

"Fear not."
Pope John Paul II, Warsaw, 1979



The Kościuszko Chair of Polish Studies



THE INSTITUTE OF WORLD POLITICS

MISSION & OVERVIEW



*Kościuszko
Coat of Arms
Roch III*

The Kościuszko Chair of Polish Studies has come to The Institute of World Politics (IWP).

Originally established at the University of Virginia in 1998 by the American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC), the Chair was transferred back into AIPC's care after a period of inactivity until a suitable replacement could be found. Happily, following a nationwide competition among fourteen major academic institutions, AIPC decided that IWP was best suited to carry out the Chair's mission. AIPC and IWP reached an agreement whereby AIPC pledged a \$1 million challenge grant to IWP for the purpose of establishing the new chair and IWP pledged to match that grant within three years.

The Kościuszko Chair will serve as a center for Polish Studies in the broadest sense, including learning, teaching, researching, and writing about Poland's culture, history, heritage, religion, government, economy, and successes in the arts, sciences, and letters, with special emphasis on the achievements of Polish civilization and its relation to other nations, particularly the United States.

The mission of the Chair is premised, in part, on the belief that over the last several centuries, the written record of Polish history has been shaped by political forces inimical to Polish independence and culture: including the imperial powers that partitioned Poland in the 18th century, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union. There are also a significant number of contemporary pundits and academics who, compounding the errors of the past, are further distorting the Polish record today. In light of this situation, the work of the Kościuszko Chair will serve as a valuable corrective of

MISSION & OVERVIEW

the historical narrative.

The accurate study of Polish history and culture serves several valuable purposes. One, of course, is to teach important lessons for the defense of liberty, both in Poland and the United States. These concern the nature and strategies of imperialist powers, including aggressive totalitarian regimes such as Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

The study of Poland's past, with its five century-old noble democracy, elective monarchy, habeas corpus, property rights, religious liberty, and political freedom also yields vital lessons for the political health of free societies, particularly the United States and her people.

Finally, Poland remains an important country today given its strategic position in Europe, its role in the defense of Western Civilization, and its affinities and alliance with NATO and the United States. Thus, the Kościuszko Chair will also take an active interest in Polish current events.



This symbol, featuring the red/white/blue Kosciuszko scytheman's cap & crossed scythes, was chosen to represent the Kosciuszko Chair at IWP. It is adapted from the symbol of the American-founded Kosciuszko Air Squadron which assisted the Poles during the victorious war against the Soviets (1920).

ABOUT IWP

The Institute of World Politics is an independent graduate school of statecraft, national security and international affairs, dedicated to developing leaders with a sound understanding of international realities and the ethical conduct of statecraft, based on knowledge and appreciation of the principles of the American political economy and the Western moral tradition. Statecraft is the prudential use of the various instruments of power in service



*The Marlatt Mansion,
The Institute of World Politics*



of national interests and purposes – particularly the cause of peace with freedom, justice, and security.

The Institute offers three Master's degrees and eight Graduate Certificates. After a fifteen-year partnership with Boston University, IWP achieved its own accreditation in 2006 from the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Institute was founded to fill a major national need: to supply professional education in statecraft, national security, and foreign policy that no other school offers and that few people in government acquire except haphazardly by on-the-job experience. IWP emphasizes the development of a capacity to think strategically so as to detect and understand threats and political-strategic opportunities; prevent, manage, mitigate, resolve, and prevail in international conflicts; match the ends and means of policy; and to do all this in ways that minimize the necessity of using force.

The IWP curriculum is designed to serve three corollary purposes, each of which we believe is essential to effectiveness in statecraft. One is the cultivation of realism about human nature and the nature of world politics, to avoid a recurring tendency toward wishful thinking or willful blindness – what Orwell described as "the will to disbelieve the horrible." The second is the cultivation of civic virtue and a proper sense of responsibility in the use of power. The third is to instill a spirit of idealism – especially a spirit of service to the public in the defense of civilization. Each of these constitutes an essential part of a time-honored yet contemporary desideratum: character-building education in moral leadership.

The Kościuszko Chair was named after a truly remarkable man. Tadeusz Andrzej Bonawentura Kościuszko was born February 4, 1746, in the village of Mereczowszczyzna (now Kosawa, Belarus), in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a part of the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania.

A member of the Polish nobility, Kościuszko decided upon a career in the military. He enrolled in the newly formed Szkoła Rycerska (Academy of Chivalry), a school created by King Stanislaw II to train a well educated cadre of officers and state officials. There, Kościuszko received a classical liberal arts education, studying, apart from the strictly military subjects, Polish and world history, philosophy, Latin, German, French, law, economics, geography, arithmetic, geometry, and engineering.

Upon graduating in 1765 with the rank of Captain, Kościuszko was granted a royal scholarship and departed for Paris. He spent the next four years studying military engineering and absorbing pre-revolutionary France. Kościuszko returned to Poland in 1774, but his time in Paris would prove tremendously influential over the course of his life.

Kościuszko came home to a very different Poland. In 1772, Prussia, Russia, and Austria had completed the first partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Taking advantage of Polish exhaustion from the anti-Russian insurrectionary Confederation of Bar, this troika of empires succeeded in annexing over 30 percent of Commonwealth territory. Poland was also forced to reduce its army to 10,000 soldiers, and Kościuszko did not stay long as a result. He made his way back to Paris, where he was recruited



*Tadeusz
Kościuszko,
by an unknown artist*



*Kościuszko
Monument,
Washington, D.C.*

by Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin to fight for the fledgling American cause against England.

Kościuszko's tenure in America was extraordinary. Initially a volunteer, by October, 1776 he was a Colonel of Engineers, and by the end of the year, Chief Engineer of the entire Continental Army. His talent with defensive fortifications played a crucial role in the American war effort. An unknown quantity initially, it did not take long for Kościuszko to distinguish himself. In quick succession, Kościuszko constructed ingenious fortifications at Philadelphia, Fort Ticonderoga, Bemis Heights (Saratoga), and West Point. After the war, General Horatio Gates, the hero of Saratoga, responded to praise from a visiting physician with:

Stop, Doctor, let us be honest. In war, as in medicine, natural causes not under our control do much. In my case, the great tacticians of the campaign were hills and forests, which a young Polish engineer was skillful enough to select for my encampments.

During his time in America, Kościuszko also met and became close friends with Thomas Jefferson, for whom the Pole was "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known." They shared many views philosophically and politically, and Kościuszko often stayed for extended periods at Monticello. When the war ended in 1783, Kościuszko's mind inevitably turned to his native Poland. Before he departed, Congress promoted Kościuszko to Brigadier General, and awarded him with citizenship, 500 acres of land, and \$10,000 – a small fortune for the time. Kościuszko converted his American assets, awarded to him by the U.S. Congress, into a trust fund for the manumission and education of black slaves. The trust fund was administered by his friend Thomas Jefferson.

Kościuszko arrived at his family estate in Siechnowicze in July 1784. Given his adventures in France and America, it should not have come as a great surprise when he decided to cut the obligations of his serfs in half. He would eventually leave his estate to his sister on condition that she set all their serfs free.

In 1788, the *Sejm Wielki* (Grand Parliament) ordered the expansion of the Polish army to 100,000 men, and the following year, Kościuszko received a royal commission to Major General. On May 3, 1791, the *Sejm Wielki* finalized the world's second modern codified national constitution, it being preceded only by the American Constitution ratified the year before. Sadly, it was not to enjoy the same longevity.

The new constitution placed the peasant serfs under the protection of the government and aimed at creating equality between the nobility and the burghers by introducing a property requirement. Thus, it made property ownership, rather than birth, the main criterion of citizenship. Further, the monarchy became hereditary, government was strengthened, and the *liberum veto*, a system whereby a single dissenting member could veto any decision of the parliament, was scrapped. Russia reacted with fury. Along with several Polish aristocratic renegades, Empress Catherine II (the Great) formed the Targowica Confederation and launched an invasion to crush the reform movement. In May 1792, 100,000 Russian regulars crossed the border into Poland with the handful of renegades in their train.

In the war that followed, which became known as the War in Defense of the Constitution, Kościuszko performed brilliantly but



Tadeusz Kościuszko,
by Juliusz Kossak,
1879

THE NAMESAKE



*Kościuszko
with order of
Virtuti Militari*

in vain. Assuming command of the 3rd Crown Infantry Division, Kościuszko played decisive roles in the Polish victories at Zieleńce, Włodzimierz, and Dubienka. None of these triumphs, however, had been conclusive, and even though Polish forces had yet to suffer defeat in the field, King Stanisław defected to the Targowica Confederation and surrendered to the Russians. Despite a promotion to Lieutenant General and the entreaties of the King, Kościuszko resigned and departed for Paris.

The war culminated in the Second Partition wherein Prussia and Russia devoured a further 42 percent of Polish-Lithuanian territory. Poland was now reduced to 125,000 square miles and 4 million inhabitants. With the economy in shambles and faced with unrelenting foreign oppression, a conspiracy started forming almost immediately to launch an insurrection. When the time came to designate a leader in 1794, the choice was unanimous: Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Kościuszko was given total command of the rebellion and with an army of 4,000 regulars and 2,000 peasants armed with scythes, inflicted a clear defeat on a superior Russian force at the Battle of Raławice. The Russians were far from finished, however, and despite the setback, they succeeded in forcing Kościuszko to retreat to Warsaw. This set the stage for perhaps Kościuszko's greatest military achievement, where for two months his men held off a vastly superior Russian force, eventually being relieved by Polish reinforcements from elsewhere in the country. His freedom of mobility regained, Kościuszko received word that a second major Russian force had sacked Wilno in the Grand Duchy. Determined to make sure the two Russian armies did not combine, Kościuszko

marched to Maciejowice. On October 10th the Russians attacked with a force almost twice that of Kościuszko's. They pushed straight through a bog that was thought to be impassable turning the Polish right flank in the process. Kościuszko was wounded and taken prisoner and his leaderless army was defeated. The uprising struggled on for several more months but finally surrendered in the wake of the Massacre of Praga, where the Muscovites slaughtered the civilian population.

Kościuszko was held captive in Russia for over two years, eventually being released by Czar Paul I under the condition that he never return to the Muscovite Empire (which then included former Poland). He would spend the majority of his remaining years in Switzerland fighting for the Polish cause. He spurned Napoleon's advances for cooperation, for the Pole considered his former Corsican schoolmate a tyrant. While not successful in reestablishing an independent Poland, Kościuszko's stature was such that he was invited to the Congress of Vienna. There he was courted by Czar Alexander I who imagined a new, albeit subservient, Poland led by Kościuszko. Not surprisingly, he flatly refused.

A man of unwavering principle, Tadeusz Kościuszko passed away two years later in Switzerland. He is remembered in America as an adopted son and in Poland as one of its greatest heroes. Indeed, according to lore, his defiant statement when captured by the Russians, now forms the opening of the Polish national anthem, "*Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła póki my żyjemy*", ("Poland has not perished yet whilst we live").



A contemporary view of the gates of Warsaw



Marek Jan
Chodakiewicz, Ph.D.

Marek Jan Chodakiewicz will become the first Kościuszko Chair holder at IWP. As Dean, Dr. Chodakiewicz is IWP's highest academic officer. He teaches a number of courses, including *Russian Politics and Foreign Policy* and *Geography and Strategy*. Chodakiewicz earned his MA (1990), MPhil (1992), and PhD (2002) in history from Columbia University, where he was a Richard Hofstadter Fellow (1989-1994). His BA in history (1988) is from San Francisco State University. He specializes in modern East Central European and Russian history. Between 2001 and 2003, he was an assistant professor of history of the Kościuszko Chair when it was at the University of Virginia. Indeed, Dr. Chodakiewicz has been the *de facto* Chair holder during its period of transition, and was instrumental in the bid to bring the Chair to IWP.

In addition to many popular and scholarly articles, Dr. Chodakiewicz has authored or coauthored over a dozen books, including *The Massacre in Jedwabne, July 10, 1941: Before, During, After* (2005); *Between Nazis and Soviets: A Case Study of Occupation Policies in Poland, 1939-1947* (2004); and *After the Holocaust: Polish-Jewish Conflict in the Wake of World War Two* (2003). He is the co-editor of *Poland's Transformation: A Work in Progress* (2003) and *Spanish Carlism and Polish Nationalism: Borderlands of Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (2003). In 2003, Dr. Chodakiewicz was the recipient of Poland's Józef Mackiewicz Literary Award for his *Ejszyszki: The Background of Events, and Epilogue of Polish-Jewish Relations in the Eastern Borderlands, 1944-45*. Dr. Chodakiewicz edits the bi-weekly e-newsletter *Eurasia, etc.*, and co-edits a bi-yearly historical journal, *Glaukopis*.

A MATCHING GRANT

The Kościuszko Chair was awarded to IWP in 2008 as a \$1,000,000 challenge grant. As part of the agreement, the Institute pledged to match AIPC's original gift within three years of the signing. Ever since the Institute was chosen as the Chair's new home, we at IWP have been astonished by the expressions of support and excitement both from within the Polish-American community and without. There is much to do, but there are many ready to help, and we look forward to turning the Kościuszko Chair into a lasting pillar both of IWP and the academic community as a whole.



GIFT INFORMATION

The Institute of World Politics is a 501 c (3) higher educational institution under IRS regulations. As such, any gift to the Kościuszko Chair matching grant campaign is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. All Kościuszko Chair funds will be kept separate and restricted until the \$1 million goal has been reached at which time they will be combined with the initial AIPC grant to form the new chair. Gifts should be made out to The Institute of World Politics with Kościuszko Chair specified in the "for" section. We urge you to join us in this effort to create a lasting institution for the promotion of academic excellence and the advancement of Polish-American relations.



To learn how you can support the Kosciuszko Chair via credit card, stock or other property, or to include the Kosciuszko Chair in your will, please contact the IWP Development Office at 202-462-2101.

Donation checks may be sent to:

The Institute of World Politics
1521 16th St NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

*A Graduate School of National Security
and International Affairs*



THE INSTITUTE
OF
WORLD POLITICS