

Assessment of capitalism in Polish Catholic social philosophy after 1989

Summary

The discussion about economic liberalism that started in Poland in the early 1990s was about issues related to the implementation of the policy of economic transformation. Significant achievements of the Church in this area should be subjected to a comprehensive analysis as far as possible, all the more so because of the previous assessments of the Church's attitude to capitalism are inscribed in the broad context of mutual relations between liberalism and the social teaching of the Church.

The choice of the analyzed time interval is not accidental. For political, economic and social reasons, 1989 is an important turning point not only in the recent history of Poland, but also in Europe and the world. The replacement of real socialism by liberal democracy has opened a new chapter in the history of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The source material associated with the Catholic social philosophy consists of, among others, papal encyclicals, pastoral letters, messages and homilies. Other sources are works and articles of a scientific and journalistic nature. The aim of the dissertation is to assess capitalism contained in the Polish Catholic social philosophy after 1989, and in particular to analyze the views of representatives of various currents of the Catholic Church in Poland (clergy and laity), views of popes from 1891-2013 affecting Christian social thoughts, and views of thinkers assessing the attitude of the Catholic social philosophy to economic transformation from a liberal and leftist position.

The work contains the following theses: first, the assessment of capitalist transformation is of interest to the Catholic social philosophy, secondly, the assessment of the market economy formulated by the popes are an important element inspiring Catholic social philosophy, thirdly, the current achievements of Catholic social philosophy in the assessment of the market economy in Poland after 1989 it is an important voice in the contemporary socio-economic discourse, and fourth, the attitude of Catholic social philosophy towards capitalism causes that it is judged from a liberal and leftist position, and fifth, the assessments of capitalism included in Catholic social philosophy presented by the clergy and thinkers Christian and liberals and the left are diverse.

The work consists of four chapters. The first chapter, entitled *The history of Catholicism towards capitalism*, shows the birth of Catholic social doctrine defined on the basis of the

historical context of the Church's attitude to capitalism, contained in the papal encyclicals from Leon XIII to Paul VI. Moreover, in a short historical outline, Catholic social philosophy in Poland has been characterized. The main part begins the second chapter - *Catholic social philosophy in the face of the challenges of contemporary capitalism*, analyzing Catholic social philosophy in relation to the contemporary challenges of the free market expressed by the popes of Pope John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Franciszek, part of the second chapter discusses the views of Christian thinkers on the subject of relationships religion and the free market. Chapter three - *The Church in the face of economic changes in Poland after 1989* covered the issue of the Catholic Church's attitude to economic changes in Poland after 1989, first explaining the issue of economic transformation, as a result of which Poland finally adopted a market economy model. Because this solution had to trigger specific reactions of the Church - the next part of the chapter contains opinions of the hierarchs about the free market and opinions contained in official documents of the Polish Church, while in the third part, the views of Christian thinkers seeking common values connecting religion and the free market were described. Contents of the last chapter - *Opinions of liberals and the Left about the Church's attitude to capitalism*, included issues regarding the assessment of the attitude of the Catholic social philosophy to the free market from the liberal and leftist positions. The end presents the differences and similarities of positions in the context of the research theses.