimes also different religions, but we are all daughters and sons of the Most Serene Republic.

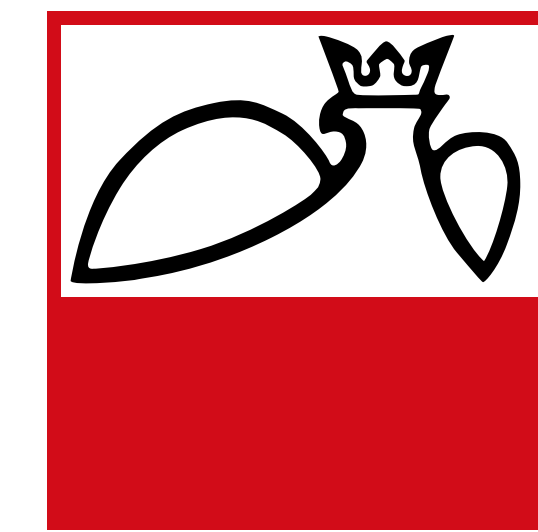
The president Lech Kaczyński
An excerpt from his New Year's Message on the 31st of December, 2008

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



Patriotism does not mean nationalism.
Nationalism and even more chauvinism are born of hatred.
Patriotism comes from love, from a sense of identity within
a community, from a community of culture and history.

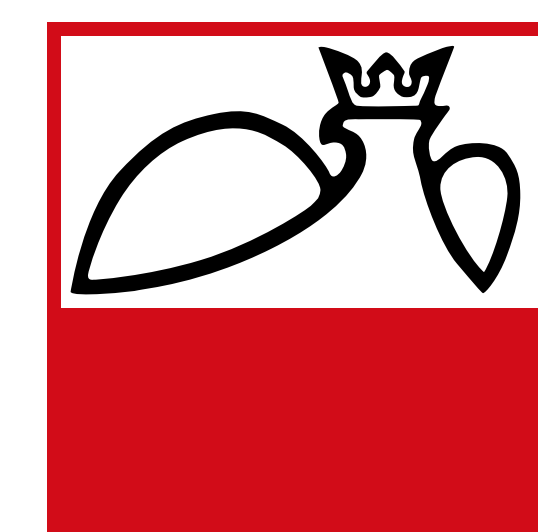
The president Lech Kaczyński
An expert for a speech during the National Independence Day
ceremony at Piłsudski Square in Warsaw on the 11th of November, 2008

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



A nation as a community is built around tradition. You shouldn't oppose the necessary changes, and the necessity to modernize Poland. This is a contrived contradiction. This is a harmful way of thinking. The greatest successes in Europe were achieved by those who were able to combine modernization with good tradition. Our country as a whole with its legislation, its sphere of school education and other categories should head in this direction.

The president Lech Kaczyński

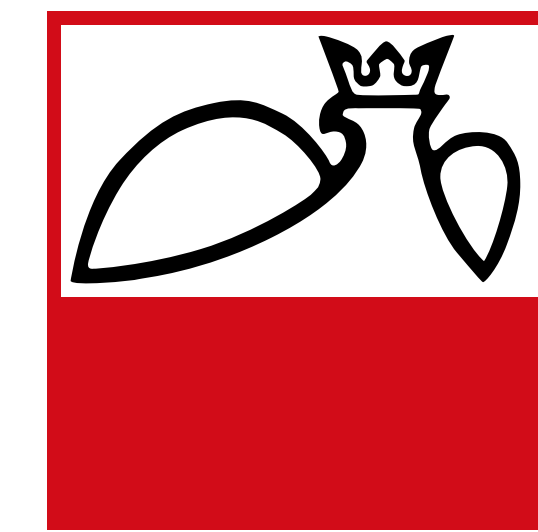
An excerpt from a message after taking oath before the National Assembly
and assuming the office of the President of the Republic of Poland on the 23rd of December, 2005

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



The past is a source of strength and pride for every nation with the achievements of indigenous thought and spirit, imagination and art. Getting to know this heritage, its protection to the witnesses of history and tradition as well as models for shaping and preserving our identity is a successor's duty to the following generations.

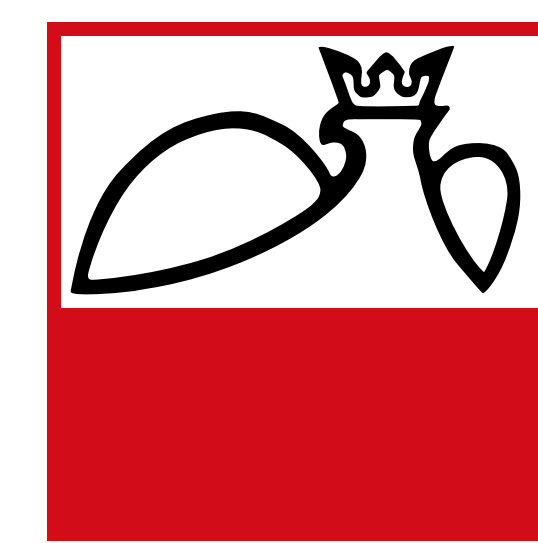
The president Lech Kaczyński
An excerpt from a letter written on the 5th of December, 2006 to celebrate the 100th anniversary
of the Monument Preservation Society

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



Our concept of historical policy is to restore patriotism and national pride. It covers not only recent history, but also the older one, the history of our victories. I don't like being a victim at all, much less would I want my country to play that role. Let me repeat: this is about restoring patriotic awareness, as well as restoring awareness of our history and its importance in Europe, and in our part of Europe in particular.

The president Lech Kaczyński

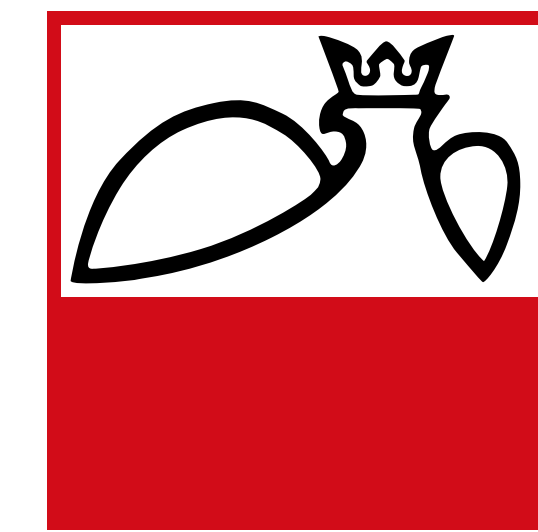
Applied history, an excerpt from an interview for the „Arcanów” magazine in 2006, no. 4-5 (70-71)

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

LOVE FOR THE HOMELAND - REMEMBRANCE AND PATRIOTISM



Poland is a country that is 1050 years old, a once great country, a country that lost its independence, a country with strong authority, but it too was once weak. Poland is a tradition of freedom. [...] Freedom is in the nature of Poles.

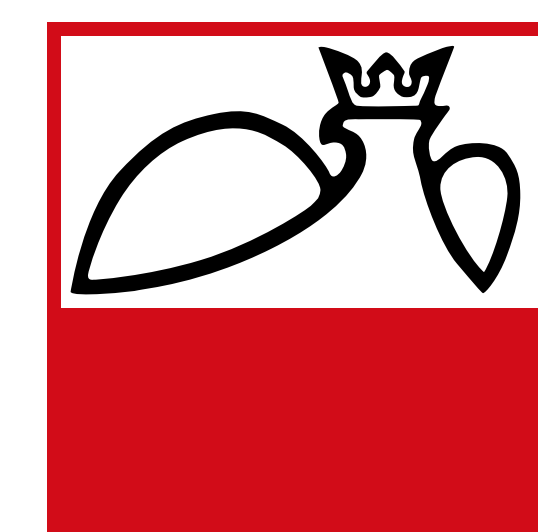
The president Lech Kaczyński
An excerpt from a speech during a visit to Brzesko on the 28th of February, 2010

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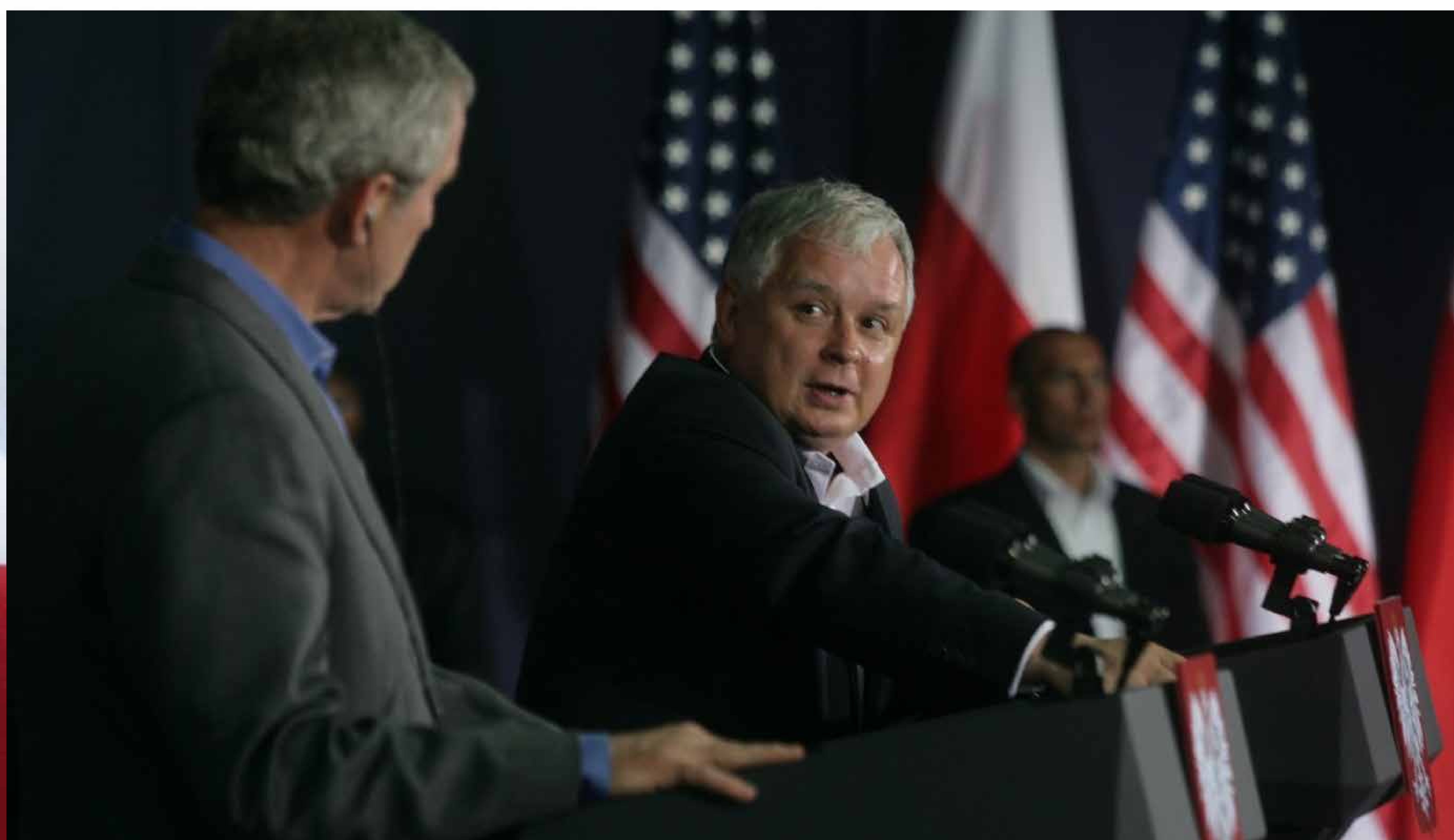
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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG POLAND IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD



Efforts for economic and civilisational development, guaranteeing the security of our country and striving to build its strong position in the international arena are among the unchanging priorities of the Polish state, uniting the entire ruling class above party divisions. However, all this may turn out to be an illusion if the role of spiritual life for the future of the nation is neglected, if the promotion of culture is neglected.

The president Lech Kaczyński

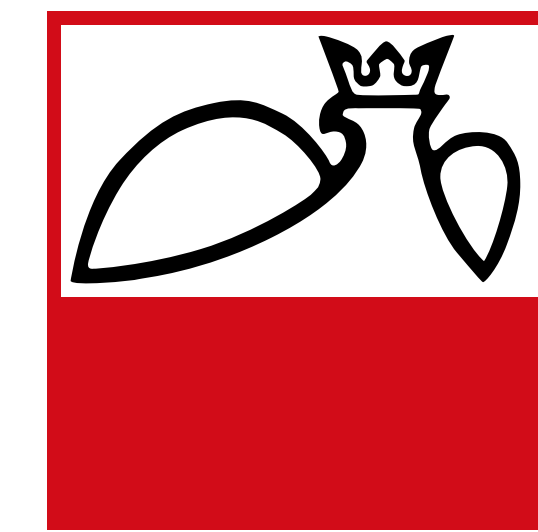
An excerpt from a letter written on the 23rd of September, 2009 to the 6th Congress of Polish Culture in Krakow

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IT'S WORTH BEING POLISH



STOWARZYSZENIE
„WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

A STRONG POLAND IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD



Poland needs [...] national unity in matters of the European Union. Also in defence of our interests. Such unity strengthens the government and the president who shape our foreign policy. The presence of Poland in the European Union on the one hand guarantee's a good future, and on the other hand during this stage of its history it fulfil's of our nation's mission and our premise. For centuries our mission was to be part of the political West, and our message was tolerance, freedom, and faithfulness to the Christian roots of Europe.

The president Lech Kaczyński

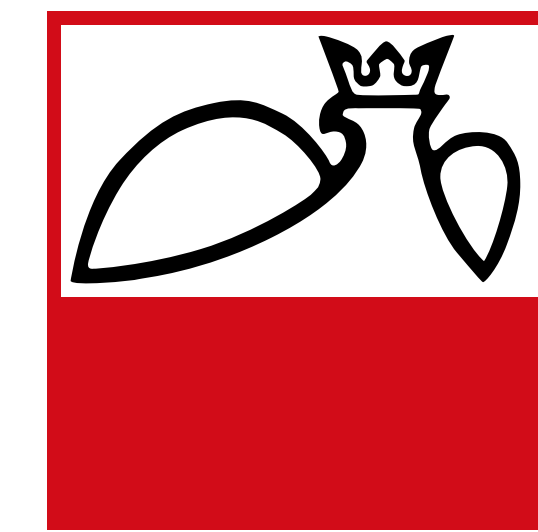
An excerpt from a political address to the Sejm during the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty on the 1st of April, 2008

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Europe is a continent where secularisation is progressing, laicisation and the battle for Europe is not only a dispute about the institutional integrity, not only a dispute about the number of Union members, about the right to join it, but also a dispute about what Europe will be like in the future. [...] The way of Europe is the way of man. However, the question will arise as to what type of humanism will be used. [...] It is also a matter of the full breadth of man, who [...] is a theocentric being – one who needs God, who needs a reality other than the visible one, a reality that is more permanent and, above all, incomparably even more perfect.

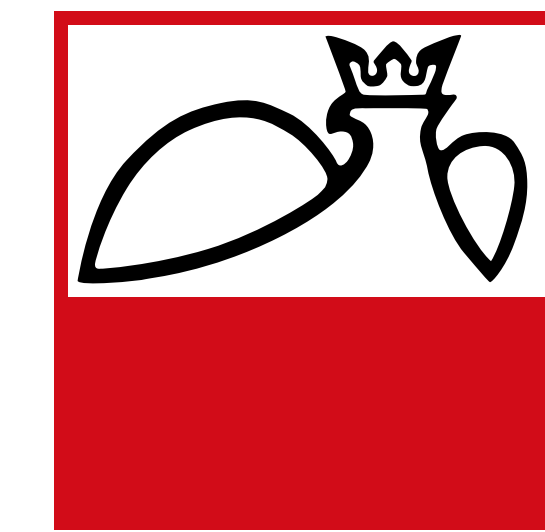
The president Lech Kaczyński

An excerpt from a speech at the 7th Congress in Gniezno - "Man as Europe" on the 15th of June, 2007

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We are here to express total solidarity. We are the leaders of five countries: Poland, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We are here to take on this fight. For the first time in a long time our neighbors from the north, for us also from the east, showed a side that we have known of for hundreds of years. These neighbors believe that the nations around them should be subject to them. We say no! This country is Russia. This country believes that the old days of an empire that collapsed less than 20 years ago are coming back; that once again their dominance will be a part of this region. Well, it won't. Those times are over once and for all.

The president Lech Kaczyński

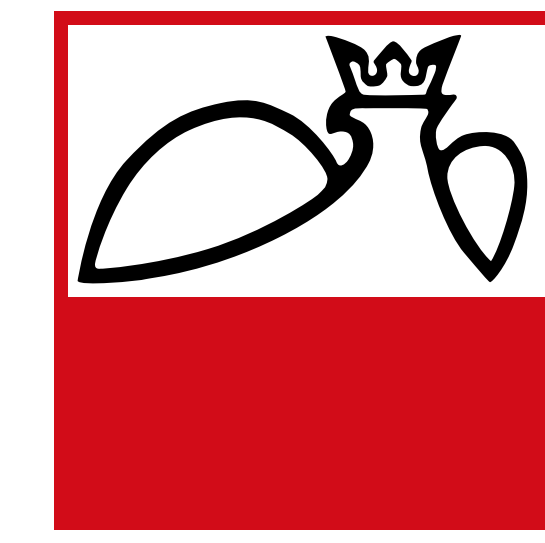
An excerpt from a speech at a protest in Tbilisi against Russia's intervention in Abkhazia, on the 12th of August, 2008

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A moment ago I had the pleasure and honor to sign the act called the Karta Polaka (Pole's Card). [...] It is supposed to make it easier for Poles to come back to Poland, especially after we enter the Schengen area from the 1st of January next year; it will facilitate education in Poland [...] The second issue [...] – the act on citizenship. This act recognizes dual citizenship, mainly because of Poles living abroad. This is its main goal. The second goal is to repeal the shameful acts that deprived entire groups of Poles of Polish citizenship. [...] The Polish community must feel connected.

The president Lech Kaczyński

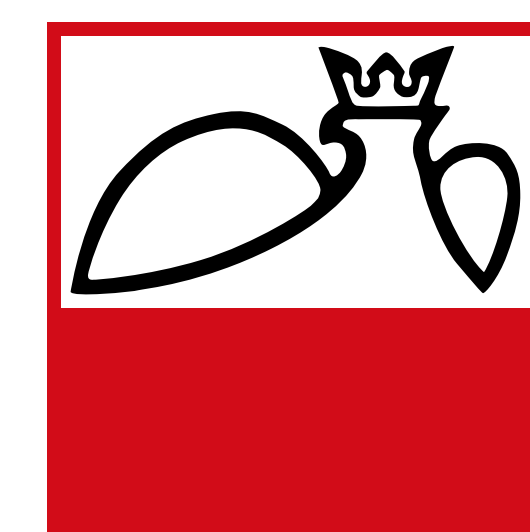
An excerpt from a speech given to the 3rd Congress of the Polish Diaspora and Poles from Abroad in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland on the 22nd of September, 2007

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