## Contents

Paweł 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

Bibliography — 180

Index of Names — 182

Photos (by Bartosz Makowski): —— 185