

## **Mineral Resources: Past, Present and Future. Case History of Poland**

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Territory of Poland is rich in mineral and industrial rock deposits. They came to production, were mined, became exhausted or abandoned because of economic reasons in various periods of time. Gold, iron, lead - zinc, silver, copper ores, rock salt, native sulphur, black coal, lignite, oil and gas were important for economy of the country in various periods since the middle ages. Some of them, as sedimentary iron ore deposits, lost completely their value as small and of poor quality. Economic value of huge resources of sulphur deposits become disputable in face of low cost of recovered one. Zinc - lead deposits become exhausted after 9 centuries of mining. Gold deposits lost their value at the end of middle ages (mostly placer mined at those times), but still are considered promising for prospecting. Oil important mined commodity in 19-th century up to beginning of 20-th century (territory of Poland was the birth of european oil industry) lost their prime importance because of small still available resources. Black coal, lignite and copper - silver ore are considered as the most important mineral commodity in the future. The change of polish economy, from administratively ruled to market oriented, force several mines (especially of black coal) to close down because of financial inefficiency. It pose the question of conservation for the future developement the abandoned, not exhausted, but still mineable resources and discovered, but not mined deposits (as concealed porphyry Mo-W-Cu). Their inventory and mapping became important for land use planing, facing needs of urban developement and comunication network construction. Mineable mineral deposits as a part of natural environement needs to be protected for their future utilization, necessary for sustainable developement.