

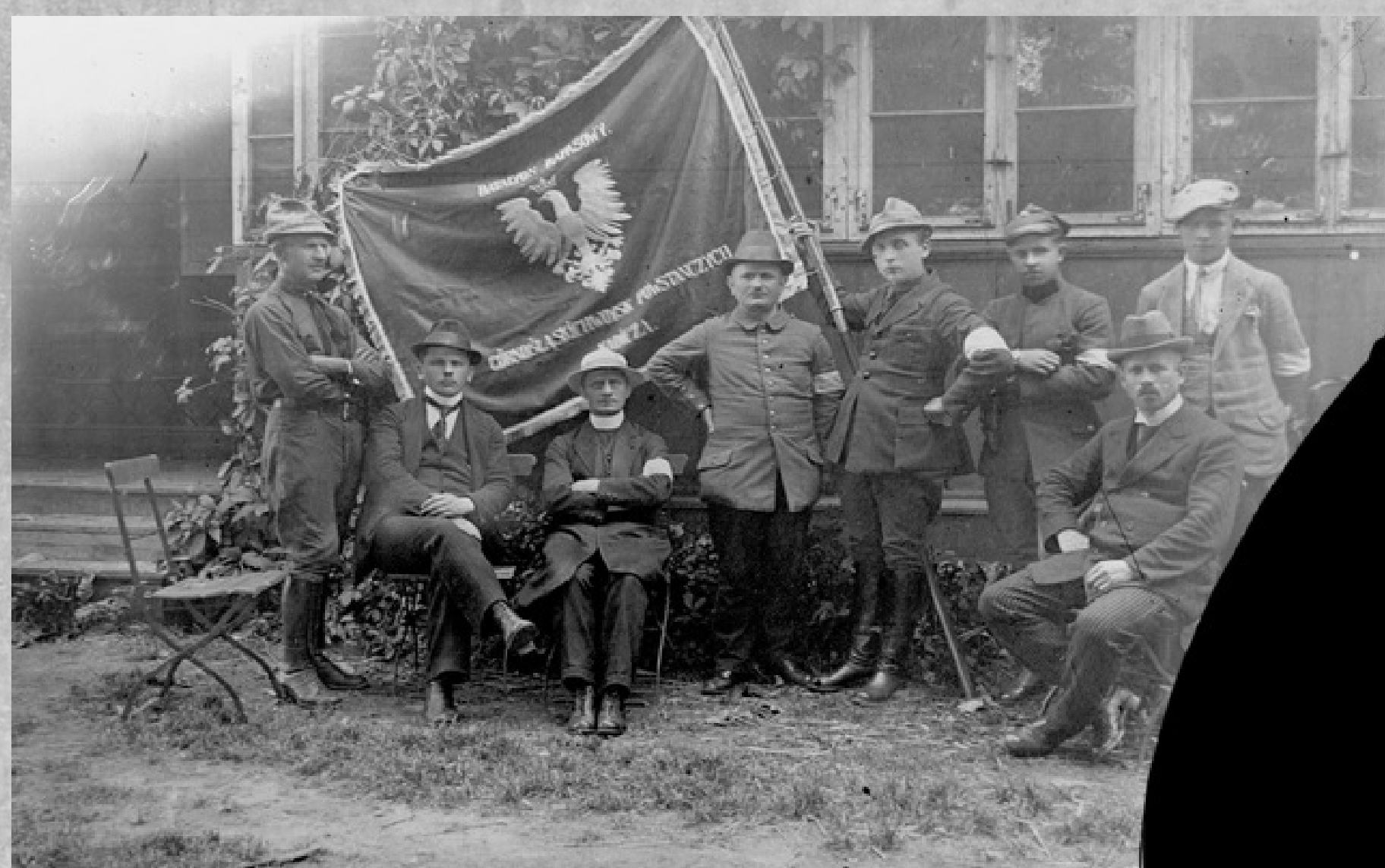
ARDUOUS ROAD TO STATEHOOD AT THE END OF IMPERIAL RULE

SACRIFICE COOPERATION TRADITION

TEACHING CITIZENSHIP AS A CONSOLIDATION OF TRADITION IN AN EMERGING STATE.

After Poland regained its independence in 1918, which came after more than 100 years of partition of its territory between three different states, it was necessary to make the population aware once again that they were Poles. They needed to be reminded of what their duties to the Homeland, which they had struggled for so long to regain, consisted of, and made aware of the fact that the rebirth of a free Republic was not the end of the road, but its beginning. The beginning of building an autonomous state anew, teaching responsibility for its longevity and development, as well as for maintaining its traditions and culture. A particularly important task was to educate the younger generation in the spirit of these values.

A nation that loses its memory ceases to be a nation, becomes merely a collection of people, temporarily occupying a given territory.
Józef Piłsudski



Silesian insurgents - participants in the three armed uprisings of 1919-1921, thanks to which an economically important part of the Silesian land was taken from Germany and restored to Poland - united under a banner with the White Eagle as the ancient "emblem" of the Republic of Poland



Monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (the so-called Gratitude Monument) erected in Poznań in 1932 as a votive offering for regaining of the Homeland's independence after the Partitions - a symbol of the fusion of faith and patriotism in the consciousness of Poles



Ceremonial parade in Białystok on the occasion of the second anniversary of Poland's independence - a sign of the united manifestation of patriotic feelings in the newly restored state, November 11, 1920

From now on, the only sign for you is the White Eagle [which has been the national emblem since the beginning of Poland].
Józef Piłsudski

To be victorious and not succumb is a victory, to be victorious and rest on one's laurels is a defeat.
Józef Piłsudski



Students of the Władysław Jagiełło Elementary School in Chrzanów, participants in a school performance referring to Polish traditions and legends - testimony to the instilling of patriotic feelings already at the level of elementary education, 1935

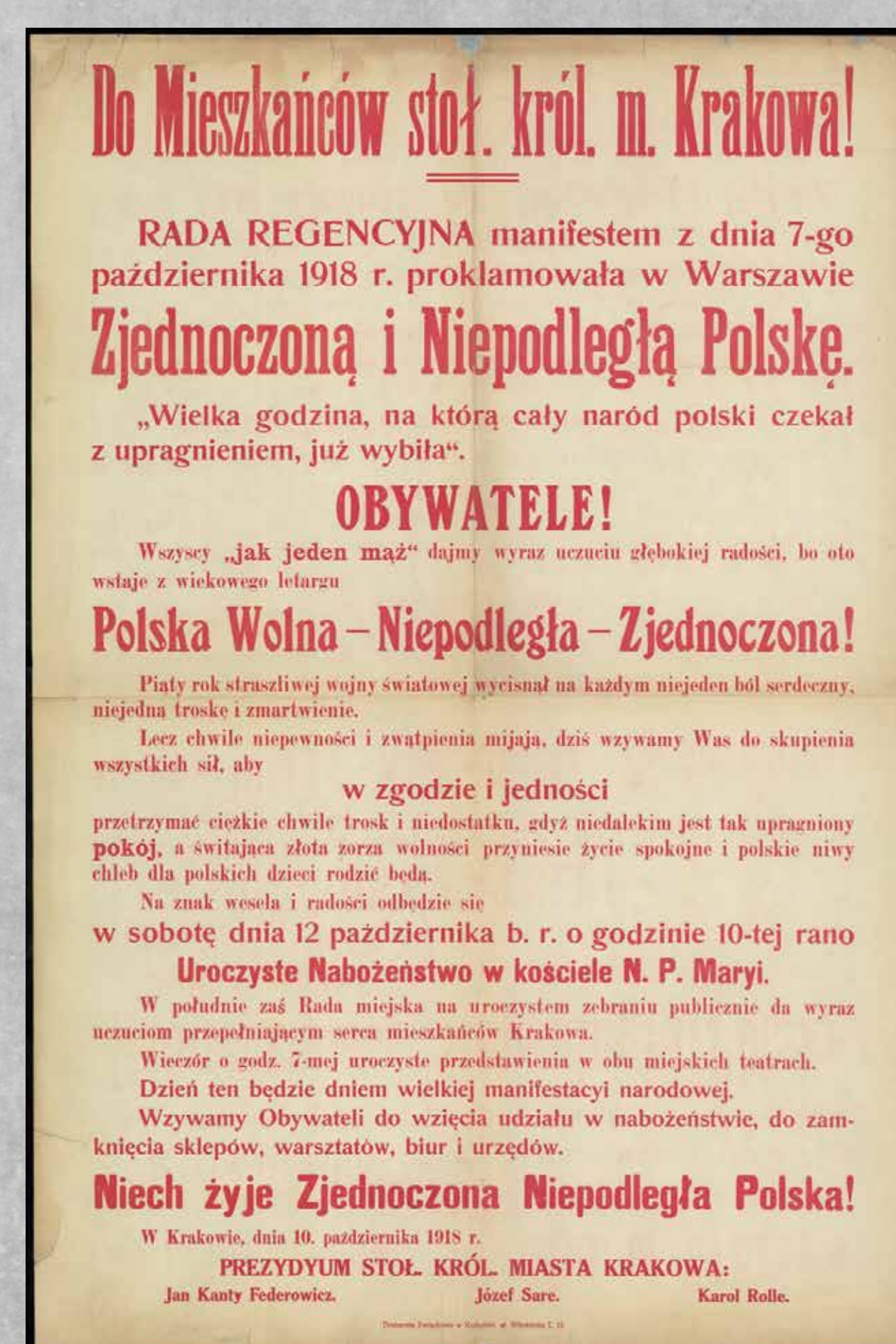


Celebration of Independence Day in Warsaw, November 11, 1937



Unveiling of the monument funded by Ignacy J. Paderewski, a Polish independence activist; the monument commemorated the 500th anniversary of the great victory of the Polish knights at the Battle of Grunwald, Krakow, July 15, 1910

The work we are looking at was not born out of hatred. It was born out of deep love for the Homeland, not only in its past greatness and present impotence, but also in its bright strong future; it was born out of love and gratitude for those of our ancestors, who did not go to the battlefields for spoils, not for conquest, but in defense of a just and good cause victoriously took up arms. [...] May the Nation, in the person of the highest dignity of all Polish lands, accept this sacrifice of our hearts with love. May every Pole and every Lithuanian, from the old parts of the Homeland or from across the ocean, look upon this monument as a sign of a common future, a testimony of common glory, an encouragement to common and fruitful work.
Ignacy J. Paderewski



Manifesto of the Regency Council to the inhabitants of the city of Krakow proclaiming the rebirth of "Free - Independent - United Poland" in 1918



Poster promoting knowledge of heroines from the history of Poland, using the example of Emilia Szczaniecka, who rescued 19th-century Polish insurgents

