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**MONOGRAPH REVIEW:  
THE POLISH NAVY IN THE STATE  
SECURITY POLICY IN THE  
SECOND HALF OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.  
AN ATTEMPT AT SYSTEMATISATION.  
SECOND EDITION SUPPLEMENTED  
AUTHORS:  
JERZY BĘDŹMIROWSKI, MIŁOSZ GAC**

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The monograph presented for review is the second, supplemented edition of the earlier monograph by prof. dr hab. Jerzy Będźmirowski and Dr. Miłosz Gac, titled "The Polish Navy and the state's maritime security. From the Cold War to NATO. An attempt at systematization", issued in 2018. Therefore, it is difficult not to notice that the issues related to the Polish Navy in the period in question became the subject of more in-depth analyses by the Authors. The presented monograph, being a continuation of formerly raised issues, was expanded with new ideas and supplemented with new, so far unpublished archival materials.

To begin with, it should be noted that the title of the monograph has been modified, thus it is shorter and more communicative, and the adopted time limits for the study were accurately defined by the authors. As in the previous edition, the monograph has been divided into three main parts that have their justification in the political events on the European continent, which were groundbreaking for the Polish state, and also influenced changes in naval military doctrines in the national and allied context, and consequently on the functioning of the NATO naval forces and the naval forces of the Warsaw Pact in the Baltic Sea, as well as related issues of Poland's maritime security during and after the Cold War.

Two chapters precede the discussion of individual parts of the monograph on the participation of the Navy in shaping Poland's maritime security. The first chapter "The Baltic Sea – the environment and its impact on the capabilities of the naval forces" is an introduced, new chapter, compared to the previous edition. In this chap-

ter, the Baltic Sea is characterized not only in terms of hydrology, meteorology and physics, but also, very importantly, in operational and tactical terms, in other words, the operational and tactical capabilities of naval forces are presented, depending on the analyzed conditions.

In the following chapter, entitled "The Political and Military Situation on the European Continent During the Cold War. A general outline", an analysis of the political and military situation on the European continent in the period from the defeat of Nazi Germany to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact was made. The above chapter has been expanded and supplemented with the content of new publications, among others: *History of the Cold War*, vol.1, Geneza, ed. M.L. Leffler, O.A. Westad, Oświęcim 2017; J. Będźmirowski, K. Słowi, *Building security for Western Europe based on the Scandinavian states until the mid-1950s*, part. 2. "Yearbook of International Security" 2018, Vol. 13, No. 2; J.J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of the Politics of Great Powers*, Kraków 2019; R. Braithwaite, *Armageddon and Paranoia. Cold War – Nuclear Confrontation*, Krakow 2019 and others.

The two chapters mentioned above not only provide a political background regarding European security or the operational assessment of the reservoir, but also create a solid substantive basis for further considerations of the authors in the three analyzed periods.

The first period of the analysis covers the military situation in the Baltic Sea basin during the Cold War and is included in the third chapter entitled "Military situation in the Baltic Sea basin during the Cold War". In comparison with the previous edi-

tion, this chapter has been expanded. Two new sections were introduced: "Poland's maritime security on the eve of the Warsaw Pact" and "NATO and Warsaw Pact naval forces in the Baltic Sea, and Poland's maritime security". In addition, the revised edition includes new, previously unpublished materials and photos, located in the Archives of the Navy (reconnaissance division of the Main Staff of the Navy) and the archival resources of the Institute of National Remembrance, concerning the issues of cooperation between the Baltic Fleet of the USSR, the People's Navy of the GDR and the Navy of the Polish People's Republic. The information provided relates to, i.a. a list of forces and means of anti-landing defense of the German Federal Republic and Denmark, dislocation and equipment of coastal units on the Danish Islands, the base system for the naval forces of the German Federal Republic and Denmark, planned activities on the approach to the Baltic Straits of the United Baltic Fleet and other acquired, but unpublished materials.

In the second, supplemented edition, a new, fourth chapter was introduced, entitled "The cooperation of the navy with units of the land forces and air forces in the defense of the coast." The topic taken up and included in this chapter is justified by the adopted concept of naval warfare. The purpose of naval warfare is to weaken the enemy before continuing military operations on land. Completion of operations at sea is an introduction to land-based campaigns, and this requires the cooperation of types of troops. Therefore, I believe that the chapter is complementary to the monograph, especially that it was largely prepared on the basis of archival materi-

als of the Naval Archives and the Institute of National Remembrance, e.g. materials on the variants of anti-landing defense of the sea coast on land, defense of the zone of responsibility Of the Polish Navy or the coastal defense command model.

Another period characterizing the participation of the Polish Navy in the state's security policy was included in chapter five and concerns the Polish security policy in the Baltic Sea region post-1989. The authors clearly presented Polish policy in the East as one of the basic security challenges of the Republic of Poland after 1989, as well as the concepts of building the security of the Republic of Poland, from the idea of neutrality, through the construction of sub-regional associations and the CSCE, to establishing political and military contacts with NATO. The issues presented in this way in chapter five allowed the authors to smoothly transition to the study of the Polish Navy before joining NATO.

This period is devoted to chapter six of the monograph entitled "The Polish Navy in the maritime security of the state before joining NATO". In the mentioned chapter, the Authors discussed in a very accessible form the process of shaping the model of the Navy in the 1990s, taking into account the assumptions of the Polish security policy and the security policy and defense strategy of the Republic of Poland, as well as the involvement of the Polish Navy in projects implemented before joining NATO.

The above two chapters were also supplemented with the latest Polish and foreign literature, and enriched with oral opinions (interviews) of experts on the subject.

The monograph is summed up in the ending, in which the Authors presented synthetic conclusions relating to the most important content of the discussed considerations.

Summing up, the overall content-related assessment of the monograph, the following elements should be noted. Firstly, the monograph is a competent and credible presentation of the use of the potential of the Polish Navy to ensure the maritime security of the Polish state in the second half of the 20th century.

Secondly, the adopted division of the described issues relates to three periods of the functioning of the Polish Navy: the period of the Cold War, the period after the collapse of the Eastern bloc (the Warsaw Pact), and the period before Poland joined NATO. At the same time, the presented periods of development of the naval forces are accompanied by an analysis of the security environment in the regional and international dimension, which means that the content of the work corresponds to the topic specified in the title of the monograph.

Thirdly, the layout of the monographs adopted by the authors makes its structure uniform, and the division of the content is harmonious and justified. The entire monograph has a logical narrative, maintains a constant sequence of research in relation to the discussed areas, is written in a language that is understandable and communicative.

Fourthly, the book's strength is its extensive bibliographic query that has been carefully selected and compiled. The authors used many sources of knowledge and ways of acquiring it, in order to present the results of their work in the form of a written

study. The bibliography of the monograph includes 370 items, including: normative and signed documents, encyclopedic publications, compact publications, articles, internet sources, interviews. The bibliography included in the monograph proves, on the one hand, the tedious work of the Authors, requiring patience and accuracy, and on the other hand, made it possible to verify the content of the monographs. Noteworthy are the new, unpublished, but cited in the monograph, documents of the intelligence unit of the Main Staff of the Polish Navy and the documents of the Institute of National Remembrance, as well as the Polish and foreign literature cited, which fully justifies the second edition of the supplemented monograph.

Fifthly, taking up the topic and presenting the issues related to the functioning of the naval forces in the Baltic Sea, as well as the issue of Poland's maritime security during the Cold War and in the period of preparations for joining NATO, contributes to the broadening of knowledge in this area. The issues formulated in this way are especially helpful for both full-time and extramural students, cadets and officers studying at specialist courses and post-graduate studies at the Naval Academy.

To sum up, the monograph contains rich, conscientiously documented cognitive material, allowing interested parties to learn more about the functioning of naval forces in the Baltic Sea, as well as the issues of maritime safety in Poland. It can be an inspiration for further research in this area, which is so important for the security of our state.