

ABSTRACTS

3/2007 Mniejszości narodowe i etniczne

Krzysztof Kwaśniewski

On the Logic of Nationality Studies

Analyses of nationality problems in today's world more and more often rely on data which are tendentiously untrue, one-sided and conceal numerous facts, usually in compliance with supranational interests of the superpowers and corporations. Scientific apparatus, though increasingly sophisticated, becomes defenseless in such circumstances. It seems therefore that the only way to study those problems is by means of political science speculations at most backed up by the theory of games or descriptions of different discourses devoid of any assessment.

Joanna Dobrowolska-Polak

A Panorama of Ethnic and National Minorities

The article focuses on the analysis of the likelihood of escalation of ethnic and national conflicts to the level of armed conflict. Two basic causes of the escalation of conflicts are assessed: 1. the state's use of political and economic discrimination practices against members of ethnic and national minorities (part III), and 2. the minorities' drive to increase their independence and scope of self-government (part IV). The first two parts of the article deal with the issue of identifying ethnic and national minorities in Europe (Part I) and the world (Part II).

The undertaken analysis falsified two hypotheses lately quite commonly accepted in political sciences, as to: 1) a growing number of ethnic and national armed conflicts; and 2) a constant tendency of national minorities to escalate conflicts in order to improve the situation of their own group and increase the scope of self-government. On the other hand the analysis confirmed the thesis that the likelihood of escalation of conflict to the level of armed conflict rises markedly in states with widespread conspicuous discrimination practices (socio-political or economic) exercised by members of the dominant ethnic or national group, as well as in states with a noticeable policy of explicit restriction by the government of participation of members of a group in political and/or economic life.

Grzegorz Janusz

The Polish Act on National Minorities

In contemporary Europe minority acts which define the rights of national minorities have been introduced in the legislation of 21 states - mainly east of the Elbe. Among the most recently adopted regulations is the act on national and ethnic minorities and on regional language which after nearly eleven years of work was passed by the Polish Parliament on 6 January 2005.

The act regulates first of all the rights of the minorities which had previously been regulated by the rules of other legal acts. These include: minority education, the right to notate first names

and family names in accordance with the person's mother tongue, cultural activity and financing of minority activities.

A completely new regulation defined the notion of national minority, ethnic minority and regional language. Another new element of the act was a restricted list of minorities. The greatest debates accompanied work on three issues: introduction of a minority's mother tongue as a subsidiary official language, the use of double topographic nomenclature and the creation of a separate office for the implementation of the policy on minorities.

Andrzej Sakson

Klaipeda Land. Population Changes 1945-1950

After the end of the Second World War the territory of Klaipeda Land (Ger. Memelland) became part of Soviet Lithuania. The population that formed the region's new society included three main groups: 1) former inhabitants (Prussian Lithuanians, Curonians and Germans); 2) Lithuanian settlers mostly from the neighbouring Samogitia; 3) Russians who held privileged posts.

Karolina Podgórska

The Conflict over Islamic Headscarves in France

The problem of wearing religious symbols in France seems to be an issue of extreme importance and one that evokes strong emotions in the Fifth Republic of France. The article gives a short description of the history of the controversy and debate over wearing religious symbols in France. It also looks at the legal regulations, and considers the legitimacy of the adopted solution and its possible consequences. The reflections are presented against the backdrop of the French idea of *laïcité*, i.e. the lay character of the state and separation of the authority of the state and the Church which functions legally in France since the beginning of the 20th century. 1989 is taken as the starting point of the history of the conflict over wearing religious symbols, since it was then that the "headscarf incident" took place at the school in Creil. From that moment on a heated political and social debate began, in the course of which state authorities made various (also contradictory) decisions "about headscarves" (a cliché for all, not just Muslim religious symbols). Many groups joined in the discussion - churches, lay organizations and public institutions. Interestingly, the debate was not limited to the problem of wearing religious symbols at school, but also concerned other places such as the French street or place of work.

Wojciech Szczepański

Myths and Stereotypes. The Attitude of Serbian Elites to Albanians from the Kosovo Vilayet (1878-1912)

The article presents myths and stereotypes manifested in Serbo-Albanian relations in the years 1878-1912 as a significant influence that shaped the attitude of Serbs towards Albanians from the Kosovo vilayet in that period. The study is narrowed down to this Osman province as the scene of a full spectrum of neighbourly relations between representatives of both nations, not free from dramatic clashes and bloody incidents. The attitude of Serbs to Albanians was determined by the viewpoint of myths as well as the presence of stereotype images and descriptions, so the treatment of the topic takes into account the outlook of the Serbian elites (from Belgrade, the local elite of Kosovo, and Serbian diplomatic representatives in service abroad). The testimonies left by them provided source evidence accessible directly in the

documentary material, and indirectly in the works of historians who used and interpreted the material. The article also refers to the author's own findings, included in his as yet unpublished doctoral dissertation (*Serbs and Albanians in the Years 1878-1918*, June 2005).

In disclosing the myths present in Serbo-Albanian relations on the turn of the 19th and 20th century, thus also in the attitude of the Serbian elite to Albanians, and reflected as well in the then emerging "Albanian issue", attention is drawn to the Serbian myth of Kosovo, the Serbian myth of the "Golden Age", Serbian and Albanian heroic myths and the Albanian myth of the nation's origin. The fact that Serbs justified their nation's rights to the territory of the Kosovo vilayet by referring to the first of the above mentioned myths whereas Albanians based their claims to the disputed territories on last one, inevitably led to conflicts, which often evolved from milder forms to open confrontations with the use of force.

Ewa Godlewska

Educational Rights of the Slovenian and Croatian Minorities in the Republic of Austria

In Austria there is considerable discrepancy between the educational rights of particular national minorities. There is no single legal regulation concerning minority education. The situation of each group is regulated individually. Two such groups - the Slovenian and Croatian minorities enjoy the biggest rights. The basic document in Carinthia, a region with the Slovenian minority is the act on minority education of 1959. In the case of the other group, appropriate legal regulations were adopted much later. In Burgenland, where there are numerous communities of the Croatian minority, the law in force is the act of minority education of 1994. The above mentioned acts are based on the National Treaty of 1955. It provides among others for the possibility of teaching classes in the Slovenian and Croatian languages. The present law, apart from bilingual education in state schools, provides also for establishing private educational institutions, including nursery schools, and enables assistance from public funds. The latter are allocated for research on language, the writing and publication of school textbooks or teacher training.

Danuta Nikitenko, Włodzimierz Nikitenko

Ukrainian Schools in Legnica

The study deals with the problem of Ukrainian education on Polish territory in post-war reality. First, it provides an explanation of its origins with special emphasis on the lands of Lower Silesia, followed by a presentation of the legal context of the functioning Ukrainian education and its history in the city of Legnica. The authors refer to source materials that illustrate the circumstances of those times. They rely mostly on the documentation of the present-day Cluster of Ukrainian Schools in Legnica, where the rudiments of Ukrainian education in the region of Lower Silesia were created.

Andrzej Choniawko

Policy towards the Romani Minority in the Years 1952-1973 on the Example of Wielkopolska (Great Poland)

From the 15th century onward Roma have been a stable element of Poland's ethnic structure. Differently than other ethnic minorities they did not succumb to the process of assimilation with the native population. For centuries there had been no major changes in Romani customs, the basic one being a nomadic lifestyle. In the course of increasing totalitarian tendencies of the political system established in Poland in 1945, the Roma's nomadic and thus uncontrolled

lifestyle was in growing contradiction with the norms imposed on the whole of society. Starting from 1952 special administrative measures were implemented towards a social assimilation of the Roma, but their efficiency was limited, especially in what was the central objective of state policy regarding Roma, namely inducing them to convert to a settled life. Wielkopolska (Great Poland) was one of those regions where realization of the state policy toward Roma encountered serious obstacles. Although actions undertaken in the years 1952-1975 did bring significant changes in the Roma's way of life, the process of their social assimilation was to continue for many years. In certain respects even today it cannot be considered as completed.

Tadeusz Białek

Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in the Legal Framework of the Council of Europe

The history of the 20th century made it clear that persons belonging to national minorities are in need of special protection. The aim of the article is to establish whether the mechanism of the Council of Europe, with a variety of approaches and working methods at its disposal, really makes a difference to the protection of national minorities. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (adopted in 1995) as the primary document guaranteeing protection by the Council of Europe to persons belonging to minorities and The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages adopted in 1992 to protect and promote historical regional and minority languages in Europe, are precisely analyzed in the article, also within the context of the effectiveness of their control mechanisms. The previous protection, based only on the general rule of non-discrimination (article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights) was insufficient, although the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) had an important role to play in clarifying the scope and application of article 14 to persons belonging to national minorities. The author also presents the case-law of the ECHR. Considering the fact that the Convention and Charter contain mostly programme - type provisions, the article presents the activity of the control bodies - especially Advisory Committee on Minorities, which has put a lot of time into interpreting the provisions as well as providing guidance to States on how to implement them. The author also presents practical and political obstacles to full implementation of the provisions mentioned above.

Anna Górna-Kubacka

The Nikos Belojanis Association of Political Refugees from Greece in Poland, Poznań Branch

The civil war in Greece in the years 1946-1949 resulted, among others, in the departure of about 100 thousand citizens of this state. It was the biggest emigration wave after the Second World War. Part of the émigrés were settled in Poland on rights of political asylum, in a total of 15 215 persons.

First refugees came to Poznań from Greece in 1951 from Zgorzelec. It was a group of men and part of them started studying at the Radio-technical College (Technikum Radiotechniczne). In the next year families came to join them. In the period from 1952 to 1985 in Poznań lived 20 families, and about 80 persons stayed here temporarily. Most of the men found employment in Poznańska Wytwórnia Papierosów (Poznań Cigarette Factory) and in the Zakłady Przemysłu Metalowego H. Cegielski (H. Cegielski Metal Works).

The article represents the fates of this ethnic group in Poznań, in the economic, social and cultural plane, including the everyday life of Greeks grouped in the Poznań branch of the Association of Political Refugees from Greece in Poland. It shows also their cultural life, cultivation of their own language and culture, and learning Polish history and tradition of the

region. During those years the Greeks assimilated ethnically and were socially promoted thanks to the educational ambitions of the young generation of Greeks studying in Poznań. Greeks also enriched the city's cultural life. One might mention here such figures as the poet Nikos Chadzinikolau who wrote mainly in Polish, and the operatic singer Paulos Raptis or the singer Eleni.