During the course of the 20th century Polish criminal law evolved, Three penal codes of 1932, 1969 and 1997 summarized this process. There is a lack of literature which would show the ideological and axiological foundations of those changes, particularly in comparative perspective. The proposed research project aims at filling this gap by analysing the problem of axiological and ideological foundations of penal policy implemented through penal codes. The research project will involve an analysis of materials produced by codification commissions and writings by legal scholars. On this basis, the research project will reconstruct the ideological and axiological approaches and views of the reformers of Polish criminal law in the Second and Third Republic of Poland until the enactment of Criminal Code of 1997.