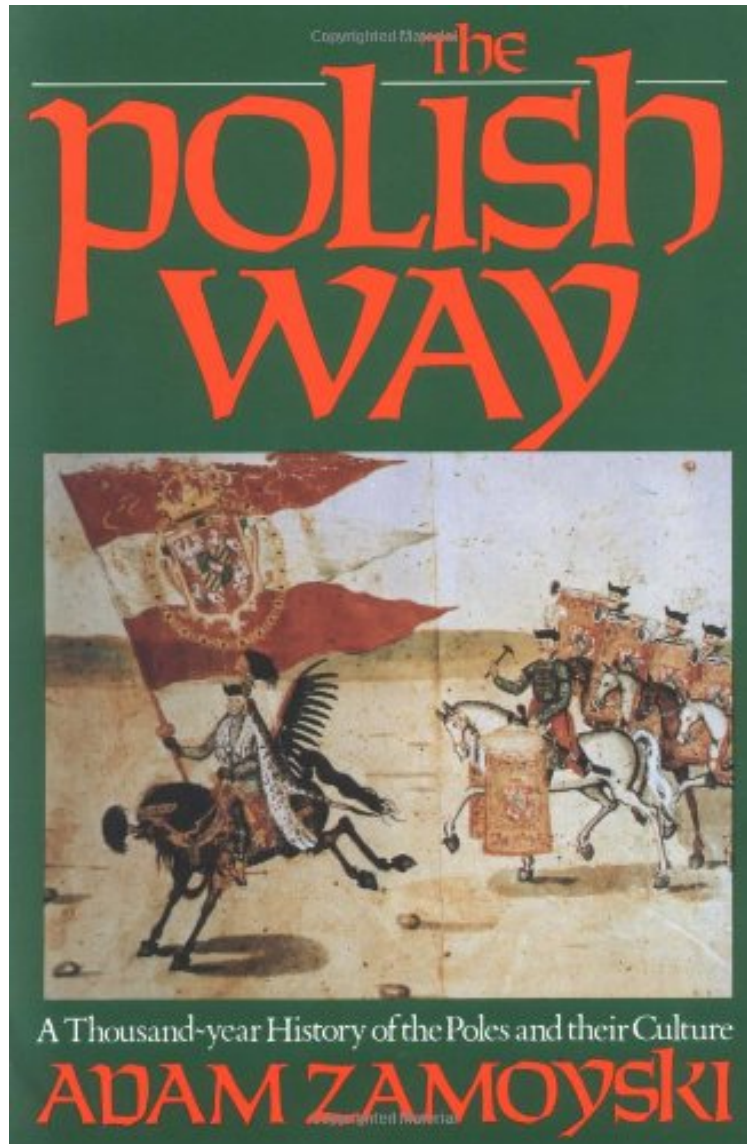


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The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture

Adam Zamoyski

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Adam Zamoyski : **The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent for those who are not familiar with Polish historyBy

MNPFSSHaving no background in Polish history, other than what little was covered in high school history, I wanted to acquaint myself with the history and heritage of this nation, before taking a trip to Poland. This book was perfect for that purpose. It begins with the story of Poland in 800 AD, and continues all the way through the Solidarity movement. In covering this time period, it does so in a very thorough, but easy to understand way, addressing what happened in history, as well as why it happened. In other words, it addresses the actual facts of what events took place, but also looks to underlying reasons. Personalities of people involved, religious and cultural motivation, as well as the social and political pressures of the world around Poland. The only reason this received 4 stars instead of 5 stars, is that there are times when the opinion of the author comes through too clearly. There are a few occasions throughout the book where he refers to certain acts as "bigotry." Bigotry they might be, but in a history book, I would prefer the author to simply tell me what happened and why, and leave me to determine if the motivations amounted to bigotry. However, that aside, the book is an outstanding source, and the author's opinion leaks through only in a few specific circumstances. If you can handle an opinion being given to you on occasion, then I think this will serve as an excellent primer for anyone wanting to start from scratch, and learn the history of Poland. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Witty, Accurate and Comprehensive By ibis A lover of history and a third generation Polish American I found things in this book that I had not found anywhere else. It is dense, true, but Zamoyski has a great sense of humor, often portraying human nature in all its horror and folly through the lens of European history with Poland at the matrix. I loved the way that Zamoyski sheds light on how intertwined Poland's history was and is with European history, the dynamics that contributed to her fall and how that fall affected the rest of Europe. He does a great job or telling the history of Europe and Poland in one volume. I recommend this book to everyone I know who has a misaligned or poorly informed understanding of the Polish people, who bought the lie that was spread about these amazing people to justify the carving up of their country and the cultural genocide in the 19th century. Most find it too dense and it is, but I find that all truly good history texts are dense and I urge those I know to stick with it, even if you read a chapter a month it is well worth the time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Polish history for dummies By Mouguias A light, layman-oriented introduction to Polish history. I especially appreciated the fact that Zamoyski has bothered to give some cultural context to each period. It is not everything about kings and battles, but the art, the literary movements and the "zeitgeist" of each century as well. Now, the man is a real patriot and you will have a hard time trying to find something wrong to pin on the Poles all through their eleven century history.

This title is now out of print. Please see Adam Zamoyski's new book *POLAND: A HISTORY*, available September 1, 2012.

About the Author Adam Zamoyski was born in New York and has spent much of his life in England, where he was educated at Oxford. His family originates from Poland, which his parents fled when it was invaded by Germany and Russia in 1939. A historian with a singular command of languages, he has authored over a dozen books, including *Warsaw 1920: Lenin's Failed Conquest of Europe* and the bestselling *Moscow 1812: Napoleon's Fatal March*. He is married to the painter Emma Sargeant and resides in England.