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Editorial address

Polish Journal of Political Science

Centre for Development of Research and Education email: kontakt@inop.edu.pl

Interdisciplinary Research Center of the University of Warsaw "Identity – Dialogue – Security"
Prosta 69, 00-838 Warsaw
email: centrum.tozsamosc@uw.edu.pl

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Table of Contents

Articles

4 Alicja Lisowska, Marzena Cichosz COVID'19 vs. Resentments. At the Source of Corona-Scepticism Movements in Poland

22 Krzysztof Zaborek

System analysis of the problem of workers' rights in the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" by Leo XIII

36 Piotr Głowacki

Economic Factors of Risk to National Security

51 Krzysztof Pawel Kądzielski

The Idea of Protecting People at Risk of Exclusion. A Study of the Activities of the Stocznia Foundation under the CAMI and Lokator Programs

Book review

61 Karolina Kochańczyk-Bonińska Ekoteologia





Alicja Lisowska^{*} Marzena Cichosz^{**}

COVID'19 vs. Resentments. At the Source of Corona-Scepticism Movements in Poland

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Abstract

Among the social and political outcomes of the pandemic in Poland, one should list the development of anti-COVID social movements. Their specific character, as compared to other social movements, is the subject of exploration in this paper. The basic objective of the paper is thus to analyse the motivations of members and supporters of the so-called coronasceptic movement at the early stage of its presence in the Polish political arena. Key questions the authors sought to answer concern individuals' assessment of their situation associated with the pandemic and their attitude to public institutions managing the crisis on behalf of the government. The paper is based on the results of a quantitative research carried out in December 2020.

Keywords

corona-skeptics, social movement, COVID-19 pandemic, social attitudes, Poland

* University of Wrocław, e-mail: alicja.lisowska@uwr.edu.pl, https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2874-7088

** University of Wrocław, e-mail: marzena.cichosz@uwr.edu.pl, https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0853-742X





Introduction

he COVID-19 pandemic, which was officially announced in Poland in March 2020, brought about not only adverse economic results, but also a range of social consequences. The governments worldwide implemented restrictive policies of limiting civic freedoms¹ in order to reduce the number of new infections, thus blocking the spread of the disease. The restrictions triggered the development of social movements referred to as pandemic negationists, covid deniers, or corona-sceptics.

In their search to answer the questions concerning why social movements come to existence, scholars have identified various factors. Representatives of the theory of collective behaviour, including T. Blumer, sought a psychological explanation for the formation of a movement and they focused on emotions: tensions, dissatisfaction of the individuals with the current lifestyle, and "wishes and hopes for a new scheme or system of living" which direct them towards collective action.² T. Gurr also stressed psychological aspects in his studies on violent conflicts. According to the researcher's findings, such conflicts are caused by a discrepancy between value expectation and value capabilities perceived by an individual (theory of relative deprivation).³ Among the representatives of the theory of collective behaviour, one also finds various attempts to explain the phenomenon of social movements. They pointed out that the sources might lie in tensions within the system, structural changes taking place in mass societies, and disintegration of traditional social bonds.⁴

On the other hand, supporters of the resource mobilization theory assume that social movements are rational actors making deliberate choices.⁵ A movement occurs when it is possible to accumulate appropriate resources (moral, cultural, social, organizational, human).⁶ A basic social organization and a chance for success are essential to developing a movement.⁷

In the theories of new social movements⁸, the reasons for the emergence of the movement are associated with factors of a macrostructural nature, mainly with cultural changes⁹. Social movements are defined as collective actions centered around post-materialist values, such as dignity, equality, and ecology¹⁰.

Summarizing the contribution of individual theories to the development of social movement research, Buechler stated that the theory of new social movements refers to the level of macrostruc-

- 1. K. Baran, W. Burek, M. Gibek, *Wpływ Covid-19 na społeczeństwo i prawo*, "Rocznik Administracji Publicznej", 2020, (6), pp. 282–299. DOI: 10.4467/24497800RAP.20.016.12910
- 2. H. Blumer, Collective Behvior, in: New Outline of the Principles of Sociology, ed. A. Lee, Barnes & Noble 1946, p. 199, https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.260951/page/n3/mode/lup?view=theater, (access 10.09.2022).
- 3. T.R. Gurr, *Psychological factors in civil violence*, "World Politics", 1968, Vol. 20, Issue 2, pp. 245–278.
- 4. N. Smelser, *Theory of Collective Behavior*, Routledge 1962; W. Korhauser, *The Politics of Mass Society*, Routledge 1959.
- 5. D. della Porta, M. Diani, *Ruchy* społeczne, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 2009, p. 18.
- 6. B. Edwards, J.D. McCarthy, Resources and Social Movement Mobilization, in: The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements, eds. D.A. Snow, S.A. Soule, H. Kriesi, Blackwell Publishing 2004, p. 117.
- 7. J.D. McCarthy, M.N. Zald, *The Trends of Social Movements in America: Professionalization and Resource Mobilization*, General Learning Press 1973, pp. 1–30, https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/50939/164. pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y, (access



tures and contexts, the theory of resource mobilization addresses the problem of meso-organization and strategy, while social constructivism is responsible for the micro-level of identity and dissatisfaction.¹¹

In our analysis, we are focusing on the reasons why individuals engage in a social movement, so we mainly refer to the theory of collective behaviour. We presume that movements arise under the conditions of social change, when people miss chances, or when expectations grow out of proportion to the potential to satisfy them, thus leading to a sense of relative deprivation, whereby individuals and groups are motivated to get involved in social movements by actual or perceived loss/harm. Therefore, a social movement is born out of a shared sense of harm.

T he objective of the paper is to analyse a corona-sceptics movement in order to identify the motivations of its members and supporters who got involved in its online and offline activities. Therefore, the paper strives to seek the major sources of "harm" experienced by members of anti-covid movements and their assessment of the measures taken by public institutions, including especially the government responsible for managing the crisis situation during the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland. The presented data concern late 2020, a time when the pandemic negationist movement in Poland was forming during the second wave of the pandemic.

The reasons to choose this subject involved its current importance. At the same time, there have been relatively few study reports published concerning motivations of corona-sceptics. Scientific literature, especially within the area of political science, refers to anti-covid movements mostly in the context of their relations with particular political groups, spread of conspiracy theories, or consequences of their activities. In Poland, there was a multi-author publication edited by K. Hajder, M. Musiał-Karg and M. Górny, entitled "Konsekwencje pandemii COVID-19: Państwo i społeczeństwo" (2020). The subject of social attitudes toward the pandemic and related restrictions was explored by J. Radzioch in a chapter of the said collective volume and also by K. Skarżyńska in the report prepared for the Batory Foundation (2020). Meanwhile, anti-covid social movements were predominantly discussed in the context of conspiracy theories or their characteristic models of communication, including spread of fake news and disinformation. However, studies focusing on corona-sceptics themselves are missing and this is the gap we are trying to fill with this paper.

- 19.09.2022); C. Tilly, From Interactions to Outcomes in Social Movements, in: How Social Movements Matter, eds. M. Giugni, D. McAdam, C. Tilly, University of Minnesota Press 1999, pp. 253–270; M. Olson, Logika działania zbiorowego: dobra publiczne i teoria grup, Scholar 2012; D. McAdam, W.R. Scott, Organizations and Movements, in: Social Movements and Organization Theory, eds. G.F. Davis, D. McAdam, S. Mayer, N. Zald, Cambridge University Press 2012, pp. 4–40.
- 8. A. Touraine, An Introduction to the Study of Social Movements, "Social Research", 1985, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 749–787; A. Melucci, The Symbolic Challenge of Contemporary Movements, "Social Research", 1985, Vol. 51, No. 4, pp. 789–816; C. Offe, New Social Movements: Challenging the Boundaries of Institutional Politics, "Social Research", 1985, Vol. 52 (4), pp. 817–868; M. Castells, Sieci oburzenia i nadziei: ruchy społeczne w erze internetu, transl. O. Siara, PWN 2013.
- 9. S.M. Buechler, Teorie nowych ruchów społecznych, transl. P. Sadura, in: Dynamika życia społecznego: współczesne koncepcje ruchów społecznych, eds. K. Gorlach, P.M. Mooney, Scholar 2008, p. 162.
- 10. R. Inglehart, *The Silent Revolution:* Changing Values and Political Styles Among Western Public, Princeton University Press 1977.
- 11. S.M. Buechler, *Teorie nowych ruchów...*, op. cit., p. 184.



Pandemic negationists as a social movement

As coila movement is defined as "collective challenges, based on common purposes and social solidarities, in sustained interaction with elites, opponents, and authorities." As the author notes, "deprivation is a particular form of common purposes that all movement express." Basing on this definition, P. Almeida distinguishes three features of a social movement. The first one is sustainable collective mobilization. The author states that the long-lasting forms of mobilization (at least a year) deserve the name of a social movement rather than individual demonstrations or protests. Another distinguishing feature is the fact that the motivation for individuals and groups to become involved in the movement is their actual or perceived harm. Finally, a social movement usually includes individuals/ groups that are outside of institutionalized power (excluded social groups). Considering the features indicated by P. Almeida, it is worth looking at the nature of the pandemic deniers movement in Poland.

The beginnings of the activities of pandemic deniers are related to the Internet and various groups created on social media. Some of them emerged in March 2020, including "I don't believe in coronavirus - Support group / You are not alone". 25

Other groups consist of perpetual contestants who, depending on the situation, protest against G5, forced vaccination, etc. An example is the "STOP NOP" group, which changed its name to "STOP PLANDEMIA" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic deniers mostly support one of several conspiracy theories. They include the plandemic theory, which excludes the accidental or natural origin of the SARS-COV-2 virus, and the concept of a "fake pandemic", i.e. the belief that the SARS-COV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease it causes do not exist.²⁶

The pandemic negationist movement was supported by social movement organizations (SMOs), including the anti-vaccine National Association of Vaccination Knowledge STOP NOP (Ogólnopolskie Stowarzyszenie Wiedzy o Szczepieniach "STOP NOP"), or the Association of Bydgoszcz Fellowship of Compatriots (Bydgoskie Kamractwo Rodaków), founded in 2020.

The popularization of the content denying the pandemic or its effects on the Internet was supplemented by various forms of social protests. Analysing the goals and forms of the protests in hind-sight, it can be observed that they corresponded with the successive waves of the pandemic. October 2020 was the beginning of the so-called second wave of the pandemic and – at the same time – the

12. D.E. Morrison, Some Notes Toward Theory on Relative Deprivation, Social Movements, and Social Change, "American Behavioral Scientist", 1971, Vol. 14, Issue 5, pp. 675–690. DOI: 10.1177/000276427101400504; M. Nowosielski, Ruchy społeczne jako czynnik i wynik zmian społecznych, "Kultura i Edukacja", 2012, No. 4 (90), pp. 7–33; P. Almeida, Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization, University of California Press 2019. DOI: 10.2307/j.ctvd1c7d7

13. P. Almeida, *Social Movements...*, op. cit., pp. 6–8. DOI: 10.2307/j.ctvd1c7d7

14. C. Miller-Idriss, Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right, Princeton University Press 2020; D. Freeman, et al., Coronavirus conspiracy beliefs. mistrust, and compliance with government guidelines in England, "Psychological Medicine", 2020, 52 (2), pp. 251-263. DOI: 10.1017/S0033291720001890; W. Callison, Q. Slobodian, Coronapolitics from the Reichstag to the Capitol, "Boston Review", https://bostonreview. net/articles/quinn-slobodian-toxicpolitics-coronakspeticism/, (access 10.07.2022); H. Schulze, et al., Far-right conspiracy groups on fringe platforms: a longitudinal analysis of radicalization dynamics on Telegram, "Convergence", 2022, Vol. 28 (4), pp. 1103-1126. DOI: 10.1177/13548565221104977

15. F.M. Magarini, et al., *Irrational Beliefs about COVID-19, A Scoping Review*, "International Journal of Environmental Research and Public



period of rising waves of anti-coronavirus protests. Association STOP NOP organized *inter alia* a "March for Freedom", presenting such slogans as e.g.: "We prefer to die fighting for our homeland than die like old men in bed!", "The authorities and all of Europe will hear about us".²⁷ The protests during this period were therefore associated with negating the sense of the introduced restrictions (mainly the lockdown).²⁸ The next period of street protests took place in February-March 2021, i.e. at the beginning of the so-called third wave of the pandemic. Happenings and demonstrations were organized under the slogans: "Marches of slaves" (initiated by the Butterfly Group/ Grupa Motyla) and "Marches of freedom" (initiated by the Association STOP NOP). Among the slogans on the banners were: "Stop compulsory vaccination", "Stop plandemic", "Stop genetic therapy", and "Children go to school!". In turn, in January and March 2022 (the fourth wave of the pandemic), the protests were held under the slogans: "Stop sanitary segregation", "Stop segregation, stop forced vaccination against COVID-19, stop quarantine" and concerned ways to combat the pandemic, mainly introducing so-called COVID passports for people vaccinated against COVID-19 and thus exempt from some restrictions.

Compared to other social movements protesting during the pandemic, denialists' manifestations and marches were distinguished by their demonstrative non-compliance with sanitary recommendations. As Kowalewski stressed, they organized the "protest as usual", without paying attention to the specific conditions in which it was carried out.²⁹ For pandemic deniers, rejecting the need to wear facemasks, respecting social distancing, and ignoring other recommendations of state authorities became everyday forms of resistance. Summarizing this thread, it should be noted that the forms of protest used by the anti-COVID movement included both non-violent forms (e.g. petitions addressed to public institutions, as well as international organizations, marches, and demonstrations) and violent ones. Examples of the use of the latter are threats to burn down public institutions (March 2021) or attacks on vaccination points (July - August 2021).³⁰

Research design

The analysis is based on an empirical study. Its results allow identification of the knowledge the corona-sceptics have and their emotional condition (including various fears and anxieties) associated with the pandemic of COVID-19 – a disease caused by the SARS-COV-2 coronavirus infection, as well as their attitude to various systemic solutions applied by the Polish government in response to the pandemic.

Health", 2021, Vol. 18 (19), pp. 1–21. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph18199839

- 16. L. Pummerer, et al., Conspiracy theories and their societal effects during the COVID-19 pandemic, "Social Psychological and Personality Science", 2022, Vol. 13 (1), pp. 49–59. DOI: 10.1177/19485506211000217; J. Šrol, E. Ballová Mikušková, V. Čavojová, When we are worried, what are we thinking? Anxiety, lack of control, and conspiracy beliefs amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, "Applied Cognitive Psychology", 2021, Vol. 35, Issue 3, pp. 720–729. DOI: 10.1002/acp.3798
- 17. K. Hajder, M. Musiał-Karg, M. Górny, Konsekwencje pandemii COVID-19: Państwo i społeczeństwo, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Nauk Politycznych i Dziennikarstwa UAM 2020.
- 18. J. Radzioch, Koronawirus a poglądy polityczne w Polsce, in: Koronawirus a poglądy polityczne w Polsce. Państwo i społeczeństwo, eds. W.K. Hajder, M. Musiał-Karg, M. Górny, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Nauk Politycznych i Dziennikarstwa UAM 2020, pp. 179–194.
- 19. K. Skarżyńska, *Polityka i pandemia. Czas sprawdzania (testowania) i rozliczania władzy*, Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego 2020, pp. 1–16, https://www.batory.org.pl/publikacja/polityka-ipandemia-czas-sprawdzania-testowania-i-rozliczania-władzy/, (access 19.09.2022).



The quantitative study was carried out from 10 to 28 December 2020, with a purposive sample of 301 people. The respondents were asked about their personal experience (including experience of their families) related to the pandemic, the consequences of the pandemic for the respondents themselves and for Polish society, the sources of their knowledge about COVID-19, including the morbidity and nature of the pandemic, the respondents' quality of life during the pandemic and their opinions on the solutions and measures applied in Poland. The tool was posted at groups active in epidemiology discussions, especially those where users displayed their depreciating and negationist opinions on the announced COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant health hazard. For the purpose of these considerations, we shall refer to them using a generalizing terms: corona-sceptics / covid deniers / negationists.

The research team reposted messages encouraging users to take part in the study several times at each group. The strategy against the same individuals' filling in the questionnaire multiple times involved application of the *cookies* functionality, specifically saving cookies on the respondents' devices. If the scripts implemented within the portal used to hold the study revealed the relevant *cookies*, the option to fill in the questionnaire was excluded.

As mentioned above, those types of groups were first created on social media as early as in March 2020, for instance, "Nie wierzę w koronawirusa – Grupa Wsparcia/ Nie jesteś sam" ("I don't believe in the coronavirus – Support Group / You are not alone"), "STOP PLANDEMII" ("STOP THE PLANDEMIC").

The analysis of the research results presented in the article was based only on the general multiplicity results. We would also like to point out that the research is not representative due to the limited number of people taking part in it. However, we believe that it can be treated as a pilot study, primarily due to the results obtained.

wo hypotheses had been developed for the study:

Hypothesis 1 (H1): People who participate in / support the corona-scepticism movement highlight the sense of lacking individual security in various areas of their own activities in association with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 20. A. Jankowiak, Wpływ teorii spiskowych na postawy społeczne w okresie pandemii wirusa SARS COV-2, in: Lockdown: Prawo i Społeczeństwo, ed. K. Łukomiak, ArchaeGraph 2021, pp. 365-386; F. Czech, F. Ścigaj, Popularność narracji spiskowych w Polsce czasu pandemii. Raport z reprezentatywnych badań sondażowych, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, https://wsmip. uj.edu.pl/documents/41658/145634371/ CZECH%2C+%C5%9ACIGAJ+-+RAPORT+-%20+Popularno%C5% 9B%C4%87+narracji+spiskowych +w+Polsce+czasu+pandemii+COV ID-19.pdf/22b0085f-1c67-423f-992f-6d06dc84e281, (access 18.07.2022).
- 21. E.g. K. Pałka-Suchojad, Disinformation virus: fake news in the pandemic era, "Athenaeum", 2020, Vol. 68 (4), pp. 32–41. DOI: 10.15804/athena.2020.68.03; A. Chudzik, Pandemiczne mity i teorie spiskowe w memach internetowych, in: Komunikowanie w procesie zmian, eds. W. Świerczyńska-Głownia, A. Hess, M. Nowina-Konopka, Instytut Dziennikarstwa, Mediów i Komunikacji Społecznej Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego 2021, pp. 145–164.
- 22. S. Tarrow, *Power in Movement. Social Movement and Contentious Politics*, Cambridge University Press 2011, pp. 7–8.
- 23. Ibidem, p. 9.
- 24. P. Almeida, *Social Movements...*, op. cit., pp. 6–8. DOI: 10.2307/j.ctvd1c7d7

Individual security may be defined as "(...) the possibility to satisfy [the individual's – M.C, A.L] needs, to pursue their interests and ensure their expansion potential. (...)."³² Currently, dimensions of individual security are defined to include above all the basic existence, taking into account professional and occupational stability, sense of confidence and freedom of development in the political, economic, social and environmental aspects, as well as the lack of threats to correct functioning in the private sphere.³³

Hypothesis 2 (H2): Opinions of members and supporters of anti-covid movements about the measures taken by the government in crisis management will be more negative than in the case of the general population. The hypothesis was verified by a comparison of the results of the Wrocław study of pandemic negationists and the results of all-Polish sample studies (mainly by the Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS)).

Coronasceptics on individual security during the second wave of the pandemic in Poland

Corona-scepticism peaked as regards its popularity and impact on Poles' awareness at the turn of September and October 2020. It was then when half of the respondents declared that the coronavirus pandemic was no exception, just another one of many epidemics that had occurred in modern history. In August, when the restrictions had been partially lifted and morbidity was relatively low, Poles were divided as to whether the coronavirus pandemic was a real threat to Poles' health: 48% of the respondents declared that it was an actual threat, while 38% were convinced that the coronavirus pandemic was an exaggerated or even false (8%) threat.³⁴

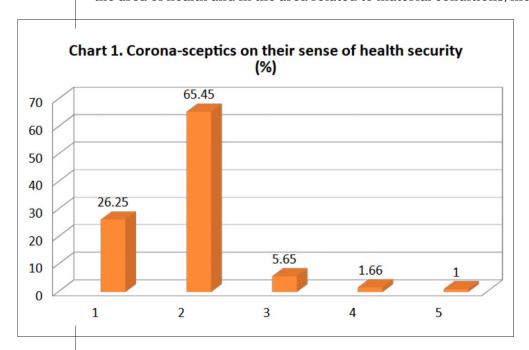
Poles' opinions concerning the pandemic evolved in the late months of 2020. In a survey carried out in November, at the peak of the second wave of the pandemic in Poland, CBOS found that the majority of the respondents believed that the coronavirus pandemic posed an actual threat to Poles' health (60% of the answers, an increase of 12 percentage points as compared to August), and the minority (a total of 33%) claimed that the threat was exaggerated (31% of the answers, down by 7 p.p.) or fictional (3% of the answers, down by 5 p.p. 35).

The results of the Wrocław team's study conducted in December 2020 also confirmed this change in the perception of the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of the respondents declared that the COVID-19 pandemic was true and posed an actual danger to Poles' health and life – 59.14%. An opposite stance, regarding the pandemic as a fake, was chosen by 9.63% of the respondents. Moreover, the

- 25. J. Bodziony, *Trzeci obieg. Koronawirus i alt-internet w Polsce*, "Kultura Liberalna", https://kulturaliberalna.pl/2020/09/08/trzeci-obieg-koronawirus-i-alt-internet-w-polsce/, (access 10.09.2022).
- 26. A. Jankowiak, *Wpływ teorii spiskowych* ..., op. cit., pp. 371–372.
- 27. A. Kiełczykowska, Koronawirus w Polsce: "Marsz o wolność". Antycovidowcy razem z kibolami protestują w całej Polsce, https://i.pl/koronawirus-w-polsce-marsz-o-wolnosc-antycovidowcy-razem-z-kibolami-protestuja-w-calej-polsce-zdjecia/ar/c1-15253602, (access 13.07.2022).
- 28. A. Jankowiak, Wpływ teorii spiskowych..., op. cit., p. 367.
- 29. M. Kowalewski, Street protests in times of COVID-19: adjusting tactics and marching 'as usual', "Social Movement Studies", 2021, Vol. 20, Issue 6, pp. 760–761. DOI: 10.1080/14742837.2020.1843014
- 30. R. Guz, Protest antycovidowców w Warszawie. Policja użyła granatów hukowych i gazu, https://www.gazetaprawna.pl/wiadomosci/kraj/artykuly/8124410,marsz-o-wolnosc-falszywa-pandemia-stop-covid-19.html, (access 07.09.2022).
- 31. The study was carried out by a team composed of Szymon Kacprzak, and Karolina Wnuk, headed by Alicja Lisowska.

vast majority of the study participants declared that COVID-19 posed a graver threat to the health and life of an average Pole than the seasonal flu – 59.80% of the answers (definitely yes – 42.19%; rather yes – 17.61%). Disagreement with this view was declared by 26.58% of the respondents (definitely no – 13.95%; rather no – 12.62%). Thus, overt corona-sceptics found themselves living in a population of people starting to realize the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to realize the difficult social situation occurring in Poland in association with the spread of the disease.

Various challenges that occurred in Poland in association with another (second) wave of the pandemic – multiple systemic difficulties and problems – had a significant effect on the sense of individual security of the respondents. The results obtained in the original study allow making a conclusion that the respondents noticed in the Polish society a lack of the sense of security concerning the area of health and in the area related to material conditions, including existential needs.



Tine out of ten respondents declared that hampered access to health care due to the pandemic had a significant impact on Poles' sense of health security. The vast majority declared that considering the bad condition of the public health care system and the lack of preparedness for an epidemic, the Polish society felt threatened -65.45% (answer option 2), while 26.25% claimed that their lack of the sense of health security resulted from the inadequate treatment of coronavirus-positive patients - too much attention being paid to them (answer

option 1). Meanwhile, only for 5.65% of the respondents the lack of the sense of health security was a natural consequence of the growing number of hospitalizations (answer option 3) (Chart 1).

32. J. Szczepański, Elementarne pojecia socjologii, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN 1972, p. 554. More on individual security: Zarządzanie bezpieczeństwem - wyzwania XXI wieku, ed. M. Lisiecki, Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Zarzadzania i Prawa im. Heleny Chodkowskiej 2008; M. Pomykała, Bezpieczeństwo: w poszukiwaniu definicji, "Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Rzeszowskiej. Zarządzanie i Marketing", 2010, Vol. 17 (4), pp. 107-114; S. Koziej, Bezpieczeństwo: istota, podstawowe kategorie i historyczna ewolucja, "Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe", 2011, Vol. 18 (2), pp. 19–39; R. Klamut, Bezpieczeństwo jako pojęcie psychologiczne, "Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Rzeszowskiej", 2012, Vol. 19 (4), pp. 41-51. DOI: 10.7862/ rz.2012.einh.26

33. K. Novikova, A. Orzydłowska, Jednostka ludzka w obliczu zagrożeń współczesności: bezpieczeństwo indywidualne w Polsce. Implikacje metodologiczne, "Journal of Modern Science", 2019, Vol. 40 (1), pp. 305–323. DOI: 10.13166/JMS/106044

34. CBOS, Koronasceptycyzm, czyli kto nie wierzy w zagrożenie epidemią, Research communique no. 158/2020, https://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM. POL/2020/K_158_20.PDF, (access 10.07.2022).

35. Ibidem.

Source: Original work.





The sense of threat among the respondents was determined by their trust or mistrust in medical staff. The original study involved asking the respondents about their trust in doctors. The obtained results revealed that the low level of the sense of health security in the society was not only due to the difficult situation within the healthcare system, but it depended also on the decreasing trust in this category of professionals. As many as 68.11% of the respondents believed that social trust in doctors in Poland was lower than before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, while 14.29% described the level of trust as the same as before the pandemic, and 8.31% indicated a higher level of trust.

Further, according to the majority of the respondents (66.11%), the quality of their lives fell and 10.96% found it difficult to define clearly the negative impact of the restrictions related to COVID-19 on the quality of their lives (an opposite opinion was declared by 22.92% of the respondents). Those who declared a decrease in the quality of life most frequently listed the following consequences:

- changed lifestyle 57.33%,
- deterioration of interpersonal relations 52.15%,
- limited possibilities to pursue one's hobbies 47.84%,
- limited possibilities of personal development (spiritual development or improvement of skills) 31.03%.
- increased level of stress in life 69.83%,
- decreased trust in public institutions 59.48%,
- other -12.36%.

All the options chosen by the respondents show that the restrictions imposed by the government in association with the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on their experience of individual security. The decreased quality of life was evidenced, according to the respondents, by deprivation of their basic material needs, limitations in social development, including personal and professional development, leading to potential emotional and mental problems related to a high level of

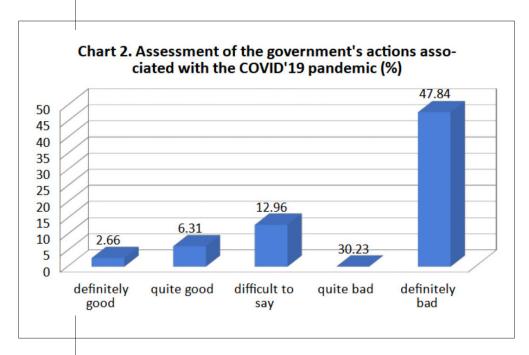




stress and degradation of trust in public institutions. Concluding this theme, one may argue that the respondents' key motivation to get involved in the corona-scepticism movement was their lack of the sense of personal security associated with various fears and anxieties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of those fears and anxieties on the respondents' functioning in various areas was not only negative, but even destructive.

Corona-sceptics vs. the functioning of state institutions

The respondents not only assessed the particular measures and restrictions implemented by the government, but they also expressed a specific general attitude toward the efficiency of the activities of the government itself.³⁶ The study results justify a conclusion that a vast majority of the respondents displayed negative attitudes toward the government's activities associated to the COV-ID-19 pandemic and the quality of those activities.



Source: Original work.

In December 2020, 78.07% of the respondents assessed the government's actions in response to the pandemic as bad, while a positive opinion was declared only by 8.97% of the respondents (Chart 2).

Further, 61.13% of the respondents assessed the measures taken by the government as inadequate to the situation and delayed, while 20.27% claimed that the government's actions had been inadequate, though timely. Another 13.95% believed that the government had acted rightly, although too late, and 4.65% were convinced that the measures had been both adequate

36. E. Żołnierczyk, W. Szumowski, Skuteczność jako zasada dobrego rządzenia, in: Dobre rządzenie w gminach małych. Empiryczny wymiar nowego paradygmatu rozwoju, eds. K. Kobielska, A. Lisowska, Oficyna Wydawnicza Edward Mitek 2014, pp. 107–121.





to the conditions and timely. Moreover, almost $^{3}\!\!/4$ of the respondents described the government's stand toward the threat of pandemic as changeable and unclear (an opposite declaration was chosen by 3.65% of the respondents). Corona-sceptics noted also that the instability and lack of a uniform government stand towards the pandemic threat would affect a decrease in the society's trust in the government – 82.55% of the answers, the society's neglecting public institutions' decisions and initiatives – 34.18% and an increased number of people convinced that there was no threat – 37.82% of the answers.

It should be highlighted that this negative opinion on the government's actions associated with the COVID'19 pandemic, as declared in December 2020 by members and supporters of coronavirus denial movements corresponded with results of the survey conducted by CBOS in October and then repeated in November of the same year. Thus, in the second half of October 2020, the public opinion grew more critical of the government's policies. The most frequent answer indicated that the Polish government handled the pandemic badly - 55% (definitely badly - 28%; quite badly - 27%). The government's efforts were appreciated by 38% of the respondents (definitely well - 6%; quite well - 32%), 37 while in November, the share of negative opinions (52%) still exceeded one half (definitely badly - 25%; quite badly - 27%). The opposite view, appreciating the government's efforts, was chosen by 41% of the respondents (definitely well - 9%; quite well - 32%). $\frac{1}{3}$

As of 15 April 2020, the obligation to cover one's mouth and nose with clothing, mask or facemask was imposed in the entire country.³⁹ There was just a general rule of wearing facemasks, but the provision was not broken if the mouth and nose were covered with different parts of clothing, scarves, etc.⁴⁰ The members and supporters of the movements who took part in the study were not asked directly whether they themselves wore facemasks or not, but they were asked about their opinion on wearing facemasks, and 45.51% of the respondents declared that the obligation to wear masks was only partially right as masks were not needed outside where one could keep distance from other people (answer option 3), and 20.60% declared that the obligation was wrong as facemasks should be worn only by people displaying symptoms of the disease. Further, 13.29% stressed that in a longer term wearing a mask was harmful. At the same time, 30.23% of the respondents declared that the obligation to wear facemasks was an efficient means of anti-virus protection.

Wearing a mask as an absolute obligation was contested by a vast majority of the respondents. Also, more than 1/3 of them expressed doubts concerning the reliability of the tests recom-

37. CBOS, Obawy przed zarażeniem koronawirusem i postrzeganie działań rządu, Research communique no. 141/2020, https://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2020/K_141_20.PDF, (access 10.07.2022).

38. CBOS, Rząd wobec epidemii – oceny w pierwszej połowie listopada, Research communique no. 146/2020, https://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM. POL/2020/K_146_20.PDF, (access 10.07.2022).

39. Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z dnia 15 kwietnia 2020 r. zmieniające rozporządzenie w sprawie ustanowienia określonych ograniczeń, nakazów i zakazów w związku z wystąpieniem stanu epidemii, Dz.U. 2020 poz. 673, [Ordinance of the Council of Ministers of 15 April 2020 amending the Ordinance on the establishment of certain restrictions, orders and prohibitions in connection with an epidemic situation, Journal of Laws 2020, item 673].

40. K. Baran, W. Burek, M. Gibek, Wpływ Covid-19..., op. cit., pp. 282–299. DOI: 10.4467/24497800RAP.20.016.12 910



mended by the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS). According to 37.87% of the respondents, the tests recommended by this central administration institution were unreliable (32.89% - hard to say; 26.58% - reliable).

The respondent corona-sceptics also declared their negative attitude to the government information campaign concerning the coronavirus in Poland. They found the official communication about the coronavirus either completely untrue (10.63% of the respondents) or mostly untrue (40.86%). However, as many as one in four (26.58%) described the official announcements as mostly or entirely true. The respondents who questioned reliability of the information concerning the coronavirus were also highly critical of the intentions of the announcements' authors. According to those respondents, the information provided in the official announcements served to misinform and manipulate the society (60.91%), to build political capital (26.36%) and to advance the interests of specific categories of people: manufacturers of medical devices (24.55%). Further, 11.36% of the respondents could not identify the reasons for misinformation, while almost 23% of the respondents declared that false information in official announcements had not been spread intentionally and that they it had been rather due to incompetence and ignorance of state officials (17.73%).

People who questioned reliability of official communication on the coronavirus, most frequently indicated several entities as responsible for providing false information to the society. According to 63.35% of the respondents, these were Polish state institutions responsible for this situation, specifically the Polish government – 36.20% and public administration – 27.15%. The corona-sceptics' catalogue of other entities responsible for spreading false information included also a supranational organizations shaping world policies (with no specific organization named) and particular categories of interest groups, including banks and the medical industry.

According to the respondents, trust in official announcements about the COVID-19 pandemic was also affected by statements of some politicians. For 69.10% of them, this effect was definitely significant (44.85%) and significant (24.25%), while for 15.95% it was very small (5.98%) or small (9.97%).



Conclusion

The study presented in this paper was conducted in December 2020, after the wave of anti-covid movements' protests in October 2020 and during the second wave of the pandemic in Poland. Therefore, the results obtained should be associated with the specific circumstances: particular stages/waves of the pandemic, restrictions and obligations imposed by the Polish government, and the actual presence of the disease in social space evidenced by the number of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 (not only symbolic or media presence). We may assume that opinions and convictions declared in the study reflected the attitudes towards and opinions about the COVID-19 pandemic at that time, and the respondents' motivation to get involved in corona-sceptical groups at that time involved mainly their fear associated with the level of individual security, thus confirming hypothesis 1.

The participants in the study were critical of the actions taken by the government and competent state institutions to combat the pandemic. However, it should be stressed that when the study was carried out, negative and critical opinions on the government's activities were expressed not only by corona-sceptics, as the opinions of the studied population on the COVID-19 pandemic were in many aspects similar to those of the majority of Poles (reflected in the results of all-Polish surveys by CBOS). Therefore, another possible interpretation suggests that in some areas of their activities corona-sceptics themselves and their supporters did not differ significantly from the convictions declared by the rest of the society, and thus that they did not form an exceptional or unique population. Furthermore, the participants self-declaring themselves as corona-sceptics were revealed to be an internally diverse community in terms of opinions expressed and actions declared. It was shown that beside the dominating part of the population expressing critical or even negative opinions about the solutions applied in Poland by state administration, there was also a group of corona-sceptics characterized by less radical convictions (e.g. the attitude as regards wearing facemasks – some respondents found this solution right or at least did not contest it). This finding, a negative verification of hypothesis 2, may be important for the verification of future research hypotheses, including those related to the political/electoral potential of corona-sceptics. It may be the starting point for a working hypothesis that members of the anti-covid movements in their early functioning on the political scene were not a "lost" electorate for the right-wing parties ruling in Poland.



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Krzysztof Zaborek*

System analysis of the problem of workers' rights in the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" by Leo XIII

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Abstract

The article uses the method of system analysis to analyse the vision of society outlined in the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" by Leo XIII. The system analysis concerned the identification and problem analysis with elements of mathematical analysis (according to the Konieczny division). In the course of the analysis, used were the concepts developed at the Polish School of Cybernetics, the main representatives of which were Mazur and Kossecki. The basics of system analysis, autonomous systems were presented and the division into systems was made for further analysis. System energy/material processes in terms of energy, power and freedom factor of the systems as well as the information processes in terms of social norms were taken into account. As a result of the analysis, it was revealed that the system of social control proposed by Pope Leo XIII assumes primacy of ideological norms (Catholicism) and ethical norms, with simultaneous occurrence of economic and vital norms. The system of society proposed by Pope Leo XIII is coherent, resistant to disturbances and striving for effective expansion, and what is more, it solves * Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego w Warszawie, e-mail: k.zaborek@protonmail.com, https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3039-8094





a given social problem. The weakness of that system is susceptibility to ideological indifference, weakening ethics and disturbing the process of ideological and ethical programming. The implementation of ideological and ethical norms into the society takes place mainly through the educational process. Further research possibilities and limitations of the tools used were also indicated.

Keywords

Catholic Social Teaching, cybernetics, Leo XIII, Polish School of Cybernetics, Rerum Novarum, sociocybernetics, system analysis, workers' rights



Another measure is to stir up mutual slander and clashes of friends against friends, the populace against the prominent people, and the rich among themselves. It is also characteristic of tyrants to make their subjects poor, both so that they cannot maintain a militia, and so that they are too busy looking after daily needs to have free time to get into conspiracies. Aristotle, Politics¹

Introduction

n the following article the author used the instruments of system analysis and the concepts developed at the so-called Polish School of Cybernetics (PSC) to analyse the worker question (also called the social issue) described in the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" by Pope Leo XIII. Cybernetics, the PSC is a representative of, is a field of science dealing with the research of control processes. Marian Mazur4, whose key works – "Cybernetyczna teoria układów samodzielnych" [A Cybernetic Theory of Autonomous Systems], "Jakościowa teoria informacji" [A Qualitative Theory of Information] and "Cybernetyka i charakter" [Cybernetics and Character] – are recognized as the greatest achievement of Polish and perhaps also world cybernetics, 5 has been acclaimed one of the fathers of the Polish School of Cybernetics. The theories contained in those works were used and developed by Kossecki.6

The first subchapter describes the idea of system analysis, autonomous system and the distinction of the systems to be analysed. The second subchapter analyses the energetical processes in the

- 1. Politics V, 11, 1313 b, 16-21 (transl. J. Sachs).
- 2. The English text of the encyclical from the official website of the Vatican was used for analysis. The footnotes to the encyclical comprise the abbreviation RN (from "Rerum Novarum") and numbers according to the numbering in the English translation of the encyclical. The English text was used because there is no numbering in the official Latin text of the encyclical found on the Vatican website see: Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum, www. vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/la/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html, (access 15.12.2022).
- 3. J. Kossecki, *Metacybernetyka*, Narodowa Akademia Informacyjna 2018, p. 9.
- 4. Ibidem, pp. 5-6.
- 5. P. Sienkiewicz, *Poszukiwanie golema*, Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza 1988, p. 94.



distinguished systems in terms of energy, power and the freedom factor. The last chapter analyses information processes in terms of social norms of the distinguished systems.

System analysis

In order to somewhat clarify what system analysis is one should refer to the concept of a system, which is understood as "set of interrelated elements". The way of dividing reality into parts and determining their relationship depends on the researcher and on the problem he decided to solve. However, system analysis is more than a description of a given phenomenon, or an analysis of systems, 8 although describing the initial state is an essential element of it. The article uses the Konieczny approach to system analysis, which distinguishes four types of system analysis:9

- 1. Identification analysis, which is aimed at describing a system, its elements and parameters, goals and tasks of both the entire system and its individual parts;
- 2. Problem analysis, which is aimed at elaborating a list of problems to be solved in a given system, their classification, presentation of the criteria and limitations of potential solutions;
- 3. Mathematical analysis, which is aimed at developing a decision algorithm used to resolve the problems identified in the preceding step of system analysis;
- 4. Quantitative-statistical analysis, which is aimed at statistical elaboration (collection of relevant data) of a system and its environment in terms of the parameters distinguished in the preceding steps.

An identification and problem analysis shall be carried out in the article. However, using the mathematicised theoretical patterns developed within the Polish School of Cybernetics will allow to propose operationalisation for researching a given society from the viewpoint of employer-employee problems, thus also tackling issues associated with mathematical analysis.

The following systems may be distinguished in the text of the encyclical:

- worker, workman, poor, proletarian, ¹⁰
- employer, rich, wealthy,¹¹

- 6. J. Kossecki, *Metacybernetyka*, op. cit., pp. 5–6.
- 7. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy 1976, p. 438.
- 8. P. Sienkiewicz, *Analiza systemowa*. *Podstawy i zastosowania*, Bellona 2014, pp. 46–47.
- 9. Ibidem, pp. 50-51.
- 10. E.g. RN 2.
- 11. E.g. ibidem.



- family,12
- Church, ecclesiastical institutions, ¹³
- labour associations, workingmen's unions, artificers' guilds, 14
- state,15
- agitators, socialists.¹⁶

As a next step of the analysis it should be identified how those systems are interrelated (whether they have a common part or are elements of other system or other systems are their elements, etc.), and then, as far as possible, determine the relations of each type of system with each of the distinguished ones and with the environment that is always there. It should be noted that the divisions of systems should be a functional one, that is it should be kept in mind what function does a given system perform.¹⁷

Mazur defined an autonomous system as a system capable of controlling its own actions and of acting to prevent the loss of this capability. In order to have such properties, a system must be composed of the following subsystems:

- receptors subsystems receiving information from the environment,
- correlator a subsystem for processing and storing information,
- power supply a subsystem receiving energy from the environment,
- an accumulator a subsystem for processing and storing energy,
- effectors subsystems for interacting with the environment,
- homeostat a subsystem for system's self-control (maintaining functional equilibrium), which interacts with correlator and accumulator.

- 12. E.g. ibidem, 12–14.
- 13. E.g. ibidem, 16, 53.
- 14. E.g. ibidem, 48-49, 54.
- 15. E.g. ibidem, 4.
- 16. E.g. ibidem, 2, 4–5, 14.
- 17. P. Sienkiewicz, *Analiza systemowa...*, op. cit., p. 35.
- 18. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., p. 163.





In order not to lose the self-controlling ability, any autonomous system has to explore the environment and exert impact thereon, for which it needs energy. Examples of autonomous systems are both man¹⁹ as well as society, i.e. an autonomous supersystem, the elements of which are autonomous systems.²⁰ On the basis of the above, it should be considered that the systems distinguished from the encyclical are autonomous systems, and therefore all the conclusions concerning an autonomous system also apply to them.

One of the keynote issues dealt with in "Rerum Novarum" is the powering the system such as both a workman and his family. From formal viewpoint of energy and information it does not matter whether man himself or the group he is a member of is analysed. A worker (head of family) will be treated as a subsystem of the family (especially as an effector and power supply, which interacts with the environment in such a way so as to obtain energy for the entire system of family as he is obliged to do²¹). It should be noted that single person households are not families, though for the needs of the analysis will be treated as prospective families. Thanks to that it will be possible to get a broader picture of the society without the need to use additional simplifications, which will allow for drawing more extensive diagnostic and prognostic conclusions.

nalysed will be also the relations of the family with other distinguished systems, i.e. ecclesiasti-Acal institutions, labour associations, the state and the Church. It would seem that family could be recognised as a subsystem (element) of state, which is confirmed also by Pope Leo XIII, who claimed that the family is "a part of the commonwealth", 22 whereas on the other hand the pope notes that man precedes the state and cannot be absorbed by it,²³ but also that such a property is possessed by family, ²⁴ whose paternal authority cannot be absorbed by the state. ²⁵ On this basis, the state (state institutions) will be treated as a system equivalent to the family but performing a different function – as a guide an coordinator of social life.²⁶ It is also bothersome to recognise subordination of the family to the Church, since not every family is its member. What is more, the states (the people that make them up) as well as labour associations and ecclesiastical institutions (sic!) may be affiliated with the Church, wholly or only partially (depending on the will of their members). Disjointedness in the division of the society into systems may be attained by classifying the Church hierarchy as an ecclesiastical institution and putting it at the same level as the family and state institutions. Also labour associations will be classified as ecclesiastical institutions owing to similar cybernetic properties in the context of the problems dealt with in the encyclical. The ecclesial aspect will not be lost given the detailed nature of the analysis of the information processes further on in the article. Summing up,

- 19. Ibidem, pp. 167–168.
- 20. J. Kossecki, *Metacybernetyka*, op. cit., p. 93.
- 21. RN 13.
- 22. Ibidem, 7, 35.
- 23. Ibidem, 7, 35.
- 24. Ibidem, 12-13, 35.
- 25. Ibidem. 14. 35.
- 26. Ibidem, 32-35.





the society has been divided into systems, such as the family, ecclesiastical institutions together with Catholic labour associations, the state (state institutions), and the groups of socialists and agitators. Employees and employers will not be analysed as independent systems, but as subsystems that could be classified as elements of each of the abovementioned four systems. The point of reference for the analysis will be the family.

Energy, power and freedom factor vs the labour issue

For an autonomous system to be able to exist and function, it has to process energy. Energy processed in a unit of time is the power of a system. It may be described with the following formula: $P = \frac{E}{t}$, where P is power, E – energy, and t – time. Attention should be given to the interpretation of these variables. Mazur claimed that the power of a system may be expressed in watts, but this is not the sole possible interpretation, since energy may be also treated like e.g. machines, friends or entitlements. The analyses of the Polish School of Cybernetics assume a certain dose of freedom in interpreting energy, and thus also the power of a system. In the case of the energy of such system as the family, it may be interpreted as the family budget, family wealth and expressed in a currency, may be additionally correlated with the purchasing power of the currency or expressed in any other form which has been developed empirically or theoretically as long as it reflects the energy processes available in a given unit of time for such system as the family.

The power of a system may also be written as, $P = P_0 + P_r + P_s$ where P is total power, P_0 —idle power, P_0 —idle power, and P_s —free power. The idle power of a system is the power needed for the system to exist. For instance, in the case of man it is the adequate quantity of food, water and heat in a given time unit without which man shall die. Working power is the power (energy in a time unit) that should be used in order to acquire energy for maintaining idle power. Examples of such power spending is gainful employment, hunting, robbery, etc. In order to survive man has to work to acquire energy P_0 (e.g. in the form of money, which will be exchanged for food). Free power is the power left in a system after idle power and working power have been used. In order to adequately interpret the problem of the power of a system, also the issue of accumulated energy should be raised. Energy does not need to be acquired and used instantaneously in a given unit of time. Thanks to the accumulator it is possible to store it and spend it afterwards. In the case of man, the energy such as food and water may be store in the body solely for a relatively short time, and thus the problem of accumulated energy may be left out in this case. On the other hand, such an autonomous supersystem as the family may store energy, interpreted e.g. as family wealth, for years, generations or centuries. Therefore, the

27. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., p. 225.

28. Ibidem, pp. 238-239.

29. RN 8.



energy in a given unit of time will be increased by the unused free energy from the preceding unit of time of the family's existence (since in the preceding unit of time the unused free energy from all the previous units of time of the family's existence was accumulated).

It also seems important to describe the issue of savings. If a given family does not save, its accu-Imulated energy equals 0. It is interesting to consider a scenario when a family lives e.g. on credit. Mazur described credit as a source of sociological power.³⁰ It seems, however, that such an approach to this topic is a simplification. From the viewpoint of energy processes, total power must never be lesser than idle power. It is so also in the case of living on credit. Free energy cannot be negative. Therefore, what is credit linked with? It seems that taking a loan is like subjugating to the control (that is transferring a part of the ability to control from the homeostat of the family to an external organiser) by the system of the lender as regards spending of a portion of one's energy in a certain timeframe in exchange for emergency energy at a given moment for the borrowing family. It seems that it is possible to link the arising obligation with the need to spend additional working power by the system of the family for the duration of the loan. Such interpretation would be in line with the proposition that if a system is unable to expend an adequate amount of working power in order to acquire idle power, it strived at disintegration, which becomes a fact if the system is unable to assure at least its idle power. Thus, if the family is unable to repay the loan, its functional equilibrium – the ability of control oneself and adequately influence the environment - becomes disrupted. Therefore, credit is indeed a source of sociological power, as Mazur had it, but at the same time is linked with an increase of the working power of the system of the borrower (and his family) in a certain timeframe

Savings, understood as energy, may be processes into a different type of energy in order to preserve their properties for powering the system, which may change overtime. Although the Polish School of Cybernetics has never occupied itself with reflecting on a change of the "quality" of energy as a result of its very storing in the accumulator, this issue is tackled by Leo XIII, who noted that savings may be secure e.g. by investing them in land. For instance, such economic processes as inflation, deflation, setting currency exchange rates by central banks, etc. may change the value of money and thus also the energy of the family. Similarly, deterioration of a property or unsuccessful (successful) investment may over time change the energy in the accumulator without any physical addition of energy/matter. Perhaps linking the problem of energy with the information processes (treating the "quality" of energy as certain information) together with the process-based approach will allow to uncontradict the approach of the Polish School of Cybernetics.

30. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., p. 225.

31. RN 5.



Using the terms referring to the power of a system it is possible to derive the freedom factor: $s = \frac{P_s}{P_s + P_r}$. If the free power of the system equals 0, the freedom factor will also equal 0, while the entire power will be spent on acquiring the energy needed to maintain the existence of the system, that is cover the idle power and the working power. When the working power equals 0, the freedom factor equals 1, which means that the system has so much energy that it does not need to strive for it since it is sufficient to cover idle power, and what is more – there is leftover free energy, which may be at a given time used as free power for any other operations of the system. Mazur also notes that working power may be wholly and partially covered by another system, i.e. originate from the outside of the analysed system. In such case it is called sociological power versus physiological power, which comes from within a given system.³³

With a view to the freedom factor and source of free energy, three extremal types of families may be distinguished. In the first one, the freedom factor is close to 0, which means that the work of family members offers revenues that are sufficient solely for survival. Mazur described this situation as slavery, since the system lacks free power to improve its condition.³⁴

Another type is the family in which free energy is close to 1, while working energy is covered from internal resources of the system (energy stored in the accumulator), thus it is physiological power. An example of such family is the family of an employer, who owns capital, machines, buildings, land, etc., which he can rent out or use for increasing his wealth (accumulated, unused free energy). Thanks to his resources he may use them to create conditions for gainful employment of other systems.

The freedom factor of the third type of the family is also close to 1, but free energy come from the outside (it is sociological energy). An example may be a family which subsists only and exclusively on assistance from other systems (e.g. social welfare, charity). Noteworthy, it is a different case than taking a loan, since this type of assistance does not involve any obligations, i.e. does not contribute to an increase the working power of the system in the future. Such a situation may be associated with the Pope's observation that common ownership would take away from people an incentive for working, causing conflicts and poverty. ³⁵ From the viewpoint of energetical processes, the situations of common ownership and ample welfare benefits are identical, since in both cases the system is fully dependent on an external system (covering entire working power), so the family's remaining in such condition would also generate conflicts and poverty.

- 32. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., pp. 239–240.
- 33. Ibidem, p. 225.
- 34. Ibidem, p. 240.
- 35. RN 15.





pope Leo XIII recognises as optimal the situation whereby each system strives at attaining the freedom factor different from either 0 or 1, which corresponds with Mazur's statement that it is in between those two extremes that the system is capable of making a change (when s>0) and improve its situation (when s<1). Closing the wealth gap between the rich and the poor will mitigate conflicts between those classes.³⁷ The Pope also underlines the value of work, which may contribute to owning land³⁸ and improve it.³⁹ Work has always accompanies man, even before the original sin, after which is has become penance for sins and painful necessity, 40 which was, however, accepted by Jesus Christ Himself, who spent a great part of His life as a Carpenter. ⁴¹ Therefore, the families with the freedom factor close to 0 should increase it through work and savings to gain greater material independence (associated with energy) and ensure sustainability and freedom for the family (functional equilibrium and internal control) at the times of fortuitous adversities.⁴² The Pope frimly defends private ownership, in particular the right to own land. 43 In turn, the systems with the freedom factor close to 1 should devote a part of their power to working for others, and should treat his wealth as a lease given from God.⁴⁴ Thus the burdens imposed on employee by employers should not be excessive so that the employee could spend time with his family 45 and have time to practice their religion, 46 which is linked with increasing the free power of the employee at the expense of the free power of the employer. What is more, members of the families (rich and poor)⁴⁷ that enjoy free power should avoid associations that are dangerous to religion, ⁴⁸ at the same time engaging themselves in Catholic associations, religious orders and other institutions, which directly intervene in behalf of the poor⁴⁹ and workers with advice, 50 as well as through care over youth and the elderly, and providing for them (energy covering a part of the working power) in the event of sicknesses and accidents, and if a worker dies – caring for his widow and children.⁵¹

It is worth noting that searching for a specific value or their bracket for the optimum of the freedom factor is an open task and seems a significant challenge for the Catholic Social Teaching in close collaboration with economics and psychology (for instance when comparing the issue of family energy with the Hobfoll conservation of resources theory or the issues of wellbeing. This issue is important since the freedom factor may objectivise the problem of slavery⁵² by transferring it from the field of rhetoric to the field of social sciences and theology.

- 36. M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., p. 240.
- 37. RN 47.
- 38. Ibidem. 9.
- 39. Ibidem, 10.
- 40. Ibidem, 17–18, 44.
- 41. Ibidem. 23.
- 42. Ibidem, 13.
- 43. Ibidem, 10.
- 44. Ibidem. 22.
- 45. Ibidem, 20.
- 46. Ibidem, 36.
- 47. Ibidem. 55.
- 48. Ibidem, 54.
- 49. Ibidem, 29.
- 50. Ibidem. 55.
- 51. Ibidem, 48, 58.
- 52. See: M. Mazur, *Cybernetyka i charakter*, op. cit., p. 240.

Social norms and the labour issue

A social norm will be understood as a rule of human behaviour which has been developed in the process of people getting adjusted to the need of the society.⁵³ In other words, a social norm is recognised as reactivity of such supersystem as the society to a given type of stimulus,⁵⁴ i.e. the ratio of a system's response to a given type of stimulus to the strength of this stimulus.⁵⁵ Social norms may be divided into cognitive (associated with the cognitive process) and decision-making ones (associated with the decision-making process). Moreover, decision-making norms may refer to:⁵⁶

- fabric of the society (vital norms) referring to the quality and quantity of "human fabric" in the society; associated with pleasure, group position and position in a group;
- energy of the society (economic norms) referring to energy in the society, i.e. the economy; associated with effectiveness and profit;
- structure of the society (constitutive norms):
 - goals of the society (ideological norms) associated with compliance with a given ideology (understood as a theoretical system);
 - ways of realising goals of the society:
 - under external pressure (legal norms) with a predominant use of such energy stimuli as sanctions; associated with legality;
 - under inner pressure (ethical norms) using only information stimuli; associated with moral good.

Social institutions are associated with a certain system of social norms,⁵⁷ and thus it will be possible to analyse the systems distinguished from the encyclical from the viewpoint of their responsiveness to stimuli.

The duties of the family as such can be found in the encyclical. In a large measure, they concern vital norms, since a significant goals of marriage and thus the family is to multiply.⁵⁸ Then, it should

- 53. J. Kossecki, *Cybernetyka społeczna*, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe 1975, p. 59.
- 54. J. Kossecki, *Metacybernetyka*, op. cit., p. 151.
- 55. Ibidem, p. 140.
- 56. Ibidem, pp. 155–176; J. Kossecki, *Cybernetyka społeczna*, op. cit., pp. 75–77.
- 57. J. Kossecki, *Cybernetyka społeczna*, op. cit., p. 77.
- 58. RN 12.





be stresses that according to the author of "Rerum Novarum" there should be economic norms at play in the family associated with attaining independent means of subsistence, which has been more broadly described when reflecting on the energetical processes. The main purpose for the family and thus also its members is to attain truth and goodness through virtuous living, contemplating spiritual matters and praising God,⁵⁹ that is also ideological and ethical norms.

The norms present in state institutions are legal norms. Pope Leo XIII writes that state statutes ■ should be based on the law of nature and thus support and defend with all the authority of the law the right to own private property, 60 which has been additionally confirmed in the divine law, 61 as well as purchasing and using it.⁶² Excessive taxation and other public levies are counter to the right of property. ⁶³ What is more, the state that steps in the paternal authority destroys the unity of the family by countering the law of nature.⁶⁴ This means that legal norms in the state should be in accordance with economic norms, 65 which is not obvious given the fact that there have been systems in which economic norms were not compliant with legal norms, which turned businessman into potential criminals. An example of such system was the People's Republic of Poland - state ruled by communists after World War II.66 The Pope stresses also the need fortify moral virtues and justice,67 the basis of which should be wellbeing, 68 which means that the legal norms of the state should be also in agreement with ethical norms, which are superior to economic norms. The public authority should step in to resolve a social situation as a last resort, whenever there is no other way to deal with abuses or threats, ⁶⁹ like e.g. incitement to revolt or pilfering, ⁷⁰ counteracting unemployment caused by onerous and badly paid work,⁷¹ limit worktime through appropriate rest depending on the type of work, sex and age of a worker.⁷² Given the fact that some of these problems involve many details (e.g. amount of leisure, health protection at work, etc.), state institutions should leave the regulation of those issues to labour associations.⁷³ Such associations should have the right to exist providing they are not aimed against morals and the good of the state.74

The teaching of the Church requires that the worker is seen not only as a source of profit, but first of all a human being, which should be reflected in fair remuneration for work. This indicates superiority of ethical and ideological norms over economic ones, which is visible also in the Pope's indication of the ultimate purpose of man and the way of attaining it through virtue and merits, which are "common inheritance of men" of both the rich and the poor alike. What is more, the Church educates the society by instilling ethical and ideological norms. In turn, ecclesiastical institutions and labour associations should focus on both health (vital norms), well-being (economic norms), ad-

- 59. Ibidem, 40.
- 60. Ibidem, 38.
- 61. Ibidem. 11.
- 62. Ibidem. 13.
- 63. Ibidem, 47.
- 64. Ibidem, 14.
- 65. Ibidem, 32.
- 66. J. Kossecki, Elementy nowoczesnej wiedzy o sterowaniu ludźmi. Socjotechnika, socjocybernetyka, psychocybernetyka. Skrypt dla oficerów policji, Wydział Zarządzania i Administracji Akademii Świętokrzyskiej im. J. Kochanowskiego w Kielcach 2001, p. 153.
- 67. RN 32.
- 68. Ibidem, 32-33.
- 69. Ibidem, 35-36.
- 70. Ibidem, 38.
- 71. Ibidem, 39, 42.
- 72. Ibidem, 41.
- 73. Ibidem, 45.
- 74. Ibidem, 51-52.
- 75. Ibidem, 20.



vice⁸⁰ and information about erroneous ideas⁸¹ (cognitive norms), and first and foremost on spiritual matters⁸² (ethical and ideological norms). The Pope believes that the statutes of such associations (legal norms) should be unfettered by the state owing to the dynamics of the reality⁸³ It should be added that Catholic associations are duty bound to invite also other workers, even those from the circles that are unfriendly to Catholicism.⁸⁴

of importance is also the description of norms associated with socialists and other agitators. The promise people freedom from pain and trouble, an undisturbed repose, and constant enjoyment. They perceive the means to materialise their promises in doing away with private property and omnipotence of the state in lieu of the authority of the family. This means that socialists utilise vital, economic and legal stimuli (in the form of primacy of the state law over ethics). Such manipulation leads to stirring groups (systems) against each other, which is specially successful in case of those individuals who are dominated by vital, economic or legal norms. Conflicts may result in a change of ideological norms of wealthy and poor families, as well as all other systems so that their purposes become divergent. As a result of the weakening of ideological norms, ethical norms are also weakened. The Pope described the negative effects of weakening ideological norms in the following words: Hence, to fall away from its primal constitution [of society – note K.Z.] implies disease; to go back to it, recovery.

Conclusion

Despite the fact that the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" was written in the late 19th century, its analysis shows that the vision of the society outlined by Leo XIII continues to be topical and modern. Using the instruments of cybernetics, it may be concluded that the Pope's proposition should resolve the discussed issue of the misery of workers. The Pope recommends uplifting human motivations from energy/material (associated with vital, economic and legal norms) to information motivation (associated with ethical, ideological and cognitive norms) both as regards families, state institutions and labour associations. What is more, the Pope recommends striving at the greatest possible energy/material autonomy (associated with energy) of families and associations. Such configuration of social norms (predominance of ethical and ideological norms with co-existing vital and economic norms) is also called dynamic information system of social control with the predominance of ethical and ideological motivations, which in a large measure is based on indirect control by instilling ethical and ideological norms in the society (mainly through the process of education). Thanks to this the system consumes little energy and is highly capable of restoring functional equilibrium. The entire

- 76. Ibidem.
- 77. Ibidem, 23–25.
- 78. Ibidem, 26-27.
- 79. Ibidem. 57.
- 80. Ibidem, 55.
- 81. Ibidem, 57.
- 82. Ibidem.
- 83. Ibidem.
- 84. Ibidem, 61.
- 85. Ibidem. 18.
- 86. Ibidem, 4.
- 87. Ibidem, 14.
- 88. Ibidem, 19.
- 89. J. Kossecki, *Cybernetyka kultury*, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy 1974, pp. 113–114.
- 90. RN 27.





effort of the society is subordinated to ideology (in the case of "Rerum Novarum" – Catholicism) and ethics. In addition, such society is highly resistant to economic and military crises, and legal coercion, though is susceptible to ideological indifferentism, weakening ethics and disturbances of the process of ideological and ethical programming (e.g. by the socialist agenda). The same type of social system was present also in ancient Rome.⁹¹

The analysis revealed that it is worth developing the instruments associated with the Polish School of Cybernetics, e.g. by exploring the issue of a change of the "quality" of energy over time, which will make it possible to research the systems in their dynamics (process approach). It also seems that the practice of the Catholic Social Teaching should put more emphasis on the significance of cognitive norms, which are dealt with in the encyclical only occasionally. Further analyses of the topic may be deepened by carrying out mathematical and statistical analysis and analysing concrete systems in reality (e.g. concrete states in a given time bracket). It is also possible to deepen identification and problem analysis from the viewpoint of other cybernetic parameters, such as e.g. dynamism of character of such systems as the family, state and ecclesiastical institutions, control processes or determination of the relation of ideological norms to cognitive norms, and legal norms to ethical norms on the basis of other doctrinal texts of the Church.

It is also worth examining whether at present there happen to be situations whereby both employee and employers (and their families) have the freedom factor equal to 0, and as a result of social processes free power has been transferred to state institutions. Such a situation would make the state subject also to the duties of the employer, i.e. should strive at reducing its free power for the benefit of entrepreneurs and workers. Also moral responsibility for the poverty of both social groups would be transferred onto state institutions – that is the officials and decision-makers.

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91. J. Kossecki, *Cybernetyka społeczna*, op. cit., pp. 363–368.



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Piotr Głowacki*

Economic Factors of Risk to National Security

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Abstract

The article discusses the conceptualisation of fundamental concepts referring to interdependence between security and the economy. The concept of economic security that is dominant in Polish literature on the subject is in most cases identified with macroeconomic disequilibrium and instability. This makes it primarily an economic category. Hence the need to develop a catalogue of risks that are more extensively and comprehensively associated with national security. The article outlines two approaches to these issues. The sectoral approach delineates subcategories of security by industries and sectors of the economy (e.g. energy security). The problem approach singles out individual risk factors understood as mechanisms and phenomena carrying threats to the critical processes in the state. Basing on the problem approach, a catalogue of economic risk factors has been proposed: ownership structure, access to sensitive information and espionage, dependency on key raw materials, dependency on suppliers, state interventionism, corruption and fraud, social and economic instability, dependency on external decision-making centres, difficulties with financing security structures, and immigration.

Keywords

national security, state security, economic security, risk factors, critical processes, sovereignty, economic stability, Poland

* e-mail: pglowacki@protonmail. com, https://orcid.org/0009-0006-0947-0326





Introduction

he first argument in favour of reflection on interdependence between security and the economy is the outbreak of the full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022. That event enhanced social awareness of regards interdependence between security and the economy. The response of Western states consisted in sanctions aimed against the economic system of Russia (their effectiveness is a separate question). On the other hand, the weapon used by Moscow was energy blackmail aimed at destabilising the economies of Western states. On a par with the movements of military forces experts followed therefore economic indices knowing that they can provide significant information on trends and perhaps also on resolutions of the conflict.

Another phenomenon deserving reflection on interdependence between security and the economy are tensions between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The growing rivalry between those two countries takes place primarily on the economic level, although undoubtedly at stake is political domination, which includes also influence on the international architecture of security.

Both the Russian-Ukrainian war as well as the Chinese-American rivalry are clearly far from being precedential conflicts as regards the presence of the economic factor. The relations between the economy and politics (including security) are eternal. However, those serious conflicts taking place here and now should be an impulse to greater reflection of the academic community on an ever more perfect conceptualisation of the problem of interdependence between the economy and security as well as greater understanding of specific risks that may infiltrate the sphere of security from the economic realm.

The article is aimed at reflecting on the conceptual framework which may prove useful in identifying and analysing various categories and types of economic threats to national security. The attainment of that goal has been possible, first, thanks to carrying out a critical reflection on the notion of economic security. Secondly, thanks to the presentation and development of the typology of economic factors of risk to national security. In this place, it should be noted that the economic security sciences, placed by Waldemar Kitler among detailed security studies, are subject to many in-depth analyses.

- 1. W. Kitler, Organizacja bezpieczeństwa narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Aspekty ustrojowe, prawno-administracyjne i systemowe, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszalek 2018, pp. 22–23.
- 2. C. Smuniewski, National Security of Poland in the Axiological Perspective. President Lech Wałęsa, Wydawnictwo Akademii Humanistycznej im.
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Economic security – theoretical aspects

One of the terms denoting co-dependence of the spheres of security and economy is economic security. This concept is widely used in literature. It is functioning in the public domain at its various levels and it would have seemed adequate with respect to the problem of identification of economic factors of risk to national security. However, very frequently economic security is in fact treated as a purely economic category, only partially identifiable with the problem of national security. Worth emphasising is the absence of the consensus as regards the clear-cut framework for defining economic security. Therefore, it is worth having a look at various meanings and contexts in which this term is functioning.

The interest in the concept of economic security increased upon the end of the cold war – the period of continuous tensions in international relations with the spectre of a great conventional war in the background.³ Thus it coincides and has a common reason with the growth of popularity of geoeconomics. Both concepts seem to be connected by the finding according to which international rivalry, and thus also potential threats to national security, have moved onto the economic plane not only as regards the means, but also as regards its very objectives. This is signified by the first, most widespread understanding of economic security.

Rrzysztof Księżopolski and Kamila Pronińska comprehend this term as "undisturbed functioning of economies, that is maintaining fundamental development ratios and ensuring comparative advantage over the economies of other states." Małgorzata Leszczyńska points out that "contemporary definitions of economic security should be referred to the opportunities and threats to development processes." Katarzyna Żukrowska has a similar approach to this issue. Ensuring economic prosperity is in the focus of reflections on economic security in the RAND report. The attempts to quantify so understood economic security take into account e.g. the following indices: GDP growth, balance of trade, inflation, budgetary balance, value of foreign currency reserves.

A scan be seen, the main point of reference for such an approach to economic security is economic development. The definitions quoted above do not include any reference to national security, to political or geopolitical goals of state or nation. Although the researchers writing about so conceived economic security frequently stress its interdisciplinary character, neither the definitions nor the methods of measuring the level of economic security are as a matter of fact interdisciplinary. Economic security becomes in fact a purely economic category, synonymous or identical with the terms

- 3. M. Redo, P. Siemiątkowski, Zewnętrzne bezpieczeństwo finansowe państwa, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika 2017, p. 10.
- 4. K.M. Księżopolski, K. Pronińska, Bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne w perspektywie politologicznej - wybrane problemy, Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa 2012, p. 178.
- 5. M. Leszczyńska, Bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne państwa a rozwój gospodarki i społeczeństwa, "Nierówności społeczne a wzrost gospodarczy,", 2018, Vol. 56, p. 289.
- 6. K. Żukrowska, Ekonomia jako sfera bezpieczeństwa państwa, in: Interdyscyplinarność nauk o bezpieczeństwie, eds. K. Raczkowski, K. Żukrowska, M. Żuber, Difin 2013, p. 33.
- 7. C.R. Neu, C.Jr. Wolf, *The Economic Dimensions of National Security*, RAND 1994, p. 12.
- 8. S. Metelev, M.M. Murat, V. Lizunov, Economic Security Policy of the Russian Federation, Libertas - Europäisches Institut 2016, p. 35.
- 9. K. Żukrowska, *Ekonomia jako sfera...*, op. cit., p. 34.



of economic stability or macroeconomic stability. Substantial economic instability or development disturbances may lead to upsetting the entire socio-political system of the state, therefore they are undoubtedly threats to national security. However, so understood economic security refers in fact to an extensive though merely one of many channels through which economic occurrences affect security. Further on in the article, it has been shown that it is merely one of many such channels of impact. It is also worth noting that the economic discourse uses the concept of security quite independently from security studies and without referring to the concept of national security or other political categories. It frequently happens in the area of finance, where financial security or banking sector security are mentioned, which actually should be understood as the stability of the financial or banking sector functioning without linking it with the general level of security of the state. An example of the practical use of this concept is the "financial security network" – the term commonly used to describe a set of collaborating public institutions which supervise the financial sector and oversee its stability. Thus, there is a doubt whether economic security, a synonym of which is economic stability, may be recognised as a subset of national security. It seems to be a separate category since as long as it does not include a clear reference to national security it does not show the linkages between state security and economic stability. It should be at the same time emphasised that there is no doubt that even autonomously understood economic security is linked with national security. However, the nature of their relationship is that of interdependence (co-dependence) rather than of superioritysubordination, which would be suggested by the classifications recognising economic security to be an element or dimension of national security. 11 Therefore, the concept of economic security in its most popular meaning does not allow to identify all of the threats to national security arising from the area of the economy. Hence, more semantically adequate for a reflection on those threats would be the term: "economic factors of risk to national security".

In order to identify economic threats to national security it is important to determine what risk factors are present in the scholarly discourse. Polish literature on the subject usually distinguishes various specific areas of threat in the formula "security" + an attributive adjective. They frequently coincide with sectors of the economy (e.g. energy – energy security, financial sector – financial security, etc.). Such an order of defining sub-categories of security in the economy may be termed the sectoral classification of economic factors of risk to security.

10. A. Alińska, Sieć bezpieczeństwa finansowego jako element stabilności funkcjonowania sektora bankowego, "Kwartalnik Kolegium Ekonomiczno-Społecznego Studia i Prace", 2011/2012, No. 4, pp. 87–99.

11. This is how the relationship between national security and economic security is treated in the Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Poland. See: Strategia Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 2020, [National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland 2020], https://www.bbn.gov.pl/ftp/dokumenty/Strategia_Bezpieczenstwa_Narodowego_RP_2020.pdf, (access 25. 10.2021).

Economic risk factors – sectoral and problem approach



In her object analysis of security in the economic dimension, Anna Dziurny, a researcher of economic security, distinguishes resource security (raw materials, energy, food), infrastructural security, financial security, societal security (incl. social security). Discussing the need to create the strategy of Poland's economic security, Polish researchers, Sylwester Kurek, Katarzyna Pietrzyk and Janusz Płaczek, identify its elements as follows: raw material, energy, ecological, financial, IT, technological, socio-cultural, technical infrastructure, demographic, economic-defence security. In their work devoted to financial security, Magdalena Redo and Piotr Siemiątkowski distinguish the following subsystems of economic security: financial, raw material and energy, food and technological security. The above conceptions are technically convergent. The exceptions are ecological, IT and demographic aspects which have been taken account of only in one source.

Beside the sectoral approach to classification of economic risks to national security, there is the problem approach. It is focused on the logical mechanism, on the cause-and-effect sequence, which produces threat to national security. In this approach, the same risk categories may be present in different sectors of the economy. An example of such an approach to the investigated issue is the analytical model developed by experts of the RAND Corporation – the authors of the report on the economic dimension of national security of the Netherlands. This model has been assumed by its authors to be universal and may be applicable to various state and contexts.

Basing on a review of economic literature, the authors of the report have identified main macro-economic variables underlying fundamental theories, models of growth, etc. In this way, they have distinguished certain general categories such as e.g. foreign investments, international trade or state intervention. The factors, linked with those economic variables, which can have a disruptive effect on the functioning of the critical sectors, infrastructure and processes, have been called risk vectors. From the viewpoint of the goals of this article, these are in fact key economic factors of risk to national security. The risk vectors include:

- Ownership structure;
- Access to sensitive information and espionage;
- Dependence on key raw materials;

- 12. A. Dziurny, Zarys filozofii konstrukcji modelu kształtowania bezpieczeństwa ekonomicznego Polski, in: Bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne obrotu gospodarczego, ed. K. Raczkowski, Wolters Kluwer 2014, p. 135.
- 13. S.T. Kurek, K. Pietrzyk, J. Płaczek, Potrzeba opracowania zintegrowanej strategii kształtowania bezpieczeństwa ekonomicznego Polski, in: Bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne obrotu gospodarczego, ed. K. Raczkowski, Wolters Kluwer 2014, p. 97.
- 14. M. Redo, P. Siemiątkowski,

 Zewnętrzne bezpieczeństwo finansowe...,
 op. cit., p. 9.
- 15. L. Retter, E. Frinking, S. Hoorens, A. Lynch, F. Nederveen, W. Phillips, Relationships Between the Economy and National Security: Analysis and Considerations For Economic Security Policy in the Netherlands, RAND Corporation 2020.

16. Ibidem, p. 36.



- Dependence on specific suppliers;
- State interventionism:
- Corruption and fraud;
- Socio-economic inequalities.

The sectoral approach and the problem approach should be considered complementary and their joint application may yield the best diagnostic opportunities when trying to identify key areas of risk to national security. At the same time, it seems that the problem approach offers greater possibilities as regards a comprehensive and out-of-the-box perception of the diverse threats to the state, and hence it should be recommended as the basic one.

However, the critical reflection on the catalogue of factors distinguished by RAND analysts and its confrontation with typologies based on the sectoral approach leads to a conclusion that there is a need to concretise and partially supplement that list of risks as regards four issues.

First, from among the risk vectors the RAND model leaves out factors linked with economic interdependence and delegation (more or less voluntary) of economic decisions to other international entities. Although RAND researchers make a note of this factor, 17 but palce it outside of the model as a general global trend of significance for the security framework. They also raise this subject while discussing state interventions as a risk factor, mostly in the context of shaping economic policy at the EU level, which is in fact beyond the control of Member States. However, they treat it as merely a marginal issues, which seems to be the underrating of the problem. Therefore, it seems justified to identify this issues as a separate risk factor – dependence on external decision-making centres. A more extensive clarification and substantiation are provided further on in the article.

Second, certain doubts are aroused by the distinctness of socio-economic inequalities as a standalone risk factor. RAND analysts show that excessive inequalities may constitute the underlying causes of economic instability and delegitimisation of the entire socio-political system. This, in turn, is a real internal threat to national security. It is hard not to find such argumentation as correct. It seems, however, that the absence of stable foundations of an economic system is a multicausal 17. Ibidem, p. 31.

18. Ibidem, p. 77.





phenomenon. Such instability may be underlain not only by inequalities, but also other economic problems such as hyperinflation, high unemployment, financial crash or debt crisis. These are the phenomena which sometimes accompany wealth or income inequalities, though are, however, separate factors. Therefore, it should be considered appropriate that the factors which have a common channel of influence on national security have been combined in a single broader category – socioeconomic instability.

Third, it seems that in order to stress the importance of the matter there is a need to distinguish the issue of financing the security structures, primarily the army and the arms industry. In the classification of the RAND report this factor is included in the broad category of state interventionism, though the issues associated with e.g. financing of the army should be considered separately owing to their significance and evident thematic distinctness.

Fourth, in the RAND model the problem of migration is perceived only to a limited extent. Meanwhile, the researchers dealing with the strategy of economic security mention demographic security among other factors of economic security. At the same time, it is obvious that migrations have their own significant economic component – one of the main drivers of migration are the needs of the labour market. Although treating migration as a risk factor constitutes a kind of an exception in the problem logic of other components of the model and is closer to the sectoral approach, its omission would render the catalogues of risks incomplete. Altogether, basing on the RAND model and having modified it as mentioned above, ten economic factors of risk have been distinguished, which are discussed in the following section.

The recommended model

Ownership structure

Direct foreign investment, although generally beneficial from the point of view of the economy, 20 may generate significant risks because of the influence their owners may exert through them. This concerns especially strategic sectors associated with national security. What is important, the danger does not involve exclusively the ownership linked with foreign states, but also the situation of a considerable ownership share of large corporations in a given sector. This issue involves also the situations of indirect threat, e.g. when a dubious foreign actor owns a facility situated in direct proximity of the location of critical sectors, infrastructure or processes. An example of a safeguard against

19. S.T. Kurek, K. Pietrzyk, J. Płaczek, Potrzeba opracowania zintegrowanej..., op. cit., p. 97.

20. E.g. A. Kosztowniak, Verification of the Relationship between FDI and GDP in Poland, "Acta Oeconomica", 2016, Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 307–332.





such risk may be the legislation of many countries prohibiting excessive concentration of foreign ownership in certain sectors of the domestic market, e.g. the media or energy market.

Access to sensitive information and espionage

A risk factor related to the previously discussed one is access to sensitive information. It concerns companies operating in crucial sectors of the economy or their collaborators (e.g. IT suppliers to the military). The danger does not have to be linked with the ownership structure of a given company, but rather its employment of people potentially interested in unlawful use of the data that are sensitive for state security. What is significant – as RAND analysts emphasise – the related risks do not necessarily exclusively emerge from traditional rival states, but also from allies. This is confirmed by the example of the German government which at the beginning of the 21st century considered changing the operating system of its IT infrastructure from Windows to Linux. Some versions of Windows, supplied by the American Microsoft Corporation, contained backdoors designed to grant the U.S. National Security Agency access to users' data. Thus, the discussed issue is at present closely connected with cybersecurity. The very problem of cybersecurity in the economic context has many aspects – it shall also arise when we shall be discussing dependence on suppliers and socio-economic instability.

A special form of sensitive information that is subject to protection is intellectual property. It is of particular importance when international rivalry ever more frequently takes place in the area of science and new technologies, not necessarily exclusively of military nature.

Dependence on key raw materials

The functioning of critical processes in the state requires natural raw materials, not all of which are available from domestic sources. Therefore, Poland is doomed to importing some of them. Major ones include fuels (oil, gas) as well as foodstuffs and water. Dependence on the deliveries of those raw materials from other countries generates a risk to national security. In this area, traditionally understood energy security or raw material security intertwines with ecological security. Thus, energy transformation (transition from coal based economy to renewable energy sources) has not solely the ecological dimension, but is also linked with moving from domestic fuel (coal) to technologies that are mostly imported from other countries. In case of transition to nuclear energy it also in

21. L. Retter, E. Frinking, S. Hoorens, A. Lynch, F. Nederveen, W. Phillips, *Relationships Between the Economy...*, op. cit., p. 43.





a large measure means increased dependence on a key raw material. On the other hand, progressing global warming may adversely affect availability of other natural resources – water or foodstuffs.

Dependence on suppliers

Arelated risk factor is dependence on suppliers within various sectors of the economy. In this case, emphasised is the complexity of contemporary economic processes manifested in the existence of long and complicated supply chains. Oversight of critical sectors or infrastructure through e.g. control by owner may turn out to be insufficient. It happens for instance in the situation of dependence on a supplier that is the sole proprietor of the technology needed for realising functions that are critical for the state. The authors of the RAND report believe that the key factor to alleviate that risk could be the construction of own domestic technological capabilities. In this place, the issues of security overlap with the problems of innovativeness of the Polish economy, which determines the extent to which Poland will be doomed to this type of dependency in her key sectors. One of the specific forms of this phenomenon is not only the absence of domestic companies that possess certain technologies, but also the shortage of workers with adequate skills.

This problem also includes the issue of access to various types of infrastructure, e.g. financial infrastructure. The views start to crop up in the global debate that the international financial and payment infrastructure has been monopolised by a single country – the United States. Many states are looking for alternatives (e.g. China²³ or the European Union²⁴).

State interventionism

The reason that this issue has been singled out is the finding that the free market has its unreliabilities which endanger national security. Some of them have been already discussed. The state may respond to these unreliabilities with an active policy, which even at the price of losing a part of economic benefits is to uphold national security. Such policy covers a broad spectrum of issues, beginning with the regulation of matters relating to ownership of companies operating in the critical sectors, taking account of the needs of the security policy in the system of education, to the macroprudential policy aimed at the stability of the banking sector. State interventions are a government response to diverse threats. An inadequate level of state interventions (both insufficient in some areas as well as excessive in others) should be regarded as a risk factor.

22. Ibidem, p. 48.

23. J. Liu, Y. Liu, China's Fledgling Cross-Border Payments System Grows Its Reach, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-22/china-s-fledgling-cross-border-payments-system-grows-its-reach, (access 25.10.2021).

24. J. Harper, *Maas wants end to US dominance*, https://www.dw.com/en/germany-urges-swift-end-to-us-payments-dominance/a-45242528, (access 25.10.2021).





Corruption and fraud

Just like the discussed above government interventions require an efficient state apparatus, corruption and fraud are mechanisms which permanently undermine the effectiveness of the operation of the state as well as its trustworthiness. In this sense they may be seen as an issue of security. One manifestation of this threat occurred in the event of the 2004 Moscow airport bombing, in which terrorists used bribery in order to smuggle explosives past the airport's security personnel.²⁵

Socio-economic instability

As has been already mentioned, socio-economic stability creates a material foundation for the functioning of the state and society based on predictable principles. This builds up a trust in the socio-political system, legitimises the efforts aimed maintaining security. Economic stability also lays down foundations for general economic development. This, in turn, is a basis for conducting an effective security policy. Pursuing such policy at the top level of the state requires budgetary funds the amount of which is a simple function of economic growth. This is a fundamental general interrelationship between the economy and security. Socio-economic stability is also a basis for fighting threats to internal security such as crime, for which poor and uncertain living conditions provide a fertile soil.

As has been noted earlier in this article, the concept of "economic security" happens to be understood exactly in this sense, as if almost a synonym of economic stability. In the discussed model, it is only one of economic factors of risk to national security. Most frequently identified problems in this area include instability of the financial sector, excessive public debt, trade imbalance, insufficient level of foreign currency reserves, wealth and income inequalities.

A special dimension of this issue is cybersecurity. One of the motivations for hacker attacks may be to destabilise a country. The methods may include efforts to paralyse the critical sectors or infrastructure, e.g. payment systems.

25. L. Retter, E. Frinking, S. Hoorens, A. Lynch, F. Nederveen, W. Phillips, *Relationships Between the Economy...*, op. cit., p. 54.





Dependence on external decision-making centres

Dependence on external decision-making centres does not concern specific raw materials or technologies, but rather institutional reliance on states or international organisations, which may legally influence the decision-making processes in other countries thus potentially endangering their security. This also includes dependence of financial markets, which although usually being less formal, in practice takes place according to quite clear rules understandable to all of its participants.

The topicality of this issue is argues by both researchers and practitioners. In his studies on the lack L political impact of financial institutions, Manolis Kalaitzake, who specialised in international political economics, invokes a number of examples that evidence a close relationship between reliance on foreign decision-making factors in the economy and national security. One of them is what Jean-Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), did vis-à-vis financially troubled Ireland. Unexpectedly, he made the granting of emergency liquidity assistance by the ECB dependent on the concessionary policy towards Irish creditors. ²⁶ Emergency liquidity assistance (a refinanced loan granted by a central bank) is perceived as a neutral technical instrument of granting short-term assistance to banks experiencing transitional turbulence. In this case, the consent for its application was used a s tool to exert pressure on Irish authorities. This same author invokes also a situation when the ECB stopped the programme of purchasing Italian bonds, which in a short time resulted in serious turbulences on the Italian capital market, the fall of Silvio Berlusconi's government and election of Mario Monti, regarded to be an advocated of financial circles, as prime minister.²⁷ Similar mechanisms of influencing the key direction of an economic policy, including the staffing of key positions in the state, are described by a former Greek Minister of Finance, Janis Warufakis, who invokes his own experience at the time of the debt crisis.²⁸

It is worth noting that the described problem does not concern only dependence on other states. The above quoted examples relating to the ECB, theoretically one of the most apolitical institutions of the integrated Europe, show that it may be also connected with international institutions, as well as financial markets that use their informal structural power to pursue their own interests. Susan Strange, a British scholar, one of the leading researchers dealing with international political economic, is considered to have pioneered the latter thesis. She pointed out that confining oneself to the analysis of national interests restricts the field of view and ignores the fact that states themselves frequently realise the interests of other actors, such as large corporations.

- 26. M. Kalaitzake, Central banking and financial political power: An investigation into the European Central Bank, "Competition & Change", 2018, Vol. 23, No. 3, p. 235.
- 27. Ibidem, p. 236.
- 28. J. Varufakis, *Porozmawiajmy jak dorośli. Jak walczyłem z europejskimi elitami*, transl. P. Juśkowiak, G. Klimont, T. Płomiński, M. Szlinder, Wydawnictwo Krytyki Politycznej 2019.
- 29. M. Kalaitzake, *Central banking and...*, op. cit., p. 15.
- 30. S. Strange, *States And Markets*, Bloomsbury 2004, p. 22.



Troubles with financing security

An important issue combining aspects of security and economy is the model of financing institutions responsible for security, primarily the military. A related topic is the arms industry and all economic dimensions of its operation.

Immigration

In literature on the subject, the interdependence between migrations and security is analysed both in the context of the actual impact of the movement of people on the risks to public security, ³¹ as well as in the constructivist spirit, from the angle of subjectively perceiving migration as a source of threat and an instrument for managing public moods. ³² Migrations are also analysed as an issue of economic security, ³³ as well as an instrument for exerting political pressure. ³⁴

A the same time, migrations have their immanent economic dimension – they are very frequently motivated by economic reasons, while the permission for migration given by states effects e.g. from the demand of the private sector for labour.

Conclusion

The growing tensions on the international arena should motivate for an in-depth reflection on the interrelationship between the economy and national security. The goal of the Polish state in this area should be a comprehensive diagnosis of threats of an economic nature. It should be started with the conceptualisation of fundamental issues. The concept of economic security that is dominant in Polish literature on the subject, which could be a starting point for further analyses, only to a limited measure provides a framework for a comprehensive study of economic risks. In most cases, it is identified with macroeconomic disequilibria and instability. So conceived economic security becomes actually a purely economic category, only indirectly referring to such concepts from the realm of politics as security, national interest or sovereignty. Hence the need to develop a broader catalogue of economic risks to national security. The article outlines two approaches to this issues. The sectoral approach, dominating in Polish literature on the subject, delineates subcategories of security by industries and sectors of the economy (e.g. food security, energy security). The problem approach, also based on sectors, singles out individual risk factors understood as mechanisms and phenomena carrying threats to the critical processes in the state. Basing on the problem approach,

- 31. R. Raczyński, Wpływ migracji międzynarodowych na bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne państwa, "Bezpieczeństwo. Teoria i Praktyka", 2015, Issue 2, pp. 13–30; A. Skrabacz, Migracje XXI wieku jako wyzwanie dla bezpieczeństwa Polski oraz Unii Europejskiej, "Forum Socjologiczne", 2019, Vol. 10, pp. 79–91.
- 32. P. Bourbeau, *The Securitization of Migration: A Study of Movement and Order*, Routledge 2005.
- 33. E. Guild, J. van Selm, *International Migration and Security*, Routledge 2006, p. 157.
- 34. K.M. Greenhill, The weaponisation of migration, in: Connectivity Wars: Why Migration, Finance and Trade Are the Geo-economic Battlegrounds of the Future, ed. M. Leonard, European Council on Foreign Relations 2016, p. 76.





a catalogue of ten economic risk factors have been proposed, which may provide a basis for an indepth analysis of susceptibility of the Polish state to economic threats. These are as follows: ownership structure, access to sensitive information and espionage, dependency on key raw materials, dependency on suppliers, state interventionism, corruption and fraud, social and economic instability, dependency on external decision-making centres, difficulties with financing security structures, and immigration.

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 $\label{liuJ.,LiuY.,China's Fledgling Cross-Border Payments System Grows Its Reach, \underline{\mbox{https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-22/china-s-fledgling-cross-border-payments-system-grows-its-reach, (access 25.10.2021).}$

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Krzysztof Pawel Kądzielski*

The Idea of Protecting People at Risk of Exclusion.

A Study of the Activities of the Stocznia

Foundation under the CAMI and Lokator Programs

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Abstract

This paper aims to answer the following research question: Through what activities the Stocznia Foundation ensures the activation and safety of people at risk of exclusion? Given the growing number of social groups at risk of exclusion (mainly the elderly, the homeless, those at risk of homelessness or the lonely), the Stocznia Foundation responds by conducting research aimed at identifying social needs. Its actions help restore the meaning of life to these groups, as well as re-establish themselves in society. As an aid institution, this non-governmental organization provides services in the areas that contribute to building a conscious, safe and wise society, actively involved in working for the common good. As an integral part of the CAMI and Lokator projects, the

* University of Warsaw, e-mail: k.kadzielski@uw.edu.pl, https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0484-6156





Stocznia Foundation cooperates with other NGOs and organizations for the development of innovation and science.

Keywords

societal security, social safety, third sector, NGOs, society, social exclusion, protection of the elderly

Methodological approach to the series

In the course of the research procedure, the method of theoretical analysis was used in the first place, but also the method of induction, deduction, synthesis, as well as analysis of legal documents. The analysis covered the conclusions developed from research works and scientific literature dealing with the issues related to ensuring the safety of local communities. An approach qualifying a comprehensive perception of the topic was assumed, allowing the use of different thoughts correlating with the presented problems in order to be able to compile them and discuss the conclusions developed in the process. As a result of the research and the projects in which the *Stocznia* Foundation took part, involving selected social groups, it was possible to analyze and assess their participation under controlled conditions in relation to the issues discussed in the work.

The following article is part of a series of three papers that will be published in the subsequent issues of the journal and will further discuss social ideas that are important from the point of view of conducting activities by the *Stocznia* Foundation for building social safety in Poland. The second article will focus on the idea of social participation and will answer the following research question: What activities of the *Stocznia* Foundation ensure the involvement of and support for children and youth? The third paper will answer the following research question: What activities of the *Stocznia* Foundation ensure social participation for the common good?

Introduction

The activities carried out by non-governmental public benefit organizations largely consist in pursuing the goals laid down in the statutes drawn by the governing or supervising bodies of these institutions. Projects implemented by *non-governmental organizations*¹ (NGOs) are based on the

1. Nongovernmental organization, https://www.britannica.com/topic/ nongovernmental-organization, (access 08.07.2021). Also see: Ustawa z dnia 6 kwietnia 1984 o fundacjach, Dz.U. 1991 nr 46 poz. 203, [The Foundations Act of 6 April 1984, Journal of Laws 1991, No. 46 item 203].



main assumptions on which the general and specific objectives are based, which are important determinants in an organization's policy. Both the assumptions and the goals developed by the founders and supervisory boards are designed to enable the implementation of specific ideas, aimed at achieving positive results for the benefit of a pre-determined social group (beneficiaries of these ideas).

Third sector institutions play an important role in the organization and implementation of public tasks for the benefit of the society and the related security sphere. Due to their size, and thus the number of the tasks they are able to assume, they are an important element in satisfying certain needs in the area of social life, as well as relieve state bodies of their duties. Aid activities should be understood as non-governmental institutions operating pursuant to relevant legal acts, which include the Social Assistance Act of 2004.²

Since ancient times, the elderly have been surrounded by esteem³ and significant respect due to their rich life experience, the ability to solve incipient problems, or giving advice to tribal chiefs or leaders of communities. For years, the elders have been the pedestal of every human community and have remained so until this day, regardless of geography, race, values or religious beliefs. In addition, this part of the society which is characterized by a considerable number of years lived acted as a natural cultural transmitter, as well as a form of an erstwhile chronicler, whose mission was to give an eyewitness testimony of events as an example of specific values and rules of conduct or as a warning for future generations.

One of the outstanding communities that venerates the elderly is the Confucianist population,⁴ largely inhabiting the area of China in Central Asia. Confucius (551-479 BCE) comprised in his philosophy five duties (virtues), one of which deals with the principle of *hierarchy* in the relationship of the younger and the older⁵ – occurring in social structures, which was transferred to the then system of power. The relationships comprised in the philosopher's teachings were characterized by a high level of respect for elderly people – especially in the family, where the head of the household was a model of virtue and life experience and morality achieved through sincerity and righteousness, as well as acquisition of knowledge, which should be associated with "[...] developing one's personality, as only the combination of knowledge, experience and virtue characterizes a sage." According to Confucius, man in his perfection should be creative, friendly and noble.

- 2. Ustawa z dnia 12 marca 2004 o pomocy społecznej, Dz.U. 2004 nr 64 poz. 593, [The Social Assistance Act of 12 March 2004, Journal of Laws of 2004, No. 64 item 593].
- 3. In the sense of giving them due honors, due to their age, social position and knowledge. In ancient times, worship was reserved only for spirits, deities and gods the transcendental sphere, the spiritual world, where from, according to the beliefs, all causative powers originated.
- 4. D. Jarema, Wpływ konfucjanizmu na system społeczny i polityczny w Chinach, Wydział Prawa, Administracji i Ekonomii Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego 2012, p. 40.
- 5. Ibidem, pp. 44-45.
- 6. Ibidem, p. 43.
- 7. A.I. Wójcik, *Konfucjanizm*, in: *Filozofia Wschodu*, ed. B. Szymanowska, Uniwersytet Jagielloński 2001, pp. 347–364.



The primary reason underlying one's interaction with individuals who make up the society is the desire to reduce the negative impact of life problems (experiences) by obtaining a multidimensional support in the form of countermeasures. A group of people particularly vulnerable, and thus requiring a lot of attention, are the elderly, who are often struggling with various diseases, infirmities, and loneliness. In the case of the described group, it is necessary to distinguish the factors that directly affect their life situations, e.g. physical condition and the related lifestyle, health and fitness (including intellectual capabilities), as well as the impact of living conditions. An important role is also played by the immediate environment of the elderly, sometimes determining their acceptance or exclusion.

The idea of protecting the elderly and those at risk of exclusion

Project: Cami – robot asystent dla seniorów

The purpose of analyzing of the CAMI – robot-asystent dla seniorów¹⁰ (CAMI – robot-assistant for senior citizens) project and $Lokator^{11}$ (Tenant) under the Innowacje na ludzka miar e^{12} (Human-sized innovations) program is to determine the meaning of the idea to protect people at risk in the area of social safety. The CAMI project was carried out using the ALL solution technology, 13 the main idea of which was to extend the period in which an ageing person remained independent of the help of others.

Owith an intelligent apartment management system by integrating it with a telephone, as well as a smoke detector and ventilation system, contributed to increasing the level of user safety at home. Another important system used to implement the project is the *well-being* function, through which the device was to be used as a communicator with the elderly person and help maintain social contacts. ¹⁴ The same system is also used for alerting medical services in the event of a health threat thanks to the installation of the function of monitoring bodily vital functions (*health management*), allowing early warning of the critical condition of their patient. ¹⁵ Equipping the *CAMI* robot with several mutually supportive intelligent systems allows the charges not only to save time they have so far devoted to taking care of the house, but also increases the chances of participation and encouragement of the elderly to participate in social life and self-development.

- 8. Z. Jaworowska-Obłój, B. Skuza, *Pojęcie wsparcia społecznego i jego funkcje w badaniach naukowych*, "Przegląd Psychologiczny", 1986, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 733–746.
- 9. B. Skałbania, *Poradnictwo pedago-giczne*. *Przegląd wybranych zagadnień*, Impuls 2009, p. 18.
- 10. The project was implemented from March 2017 to November 2018 by an international consortium of 8 partners under the auspices of the Polytechnic University in Bucharest. The work of the Stocznia Foundation, coordinated by Agata Gołasa, was based on conducting research aimed at analyzing the needs and expectations of senior citizens, as well as their careers and social stakeholders. More see: A. Gołasa, M. Wiśnicka, CAMI robot asystent dla seniorów, https://stocznia.org.pl/projekty/cami-robot-asystent-dla-seniorow/, (access 07.07.2021).
- 11. Lokator, łączenie potrzebujących pomocy w codziennym życiu z szukającymi miejsca do zamieszkania, https://inkubatorpomyslow.org.pl/app/uploads/2019/03/lokator_www.pdf, (access 13.07.2021).
- 12. M. Lewandowska-Woźniak, M. Biejat, A. Bluj, et al., *Innowacje na ludzką miarę*, https://stocznia.org.pl/projekty/innowacje-na-ludzka-miare-wsparcierozwoju-mikroinnowacji-w-obszarze-uslug-opiekunczych-dla-osobzaleznych/, (access 09.07.2021).



The project was also focused on providing answers within the framework of technical and technological solutions for engineers in the field of robotics in order to use more effectively the potential of available assistance systems in the near future. Other key points were to establish a specific set of personalized services in the social area and to improve comfort based on the data and experience acquired during the pilot part of the implementation of the *CAMI* program. By adopting such solutions, the organizers have enabled future generations of scientists (inventors) and people at risk of exclusion to lay the foundations for increasing the independence of the target groups.

Under the plan of achieving all the assumptions of the program, it was divided into five parts: analysis and adaptation of the device to the individual needs of the subject; creation of a uniform operating system for managing and supporting motor functions; integration of robot platforms and their optimization; communication and dissemination of results among the stakeholders; as well as the implementation of assumed goals.¹⁶

The analysis and adaptation of the *CAMI* robot to the senior's motor abilities were developed based on programs using broadly understood 3D technology, equipped with sets containing programs of individual exercise bases, whose task was to track and adapt the program to a given stakeholder. Part of the assistant's adaptation to the needs of the elderly allowed for the development of a comprehensive program based on their current health condition, as well as the time of day when the charge was most active.

The second part of the program is closely linked with the analytical phases as it lists all the individual procedures (tables and personal information about the user) that are referred to as the 'backbone' of the robot assistant. The *CAMI* device system is characterized by multifunctionality in the field of constant monitoring of the health of the subject, and in the event of detecting health abnormalities immediately notifies the competent services, supervises proper implementation of exercises, offers a dynamic program for the management of needs and communication using online means, takes care of maintaining interpersonal contacts of the user included in the function of 'caregiver-companion', as well as supports the ability to manage the house.

Apart of the integration and optimization program is an area in which the robot is personalized to the needs of the user as a result of consultations with various specialists, e.g. in the field of medicine, based on relevant health tests.

- 13. AAL solution (Active and Assisted Living) is an integrated system high-tech management in the area of full-care, healthcare, smart home and robotics, responding to the needs of people dependent on the help of others.
- 14. The originators of the project provided for the possibility of interaction using the social function (full-conversations) with family or friends thanks to the monitor at the assistant's disposal. In addition, they also include services in the field of receiving and implementing the subject's instructions, reminding about performing specific activities (e.g. taking necessary medicines) or providing advice on request.
- 15. A. Gołasa, M. Wiśnicka, *CAMI ro-bot asystent dla...*, op. cit.

16. Ibidem.





The next part of the program consists in presenting to the stakeholders the activities and possibilities of the robot-assistant, as well as receiving detailed information and information about each of the operating systems used by the *CAMI* project. In addition, the presentation of the device took place at the forum of the European Commission in order to gain sponsors for the future development of the technologies and operations on a larger scale.

The last element of the project assumptions is a comparison of the set goals with the results obtained from the pilot program and the work schedule. The authors of the *CAMI* activity focused on describing the types of the processes that took place at each stage of the implementation of the plan, and the degree of involvement and participation of partners and stakeholders contributing to the project. An equally important item in the report was the consideration of the quality of the product offered, the response to the commands of the tested user, and the solutions of the *AAL* system. In addition, the conclusions were classified into three groups by the likelihood of risk that could adversely affect the effects of the program. The group characterized by a low degree of risk included: resignations of people participating in the final stage of the tests, in place of which they were ready to join additional recruitment of others. Another undesirable phenomenon was insufficient availability of functions of the robot, which the authors solved by eliminating or replacing unprofitable systems with others, more efficient ones. A similar strategy of eliminating negative assessments was adopted by the partners who had been involved in the team's work from the beginning.

In the moderate-risk group, competition in the markets for robotics-based technologies was included, compared to the solutions proposed by *CAMI* using *AAL* solutions. Reducing the competitiveness of similar software is based on market surveys, which were analyzed with expert groups and then included in environmental strategies developed together with the stakeholders. An element of protection against theft or misuse of the ideas is protection of intellectual property of the parties involved, as well as a confidentiality clause forming part of the responsibility of the entity that proceeded to conclude a contract at a given stage.

The *high* level of risk is focused on the situation caused by delays in the work carried out, which directly translates into inability to implement innovations in the consumer market on time.¹⁷ Projects aimed at minimizing delays include constant monitoring of each stage of the project, as well as the adoption of solutions based on stakeholders' real capabilities.

17. Ibidem





Lokator Project as Part of the Innowacje na Ludzką Miarę Program

A project that equally significantly emphasizes the activities motivated by the idea of helping people at risk of social exclusion, and at the same time fits into the sphere of social safety is *Lokator*¹⁸ as part of the *Innowacje na ludzka miarę*¹⁹ program. The project is addressed to the sick, lonely, and financially oppressed people who have nobody to support them. The authors of the assumptions of the project are Joanna Basińska,²⁰ Bożena Kotowska²¹ and Anna Kwapisz²² from the *Miejski Ośrodek Pomocy Społecznej*²³ (*Municipal Social Welfare Center* - MOPS) operating in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski.

The idea of *Lokator* assumes that an elderly or sick person who lives alone will agree to accept into their home a person who, in exchange for accommodation, will act as a caregiver to the host. This procedure is aimed at improving the living conditions of both people and in particular offer help in the daily handling of matters to people at risk of exclusion.²⁴ The assumptions for the project were initiated basing on of the long time practice of the aforementioned MOPS employees, who undertook innovative efforts as a response to the existing needs of people. The acquired skills and interdisciplinary knowledge of the originators allowed them to connect those in need into pairs to maximize the performance of flatmates.

T he innovation was aimed at two groups of beneficiaries who, according to the authors, are most susceptible to exclusion from society or have problems adapting to the existing environment. The first group included those who were dependent on others due to their physical and/or mental health condition, loneliness (also as a result of the loss of family or spouse), old age, difficulties or inability to establish relationships with the society, which might have been caused by reluctance or passivity on the part of the excluded person. The second group included people who had gone through difficult experiences (eyewitnesses or victims of domestic violence), inmates of children's homes or educational centers for troubled youth, homeless people, or families that had lost their property as a result of a disaster. There is also a distinguishable third group, which includes family members with a certain degree of dependence, who, as a result of the lack of time, do not have either strength or means to supervise such an individual (a senior), and thus are not able to provide them with proper care. In such situation, people can apply for help to aid institutions with specific tasks listed in The Social Assistance $Act.^{25}$

- 18. See: footnote No. 11.
- 19. See: footnote No. 12.
- 20. Joanna Basińska Head of the Service Assistance Department MOPS in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski. For many years she has been professionally involved in helping people in crisis.
- 21. Bożena Kotowska senior social work specialist, coordinator of MOPS. She specializes in addiction therapy and occupational therapy and also works as an academic lecturer.
- 22. Anna Kwapisz MOPS psychologist, psychosocial skills trainer, and sociotherapist, involved in working with adults and youth.
- 23. Miejski Ośrodek Pomocy Społecznej w Ostrowcu Świętokrzyskim, https://mopsostrowiec.pl/, (access 08.07.2021).
- 24. For example, help in the household and household chores, buying prescriptions, monitoring health, or establishing friendly relationships. Innovation brochure: *Lokator*, *łączenie potrzebujących...*, op. cit., p. 4.
- 25. See: Ustawa z dnia 12 marca 2004 o pomocy społecznej, Dz.U. 2004 nr 64 poz. 593, [The Social Assistance Act of 12 March 2004, Journal of Laws of 2004, No. 64, item 593].



It is worth noting that the budget of the *Lokator* project also includes remuneration for employees and specialists providing innovation improvement services through organization of training and purchase of necessary infrastructure to conduct the research and promote the program.

Summary

Support and protection of the elderly and the sick has been one of the overriding duties of the society that respected them since ancient times. Well-deserved respect due to their rich life experience, passing on valuable knowledge about traditions or the ability to resolve the encountered problems put them on the pedestal of every community. An equally important feature of the elders is the role of a cultural transmitter, which sometimes has quite drastic images of the past behind it.

The projects carried out under the *CAMI* and *Lokator* programs, as well as the analysis of their effects presented in the reports, are proof that the third-sector organizations in cooperation with the *Stocznia* Foundation take care of the protection of the most vulnerable people. The phenomenon of social exclusion does not affect only senior citizens, but also people who, due to certain past hardships, are unable to return to their original functioning and find their due place in society. Of course, the older part of the population is the largest due to the ageing population, but it should not be forgotten that it was grandparents who largely shaped the young minds who are responsible for the implementation of social policies in today's world. Organizing programs aimed at the idea of helping and involving groups at risk of exclusion is a simple act by which the ego of the population can give back to show us the world. Caring for each other and those in need builds a strong and lasting society that is aware of support from other social groups. This strengthens the sense of security in the local community in which we live and which has the opportunity to develop freely and correctly perceive the degree of threat.

The *Stocznia* Foundation as an integral part of the *CAMI* and *Lokator* projects cooperates with NGOs and organizations for the development of innovation and science. The Foundation has been involved from the early stages of the projects, which included the examination and analysis of the needs and expectations of users, both senior citizens, their careers, and institutional stakeholders. They also participated in the implementation and dissemination of the solution on a larger scale. Thanks to the institutions such as the aforementioned international consortium along with the Polytechnic University in Bucharest or MOPS it has been possible to develop a novelty on the aid market, as well as adapt the existing solutions, and thus ensure higher efficiency and meet the expectations of beneficiaries.

26. In the sense of giving them due honors owing to their age, social position and knowledge. Worship in ancient times was reserved only for spirits, deities and gods – the transcendental sphere, the spiritual world, from where, according to beliefs, all the causative powers came. See: R.A. Rappaport, *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity*, Cambridge University Press 1999.



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Karolina Kochańczyk-Bonińska*

Ekoteologia

by Jarosław Babiński, Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR: Wydawnictwo Instytutu Nauki o Polityce, Warszawa 2020, pp. 247

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Nowadays, definitely nobody doubts the significance of ecological problems. The issues associated therewith affect the functioning of contemporary man and have found a prominent place in the reflection on the world pursued in various sciences, journalism, as well as the popular cultural discourse. Given its origins, a natural plane for carrying out ecological reflection are biological and natural sciences, though it has long gone beyond their limits and has become an integral element of scientific reflection actually in every area of knowledge. It is therefore by no means a surprise that ecological problems have also inspired theological thought. Germinally it appeared in theology in connection with its articulation of social issues and then it developed – as a response to the discernment of the signs of the times postulated by the Second Vatican Council – in the teaching of the Magisterium of the Church and the reflection of theologians primarily during the pontificates of the three last popes: John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. Ecotheology has found its due place among other theological disciplines. In this context, interesting seems to be the monograph *Ekoteologia* (Ecotheology) authored by Father Jarosław Babiński – professor at the Theological Faculty of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

* University of Warsaw, e-mail: k.kochanczyk-b@uw.edu.pl, https:// orcid.org/0000-0002-4510-6111



Babiński's monograph is undoubtedly a very much needed book. Until its publication, there had not been any comprehensive study in Polish theological literature showing ecological problems in the aspect of dogmatic theology. It was realised most fully in the third, most important and most extensive chapter of the treatise entitled *Ecodogmatics*. In the opinion of the author, which is hard not to be shared, dogmatic theology is the most crucial among all theological disciplines as it formulates doctrinal foundations of faith. Outlining his visions of the ecotheological problem the author situates it in an unequivocal reference to theological anthropology and develops it in the major spaces of traditionally systematised dogmatic theology. They are delimited by: creation science, christology and eschatology. Obviously, it is not a closed formula. Building an integral vision of the ecotheological problem, the author unhesitatingly reaches out to other sections of systematic theology, pointing out their tangency and complementarity in a principles, ecological and theological narration. He himself expounds on certain issues and shows the possibilities of their further in-depth treatment.

The publication offers an extremely interesting and positive vision of the ecological problem. Basing on the theology of creation, the author presents the special mission of man in the world which God has entrusted to him as a place for growth and development. He is to have dominion over it, which means responsible usage of its assets, reading of God's intentions by man and participation in *creatio continua* – use of its resources through creation of culture and civilisation with the awareness that the world has been given to him as a lease rather than as his property. Father Babiński clearly outlines here the teaching of the Church, which has been many a time accused of legitimising a thoughtless and predatory attitude towards creation. The vision of man as a keeper of the world by God's will becomes further integrated and confirm by Jesus Christ, who through the mystery of His Redemption has given the world the status of "new creation", the destiny of which is to partake in the reality of "new heaven and earth". From the eschatological point of view its means participation of all creation in everlasting happiness and its transformation.

The main aim the author of the monography set for himself was to develop a comprehensive eco-dogmatic vision. This does not mean, however, that this is the sole dimensions of his investigations. Of interest are also the analyses of both the methodological as well as the theological-historical character. As regards the former, it is discussed in the first chapter



of the monograph. The author outlines in it the genesis of environmental studies, the multidimensional development of which generated autonomously conceived ecotheology and ecophilosophy. We see here an attempt to specify the competences, extent and method of ecological studies undertaken in theology and philosophy, special consideration being given to an ever more intensely voiced postulate to build a comprehensive and multidimensional vision of significant scientific questions – that is so-called transdisciplinarity. Regardless of the latter, ecotheology appears as a new, extremely important and autonomous discipline of theological sciences.

Another look at ecotheology is an attempt to outline its evolution, which is to be found in chapter two. The author tries to present the development of the theological though in the Catholic Church, analysing the teachings of consecutive pontiffs. The beginnings of the teaching on ecology in the Church should be seen – in the opinion of the author – in the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* by Leo XIII, dedicated to social issues. The original intuitions were developed at the time of the Second Vatican Council (pontificates of John XXIII and Paul VI), to assume a comprehensive character in the teaching of John Paul II (especially in the *Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace 1990* – a theological résumé of the teaching of the Magisterium of the Church on ecology). Then he presents the main ecological topics in the teaching of Pope Benedict XVI, once hailed as "the green pope", to close this historical review with the pontificate of Pope Francis and his encyclical *Laudato si*.

This extensive introduction is a point of departure to constructing a dogmatic vision of ecology (which has been already described above). However, the author does not stop there. This integral vision of ecotheology becomes a point of departure for showing its praxeological implications. This is expounded on in chapter four. The first issue discussed therein is the problem of the so-called ecological sin, that is showing the need to build individual and public awareness of responsibility which always accompanies human activities and the consequences of which are also of an ecological nature. There is a need – in the author's opinion – to make man aware of the negative effects of his behaviour effecting from either thoughtless or greedy and egoistical use of natural resources. The awakening of awareness of the existence of ecological sin should be accompanies by positive education. Herein the author sees special responsibilities of the theological ecological discourse in awakening awareness, mentality and pro-ecological attitudes. At the same time, he also perceives the dangers of ex-





treme solutions brought about by the temptation to ideologise ecological ideas since it turns into ecologism.

The approach to ecotheology proposed in Babiński's book appears to be cohesive and comprehensive. It situates this subject in the realm of theological discipline, showing its origins and relationships with other fields of science dealing with ecological issues. This is important for identifying the opportunities for mutual inspiration, cooperation and development. Babiński's book has been based on an extensive foreign bibliography guaranteeing in-depth elaboration of the investigated subject. This abundant bibliography may also offer valuable help in further quests for people interested in ecotheology.

Summing up, Jarosław Babiński's *Ekoteologia* is a valuable scientific monograph. However, it is by no means a hermetic study. It may be helpful for those who are professionally engaged in theology, but may also offer an interesting reading for everyone who is interested in knowing the theological approach to ecological issues and thus expand the horizon of this important and topical problem.