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Slesia in Poland -- Brief introduction

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Slesia - German: Schlesien ; polish: Slask - is an area in middle-Europe, north of the Sudeten mountains, and the Odra~Oder is its main river.

The settlement of this region intensified around 950, first with Slavic tribes and then with predominantly German groups. The capital of Slesia always was and still is Wroclaw ~ Breslau, positioned at the Oder.

Over the following 1000 years, Slesia belonged Bohemia or the Kingdom of Poland or the Austrian Empire or Prussia; since 1871 it was part of Germany.

After the end of World War II, Slesia was given to Poland. All German citizens (5 Mio) had to leave Slesia.



The following three booklets present images for Breslau (now Wroclaw), a large city of about 650000 residents, and two small towns, both founded around 1200, Reichenbach (now Dierzoniow) and Schweidnitz (now Swidnica); these are marked on the map above.

During World War II, especially in 1945, Breslau was almost completely destroyed. However, since about 1960, the Polish government has increasingly engaged in the reconstruction of Wroclaw~Breslau, and many historic buildings restored. It is also regained its industrial and commercial relevance.

Dierzoniow~Reichenbach and Swidnica~Schweidnitz did not suffer so much during the war. Both are towns with many historic features - especially the famous Peace Church (now a World Heritage Monument).

Consequently, all three towns are very attractive to travellers.

