

ABSTRACT

Catholicism as a polarising factor in the major conflict of worldviews in Poland after 1989

Religion determine ethical and political choices of many Poles. Still majority of them are Catholics, however Polish Catholics are very diverse. Diverse is also social thought of that group. Among them we observe both traditionalist and progressive demands. There are also intermediate positions. In opposition to these groups are secularist circles formulate their requests.

In the early nineties the Catholic Church in Poland received a significant impact on policy, which provoked strong criticism. On the other hand, an increasingly important role began to play liberal worldview and capitalism has resulted in an increase in attitudes of consumerism. In this way, there has been a significant social conflicts. Secularization theory suggests that the effect of these phenomena and processes should be a weakening of the public role of religion. I decided to examine if it truly happened in the field of political thought. So, it is true that Catholicism lose his position in the political sphere? Or maybe that confession remained a key factor for political thinkers in Poland. My research has shown that Catholicism remained the main point of reference in great part of ideological debates – in debates in which crucial are ethical issues. Knowledge of the arguments of Catholic social teaching is on the different levels among social thinkers, but both its critics and supporters remains it is a factor that determines the shape of the social order in Poland. Of course both of these groups differing evaluation of this phenomenon.

In discussions on the subject of abortion, the rights of sexual minorities, model of the public sphere, decommunisation and lustration and also the role of Christianity in European integration, position based on Catholic social teaching remain the main subject of favorable comments and criticism of Polish social activists and politicians. As shown by my research, the use of these issues, to build his political position, often turns against those who adopt choose such strategy.