

Abstract

(Tadeusz Kowalik's thesis on the Polish systemic transformation as a "bourgeois revolution of the epigones" in the light of Jan Baszkiewicz's model of revolution)

The aim of the dissertation was to verify the following hypothesis: it is possible to reconstruct Tadeusz Kowalik's views on the Polish systemic transformation at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s in such a way that the effect of this reconstruction—in the light of Jan Baszkiewicz's model of bourgeois revolutions—would constitute a convincing justification for the thesis that at that time Poland witnessed a "bourgeois revolution of the epigones." In order to achieve the above goal, three basic research methods were used: analysis and critique of the literature, rational reconstruction, and comparative analysis.

The dissertation was divided into five parts. The Introduction presents Tadeusz Kowalik's scientific achievements, an overview of the literature devoted to his works, an outline of the theory of revolution, as well as the goals, hypothesis, assumptions and research methods. The first chapter discusses in detail the thesis put forward by Kowalik in 1996, stating that the Polish systemic transformation of the late 1980s was in fact a special case of the bourgeois revolution: the "bourgeois revolution of the epigones." The second chapter is devoted to the presentation of Jan Baszkiewicz's synthesis of the views of the classics of Marxism on bourgeois revolutions. In the third chapter, on the basis of selected works by Tadeusz Kowalik devoted to the Polish transition, his views and statements that may be considered as proving the thesis of the "bourgeois revolution of the epigones" in Poland are reconstructed. Finally, the Summary presents a comparative analysis of the list of features of bourgeois revolutions according to Baszkiewicz (from chapter two) with the list of Kowalik's claims (developed in chapter three) that could serve as arguments corresponding to these features in the reconstructed justification of his thesis.

It was established that in Tadeusz Kowalik's works we can identify the threads corresponding to ten out of the sixteen features of bourgeois revolutions present in Jan Baszkiewicz's model. The eleventh one turned out to be partially present in Kowalik's pieces. Two further features were identified in what was termed a "perverse" manner. No references to three of Baszkiewicz's criteria were found in Kowalik. On this basis, the conclusion of the dissertation states that the hypothesis is considered conditionally verified.

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