

This project aims to reconstruct and analyze the discourse of the scientific-technical revolution (STR) in socialist Poland in the 1960s and 1970s. I treat the STR as an attempt to find a new language to legitimize the reform of socialism, which to some extent, determined the reform's goals and related institutional practices. I am thus interested in this revolution as a specific socialist development doctrine for peripheral countries, based on the ideal of technocratic rule and a vision of far-reaching transformations of the social structure. Analyzing its functioning in a transnational context will provide a better understanding of what state socialism was in its mature form and provide an insight into the structures of dependency in the world system.

The concept of the scientific-technical revolution, introduced by John D. Bernal, an Irish physicist, historian of science, and communist activist, met with great interest in the USSR in the late 1950s, and in the following decade it became widespread in the progressive communist party circles throughout the Soviet bloc. The STR in Poland was a part of the regional response to the diagnosed economic crisis in the socialist countries caused by the exhaustion of the potential of growth based on forcible industrialization.

The answer to the global challenges of technological progress was to redefine the relationship between the state and science. A crucial role in this change was played by the planning and coordination of scientific research within large projects with priority status and increased funding. Concentration on such projects was to serve the increase of scientific productivity determined, among other things, by innovative implementations into the economy. An important complement to the institutional transformation was the development of forecasting. Intensive research was also conducted with regard to the changes taking place in the social structure and lifestyles, which were seen as an important part of Poland's modernization processes.

The project aims to address two fundamental questions. First, it seeks to identify what social conditions were associated with the effective entry into the phase of intensive development. Second, it seeks to situate the discourse of the scientific-technical revolution in the context of changes in the contemporary world, including the transformation of global capitalism.

The research is based on the analysis of four types of sources: i) archival documents of the Science and Education Department of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, and the Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technology, ii) the theoretical and ideological monthly *Nowe Drogi* [New Paths] of the Polish United Workers' Party, iii) the weekly *Polityka* [Politics], published under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, and iv) sociological articles and books from the period in question.

The project will provide a better understanding of the evolution of state socialism in Poland and Central Europe. It will present the most important features of the social thinking of the PZPR elite and set them in the context of institutional practices and political processes. It will also provide a novel perspective on the dynamics of capitalist transformation in the region.