

The Communist International (Comintern), founded in 1919, served to promote the communist idea globally and to provide structural support for communist parties and movements. The long-term aim of the organisation was to prepare and lead a world revolution to overthrow capitalism and lay the foundations for universal freedom. Although this plan was not realised, the existence of the Comintern had a significant impact on interwar politics and political thinking. For Communism appeared as a viable alternative to the liberal democracy that dominated Europe in the first years after the First World War, and later as a counterweight to the danger posed by fascism.

In recent years the Comintern has been looked upon as a transnational ideological and intellectual formation and a structure with a specific organisational culture, thus departing from the Cold War paradigm, according to which the organisation with its headquarters in Moscow was nothing more than an emanation of the imperial interests of the Soviet Union. The new way of looking at the Comintern is almost absent in Polish studies. This conclusion can be applied to the Polish part of the International, i.e. to the Communist Workers Party of Poland/Communist Party of Poland (CWPP/CP). So far, for example, there has been no research on the CWPP/CP Representation at the Executive Committee of the Communist International. This was a link in the exchange of information and instructions between the Moscow headquarters of the International and the leadership of the Polish section, i.e. the CWPP/CKPP, functioning from 1921 to 1938, i.e. until the dissolution of the party.

The project includes tasks in the field of basic research and is an attempt to identify a new area of research that has so far been of little interest to Polish (and foreign) scientists. The aim of the project is to reconstruct the structure and activity of the Representation in the years indicated, to look at it from the personnel point of view, and to describe the organisational culture characterising this political agenda. An important research problem will also be to determine the degree of dependence/autonomy of this body on both the Comintern leadership and the CWPP/CP leadership, whose emanations were the Political Bureau and the National Secretariat. Research on the Representation may also contribute to a better understanding of the degree and dynamics of the Polish party's dependence on the Comintern and the attempts (unsuccessful) made by the party leadership to build a certain autonomy within the communist movement. These are important questions because they can be related to a broader issue, namely the nature of Polish communism in general.

The basic documentation of the Representation is located in the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow. This location is certainly one of the reasons for the lack of research on the Agenda. Before 1989, as access to its aforementioned archives was almost entirely limited, after 1989, in turn, it was used occasionally, and few researchers focused on searching the archival complex mainly for documents related to the history of the KPP in general.

The lack of research on the Comintern and its Polish part prevents domestic researchers from participating in an international scientific network reflecting on this organisation. The presented project is also meant to overcome a certain impossibility. The research will result in publications that will introduce new topics to scientific circulation. They will focus on archival searches in the Moscow RGASPI. They will be supplemented by searches in the Archive of New Files in Warsaw and in libraries - the Lenin Library in Moscow and the Sejm Library in Warsaw, which stores materials of the former Department of the History of the Polish United Workers' Party. The final result of the project will be two English-language publications in international journals (listed in Scopus and/or Web of Science databases) and a monograph.