KATARZYNA AMROZY¹

Michał Strzelecki, Waldemar Zubrzycki, Dariusz Jurczak (eds.), *Jaka administracja? Rozważania nad teorią i praktyką administracji polskiej po 1989 roku* [What Kind of an Administration? Considerations on Theory and Practice of the Polish Administration after 1989], Wydawnictwo Uczelniane Wyższej Szkoły Informatyki i Ekonomii TWP, Olsztyn 2016, pp. 302

Transformations that took place in Poland in the 1990s still allow the researchers a wide field for discussions. They included a variety of political, legal, administrative, organizational and economic issues. The Academic Publishing House of The University of Computer Science and Economics in Olsztyn published a collective work entitled *Jaka administracja? Rozważania nad teorią i praktyką administracji polskiej po 1989 roku* [What kind of an administration? Considerations on theory and practice of the Polish administration after 1989]. The editors are Michał Strzelecki, Waldemar Zubrzycki, and Dariusz Jurczak. As it is pointed out in the very introduction: “Their [stances of political groups – K.A.] variation was influenced primarily by differing visions of organizing the state, which naturally determined the way of viewing structures and rights of the administration, and as follows, its functions and attitudes towards the citizens” (p. 5). The authors of works included represent approaches of different fields of science – from political, through law, economy and history, to internal security. Certainly, it can be treated as a merit of

¹ Faculty of Political Sciences and International Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland.

this publication – its multidimensional coverage of the administrative transformation issue. Numerous charts, graphs and maps help to illustrate the content.

The publication totals 21 parts, which unfortunately were not sorted by the abovementioned fields. As is the case with most similar works, the level of quality of the articles is not equal – we can find original and interesting topics, as well as repeatedly discussed and reproduced subjects. In the following part, I would like to shortly mention the articles and issues touched upon in the *What kind of an administration? Considerations on theory and practice of polish administration after 1989*.

Tomasz Kuczur and Tomasz Lewandowski discuss decentralizing the government, and in another text Mariusz Popławski focuses on the relation of decentralization-political parties. The issue of the political responsibility of the Council of Ministers and its members in the works of the Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly is covered by Joanna Juchniewicz.

Several of the authors referred to the operations of the Polish Police, writing about the foreign exchange of criminal information (Tomasz Safjański), demotion of an officer (Jan Kurdelek), or in administrative terms (Bolesław Sprengel). A great part of the publication is dedicated to the broad spectrum of public security and defense – readers interested in such topics should be referred to the articles by Waldemar Zubrzycki, Bernard Wiśniewski, Mariusz Nepelski, and Cezary Guźniczka.

Legal issues, such as relations between administrative law and misdemeanor law, circumstances of the courier action of public administration, were touched upon by Izabela Nowicka and Janusz Bryka, as well as Robert Socha. Findings from author's own research concerning micro-circles of social borderland security are presented by Dariusz Jurczak. There were also a few words devoted to the state's three sectors: public, private, and civic sector (Zuzanna Osmólska).

The publication also includes the articles from the broad spectrum of management – Adrianna Bartnik and Anna Czeranowska discussed the issue of mobbing an administration and employee recruitment, and Dominik Hryszkiewicz undertook the task of explaining the surroundings diagnosis in the process of strategic positioning of a public institution.

As can be observed from the overview of topics included in *What kind of an administration? Considerations on theory and practice of the Polish administration after 1989*, the authors did not limit themselves exclusively to one field. However, the title itself signaled a look at the polish administration from both practical as well as theoretical point of view, yet after the lecture, I was left with the impression that most of the texts focused rather on the latter aspect. In some of them I did not find

any reference of theory to real, empirical problems, and certainly it would allow for a better understanding of presented issues, moreover, others were presented with a high level of generalization. What I also found to be a failing is the lack of remarks and conclusions at the end of some articles.

The first look at the table of contents of the reviewed book brought on the question of whether the presented topics are an original approach to such a broad and frequently discussed issue as the Polish public administration after 1989. On one hand, the system transformation period is still an inexhaustible source of issues requiring commentary, yet on the other, one should take care not to allow to constant reproduction of the same content. Part of the authors stood up to the task and reached for lesser known aspects of administration operations, whereas several texts sound as if they have already been written (and read) before. For instance, *The Administration of public security in Poland* or *The theoretical aspects of organizing actions of public administration in the field of defense* are the articles which could be found in almost every textbook about internal security, therefore it is hard to talk about their innovative nature.

The publication *What kind of an administration? Considerations on theory and practice of the Polish administration after 1989*, for me personally, also lacked the authors discussing more current issues. The experience of years past can help us better understand currently ongoing events and correlations, however, it may also be worthwhile to try to take a prospective look at the challenges ahead of the Polish administration, as was the case during the transformation period: the factors stimulating activity in this field were, on the one hand, aspirations of Poland to join, and then function effectively within the European Union, on the other hand, the challenges of civilization connected with, among others, ongoing social awareness, system, education, technological or globalization changes.

In conclusion, in the publication edited by Michał Strzelecki, Waldemar Zubrzycki, and Dariusz Jurczak, many people will be able to find an article concerning their field of interest, broaden their knowledge on the field of administration, or supplement it with new aspects and points of view.