Contents

Pawel Is a Dead Man --- 1

I The Beginnings

It All Started with an Article ... - 7

Museum, but What Museum? — 13

"Disintegration of the Polish Nation" --- 16

History Museums: Between Collective Imagination and Politics — 27

II Making the Museum

The First Months at the Office of the Prime Minister --- 37

Assembling the Gdańsk Team ---- 48

Architecture, Archeology, and Construction — 55

Building the Collection and Planning the Exhibitions — 62

The Academic Advisory Committee, or a Multitude of Perspectives —— 76

From the Concept to the Exhibitions and Everything in Between —— 83

Before the Storm --- 92

III The War

"The Polish Point of View" --- 97



Minister Gliński Comes at Night --- 104

The Race Against Time —— 111

Parliamentary Committee on Culture: Hunting for "Encyclopedists" —— 116

Reviewers Unmasked --- 125

Stalingrad Instead of Blitzkrieg --- 138

The Finale --- 154

Not the End of the Story --- 173

Afterword --- 180

Bibliography --- 183

Index of Names --- 185

Photos (by Bartosz Makowski) ----188