



## **POLONIA INSTITUTE**

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### **WWII Historical Essay Scholarship - \$5,000 First Prize**

**TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA: POLONIA INSTITUTE** announces 2019 Historical Essay Scholarship Competition for young adults between ages 18 and 30 on the worldwide significance of the 1939 German-Soviet invasion of Poland.

With the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II approaching, Polonia Institute wants to encourage the study of events leading up to the September 1939 outbreak of the deadliest war in human history, its consequences for Poland, Europe and the world. This horrible war waged on humanity by the dictator of Germany Adolf Hitler and the dictator of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin claimed the lives of approximately 70 million people worldwide. After the war, the map of Europe was redrawn. Poland lost one-third of its territory and was subjugated to the Soviet Union for the next 45 years. Millions of Poles were forced to leave their homeland never to come back.

As a result of World War II, Poland lost close to 12 million of its inhabitants. Approximately 6 million were murdered by the German Third Reich and the Soviet Union, the highest percentage of the population of all nations.

Germany built a network of concentration camps on the conquered Polish territory with the intention to exterminate the Polish resistance movement. Ethnic Poles were the primary target of German extermination policy in the years 1939-1941. In the subsequent years 1942-1943 Polish citizens of Jewish origin became the primary target. Today Poland once again faces anti-Polish propaganda warfare that distorts historical facts by calling German death camps in which ethnic Poles were murdered as “Polish concentration camps” and accusing Poland of co-responsibility for the murder of Jews.

This competition is sponsored by the Polonia Institute in cooperation with Polonia for Poland and other Polonia organizations.

**For more information send email to:  
[info@poloniainstitute.net](mailto:info@poloniainstitute.net)**

# 2019 Historical Essay Scholarship Competition

## International Significance of the German-Soviet Invasion of Poland in September 1939

After waging a propaganda war against Poland and staging the Gleiwitz provocation, Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. While the Polish Army was locked in dramatic combat with the German forces on its Western Front, on September 17, 1939 the Soviet Union attacked Poland from the East with seven armies, without any declaration of war, and in violation of the binding non-aggression pact between Poland.

Please analyze the German-Soviet aggression on Poland in September 1939 by addressing the following issues: 1) 1938-1939 political developments leading to WWII; 2) German propaganda war against Poland and the role of German minority; 4) German invasion of Poland and its political objectives, 5) Soviet propaganda war against Poland; 6) Soviet invasion of Poland and its political objectives; 7) German-Soviet extermination of ethnic Poles 1939-1941; 8) The impact of German-Soviet cooperation on Poland and the international community; 9) Lesson for today.

### Essay Requirements:

The essay shall reflect contestant's own research and original thinking. The paper shall not exceed 15 typed pages (excluding bibliography), shall be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced with 1" margins; pages shall be numbered. All entries become the property of the Polonia Institute and will not be returned. Polonia Institute reserves the right to publish selected essays and/or excerpts of selected essays in future publications, newsletters and other materials.

Eligibility: The 2019 Historical Essay Scholarship is open to young adults between ages 18 and 30 as of July 1, 2019. Proof of age is required. A copy of a valid document showing a date of birth is acceptable.

Deadline: **July 1, 2019** (postmark date). Results will be announced on or about September 1, 2019.

Awards: First Prize is \$5,000. Additional monetary awards will be offered. Additional essays may be considered for recognition and publication.

Procedure: The Application Form can be found at: <http://www.poloniainstitute.net/>. Attach the Application Form and proof of age to the essay. Mail and email the complete package to Polonia Institute. Both mail and email are required.

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