

Instrumentalization of law on the example of selected regulations concerning spatial development in People's Poland (1945-1989) – description for the general public.

1. Objective of the project.

After the World War II in the terribly destroyed Polish capital Warsaw, the decision was made not to repair the bourgeois apartment buildings located on the Marszałkowska street, despite the degree of damage allowed reconstruction of many buildings and, what is more, such reconstruction was economically justified. Soon, under the so-called *Bierut Decree*, all building plots became the property of the state. Subsequently, special, state-owned institutions established under the extraordinary legal provisions (e. g. Biuro Odbudowy Stolicy – the Office for Reconstruction of The Capital City) started the process of designing and construction of entirely new and completely different housing district on the site of former capitalist, luxurious buildings.

Why socialist government decided to symbolically break with the past and what methods were used to shape the new city rebuilt from scratch consistent with the dominant political ideology? My research was designed to answer also to this question. The main objective of this project is to find out how the authorities of People's Poland have been instrumentalizing the law in order to shape society in accordance with the aims and needs of political ideology - on the example of construction, architecture and urban planning.

2. Research to be carried out.

The whole project will be divided into five stages. The purpose of the research in the first of them will be to the vision of a “good society” provided by the People's Poland’s political ideology and that objectives formulated by that ideology, which are associated with the investigated areas of social and economic life. Two groups of materials will be analyzed for that purpose. The first group might be called "general sources" and includes: propaganda materials, speeches, transcripts from party meetings and publications of the Central Committee of Polish United Workers' Party, correspondence and memories of communist activists, as well as articles from the daily press. The second group of materials can be named "professional sources" and includes documents of organizations of builders, architects and urban planners, documentation of architectural competitions and professional literature and journals. In the second stage, that reconstruction of the "vision of a good society" will be used to indicate several dozen of the most important priorities of the government of the People's Poland in the field of spatial development (e.g. nationalization, centralization of housing cooperatives movement). In the third stage, methods of the legal regulation of activities related to priority areas of spatial development in People’s Poland will be determined. The fourth stage of the project will cover determining the degree and methods of instrumentalization of the law for the needs of political ideology in People's Poland on the basis of the case study of the spatial development. In the fifth and final stage of the project, it will be tested whether the methods of the instrumentalization of the law determined on the basis of the case study of spatial development were used in other areas of socio-economic life (eg education, health care) also.

3. Reasons for choosing the research topic.

The most important reason why the research covered by this project should be carried out is the need to investigate the methods of the instrumental usage of law for the influence on the socio-economic life in accordance to the needs of political ideology. New knowledge about relations between law and politics will be acquired.

Determining the methods of the instrumentalization of law is possible by the study of a particular case. I decided to choose a case of spatial development and political ideology of People's Poland because the results of such research will help us better understand why buildings and housing estates built before 1989 were designed in certain particular way. Investigating the influence of political ideology on housing, architecture and urban planning is particularly important because the effects of activity of the People’s Poland’s national economy are still present in an environment of each of us. Therefore, the results will help to understand the world around us. However, this is only one of many areas of social and economic life. Experience gained during the project can facilitate subsequent similar studies on other areas of life, as well as other historical periods (together with political ideologies, which were in force in particular time).