Karl Popper, Public Opinion in the Light of the Principles of Liberalism

The great philosopher Karl R. Popper died on September 17, 1994. He contributed immensely to the formulation and solution of many philosophical problems. Until his last days of his long life he worked on the questions of the advancement of the contemporary societies. As a propagator of the concept of the open society, K. Popper has devoted much of his time to criticize its shortages. He fought against all kinds of the social evil and was very critical of the intellectuals. He blamed them for lack of intellectual modesty, 'emptywordness' and treachery. He was convinced that the intellectuals were to blame for all the miseries of this world because they are not strong enough to fight for intellectual honesty.

The article presented below is an excerpt from the famous collection of works 'In Search for a Better World, London New York 1992', which will be published in Poland by 'Książka i Wiedza'. The first version of that text was published in 1956.

Raymond Hudon, Tendencies in Canadian Politics

Since its very foundation Canada has been torn by contradictions. According to the UN statistics Canada has reached one of the highest standards of living in the contemporary world. Her land is vast and scarcely populated. It is here where to prevent the nature the Greenpeace movement was born. Many international polls show that Canada is a number one choice to live if such an option is given. And according to her population figures, Canada absorbs the highest rate of refugees from other countries. At the same moment the unemployment is high (11 per cent in April 1994), the welfare state costs 45 per cent of GNP. In recent years 700 000 Indians claimed their territories back. On the new territory Nunavut, the people of Inuit will form the autonomous government in 1999. However the most known political facts to the world public opinion are those connected with province Quebec. Since thirty years the world has been alarmed by the some dramatic events in that region. The recent results of the election showed that victory of the Party of Quebec sets a new path for Frenchspeaking province of Canada. The author analyzes the current developments in Canada looking for explanations of the problems facing the residents of the member of the exclusive club of the richest nations in the world G-7. One of the most important challenges of the Canadian governments is the integration of the internal market and adjusting the Canadian economy to the new economic space of NAFTA. To achieve that goal it is necessary to maintain 'the fragile unity', as author puts it. The weakest chain in the political system of Canada are the national elites, which lack, in the opinion of the author, the necessary ability to compromise and negotiate. 'Should the Canadian trust the parties and the politicians and hope that they will find the way out, if they are the source of the unsolved problems?' - concludes the author.

Janusz Osinski, Norwegian System of Elections and the Storting Election on September the 19th, 1993

Problems of the political representation, mainly the structure and changes in the election system of the Norwegian parliament, were widely covered by the Polish observers in the past. Today many of those works are outdated and need new research efforts. With this article the author hopes to fill in the gap in recent publications on Norwegian political system. Although the article is focused on the outcome of the election to the parliament in September 1993, it also covers all the important changes in the Norwegian legislature of the former period. The author tries to picture the election system and election mechanism as a continuum and an effect of the negotiations among the main political actors. The coherent electoral system is treated by them as an value in itself, which does not undergoes fleeting changes due to the party arrangements. None of the Norwegian parties, including the opposition, does question the shape and crucial solutions lying at the base of that system, which is, according to the author, a unique situation in all Europe.
Leslie Holmes, On Communism, Post-Communism, Modernity and Post-Modernity. Some Thoughts Stimulated by Zygmunt Bauman

Zygmunt Bauman is one of those who have put the issue of the connection between the 1989—90 revolution and both modernity and post-modernity on the agenda. These will be the principal themes of the present article. Although the article is a response to Bauman's arguments, it also addresses various issues not considered by him. The article is divided into four main sections. In the first, the author provides a brief analysis of the salient features and patterns of the recent revolution. In the second, he provides a selective account of modernity, and a consideration of the relationship between the revolution and modernity. In the third section he considers post-modernity and the possible connections between recent developments and this concept. And finally, some concluding remarks will be made.


Polish liberalism bloomed in the years of the political crisis of communism. It seemed to be a natural counteraction to the latter. Those identifying themselves with the new ideology of liberalism were not necessarily familiar with its assumptions and advantages. The group of 'Gdańsk liberals', which gathered around the journal 'Przegląd Polityczny' (Political Review) young intellectuals led by Donald Tusk, were composed mainly of the local academics contesting communism. As the results of nation-wide rally of liberal associations and milieus in June 1989 the Congress of Liberals emerged, which was turned into Liberal Democratic Congress one year later. The spectacular success of the new ideology was due to the fact that it was in a full opposition to communist totalitarianism. The faith in miraculous functions of the free market economy and political freedom was common then. The author makes an attempt at the analysis of the intellectual context of the 'liberal revolution' and 'democratic capitalism' praised by the leaders and ideologists of the Congress. The author concludes his article with the statement that in the beginning of 1990s it was ideologically and program strongest political grouping in Poland. At the same time the leaders of the party seemed to neglect the experience of their western counterparts, which is reflected in strong believe in the charms of revolution and in lack of critical approach to the possibilities of the Polish market and the Polish democracy.

Tadeusz Klementewicz, Methodological Status of the International Relations

It is an important question for the methodology of every scientific discipline whether the knowledge accumulated in its scope represents enough elements to create a theory. Analyzing the research output of the science of international relations from this point of view, one cannot say it is crowned with the relevant theory. The reason for such state of the discipline is a false methodological consciousness of the researches. They are very often dominated by the 'superpower vision' of their discipline. It results in creation of the explanatory theory, which is parallel to the theories formulated by economists, lawyers or the theory of science, as far as its status is concerned. It is the theory steaming out from dubious assumptions and categories. The 'central suspect' is the notion of the state as the sovereign political unit, which replaces such global social categories as global society, nation and society, as a whole. As the result the researchers analyze disjointed compilation of items. The theory in such a case is always incompetent and false. In the article the author states that the theory of the international political relations is one of the subtheories making general theory of politics (of the state and its politics), i.e. the one explaining the construction, functioning and changes of political structures of the society.

Miroslaw Karwat, Notions 'Authentic' and 'Authenticity' as Interpreted by Politics

The meaning of the term 'authentic' is taken from the problem context and from the assets of other academic disciplines such as ontology, anthropology of philosphy, sociology, psychology, ethics, aesthetics etc. The author makes an attempt at adaptation of that notion to the needs of the political science. For the purpose of this article the authors makes the distinction between two notions: 'authentic' and 'authenticity'. The 'authentic' relates to the objective dependencies of an individual object or subject 'perse'. The 'authenticity' refers to subjective and intentional order. It is characteristics of the personality of an individual or group mentality and of the conditions identity and coherence of complex social entities.
The author differentiates and analyses the following forms of authenticity of political phenomena: genealogical, topological, essential, existential and reproductive. Whether the human creations are authentic decide such factors as self-existence, relative autotelicity, integrity, objective coherence, innovation and ability to transgression and genuinity. The authenticity of the human subjectivity (the latter created by convictions, behaviour, manifested opinions and intentions) is related to distinctive, independent features, adequate visions, expectations etc., internal coherence of a personality, authenticity of behaviour, ability to self-control and to transgression, among others.

Zhang Maozi, Chen Fengying, Qian Yunning, The Economic Transformation and Its Prospects in Central and East European Countries

The recent years all of the Central and East European countries have begun a rapid transformation of their economic systems and transition from the planned economy to the free market economy. Hungary, Poland and former Czechoslovakia were in a comparatively better situation and may recover in a shorter period. At the same time the economies of Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania may continue to decline due to the unfavourable factors in their economic transformation. Although the first three mentioned states made remarkable progress in adjusting their economies to the principles of the free market their stabilization is still threatened by some negative factors. These are inconsistent policy approaches of changing governments to the privatization and to the state sector of the economy, afflicted state budget by the subsidies of inefficient state enterprises and some national issues (e.g. split of Czechoslovakia into Czech and Slovak Republic).

Jan Kofman, Wojciech Roszkowski, Systemic Reforms in People's Republic of China

The recent years show the unprecedented economic development of the People's Republic of China. The rapid economic growth was accompanied by rather slow evolution of the Chinese political system. The present China inflicts the deep reflection on two questions at least: how possible is such fast economic development of the state, which tries to overcome not only the many century economic delay but also the ideological brakes of the communist system, which contributed to the decay of the USSR economy and its satellites from Eastern and Central Europe? What will be the future of East Asia and of the whole world if China, with her twenty per cent of the world population, becomes the new East-Asian 'tiger'? The authors of the article aim at enumeration and interpretation of the driving force and subjective barriers in the development of the Chinese economy during the period of the swift systemic reform, which with all its shortcomings, may be compared to the Chinese edition of the Japanese Meiji revolution. On the consecutive pages the authors address such issues as the assumptions of the systemic reform, the start of the reform, the pros and cons of the reform, social, political problems, socialist market economy (Chinese way), reforms and the international surroundings.

Krzysztof Jasiecki, Socialist Modernization. Chinese Model of Systemic Transformation

Problems connected with the processes of systemic transformation in Central and East European states, including the former USSR, will form the main world dilemmas of the present world. The question stemming out of those issues will require a new discussion of views on social change, and more broad on — possible direction of the social development. The author will try to look for an answer to some of those issues in the context of the reforms implemented in China since the end of the 1970s. The Chinese reformers had to approach the following challenges: the meaning of the theory of systemic transformation under the post-communist conditions, types of models of developments for the theoretical background for the reforms in China and what is the Chinese 'socialist modernization' and what kind of consequences does it bring to the Chinese society. The author analyzes the theoretical context, the notion of the 'socialist modernization', the political and ideological changes, new model of the socio-economic development and social impact of the Chinese reforms.

Reviews