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THE AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS ROUTE

In the 19th century, Poznań aspired to a dually central role: as a centre of Polish national life in Prussia as well as the administrative capital of a region which the Prussian authorities strove to turn into the cultural capital of the “German East”. This was reflected in the public and private institutions established in the city. The institutions were all unique in their nature and scope of activity. Many of them were housed in grand buildings whose appearance revealed the purpose they served.


During the 20th century, the centre of Poznań gained a number of institutions of key significance for the city’s Polish residents. Despite resistance from the Prussian authorities, such institutions flourished in the fields of culture, science, society and economics. They additionally gave a new dimension to Poznań’s public space. The Raczyński Library, the Bazar and the Poznań Society of the Friends of Arts and Sciences all came to stand for perseverance in building a modern Polish society. This array of mutually-supportive institutions combined into an informal centre of “Polish power” in the heart of Poznań.

2. THE FORMER PROVINCIAL FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY

In the early 19th century, a huge fire broke out in Poznań consuming half of the city’s building stock. To keep Poznań residents safe from any further fire damage, a special institution was set up and tasked with insuring all city buildings against fire. Each property owner in Poznań was obliged to purchase such an insurance policy. The Society was among Prussia’s leading institutions of its kind.

The Society’s magnificent building was erected in 1897.

3. THE FORMER ROYAL EVANGELICAL CONSISTORY

In the early 19th century, King Friedrich Wilhelm III established the Evangelical Union Church, which unified Lutheranists and Calvinists in Prussia. The highest institution representing it in the Poznań Province was the Royal Evangelical Consistory. The

THE AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS ROUTE

1. Polish Centre: Raczyński Library, Bazar, Poznań Society of the Friends of Arts and Sciences
2. Former Provincial Fire Insurance Society
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4. District Court – the Former Royal County Court
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The Royal-Imperial Route  
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 tram stop on the Royal Imperial-Route  
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Consistory protected the interests of the local Protestants, an overwhelming majority of whom were German, and sought to promote the growth of Protestantism in the city. To that end, it initiated social projects and expanded church organizations. An example of its work is the 1894 construction of the Consistory’s new building.

**4 DISTRICT COURT – THE FORMER ROYAL COUNTY COURT**

The magnificent courthouse was erected in 1908 to serve the needs of the Prussian justice system. Also at that time, the German authorities passed a new law which included the famous “rag” clause that banned any public meetings in Poznań held in the Polish language on pain of judicial prosecution. Poles found various ways to circumvent this unfavourable law, one of them being to hold open rallies just outside the city limits.

**5 UNIVERSITY OF ART – THE FORMER CREDIT SOCIETY**

In the early 19th century, the Prussian authorities designated the Wielkopolska Region to serve as the breadbasket supplying the state’s non-agricultural provinces. Since sophisticated farming practices proved to be quite costly, Wielkopolska land owners came up with the idea of establishing an institution that would finance their operations and help them pay off their growing debts. This led to the creation in 1821 of the Credit Society, Poland’s first organisation of its kind. In the mid-19th century, the Prussian authorities shut it down on the grounds of being overly favourable to Poles. They replaced it with a German organisation which in time set up its headquarters in the Imperial Forum area.

**THE STRONGHOLD AND INDEPENDENCE ROUTE**

The Prussian authorities’ decision to turn the city into a stronghold turned it into a military town for years afterward. There was great inequality in the treatment afforded the city itself and its military installations. The needs of the stronghold ultimately determined how the city developed. Especially painful were various building restrictions imposed by the military. Poznań residents had to find ways to cope with this interference and maintain a certain degree of normality.

**6 THE FORMER BERLIN GATE**

A stronghold gate on the Berlin side of the city was erected in the mid-19th century. From the very start, the Gate seriously hampered urban transportation. To make things worse, rapid growth was seen in the volume of traffic headed towards the railway station and Poznani’s western suburbs. The city authorities fought
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7 THE FORMER BLOCKHOUSE

One of the few surviving parts of the Poznań fortress is located on the left bank of the Warta. It was once a military shelter incorporated into Colomb Bastion IV, named after Friedrich August von Colomb, Commander of the Poznań-stationed 5th Army Corps. During the Spring of Nations, the general’s methods of forcefully restoring order in the city earned him notoriety among the city’s Polish residents. Poles’ support for the independence movement prompted the Prussian authorities to continue expanding Poznań’s fortifications.

8 THE FORMER ARTILLERY BARRACKS

The troops stationed in Poznań needed proper shelter and a supplies infrastructure. Even though the Prussian authorities had prioritised military construction since the end of the 18th century, they nevertheless failed to provide appropriate accommodations for the steadily growing numbers of soldiers. To remedy the situation, new buildings, including artillery barracks, were erected in the late 19th century.

9 APOLLO CINEMA

In early December 1918, the building housed the District Assembly, that is a Parliament representing the Polish residents of Prussian-owned land. At the time, it was still uncertain whether Wielkopolska would end up in a Polish or German state. The members of parliament were elected by modern democratic rules. For the first time in Polish history, the right to vote for Member of Parliament was extended to women. Although the chamber only deliberated for 3 days, it succeeded in issuing a call to incorporate Prussian-partitioned land into a newly-restored Poland.

10 THE BAZAR/ LIBERTY (WOLNOŚCI) SQUARE

Before World War I, the Bazar was the frequent site of patriotic meetings and protest rallies, many of which were violently disrupted by the Prussian police. The prominent pianist and politician Ignacy Paderewski arrived there on December 26, 1918 to deliver a fiery speech from a window in the Bazar Hotel. The speech sparked the Wielkopolska Uprising, which broke out the following day. The Bazar also housed the Uprising’s command headquarters.
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**STRONGHOLD AND INDEPENDENCE ROUTE**

6. The former Berlin Gate  
7. The former Blockhouse  
8. The former artillery barracks  
9. Apollo Cinema  
10. The Bazar / Liberty (Wolności) Square
In the 19th century, the population of Poznań, made up of the three main ethnic groups – Poles, Germans and Jews – became a modern urban community. Technological progress, advances in medicine and universal access to education gradually improved the standard of living. As public awareness was raised, the residents took growing interest in various activities, particularly in social and business initiatives that transformed the face of Poznań at that time.

11 THE BAZAR

From the moment it was established, the Bazar was a hub of Polish cultural and social life in Poznań. It served as a venue for meetings and balls aimed at integrating all strata of Polish society, including peasants from the villages around Poznań. Joint projects brought different social strata together, helping to create a closer-knit community. These efforts proved to be years ahead of similar initiatives in Poland’s other partitions.

12 ST. ADALBERT PRINTING HOUSE AND BOOKSTORE

In 1895, one of Poland’s oldest publishing houses, in continuous operation to this day, was formed at the initiative of archbishop Florian Stablewski. Since its activities were hoped to awaken the religious and patriotic spirit among Poles, St. Adalbert was selected as its patron saint. A breakthrough came in 1902, when father Piotr Wawrzyniak took over its management. The organisation afterward grew rapidly, becoming Poland’s leading book seller and publisher.

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Since the mid-19th century, industry steadily gained in significance in Poznań. Polish entrepreneurs boldly embraced new technologies resulting from advances in science. Many saw doing business as their patriotic duty. The most prominent of them was Poznań’s outstanding social activist Hipolit Cegielski. Cegielski steadily expanded his farm-machinery plant, which he later moved to near Strzelecka Street. This was the city’s largest and best managed industrial operation.

One building that stood out in the Cegielski Works was the administrative and commercial building, which doubled as a fire and clock tower.

15 TENEMENT HOUSES

A number of modern early-20th-century tenement houses, which were much taller than their earlier counterparts, distinguished their neighbourhood. The buildings were erected during a construction boom which followed the levelling of the city’s fortifications. The tenement houses are highly ornamental, with adornments rendered in a range of historic styles and art nouveau. Each building was different, as their owners wanted prestigious residences for which they would be able to charge high rents.
The 19th century saw the flourishing of so-called concert gardens, which served as both city parks and places of entertainment. The gardens offered residents opportunities for rest and recreation. One of Poznań’s first and largest projects of this type was the Odeon Garden established in 1846. Visitors could choose from among many leisure activities and attractions, including concerts and drama performances. The garden also featured a bowling alley and a popular beer pub.

St. Martin’s Day has been celebrated for centuries in and around Poznań. The first written record of a St. Martin bakeout and its special croissants dates back to the mid-19th century. The story says that croissants in the present form made their first appearance in the late 19th century at an indulgence fair in St. Martin Parish. In response to a call by the local parish priest to his parishioners to honour the day with an act of compassion, one Poznań confectioner brought croissants to the church and handed them out to the poor. He was followed by others, and a uniquely Poznań tradition began, which continues to this day.

THE FORMER ODEON GARDEN

In the early 20th century, Rybaki Street was the site of the Dzieciuchowicz and Laube coach and harness factory, the largest such factory in Poznań. The plant made its name by using money from a public fund-raiser to produce the wagon home of Michał Drzymała, a peasant from Poznań province who came to symbolize resistance against Prussia’s anti-Polish legislation.

THE FORMER DZIECIUCHOWICZ FACTORY

Associated with Poznań since the mid-19th century, the German Huggers family was very successful in developing their brewery’s brand name. Years later, the brewery became Wielkopolska’s largest company of its type. Erected on top of a cliff, this monumental industrial complex harmoniously merged with the local fortification buildings.

THE OLD BREWERY – THE FORMER HUGGERS BREWERY

This very unusual building was constructed in Poznań in 1886. The building was owned by the Evangelical community of Old Lutherans, a denomination which refused to recognise the early-19th-century union of Protestant churches concluded in Prussia. The group were repressed by the authorities, who branded them “separatists”. Although severely underfunded, the community succeeded in preserving its identity and raising sufficient funds to finance its activities. It used the money to construct a modest place of worship within the city.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH
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**CITY CENTRE TOURIST ROUTES**

**LEGEND**
- The Royal-Imperial Route
  The Route symbol, placed all along the route’s course, makes it easy to keep one’s bearings around the city.
- City Centre - main route
- Authorities and Institutions Route - secondary route
- Strongholds and Independence Route - secondary route
- Modern City Route - secondary route
- tram line along the Royal-Imperial Route
  Trams are available that make it easy to move quickly along the Royal-Imperial Route.
- Poznań City Bike station
  City bikes are a convenient alternative to touring the Royal-Imperial Route on foot.
- lifering
  The information panels include a map and descriptions of each part of the Royal-Imperial Route.

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www.trakt.poznan.pl • facebook.com/trakt.poznan

**WRITTEN BY:** Maciej Moszyński

**LAYOUT:** Wojciech Walasiak, Piotr Łysakowski

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**MAP:** Marcin Dzbanuszek based on a map from GEOPOZ

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CITY INFORMATION CENTRE
ul. Ratajczaka 44
(Mon.–Fri. 10am–7pm,
Sat. 10am–5pm)
www.cim.poznan.pl

POZNAŃ NATIONAL MUSEUM – GALLERY OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE
al. Marcinkowskiego 9
(Tue.–Thu. 9am–3pm,
Fri. 12noon–9pm,
Sat.–Sun. 11am–6pm)
www.mnp.art.pl

RACZYŃSKI LIBRARY
pl. Wolności 19
(Mon.–Fri. 9am–8pm,
Sat. 10am–5pm)
www.bracz.edu.pl

ÓSMEGO DNIA THEATRE
ul. Ratajczaka 44
www.osmego.art.pl

POLSKI THEATRE
ul. 27 Grudnia 8/10
www.teatr–polski.pl

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ul. Ratajczaka 38/40,
(Mon.–Fri. 9am–8pm,
Sat. 10am–5pm)
www.lib.amu.edu.pl

LIBRARY OF POZNAŃ SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF SCIENCES
ul. Mieżyńskiego 27/29
(Mon.–Tue. 11am–7pm,
Wed.–Fri. 9am–5pm)
www.biblioteka.ptpn.poznan.pl

“ZAMEK” CULTURAL CENTRE
ul. Św. Marcin 80/82
www.zamek.poznan.pl

ANIMATION THEATRE
ul. Św. Marcin 80/82
www.teatranimacji.pl

MUSEUM OF THE POZNAŃ UPRISING OF JUNE 1956
(Branch of the Wielkopolska Independence Museum)
ul. Św. Marcin 80/82
(Tue.–Fri. 9am–5pm,
Sat.–Sun. 10am–4pm)
www.muzeumniepodleglosci.poznan.pl

STANISŁAW MONIUSZKO GRAND (WIELKI) THEATRE
ul. Fredry 9
www.opera.poznan.pl

TADEUSZ SZELIGOWSKI PHILHARMONIC OF POZNAŃ
Concert hall: University Auditorium,
ul. Wieniawskiego 1
www.filharmoniapoznanska.pl

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