

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

The research aims at comprehensive and interdisciplinary analysis of agrarian reforms conducted in Poland in the last century. The idea of research into agrarian reforms results from my interest in complex and multi-aspect phenomena which occur at the interface of state, economy and society, which makes them interesting for various sciences. From the point of view of an economist, the problem of agrarian reforms is worth studying mainly because it concerns a significant production factor, namely land, and land ownership structure. However, I do not want to study only the economic side of agrarian reforms, which can easily be summed up with figures. I am interested also in the non-measurable aspect of the phenomenon, following the words of Einstein who once said that “not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.” I treat agrarian reforms as a process occurring interdependently in three domains: economic, political and social. Land disposal is in fact disposal of political influence, and agrarian reforms always bring about social changes. This is why I have chosen political economy as a methodological and theoretical research perspective for agrarian reform phenomenon. Such a perspective helps examine economic phenomena in socio-political context.

Since I have chosen the last century as a period of research, starting from 1918 (in the context of the approaching jubilee of a centennial of Poland’s independence in 2018), I will deal with various socio-political conditions, as the century under consideration saw three different socio-political regimes (II Republic of Poland, Polish People’s Republic and III Republic of Poland). I marked three huge agrarian reforms on a one-hundred-year time axis. Each reform was implemented by a different regime: the 1925 reform after WWI, the 1944 reform marked by PKWN decree and privatization resulting from 1989 transformation.

I will conduct my research so that to identify the causes of agrarian reforms, to identify socio-economic institutions which shape agrarian reforms: to define mechanisms of adoption and implementation of agrarian reforms and to list results of agrarian reforms and their consequences for the state, economy and society. As a result of comparative analysis I want to find common (universal) and specific (peculiar) features of particular agrarian reforms and to show the influence of social and political changes on the formation and implementation of the reforms, which in their nature always assume economic change as the main goal.

Although the research is going to be mainly historical, I hope that its results will allow for discovering regularities which govern agrarian reforms which are an important form of institutional transformation and to better understand their mechanisms. As history shows, agrarian reforms have been implemented, are implemented and we should expect that they will be implemented in the future, because times change as well as political systems, but certain key problems do not change, they persist, although they assume a different form.