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### The Public and Private Dimension of Local Community Memory: The Example of Michniów

This article concerns two dimensions of social memory: public (formal, top-down) and private (bottom-up, unofficial). The author's analysis is based on materials gathered during research for "Milieux de memoire in Central and Eastern Europe—A Polish Case" in Michniów, a village now lying within the Świętokrzyskie voivodship. During World War II Michniów was pacified by German troops: the villagers were murdered and the village was burned. The residents who survived were forbidden to return to the place. For a long time this event survived only in local community memory. After many years the state authorities became interested and Michniów became a symbol of the martyrdom of the Polish countryside during the war. The example of Michniów is a starting point for considering issues such as the creation of top-down and bottom-up memories, their interactions, and also their differences. In referring to the ideas of Jay Winter, Aleida Assmann, and Polish researchers, the author shows what characterizes these two dimensions of memory, their specificity, and what needs are met in the case of Michniów. The author considers issues related to the different forms and ways of remembering and commemorating the past, the commitment of the authorities and the local community, questions related to the transfer of selected content and its interpretation, emotions, and finally the forms and range of commemorations.

**Key words:** Local community, collective memory, bottom-up memory, top-down memory, World War II