

Between 1944 and 1948, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe underwent radical socio-economic changes. Among the most important measures were land reform and the nationalisation of industry. However, the changes affected almost every sector of the economy. This project aims to analyse these changes from the perspective of two regions similar in terms of economic development and social structure of the population - southern Poland and Slovakia. The territorial and problematic scope thus defined is intended to answer the question of the independence of the communists' actions (whether they were coordinated, or whether there was the possibility of pursuing "national paths to socialism") and the empowerment of the broad masses of society. Whether there was a social revolution at the time and, if so, who played a dominant role in it. Support for increased state intervention in the economy had been growing since the Great Depression. The question is to what extent did the Communists and other political parties capitalise on this sentiment and to what extent did they correct their actions under its influence. The project is intended to provide an answer to the question of power-society relations in relation to the socio-economic changes in the first post-war years. The comparative method will make it possible to identify common and specific features of the transformation and to show the communists' actions and social reactions in a broader context. The inclusion of social attitudes in the research broadens the issue to include questions about their reactions to perceived public sentiment. The focus on economic and social issues, based on the author's source research as well as previous studies of Polish, Slovak and Czech historiography, will expand the existing knowledge and provide new insights into the transformation of the social and economic system in Central Europe.