

SCIENCE - POLITICS - TRANSFORMATION SEVENTY YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR WESTERN AFFAIRS

Łukasz Bugalski, *The Issue of Reconstruction of Monumental Old Town Complexes on the Recovered Territories*

Almost seventy years after the Second World War, the issue of rebuilding the towns on the Recovered Territories still holds valid. The experiences of the first years of restoration according to the program of the "Polish School of Conservation" continue to exert considerable influence on the vision of a model form of reconstructing ruined monumental old-town complexes. Regrettably, today a majority of the nearly three hundred historic towns on the Recovered Territories still remain in very bad state. Even though the largest urban centers were rebuilt during the first post-war years, they are presently in demand of verification. Middle-sized and small towns which are often developed in the form of modernist housing estates have lost continuity with their pre-war history, while others still remain unreconstructed assuming the form of extensive lawns. However, most often there is just a cacophony of the styles of reconstruction within the area of former monumental old-town complexes. A new form of reconstruction, known as "retroversion", especially widespread in Polish cities after 1989, was seen as a hope for the recreation of central old-town complexes with reference to their historic shape. But this new wave of reconstruction of the lost structure of the model of a European city appears to lack a clear theoretical basis, so there is cause for serious concern as to whether the ongoing changes proceed in the right direction. Today we face the challenge of outlining a new program of reconstruction for the cities on the Recovered Territories.

Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska, *Evangelicals and Catholics on the Former Polish-Prussian Borderlands*

The article sums up the author's experiences resulting from a field research in the north-western part of the Suwałki Region. The object of the research was a study of the relations between Catholics and Evangelicals in the former Polish-Prussian borderland. On the basis of her interlocutors' utterances the author gives a chronological presentation of Catholic-Evangelical relations from the interwar period up to the present, showing how they changed over time. The problem of perception of the Volkslist and the usage of the concept of Volksdeutsch by both denominational groups is also discussed. An essential part of the analysis is the author's endeavor to understand the identification of "Evangelicality" with "Germanness" by Catholics. She notices an interesting phenomenon: the mode of talking about the denominational group as a whole differs from that of talking about its particular representatives.

Stanisław Jankowiak, The Road to Freedom - Reflections on the Round Table

Suppression of an independent movement, and Solidarity is beyond doubt acknowledged as such, did not resolve any of the crucial problems of the ruling power in Poland. A declining economy coupled with utter apathy of the society necessitated changes, but the authorities were not prepared to implement them. Additionally, the bankruptcy of the Soviet Union forced those in power to seek internal rather than external solutions to Poland's problems, hence the idea to make some changes in the principles of the system's functioning without impairing its essence. The pivotal element of the plan was to maintain in practice the monopoly of the Polish United Workers' Party on power by introducing new elements (President, upper house of the parliament) with a concurrent enticing of moderate opposition which was predisposed to engage in talks with the authorities, into shared responsibility for the situation in the country. Although the agreement negotiated at the Round Table seemed to favor the authorities, who hoped to postpone further changes for another four years, reality turned out quite differently, as the society supported the opposition. A reconstructed ruling coalition created a new, non-communist government, thereby effecting a transformation of the political system.

Jolanta Miluska, Beata Pająk-Patkowska, Axiological Basis of Political Activity

The main object of the study was a description of the level and forms of political activity and different values treated as predicators of this activity in the years 2004, 2010 and 2014 during the period of transformation of the political and economic system in Poland. The article presents the results of researches performed on samples of 383 (2004), 234 (2010) and 295 (2014) students of psychology and political sciences. The results show that the level of political activity is generally the same and rather low (especially in the case of actual unconventional activity). We can even observe the lower level of actual conventional political activity in the year 2014. The highest level was achieved by legal, unconventional potential political activity. The strongest predictor of activity is belief in the value of the activity (positive correlation) and political freedom (negative correlation). Acceptance of individualistic values generally does not account either for conventional or unconventional forms of activity, whereas collectivistic orientation is a factor determining a rather lower level of unconventional activity.

Marek Nowak, Civil Society in Poland after Twenty-Five Years

The article is the author's own description of the evolution of forms of organized activity of Poles based on a four-field interpretative matrix inspired by the assumptions of the so-called old institutionalism. The author analyzes one by one the following issues: 1) paradox of exogenous sources of evolution of the institutional framework of a civil society and a simultaneous continuity of the phenomenon; 2) consequences of subjecting the non-governmental sector to the model of financing based on the principle of subsidiarity; 3) motives and motivations for engaging in the activity of an organization; and 4) strategies of action which (do not) include organized forms of activity.

The author identifies factors responsible for the underdevelopment of the non-governmental sector in Poland twenty-five years after political and economic system transformation compared to central European post-communist societies. The empirical basis of the analysis comprises data contained in the „Social Diagnosis” ("Diagnoza społeczna"), reports of the Centre for Public Opinion Research, applications of research projects realized in Poznań in 2005 and 2010 as well as international comparative analyses developed in the milieu of scholars participating in the "Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project".

Michał Nowosielski, On the Inevitability of Change and the Need of Continuity. Seventy Years of the Institute for Western Affairs

The seventieth anniversary of the Institute for Western Affairs is an incentive to reflect on the processes of change which the Institute has gone through. The following topics are discussed: the crises which influenced the functioning of the Institute; the role of outstanding personages who had an impact on the activity of the Institute; continuity and change as two inseparable tendencies that shape the Institute's contemporary research program; multilevel connections between the scholarship developed at the Institute and politics.

Magdalena Izabela Sacha, Downstream the Piaśnica River. Places of Remembrance along the "Phantom Border" in Northern Kashubia

The paper focuses on the question whether the former Polish-German border along the Piaśnica River in Northern Kashubia is also a 'long-term-duration' border. The old border, although no longer on the political map after 1945, still exists in the collective memory of the inhabitants of the former borderland. The 'phantom border' is tangible in material memorials and in language use. A particular case is the social memory of the inhabitants of the village Nadole, which was a Polish enclave on the German side of Lake Żarnowieckie between 1920-1939. The paper presents results of research on this memory conducted through text analysis of historical sources and ethnographic interviews with the local people. A local myth of the 'hero's journey' plays an important role for the construction of the social memory of Nadole. Various Kashubian political activists can be cast as the hero. Until today the memory of the interwar period has been the basis of the image of 'Us' and 'the Others'.

Paweł Stachowiak, The Critical Years 1988-1989 in the Politics of Memory of the Church

In the Church's narration on the transformations of the end of the 1980s there is a noticeable disproportion between the actual role of representatives of the Church during the crisis of 1988-1989 and later accounts of their activity. The Church emphasizes its involvement in the process of contesting the communist system but rather does not give prominence to its activity during the proceedings of the Round Table and the contractual elections. This stance follows from the new situation in which the Church found itself after 1989 and ensuing adaptation problems. For various reasons which are discussed in the text, its representatives developed a specific "politics of memory" that includes a formula of the Church – full of goodwill but betrayed and cheated – as a witness of the decisive events of the end of the 1980s. This is done at the cost of distorting the image of those events and is connected first and foremost with goals of an immediate nature.

Jerzy Strzelczyk, The Science of History at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century. An Essay

The science of history, not only in Poland, faces serious dilemmas at the beginning of the 21st century, there being no indications that, similarly to its past status especially in the 19th century, it can aspire to the role of one of the major factors of social consciousness. Following the liberation (by far inconsistent and often mistrusted) of history as a science from rendering undue services of a non-pertinent nature it experienced and still does, erosive influences exerted by numerous theoretical trends and currents that put into question the validity and genuineness of the scientific character of history. Enormous progress in the field of heuristics and research organization (the latter disputable at times) does not always yield the expected fruits. The essay focuses on the "external" conditions and manifestations of the science of history in Poland, both of a positive and negative nature, only briefly touching upon some current research proposals. Then, on the example of medieval studies the author presents the current problems and achievements of this science, to show among others that many of the postulates and expectations of contemporary methodology and theory of history are actually realized in medieval studies. The concluding part brings reflections of a more general nature on the issue of contemporary place and tasks of the science of history.

Anna Wolff-Powęska, Science and Politics. A Difficult Partnership

Mutual relations between science and politics have long been an object of interest of the human and social sciences. The text is an attempt to outline the challenges faced by today's political science. The author seeks to answer the question how Polish think tank centers address the problem of effectively impacting on politics. Questions are also formulated concerning the state of Europeanization of research and the organization of Polish consulting institutions.

Maria Zmierczak, The Image of Germans and Germany in “Przegląd Zachodni” in the Years 1945-1990

On the basis of articles published in “Przegląd Zachodni” (“Western Review”) in the years 1945-1989 the author attempts a reconstruction of the image of Germans and Germany conveyed in them. The image changed depending on the intensity of censorship, transformations of the political system in Poland and foreign policy of the Polish People’s Republic. Immediately after the Second World War the account was highly negative and emotional, and amounted to equating all Germans with Nazis. Later on a revisionist picture of Germans and the FRG was sketched and contrasted with the good Germans from the “progressive” GDR. The latter image was evidently counterfeited. A marked change took place after 1970 and in the 1980s. Since criticism of the GDR was avoided, less and less was written about Germans from the GDR, whereas information about the FRG became more and more matter-of-fact. The analysis culminates in the conclusion that the authors of the researched texts gave priority to the Polish *raison d’état*, i.e. recognition of the finality and integrity of Poland’s western border, while texts on Germany and Germans contain a significant message about life in the Polish People’s Republic.