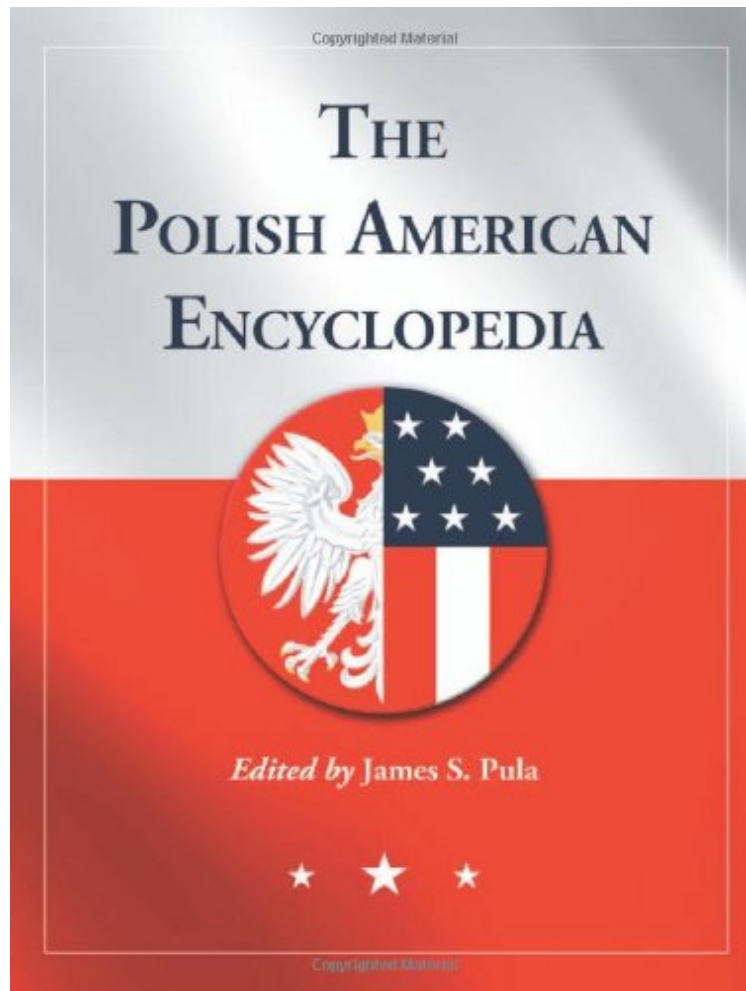


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The Polish American Encyclopedia

James S. Pula

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James S. Pula : The Polish American Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Polish American Encyclopedia:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Comprehensive Volume on Numerous Aspects of the Polish-American Experience By Jan Peczkis This single volume packs in a great deal of information-- biographical data on major and minor Pol-Am personages of virtually every walk of life, Pol-Am cultural phenomena, reviews of major Polish social organizations, Polish American organizations, relations of Poles and Pole-Ams to other ethnicities, statistical data, and much more. Judging by the entries, the primary emphasis of the volume appears to be biographical. Famous Jews from Poland are included. The entries in this work are listed in alphabetical order. Each entry consists of a few paragraphs to a few pages, and has sources written below it (not on a separate page). This makes it convenient to look up more information on the subject. Entries contain items in BOLD, and these BOLD items have their own entries. The entries are cross-referenced, in detail, in the index, which is quite profuse. Thus, for example, Dmowski

and Pilsudski are not listed as entries, as they were not Polish Americans. However, these names are listed in the index, enabling the reader to find the entries (actually, page numbers) in which they are discussed. Because the information in this volume is so exhaustive, I now mention a few entries that I found particularly interesting: Consider the pierogi. The entry (p. 360) is based on an article by Robert Strybel. Pierogi have counterparts not only in the eastern Slavic VARENKI, but also foods as geographically distant as the Italian RAVIOLI, Turkish MANTI, Chinese JIAOZI, and the Korean MANDU. The author speculates that the Poles got the idea from the Italians. Now consider some fascinating information derived from the 2000 United States Census. (pp. 56-58). At least 9 million Americans are of Polish descent. Apart from well-known locations, over 100,000 Pol-Ams live in LA-Long Beach, and Minneapolis-St. Paul each. As for economic success, 12.3% of Pol-Am households and 15.2% of Pol-Am families earn over \$100,000 a year (currency in 2000). The corresponding figures for earnings in excess of \$200,000 are 2.4% and 2.9%, respectively. Finally, consider Pol-Ams and justice in the American media and educational system. There is an entry, written by John Drobnicki, on the adventures of the Polish Anti-Defamation Committee. (p. 385). It is a shining example of Pol-Am activism, and of POLAK POTRAFI (The Pole Can Do It.). Founded in 1986 [I was told, actually 1976], it successfully ending the Jewish monopoly, and included the genocide of Poles, in educational activities sponsored by the California State Education Department. In 1993, the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) went to court in order to attempt to monopolize the term "anti-defamation". The Polish American Congress decided to rename the organization PADC (Polish American Defense Committee))[Actually, according to an informed source, they renamed themselves]. Whatever it was called, the organization energetically combatted the Polonophobia (my term), notably Holocaust-related Polonophobia. The organization tried unsuccessfully for Polish victims of the German Nazis to be included in the Swiss bank settlement. And so on... This volume must be read to appreciate fully.

At least nine million Americans trace their roots to Poland, and Polish Americans have contributed greatly to American history and society. During the largest period of immigration to the United States, between 1870 and 1920, more Poles came to the United States than any other national group except Italians. Additional large-scale Polish migration occurred in the wake of World War II and during the period of Solidarity's rise to prominence. This encyclopedia features three types of entries: thematic essays, topical entries, and biographical profiles. The essays synthesize existing work to provide interpretations of, and insight into, important aspects of the Polish American experience. The topical entries discuss in detail specific places, events or organizations such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Saturday Schools, and the Latimer Massacre, among others. The biographical entries identify Polish Americans who have made significant contributions at the regional or national level either to the history and culture of the United States, or to the development of American Polonia.

"bold-faced cross-references in each entry...readers will find the frequency of illustrative photographs helpful" -- Library Journal
About the Author James S. Pula is a professor of history at Purdue University North Central in Westville, Indiana. He is the editor of the scholarly journal Polish American Studies.