

Poland National Day Special

System of shared values despite distance

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Today Poland celebrates its Constitution Day. The specific document it refers to, the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1795, carries a unique meaning in our history. It was the first modern

constitution in Europe and the second in the world. It was a document that set the ambition to build a modern Polish state, based on the legal protection of the freedoms of all its citizens.

Many people forget that throughout most of its history Poland has been a diverse, tolerant and highly democratic country. We chose religious tolerance at the time when religious wars were ravag-

ing large parts of Europe. We created a society where various ethnicities, including Poles, Lithuanians, Jews, Ruthenians and others, coexisted in peace. Last but not least, we probably had the most democratic political system in Europe at a time when most monarchies on our continent chose the path of absolutism. The democratic and inclusive ideas of our country were even reflected in its official name the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Of course, the days of the commonwealth are gone and there is no way of bringing them back. We like to believe however, that we are custodians of a tradition and a system of values that remain an important part of the heritage of Central and Eastern Europe. These values make our region impervious to the temptations of such perverted ideologies as communism or fascism — whether they be in their Western or Eastern emanations. This

is also why Poland and other countries in the region sympathize so strongly with Ukraine in its struggle for freedom.

Japan may be geographically remote from Poland, but we also view it as an adherent to the same system of values that we cherish. It is a beacon of democracy and a strong advocate of a rules-based order, which protects the weak from the ambitions of the strong. More than any common political or economic interests that we may have, this is the real reason why Poland considers Japan its strategic partner.

On the occasion of Polish Constitution Day, let's all raise a toast to our shared values and to those ready to fight to protect them.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



The Warsaw Spire office tower rises 220 meters above the city.
GETTY IMAGES



The Tatra Mountains serve as a backdrop for the colorful flowers and cottages of the Gasienicowa valley.
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Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Poland
on Their National Day

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Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum
The museum preserves documents of Polish orphans that came to Tsuruga.

<https://tsuruga-museum.jp/>

City of Tsuruga