

Michał Strzelecki*

(rev.) Krzysztof Kowalczyk, *Partie i ugrupowania parlamentarne wobec Kościoła katolickiego w latach 1989–2011* [Parties and parliamentary groupings towards the Catholic Church in Poland between 1989–2011], Wydawnictwo Zapol, Szczecin 2012, pp. 493

The book “Parties and Parliamentary Groupings towards the Catholic Church in Poland between 1989–2011” is a crowning achievement of Krzysztof Kowalczyk as well as a work very needed in this field. Such a formulated problem seems very well-grounded because it has never been a subject of a separate academic analysis and has never had a comprehensive and at the same time synthetic study of a political science nature. These issues are worth attention on the account of their relevance, particularly in the context of heated discussion about the current civilizations transformations, their trends of social nature, sources and rules of social morality and the role of the Church in the modern world. At the same time, it is worth mentioning that such well formulated topic determines with great precision not only the subject of analysis, but also its dividing lines. It is essential because, with regard to the current state of political science knowledge about the activity of Polish political parties after 1989 as well as their formulated and realized political concepts, it is not easy to select an interesting and original research material. In the case of the monograph of Krzysztof Kowalczyk, this topic should be regarded as pioneering, modern, needed and, at the same time, demanding considerable scientific abilities, which can only be acquired by a merits-related and methodologically mature researcher.

The way of creating the research problem as such is worth attention, because, on the ground of Polish political science, it has never lived to broad and complex presentation. It is so suprising because the Catholic Church played a meaningful role in the latest Polish history, taking also the stand on various key issues that constituted a subject of public debate after 1989. At the same time, an argument about its role and place in public life became undoubtedly one of the most essential conflict pivots between many political subjects.

Detailed analysis of the reviewed monograph leads to the conclusion that the title, structure as well as the content of each chapter were well and carefully thought-out. It was indispensable the more so because the author not only focused on the analysis of

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