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Szczecin 1945: Between German heritage and constructing a Polish identity

It is an interesting case of the history of the city, whose fate was completely changed by the roller of 20th-century history. The end of the Second World War and the great powers’ decision brought a change of borders, the affiliation of Szczecin to Poland, and the displacement of the German population. The end of the war meant not only replacing the social fabric, but also in the material and architectural dimension, it was overwriting a new chapter as a sort of palimpsest. The emergence of a unifying political ideology of the "Slavic lands" of "return to the motherland" is here superimposed on the strong influence of the ideology of Stalinism and attempts at social engineering.

The city’s destruction as a result of carpet raids and preparations for defense allowed the new Polish authorities to carry out reconstruction projects according to entirely new assumptions. Discussions on their sense and utopianism and the timeless dimension of the concepts used are continuing to this day.