

## Summary

This dissertation deals with the efforts made by the Polish authorities after WWII to recover gold looted by the Third Reich. This mainly involved negotiations with the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold, which was established by the UK, the US and France. The dissertation's chronological framework covers the years 1946-1998. In 1946, Poland, like other countries, laid claim to monetary gold, that is, to the assets of central banks.

The first aim of the research was to set out the restitution process and the negotiations taking place between Poland and the Tripartite Commission and the three governments. The master narrative in Polish historiography argues that Poland was treated unjustly and that the rejection of its claims was unlawful. The second objective, therefore, was to verify this thesis. The third objective was to examine all the factors influencing restitution, such as the Cold War or the positions of the British, American and French governments. The final intention was to examine the activities of the Tripartite Commission. The principal method employed in the research was a qualitative analysis of Polish and foreign primary sources, with a particular focus on documents produced by the Commission.

The dissertation consists of five chapters. The first demonstrates the evolution of concepts related to war indemnifications (reparations, restitution, individual reparations, contributions) in historical perspective. The second takes the form of a brief history of the Tripartite Commission, from its inception to its dissolution. The third describes the measures taken by the Polish authorities to obtain the gold. This section categorises the Polish claims and presents the arduous negotiations between the Polish side and the Commission and the three governments. Chapter four gives an account of the rejection of the majority of the Polish claims in 1958 and of their re-examination in the 1970s. The transfer of what is known as the Danzig Gold took place in 1976. With the substantive discussion now concluded, this chapter also discusses the Polish case in the context of those of other countries that submitted claims to the Commission. The final chapter addresses the position of the Polish authorities in respect of the re-emergence of the subject of looted gold in the 1990s. It also notes that Poland received a small amount of gold owing to the dissolution of the Tripartite Commission in 1998.

The results partly contradict previous research, which is due, among other things, to the inclusion of hitherto unexploited primary sources. The findings also contribute to research into the history of diplomacy, international relations and the Cold War.