

# THE WESTERN BOYKO REGION – YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW (SUMMARY)

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*To save from oblivion* – this message became an inspiration for writing the monograph titled: *The Western Boyko Region – yesterday, today and tomorrow*. The monograph about former life of people who were forced to abandon their little fatherland, and about the history of their land that after hundreds years of use initially became overgrown with alder trees, and later on for a half century was submitted to socio-economic experiments by the then-ruling authorities. But it is also a view through the prism of that history on a current situation and developmental opportunities of this region, whose environmental and cultural values should be perceived as a national heritage, since these assets are of unique importance on a European scale.

Below a reader will find a brief description of subject-matter scope that is found in the particular chapters. The present summary thus performs primarily the role, in a peculiar way, of „a guide through the collection of resources” contained in the monograph.

## Volume 1

A chapter written by Zbigniew Libera concerning borders of the Western Boyko Region is a contribution that at the same time performs the part of the **Introduction** to the monograph's first volume. The Author doubts the sense of delimiting the exact borders of ethnographic regions, claiming that these borders exist only in the minds of those who created them and of those who believed in existence of such borders. To his opinion, *the ethnographers' Boykos have never become an ethnic group; they were and have remained mainly the characters from books, and therefore the fiction of the experts on the Boykos ought not to be confused with the real world*. Perhaps some of the Readers will consider the presented view at least as arguable. However, it is a great benefit of science and a non-negotiable right (and even an obligation) of scholars to strive relentlessly for seeking the truth, which includes also challenging the authorities and falsifying the existing hypothesis.

In historical and natural research studies we deal with numerous objects that exist exclusively in rudimentary form, as well as with processes and phenomena

which completely elude direct observation. Considering this situation, all available material sources play an extremely important role. However, to be able to effectively and thoroughly make use of these sources, it is absolutely necessary to know not only what and where to search, but also to be familiar with the specificity of these sources, including the causes of their emergence and methods of creation. Maciej Augustyn, Zbigniew Libera and Patrycja Trzeszczyńska, as well as Jacek Wolski, taking into consideration both the requirements and limitations of the research methodology, in the three subsequent chapters under the bloc entitled **Materials for research on the region**, described most important archival materials, Polish and Ukrainian publications as well as topographic maps concerning the historical Western Boyko Region.

The subject and at the same time the title of the next thematic section is **Natural environment backdrop**. Since in former times, nature, its resources and landscape surrounding a human being played a great role in everyday life of rural population. The rhythm of life was inextricably linked to times of day or to meteorological and phenological seasons of year.

Grzegorz Haczewski and Józef Kukulak concentrated on the course and geological structure of tectonic and facial units, mineral sources deposits and description of terrain relief. In the subsequent chapter which is complementary in character, Leszek Starkel briefly characterized processes modeling the slopes and valley bottoms within the Beskid and submontane relief, as well as pointed out the important role of extreme hydrological events in morphodynamics. Marek Nowosad described, among other things, the selected climatic features and effects of weather conditions on life of former inhabitants of the Western Boyko Region. Roman Soja dealt briefly with several issues related to the field of hydrology, including running and stagnant surface waters, springs of subterranean waters, water reserves and water balance in the region, as well as water pollution. Stefan Skiba focused his area of interest on soil formation factors and soil forming processes, as well as on soil cover structure and on characterization of particular types and subtypes of soil. Bogdan Zemanek concentrated on description of flora and plant communities, pointing attention to the problem of synanthropization of vegetation. Zbigniew Głowaciński tackled the subject of specific biogeographic elements within the fauna of the region under discussion. In addition, he characterized fauna of the main eastern Carpathian communities, as well as provided a brief outline of the history of hunting in the Carpathian forests.

The next thematic bloc, entitled **Settlement processes and population history up to 1947**, is wholly dedicated to the past. It is a complex research matter, because the more we go back in time, the more the certainty of inference is replaced with the value of its probability, and inductive empiricism is supplanted by deduction that is often based on premises which are not easy to interpret.

In the first chapter of this section Michał Parczewski, Andrzej Pelisiak and Kazimierz Szczepanek systematized data about the earliest history of human settlement or temporarily habitation in the discussed area, carrying out analysis of archeological materials in combination with interpretation of pollen diagrams which are the result of detailed palynological studies. The Authors reconstructed

history reaching back thousands of years, referring at the same time to the history of neighbouring Carpathian and pre-Carpathian lands in order to present a broader picture of the analyzed phenomena.

Chronological continuation of the history of settlement in the area under discussion was presented by Grzegorz Jawor. Drawing on a rich source material, the Author analyzed settlement processes that were going on ages ago, ethnic and territorial background of settlers (especially immigrants that represent ethnos of Vlachs), as well as the successive stages of colonization. In the study, the Author contests views, widespread until recently, which claim *inter alia* that the Vlachs' primary life-occupation was restricted mainly to herding.

The period from the end of the main stage of colonization of the southern regions of Sanok lands down to the first partition of Poland in 1772 was described by Maciej Augustyn. The Author focused primarily on the existing estate system (social stratification) of the then-functioning society, distribution of wealth between the particular families, serfdom obligations and effect of geopolitical events on the economic situation in the region. Maciej Augustyn continued his study in the subsequent chapter covering the 1772-1914 period, in which he analyzed among other things socio-economic changes related to abolition of serfdom, the role of particular religious confessions and the first manifestations of national awareness among the Boyko population.

The problems connected with the latter aforesaid aspect in the interwar period were analyzed by Grzegorz Demel. The Author preceded his analysis by a brief outline of events taking place during the First World War and Polish-Ukrainian war in the years 1918-1919. The scholar looked at such issues as the genesis of ethnic conflicts, the efforts made to ameliorate these tensions, and the attempts to fuel conflicts through antagonizing the particular ethnic groups, as well as paid attention to the weaknesses of Censuses conducted in 1921 and 1931.

The concluding study in this thematic bloc touches upon the most painful events. Grzegorz Motyka and Jan Pisuliński write about the war between Polish forces and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and the repressions by the Polish authorities, i.e. forcible displacement of inhabitants in the years 1944-1947, which led to a drastic drop in population and to complete and irreversible change in ethnic composition of the region in question.

The last thematic bloc ***The Boykos – material culture and economy*** is concentrated essentially on material culture of the former inhabitants as defined for the most part as material goods and a collection of all actions (in the sense of technical means and skills characteristic of society) that serve for meeting the basic natural needs of a human being.

This section begins with a richly illustrated chapter by Jerzy Czajkowski dedicated to the wood construction. Based on his huge experience gained during his 60-year research studies of the area under discussion, the Author extensively described 26 types of wooden buildings and farms that were constructed in the Western Boyko Region and in the adjoining areas (including the Transcarpathian Ukraine), critically referring to the previous findings of other ethnographers.

The study by Katarzyna Warمیńska-Mazurek corresponds with the above-mentioned subject-matter. The Author made an attempt to analyze the landscape

of Orthodox church architecture in approximately 120 villages and towns scattered around the historical Western Boyko Region, looking at the problem through the prism of influences exerted by two cultural circles (i.e., Balkan and Russian), as well as in the light of construction traditions and architectural forms of particular buildings.

One of the indicators of ethnographic group's range, in addition to building and language, is also an ethnic costume. The traditional Boyko clothing survived the longest in its most primeval form in the Western Boyko Region, where it was worn still up to 1930s. This subject-matter is covered in the contribution by Maria Marciniak who thoroughly describes the particular elements of male and female clothing, as well as bridal wedding costumes and funeral dresses for the deceased.

Subsequent elements of the Boyko material culture were presented by Jacek Wolski and Danuta Blin-Olbert. The Authors described development of farming systems and ways of land cultivation (including tools and kinds of crops), staple diet of the former inhabitants as well as evolution of grazing economy forms in the prewar and interwar periods. Also such matters as functional organization of space within a one-building farm and items in everyday use which constituted its equipment were the focus of their interest.

In spite of the fact that the Western Boyko Region was a typical agricultural and pastoral region, crop cultivation and animal production were not the only occupation of the Boykos, although it must be admitted that these activities provided undoubtedly the basis of their livelihood. A non-agricultural activity was discussed by Maciej Augustyn in the chapter devoted to economic history of the Boykos from the 17<sup>th</sup> century down to the end of Second World War. The Author extensively characterized the causes of development and collapse of various branches of industry (in particular wooden and petroleum industries), small-sized processing industry, as well as local crafts and trade.

Even the Boykos – who were largely self-sustaining rural population with few wants for commercial goods – felt an accompanying need to travel and to transport loads of goods. In the next chapter, Jacek Wolski described development of roads' network (since the late medieval trade routes, through the construction of hard roads, and down to the state of roads in the interwar period), evolution of standard- and narrow-gauge railways, including the specificity of transport by water-routes.

The presented thematic section, and at the same the first volume of the monograph, is concluded by two studies by Maciej Augustyn. The Author took an in-depth look at the development of education from the turn of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries till the end of the Second World War not only through the prism of existence of schools in particular villages of the region under discussion, but also in the light of language or learning conditions. It was a difficult and challenging methodological task to approach the problem of culture in rural villages, where still at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century the majority of population was illiterate. The Author referred to the issue of social structure, as well as describing the estate system and ethnic distribution functioning in the Western Boyko Region over the three historical periods: Old-Polish, Galician and interwar.

## Volume 2

The second volume of the monograph begins with a unique study, which, as an **Introduction**, acts also as a connector between *yesterday* and *today*, i.e., the themes present in the title of this thematic bloc. Hundreds of talks and mailed interviews (information obtained from correspondents) with former inhabitants of almost all villages of the historical Western Boyko Region, which were conducted by Wojciech Krukar in the Bieszczady Mts., Pomerania, Warmia, as well as in different parts of Ukraine and USA, resulted in gaining an extensive knowledge about their post-war fate. Thus the Author managed to reconstruct the routes of migrations and to find out the ultimate place of residence of the Boykos who were expelled from their homeland during several consecutive operations – beginning with expulsion of population within the border zone in 1940 and ending with exchange of border territories that took place in 1951.

The first thematic section contained in the monograph's second volume, entitled **Landscape memory – past recorded in the present**, is dedicated to the traces of history inscribed in today's landscape.

Among the most noticeable remains of the population of the Western Boyko Region are pre-war living and utility buildings as well as Orthodox churches. The causes and process of disappearance of traditional rural building facilities were the subject of study by Bogdan Augustyn. The Author characterized also the present state of preservation and distribution of the surviving specimens of old wooden architecture, making use of a unique documentation from inventory that was carried out in 1951, i.e., in the time of exchange of border territories which took place during forced resettlement of population, under operation code-named „H-T”.

The fate of the Orthodox architecture after 1944, preceded by a brief outline of the situation existing in the Przemyśl Greek Catholic parish during the interwar period and in the latter half of 20<sup>th</sup> century, is presented by Katarzyna Warمیńska-Mazurek. The Author described post-war damage inflicted upon the orthodox architecture and the development of restoration activity, as well as taking a look at the role of Catholic Church in protection of Orthodox church buildings.

The contribution by Grażyna Holly, complementary in character, is dedicated to sepulchral architecture. The Author showed the most interesting examples of gravestones and wayside crosses that can be found in the sacral landscape of the Western Boyko Region, with highlighting the stylistic categories and explaining the meaning of numerous symbols. A characterization of particular objects is preceded by a description of historical and legal situation related to establishment of cemeteries and their spatial organization, including an analysis concerning such issues as the Boykos' funeral customs, raw materials used as well as craft shops specializing in sepulchral art.

Another contribution by Jacek Wolski opens the thematic section concerning the remains engraved in abiotic sphere. In the chapter devoted to anthropogenic forms of terrain relief, the Author concentrated on characterization of the following elements: agricultural microrelief of slopes (post-agricultural terraces, stone mounds), the state of preservation of the pre-war road network, remaining traces

that attest to grazing, forest and water economy, remains of housing, farming, and military facilities, as well as mining-related objects.

In his contribution, Józef Kukulak also writes about the effects of anthropo-pressure on the natural erosive and accumulative processes in the upper basin of the San River, proving the high synchronicity of fluvial events with human economic activity ages ago. The Author took a look at this issue through the prism of fine-grained Young Holocene terraces and traces inscribed in these forms, among which he lists: local accumulation of wooden debris, remains of fire events and rhythmically-stratified deposits in the places of former reservoirs constructed for the purposes of water-driven devices.

Similarly, human activity in the historical Western Boyko Region has its reflection in the biotic sphere, and this is evident on a number of levels, which is shown in the next chapter by Joanna Korzeniak and Stanisław Kucharzyk. The Authors analyzed the influence of the Boyko agricultural economy together with herding and forests' exploitation on plant cover, as well as explored the traces of these activities which are still visible today in the biotic landscape. The subject of this research were also changes in the plant cover that were observed after the Second World War (including grass self-regeneration of fallow lands and succession of grey alder trees into post-arable land, disappearance of species and plant communities that were associated with grazing and crop cultivation, changes in forest economy), as well as transformations in forest land area from a geostatistical perspective.

In the same vein, the changes in fauna affect biotic sphere, however, those changes are much more difficult to capture and analyze because old written sources are few in number, and in addition these documents are scattered and diversified in terms of factuality. All these issues were addressed by Zbigniew Głowaciński. The Author described changes in the animal world of the region in question which have taken place in recent 100 years, and then discussed the processes that are going on today.

Unusually capacious remains of the „live” Boyko Region in terms of large body of information are place-names which have been reconstructed for 25 years by Wojciech Krukar. The Author in his contribution closing this thematic bloc reveals the interpretative pitfalls that lurk for scholars, different classifications of place-names resulting from diversity of signed objects and a variety of information contained in lexical meaning, and then analyzes the origin and age of these names. This chapter is concluded by description of place-names found in the old maps that are often used in natural-historical research of the region under discussion.

The topic of study in the second thematic bloc, entitled ***Landscape of (non)memory – the present overwriting the past***, covers several decades that have passed since the time of forced resettlements of population.

As a result of these aforementioned events, a demographic and settlement continuity of the historical Western Boyko Region was interrupted, and inflow of immigrant population led to a complete change in the ethnic composition of this region. These demographic processes and subsequent stages of settlement operation were the focus of interest for Magdalena Skała and Jacek Wolski. The

Authors described also today's structure of settlement network whose evolution is a consequence of the post-war natural, political and socio-economic changes.

The magnet that has drawn there many post-war settlers are, among other things, job opportunities in the forestry industry. Stanisław Kucharzyk and Edward Marszałek described extensively the history of development of the State Forest Administration – since the difficult beginnings in the period 1944-1955 up until the present situation. The focus of their study were *inter alia* such issues as: the organization of State Forest Administration and its current forest ownership, development of forest network of roads and transport capabilities, functioning of the wood processing companies, including such subject-matter as afforestation and secondary succession, forest use and sanitary logging, not to mention hunting.

Human activity in times of Polish People's Republic in the region under consideration was not only associated with the functioning of the state agricultural farms and state forest administration. The problem as viewed from the perspective of profit and loss balance also in other economic sectors was addressed by Artur Janusz. In the subsequent chapter, the same Author analyzed socio-economic changes related with political systemic transformation at the beginning of 1990s: i.e., their circumstances, transformation of branch structure of companies' sector as well quantitative indicators and qualitative factors of local development.

Tourism was a very important stimulus for the post-war economic development within the historical Western Boyko Region. Krzysztof Szpara, in the last chapter of this thematic section, provided a brief historical outline of tourism up until the Second World War, during which period the discussed region played a secondary role to Gorgany and Chornohora, and then described the tourism boom in the latter half of 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the part devoted to present-day tourism, the Author took an in-depth look at the forms, scale and structure of tourist traffic.

The last thematic bloc, entitled ***Protection and directions of development***, entails both potential policies of development and protection of natural-cultural resources of the region as well as those initiatives that are now in progress (*inter alia* UE programs and financial perspectives).

At the beginning of this section, Jacek Wolski presented pre- and interwar measures associated with nature conservation, and then described history of creation, in the area under discussion, of the particular forms of nature conservation which are legitimized by the Polish legal system and have cross-border character. The aforementioned discussion was supplemented by a review of other initiatives that are not included in the subjective scope of the Nature Protection Act, i.e., initiatives which follow from international agreements signed by Poland, as well as those measures that are strictly local in character.

In the next chapter, Grzegorz Haczewski characterized the current state of protection of the abiotic environment components, directing attention to the fact that it is not a result of implementing well-planned and coherent system, but rather a sum of separate measures. The Author placed special emphasis on the need of determining new documentation sites and pointed out their

educational advantage; and in the conclusion he presented benefits that can be derived from development of the Bieszczady Geopark that is planned in the future.

The subject of biotic sphere, that is measures in the area of protection of animal life, plant communities and flora as well as biodiversity, was dealt with by Kajetan Perzanowski and Bogdan Zemanek. According to the Authors, the most appropriate course of action would be nature conservation supplemented by measures based on active protection, since implementation of such policy would make it possible to maintain high level of biodiversity of fauna communities related to habitat mosaicism, thus allowing at the same time immediate local interventions.

The subsequent two chapters are devoted to protection of cultural resources. Zbigniew Myczkowski – drawing on the results of valorization that was carried out using the method of units and architectural-landscape interior, as well as on the regulations contained in two editions of the Plan for Protection of the Bieszczady National Park – analyzed the existing and proposed forms of protection of various components of cultural heritage, briefly outlined the main assumptions of conservation zoning, and presented the selected conservation tasks in the field of sharing the resources, ecological education, and the protective measures contained in the program of ecodevelopment of the Bieszczady communes.

The protection of cultural resources, in addition to planning aspect, is a matter of strictly practical significance. It entails all possible material measures that are aimed at conservation, reconstruction and repair of the existing facilities or objects which bear witness of the past Boyko culture, as well initiatives of non-material character – i.e. propagation of culture by means of lectures, regional festivities, concerts or exhibitions. This rich and broad subject-area was the focus of study by Piotr Szechyński.

The monograph is closed by two contributions dedicated to human economic activity at the time of integration with European Union. In the first study, Janusz Gudowski and Artur Janusz focused on the agricultural activity. The Authors briefly outlined the main assumptions and goals of regional policy, including the EU agricultural policy up until 2020, described strategic programs that define specific directions of development at the national, regional, and local territorial unit levels, as well as including regional and sectoral operational programs. The second one is concerned with non-agricultural economic activity. Artur Janusz provided analysis of endogenous developmental factors of the region in question, and showed the existing possibilities for potential utilization of mechanisms that are available under the framework of the EU cohesion policy against the backdrop of developmental goals of local authority units that are contained in the binding strategic documents. The whole study is illustrated by examples of selected projects, as well providing quantitative analysis of the funds acquired thus far for various pro-development measures.

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