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**Women among leaders of the Union of Polish Patriots, 1943–1946: the peculiarities of their identity and perception by contemporaries**

This paper is devoted to the study of the self-identification and perception of women in the leadership of the Union of Polish Patriots (UPP) – Wanda Wasilewska and Janina Broniewska, and also, we analyze their personal relationships. We use three categories of identity analysis – political, national, and gender criteria, as well as a combination of them. A special focus of the work is an attempt to reveal the case of Wanda Wasilewska, the daughter of Leon Wasilewski, Piłsudski’s right hand, in the logic of Soviet gender policy during the World War II.

By the middle of the 20th century, there was already a rollback to the traditional model of gender order, but the military actions required the mobilization of women by the Soviet government with a new force in three key areas: as workers, as citizens, and as mothers. Wasilewska’s case of leadership in large-scale socio-political organization during this period demonstrated the emergence of another possible model of women's self-realization in the conditions of the traditional gender system: a combination of «the someone's daughter» model and a women's strategy of active adaptation to the etacratic order. In the same logic a career of her friend and colleague Janina Broniewska has developed.

Political and national identity of Wanda Wasilewska and Janina Broniewska we build up on the basis of personal sources that the heroines of the study left, recalling their childhood, youth and their actions during the war, and the testimonies of their contemporaries – both the Poles and Soviet citizens. We are introducing some new documents from the GA RF concerning the activities of the Union of Polish Patriots to answer the question why these two women were entrusted with the leadership of the UPP.