SOCIAL GROUPS IN POLISH SOCIETY

Social Groups in Polish Society

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The volumes are as follows:

Ghița Ionescu (University of Manchester): The Evolution of the Socialist State

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The individual volumes have different titles and each of them is a self-contained, independent study on a separate subject.

Together they form a tripartite analysis of three given Socialist states of Eastern Europe: Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, as follows:

<i>Subject of study</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	<i>Yugoslavia</i>
The changing role of representative institutions	Jane Cave G. Sakwa	J. F. N. Bradley	R. K. Kindersley
The changing role of the Party	Jane Cave	A. H. Brown and G. Wightman	Phyllis Auty
The changing role of the groups in the interplay between the government and the economy	L. Blit, R. W. Davies, R. Amann, and T. Podolski David Lane and George Kolankiewicz	Jaroslav Krejčí Vladimir V. Kusin	F. Singleton D. Matko and D. J. R. Scott

See for a complete description of the project in the Appendix of *The Evolution of the Socialist State*, by Ghița Ionescu in this series.

Each book in the series will carry its own index of names and subjects. When all eleven volumes have been published a complete synoptical index to the series will be published.

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Preface

The subject of this book is the study of social groups in Poland. By a 'group' in its widest sense we mean an aggregate or category of persons having relationships with each other, possessing common qualities or features which sometimes give rise to shared norms and values. We do not claim that social groups are the only or necessarily the most important aspect of social and political change. But we do believe that a fuller appreciation of politics may be afforded by an understanding of the group structure. In the past, studies of East European societies after the Second World War have overwhelmingly concentrated on *political* groups and processes to the exclusion of the social. We hope that this book will help redress the balance as far as Poland is concerned. We take the view that the study of the formation of social groups is important in its own right as well as providing insight into the political process. The industrialisation process carried out by the Communist élites in the State socialist societies of Eastern Europe has had a momentous impact on the social structure of these countries which we seek to describe and thereby to show the interaction of political and social forces.

The book is arranged in the following way. The first chapter is a general introduction to the changing social, political and economic structure of Poland both before and after the foundation of the People's Republic of Poland. Whereas this chapter is a macro study, the ones which follow are micro studies, each dealing with a particular social group: the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia. We have organised the study around social groups, rather than on themes, to facilitate comparative study of these phenomena in the other two countries which comprise this series (Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia). These general social groups have been found to include many sub-groups which have made a complete description impossible. We have, therefore, in addition to a general introduction on

each group, focused in some chapters on a more detailed study of one sub-group: in the case of the cultural intelligentsia, we have considered the writers and their expression through the Polish Writers' Association; the technical intelligentsia has been limited to engineers and directors of enterprises. Each study attempts to describe the changing structure of the group. We have indicated the ways demands are made on the political system, and in the chapter on local political authorities we have studied the interaction of social groups in the locality. We hope that a following volume in this series will emphasise the more political significance of these studies as it concentrates more on political institutions and processes. In this following book too is a study of the Roman Catholic Church in Polish society. The time period covered for each subject in this volume is from 1945 to the assumption of the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party by Gierek and the emphasis is on the later Gomułka epoch. In the conclusion some tentative points are made about changes which have taken place in 1971 as well as a general summing-up of the significance of the various studies.

We are indebted to many people and institutions who have made this book possible. The monograph was inspired by Professor Ghița Ionescu, who has acted as the co-ordinator of the comparative study on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia of which the study is a part. The British Social Science Research Council played a major part in providing finance which enabled George Kolankiewicz to work full-time as a research fellow on the project and facilitated visits to Poland to collect information by him and Ray Taras. We would like to express our thanks to the following for help given to the authors in the course of their work: the Institute of Sociology of Warsaw University, the Institute of Administration and Management of Warsaw University, the Polish Library, London.

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