

ABSTRACTS

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Stanisław Lisiecki

Borders and Borderlands

The word "border" has a wide range of meanings. The most common one refers to the borders of a country. But we also talk about cultural borders, the borders of growth, moral borders, or the borders of good taste. Along with a broadening of the scope of the term "border", the problem of borderland acquires both new importance and new meaning. Even though also in this case the territorial point of view dominates, a number of typologies (J. Nikitorowicz, G. Babiński) include symbolic borderlands. The distinctive feature of such borderlands, often referred to as "new", is their transborderity and transculturality, on account of which cultures lose their islandlike character.

Józef Witold Komorowski

Natural Environment and Ecological Barriers of Socio-Economic Development

In today's world, on account of population growth with its resulting requirement to increase the exploitation of environmental resources, the problem of aggravation and emergence of ecological barriers in economy becomes more and more pressing. The article discusses selected socio-economic and ethical aspects of anthropogenic hazards that lead to the creation of ecological barriers. Other issues taken up by the author include socio-economic conceptions of using the environment. Emphasis is placed on the complex and often elusive process of the formation of those barriers. A hypothetical course of the formation of an ecological barrier over time is presented. Moreover, attention is drawn to the multiplicity of types of such barriers as well as their diversified interactions and consequences. The aspect of a decreasing energy consumption of the major branches of industry in Polish economy serves as an example of very moderately optimistic, though not simple and unambiguous possibilities and ways of alleviating the barriers and limitations that result from the exploitation of the environment in Poland.

Sławoj Maciejewski

The Limits of Medical Experiment

In order to show the limits of medical experimentation the author traces the way covered by medicine in its aspiration to attain today's state of knowledge and therapeutic possibilities. The path of investigations begins in remote antiquity, proceeding through long years of observation and above all experimentation. Experiments broaden our knowledge and bring therapeutic effects, but often also cause pain, aggravation of illness and even death. The article discusses the problem of fighting contagious diseases such as Bubonic plague, cholera and smallpox, by undertaking attempts at preventive vaccinations which were to save the lives of millions of people in the future. It is described how progress was made in terms of knowledge of the human body in spite of objections on the part of some circles and frequently even condemnation of the researchers. The discovery of bacteria and viruses was a real breakthrough in fighting epidemics. Incessant efforts to find methods of quick diagnosis, correct treatment and rehabilitation are

described. The downsides of discoveries are discussed as well: the cobalt bomb on the one hand, and the atom bomb on the other. Experimentation is the basis of progress in medicine, but the medical experiments of Nazi doctors or Soviet psychiatrists brought disgrace to the medical profession. Other issues tackled in the article include problems of transfusiology and organ transplants, as well as those of genetics, genetic engineering or cloning. Attention is also drawn to patient rights and rights of persons subjected to a medical experiment. The ongoing debate in the medical world and denominational circles on the limits of medical experiment is highlighted. Last but not least, the author looks at the legal aspects of the problem of experiment raised by forensic physicians and lawyers. The final conclusion that follows from the study is that there is no univocal answer to the question about the limits of medical experimentation and each person concerned must seek their own answer as it depends on many of the aspects mentioned above.

Wanda Pilch

Moral Borders in a State Institution

The border between what is human - man's inalienable and inherent rights and needs - and what is public - institutionalization of human life in the state, reaches down to the very basis of the axiological and normative system underlying the legal order of the institution of the state. This border consists in the almost "barring" character of normative acts of state institutions which often lack public transparency, and in extreme cases are even contradictory to the endeavors of democratic countries (e.g. clarity, accessibility and openness of the principles and rules, norms and values that underlie the governing of the state). The value of democracy lies in its normative acts, so-called metaregulations or universal principles from which all other acts of state law and order originate. The bond between morality and state institution - disrupted and underestimated in history - actually does exist. The question is: Is the dependence and bond between morality and the state reflected and present in the process of creating democratic, legal acts of the state and institutions of state administration?

Marzena Szmyt

A Study on the Cultural Borderland of Western and Eastern Europe in the Early Agrarian Period

The article discusses the cultural situation within a broadly understood borderland of Western and Eastern Europe spanning the interfluvium of the Vistula and the Dnieper. The period selected for the study, i.e. the 3rd millennium B.C. was characterized, in the light of current knowledge, by varied forms of cultural contacts that brought together the societies of the Western and Eastern European cultural realm. The socio-cultural transformations that took place in those times resulted at the end of the 3rd millennium B.C. in a new landscape of this cultural borderland.

Roman Matykowski

Stability and Changeability of Borders in Europe

Political borders in Europe used to be treated as linear systems from the 17th century onward but this approach became widespread only in the 19th century. Controversy surrounding the linear character of borders, not just political but regional ones as well (concerning e.g. socio-economic links or cultural phenomena) was also present in the domain of geography, giving rise to the problem of delimitation of borders on the land (e.g. political borders) and on the map. The paper analyzes some geographical accounts of the problem of borders and describes some

mechanisms that affect the stability or changeability of political borders in Europe. Finally, attention is drawn to the issue of particular countries' access to sea coasts and to the subject of their territorial integrity.

Robert Skobelski

"The Border of Peace". People's Republic of Poland - German Democratic Republic in the Years 1949-1971

The issue of the border and cooperation within the borderland was an important element of relations between Poland and the GDR from 1949 to 1971. The Odra and the Nysa Łużycka were the cause of unofficial controversies on the Warsaw - East Berlin line, camouflaged by an officially declared friendship and common ideology. The character of the Western border was determined by the Polish-East German relations in the borderland, which were mostly based on ideological-political grounds. Cooperation in the borderland consisted mainly in formal propaganda contacts between parties and state institutions. In consequence in the period under discussion it was impossible to develop processes integrating the societies on both banks of the Odra and Nysa Łużycka, whereas economic relations could only be maintained on a limited scale.

Natalia Jackowska

Border Controversy between People's Republic of Poland and German Democratic Republic in the Pomeranian Bay

The genesis of the controversy between Polish People's Republic and the German Democratic Republic over territorial waters in the Pomeranian Bay goes back to the decisions of the Potsdam Conference and inaccuracies in later agreements and unilateral decisions of both states. In the years 1985-1989 the conflict aggravated to precedental scale in relations between allies within the Warsaw Pact. There was an actual threat that the ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście would be deprived of free access to the Baltic Sea. In order to be able to formulate hypotheses about the reasons of the escalation of the controversy and its unexpected rapid conclusion, the conflict in the Pomeranian Bay must be viewed against a broad backdrop of Polish-East German political relations in the 1980s, taking into account the system features of the block of socialist states as well as the nature of contacts between the two German states. The stance adopted by state and party authorities in the GDR and Poland exposed the weakness of their ideology and state institutions at the decline of the communist era, evidenced by their inability to foresee its approaching end. This lack of response to impulses coming from the outside, proved fatal to the painstakingly built ideology of an independent East German state.

Marcin Tujdowski

The Disappearance of Old Borders and the Emergence of New Ones. Borderland as a Situation of Exclusion

The author draws attention to certain subsidiary processes connected with the "opening" of borders, mainly as part of a larger process of European integration. The opening of borders met with criticism as in several cases it paradoxically led to exclusion. Firstly, a regularity was noticed that the smaller the border restrictions inside a given area (here: the European Union), the stricter the border regime on its outskirts. At a certain point, division into the centre and peripheries contributed to an evaluative approach to countries and societies by creating an elite club for members (of the European Union) and all the other states that aspired to membership.

Another aspect concerns migration movements, but also small-scale cross-border traffic or the traffic of national minorities. For the above mentioned categories of people, tightening up borders has led to problems with entering the territory of the European Union. Especially immigrants from outside Europe must take into account serious obstacles in the form of a system of physical barriers and blockades. The third aspect concerns a civilization criterion which is becoming clearly visible in the course of demarcation of the new borders of Europe. Despite a declared promotion of multiculturalism, the limes of Europe have more or less consciously been drawn along the borderline of Christian Europe. Controversy surrounding Turkey's candidacy can be seen as a litmus test in the debate on European identity built on the basis of civilizational affiliation. According to the author, new aspects of exclusion by borders and borderlands (which turned out not to be open as wide as initially declared) were insufficiently represented in the discussion on the effects of European integration.

Marta Götz

The Significance of Borders for the Flow of Capital

The article is an attempt to trace the changing role of international borders in the international flow of capital in the form of direct foreign investments (DFI). Borders understood in the conventional sense as factors hindering a free migration of investments (disruption of optimal allocation) but at the same time also vindicating the existence of many capital flows (the motive of availing oneself of broadly understood differences) seem to be losing significance. However, what is being observed is the growing role of informal, "soft" and tacit borders that render the making of full profit impossible. They can be particularly painful in the case of knowledge-seeking investments made in clusters. Narrow specialization accompanied by a hermetic character of many such clusters is a major barrier in the activity of foreign business entities. Contrary to state borders, this barrier cannot be lifted by means of imposed administrative decisions.

Janina Jędrzejczak-Gas

The European Union's Financial Assistance to the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises

Small and medium enterprises (SME) play an important role in the socio-economic development of Europe, and for this reason the European Union conducts an active policy of supporting their growth. In the years 2007-2013 SME will have access to many EU Programmes, Structural Funds and Initiatives which will help remove barriers obstructing their growth and will enhance their competitiveness and innovativeness. Additionally, those instruments will vitally contribute to exceeding the borders of contemporary knowledge, socio-economic development, cooperation, etc.

Ewa Szymanik

Affluence and Poverty versus the Division of Cyprus - A Leveling of Differences Reviews and Commentaries

The article looks at the economic situation of the population in both parts of a divided Cyprus and its political problems, especially those which arose after the Turkish invasion of 1974. Relations established between the two parts of the island after 2003 are also discussed. The last section of the article brings an analysis of the current situation, expounding the opportunities and obstacles on the way to an economic reunification of Cyprus into one country.