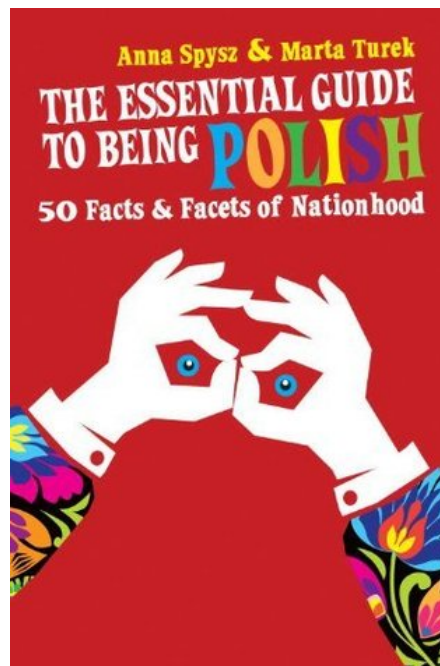




The Essential Guide to Being Polish: 50 Facts & Facets of Nationhood

Anna Spysz , Marta Turek , Lech Wa??sa (Foreword)

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Being Polish is no joke. For ten million people of Polish ancestry in the United States, as well as many who have settled in the UK since the fall of communism, it is a heartfelt matter -- and amid all the travel guides and guides to Polish language, folklore, and customs, there is no single, comprehensive, reader-friendly and yet ever-informative reference on what it means to be Polish. Enter *The Essential Guide to Being Polish* -- the go-to concise resource for anyone looking to reconnect with their culture or, indeed, hoping that their friends, children, or colleagues learn something about their heritage.

Divided into three sections to make for an easy-to-follow format -- Poland in Context, Poles in Poland, and Poles Abroad -- this guide covers just about everything and does so in a style that is at once entertaining and informative: the country's history and geography, wars, Jews in Poland, the communist past, the post-communist past and present, language, kings and queens, religion/Catholicism (with special focus on Pope John Paul II), holidays, food, and drink. What is a real Polish wedding all about? That, too, is addressed succinctly and with flair in this guide. Other chapters cover literature, music, art, famous scientists, Polish men and Polish women, Poles in America, Poles in the UK, Poles and the EU, and last but not least, Polish pride.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Essential Guide to Being Polish: 50 Facts & Facets of Nationhood Details

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From Reader Review The Essential Guide to Being Polish: 50 Facts & Facets of Nationhood for online ebook

Jamie Wolgast says

This book was so much fun to read. The author has a great sense of humor and a casual yet informational style. Loved it!

Heidi says

I just read this in little snippets this past year as my daughter has lived in Poland. It gave me some great insights into what she's experiencing and helped me understand why she loves Poland and its people so much. I can't wait to go back with her and visit this beautiful country!

Grzegorz Czarnocki says

"The Essential Guide to Being Polish" is rather a good book for a foreigner to get to know Poland, Polish people, cuisine, famous people and many, many more. Reading this book a chapter after chapter is a bit of an overkill, but trying to treat this position as a set of information about Poland will pay off, even for a Pole. Lots of useful and interesting information about this country will help you familiarize with Poland faster.

Sophie says

Very interesting!

Wes says

suggested as a polish beginner book by one of gosias friends

Gail says

Holy Moly! It took me almost a year to finish this book. So much information, I could only take it in small bites. Learned a lot about Poland, it's history, and it's people. Got some more suggestions for further reading as well.

Claire says

Written by two Polish-Americans, this book was really helpful as a reference book for understanding and interpreting certain aspects of Polish culture and history that would have otherwise been very difficult for me to understand. Reading this book while in the country was very helpful and started a lot of great conversations, not just from the funny title and section headings, but also because the information presented was very pertinent to many of the Poles I talked to while on my trip. A great read for anyone curious about Polish culture, language, history and food! I will definitely be using this as a reference book in the future, and one of the best parts is that for each section the authors have a "further reading" section, which will be a great starting point for digging deeper into their corresponding subjects.

Grant Dawson says

Having company from Poland coming here this Christmas, I thought a quick course on Polishness was in order, and this looked like the book to deliver that hope. Well, it is, but at the same time I must say this is no short course. Almost every aspect of Polish culture, history and attitude is explored in depth. For example, do you know that it is said that Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world (after Warsaw, of course). Some parts are almost too detailed, but one can just read a little less carefully, knowing that all that useful information will still be in the book if one ever needs it. And now I'm ready for whatever Christmas may throw at me. Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

Kerry says

This book should be required reading for anyone visiting Poland for the first time or interested in learning more about it. While the chapters about history, religion, holidays, and culture may not be new information for someone who has already done some research, the chapters that go more in depth into Polish psychology and way of life offer some insight. The essays are also written with a touch of nostalgia, helpfully comparing the past to the present for anyone who is clinging to outdated stereotypes.

The "further reading" sections at the end of each chapter are a goldmine of information about Polish history, culture, politics, and attitudes. The reading suggestions are frequently books published in the last few years and include familiar titles such as *Iron Curtain* and *Bloodlands*, but books with more specific focus, such as those detailing the role of women in the Solidarity movement, are also included, meaning that the reader has at their disposal sources to slake curiosity.

Mandroid76 says

Wonderful books as an introduction of Polish history, culture and mentality.

Matthew Dambro says

Delightful series of essays on what it means to be Polish. Beautifully written and well researched. It is a must for anyone interested in getting in touch with a Polish heritage. Thank you, Mom, for everything.
