

Nazis in Polish Courtrooms: The 1946 Trial of Arthur Greiser
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This paper will explore the 1946 trial of Arthur Greiser, the first of seven major war crimes trials held in Poland. Greiser had been the Nazi territorial leader of the “Warthegau,” an area of western Poland annexed to Nazi Germany in 1939. In their trials of major Nazi war criminals, Polish authorities looked carefully at Nuremberg developments; Greiser’s indictment was thus informed by the London Charter. Indeed, in July 1946, Greiser became the first man convicted of “crimes against the peace.” This paper will examine various aspects of Greiser’s trial—the indictment, the proceedings, the justifications for conviction, the links to Nuremberg and, not least, the politics of the trial. Finally, the paper will discuss why historians and legal scholars alike have neglected to analyze this important war crimes trial.