



A Graduate School of National Security
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THE INSTITUTE
OF
WORLD POLITICS

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Washington, DC, 24 March 2009

Dear Mr. Wisniowski,

I have studied the issues of the *Kresy*, the lands between the Baltic and Black seas, for about 20 years now. I have published several monographs on the topic. My newest, *Intermarium: The Western Borderlands of the West*, is forthcoming shortly. I even was awarded the prestigious Mackiewicz prize for a case study of a locality in the *Kresy*. Further, I have written extensively on the Gulag experience of the denizens of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Thus, it is my great privilege to endorse wholeheartedly the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum initiative. I am intimately familiar with the project and have been involved as an advisor for some time now. The project's success is significant because it sheds light on a largely overlooked aspect of Soviet totalitarianism; it amplifies the story of the forgotten victims of the Second World War; it provides scholars with a mother lode of gripping testimonies and connections to the survivors and their families; it universalizes the suffering of hundreds of thousands by including all people who suffered, their ethno-cultural background notwithstanding; and, last but not least, by supplying a web-based venue to remember, it brings closure to the horrors they and their families experienced between 1939 and 1956 and shares them with the world.

Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum has my full support not only for scholarly reasons, but also for personal ones. Members of my family suffered jail, deportation, and even death on the road from the Borderlands and the Siberian exile.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need any more of my assistance in your admirable undertaking.

Sincerely,

Marek Jan Chodakiewicz
Professor of History and Academic Dean
The Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies