

POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN POLAND: A SPECIAL CASE OR A GENERAL RULE?

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‘If we want things to stay as they are, everything will have to change.’
(Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa)

Abstract: *The goal of this work is an attempt at ascertaining the actual and not alleged architects-beneficiaries of transformation and later integration with the EU. The first hypothesis is that the transformation was possible, and even unavoidable, thanks to the change of the fundamental purpose (role) of Polish economy, inspired, stimulated, and accepted by the Soviet Union from the role of a supplier of the Soviet arms industry to a natural goal of the free market economy, that is obtaining profits by satisfying needs. The second hypothesis is that the architects and the beneficiaries of changes in the political system of Poland – the so-called political transformation – was not as much Solidarity as the elites (old and new – whatever it means) originating from the People’s Republic of Poland,¹ and the invited – to use Comrade Lenin’s handy phrase – “useful fools”. The initiated changes were eagerly supported, and still are supported and even guaranteed by the international capital operating in the shadow of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the institutions of the European Union, perceiving new opportunities of expansion therein.*

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