

Supporting Justification for Germany's Reparations to Poland

Germany's Unprecedented Death and Destruction Inflicted on Poland during WW2 (1939-1945)

Overview¹

Polish Population and Land Losses	
Polish citizens killed	5.2 million
Decrease in population (32.4 percent)	11.2 million
Poles permanently injured post-war	590 thousand
Polish children stolen for Germanization	196 thousand
Years to rebuild Poland's human potential	33 years
Polish land lost (20 percent)	48,500 sq. mi.
Polish citizens sent abroad as slave labor	2.1 million

Polish Financial Losses	
Lost wages	\$1.179 trillion
Material Losses	\$196.4 billion
Polish State Treasury	\$121.4 billion
Banking	\$22 billion
Insurance	\$8.6 billion
Cultural Heritage & Art	\$4.7 billion
Total	\$1,532 trillion

Germany's position:

"The issue of reparations and compensation for war losses remains closed and the German Government does not intend to launch negotiations in this regard."

Germany's reasoning:

Poland renounced its claim to reparations in August 1953 when Boleslaw Bierut, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, said East Germany was released from liability.

Invalidation of Germany's reasoning:

Bierut's action was invalid because it violated the Polish Constitution, which said the Council of State – not the Council of Ministers – was the single government agency empowered to execute an international treaty. Poland's release of East Germany's liability required an international treaty and no such treaty was executed.

Poland's position: Govt. Resolution, 20 April 2023

1. Poland never, during the time of communism or democracy, closed the issue of reparations owed to Poland for the material and human losses Germany caused during the Second World War.
2. Poland has never renounced its claim to reparations from Germany for the material and human losses Germany caused during the Second World War.
3. The issue of reparations for the material and human losses caused by Germany has never been resolved through an international agreement.
4. The enormity of suffering and damage Germany caused demands that the issue of reparations to be settled quickly.

Why Reparations are justified

- Poland has never renounced reparations and compensation from Germany or the Soviet Union.
- There is no statute of limitations for Germany's crimes nor for reparations and compensation for such crimes.
- The 1907 Hague Convention, signed by Germany, requires Germany to pay fair compensation to Poland.
- Germany signed agreements for compensation with 12 Western European countries; 2 were neutral during WW2.
- Tehran, 1943: Without Poland's knowledge, the US, UK, and USSR secretly agreed to transfer German territory to Poland in exchange for Stalin's annexation of Polish territory taken in 1939. As such, it cannot qualify as compensation.
- As Poland and Germany did not sign a treaty to end World War 2, the issue of reparations and justice remains open.
- Poland and its people are still suffering from the negative effects of Germany's brutal crimes.
- Time is running out for Polish victims to receive compensation for the unprecedented harms they suffered.

¹ *The Report on the Losses Sustained by Poland as a Result of German Aggression and Occupation during the Second World War, 1939-1945; Volume 1 – A Collection of Studies, 2022.* p. 33; Jan Karski Institute of War Losses, Warsaw, 2022. Download the Report at <https://reparations-for-poland.com>