

demic methods. This is the main reason why it has been published particularly for social and political scientists, being a profound source of information.

Although the chapter division seems to tie the book to many different science branches, it is solid in the meaning of the reading matter. Moreover, the authors present many surprising results which provide a reader with the view on rightists and leftists far from hectic and common in the literature.

One should also pay more attention to the term of research, one of the most important in Poland's contemporary history. In my opinion that factor may only increase evaluation of the position. *Governmental Elites of the Third Republic of Poland. Sociological Portrait* also matches the strict rules of a scientific work, including high academician standards.

I would definitely recommend the position.

**A publishing review of a work written by Arkadiusz Kawecki  
entitled *From a Plebiscite to Elections: Birth of a Democratic Party  
System of Regional Societies*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House,  
Toruń 2006, p. 280.**

*by Joanna Marszałek-Kawa*

Doctor Arkadiusz Kawecki is an employee of the Institute of Political Science and European Studies at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Szczecin. His academic interest is focused on the problems connected with the formation of a democratic system in Poland, developing election processes, and the birth of local communities. In addition, he is concerned with German studies.

The reviewed work is an endeavour to present the processes of birth and the following stages of the formation of voting attitudes and behaviours of local communities. It has been conducted taking into consideration the development in the former Szczecin district of political organizations, individual and collective examples of political activity, the process of election campaigns and the

results of elections. The proceedings have been performed on the background of transformations and stages of democratization of public life in Poland, institutionalization of which took place as a result of another presidential, parliamentary, and local authority elections.

The concentration of the analysis around political parties was a result of a desire to follow the phenomena taking place at the lowest possible level of creation of political processes. Since, the functioning of party centres is, according to the author, enough described in the bibliography of the subject. It is the parties that attract all the attention of the media, it is also them that are most attentively observed by society.

The time frame of the analyzes are set by the parliamentary elections from June 1989

and 1993. while the initiating point is natural, it is disputable whether the year 1993 should be appointed as the termination of the research. This decision seems to be substantiated. It is proven, among others, by the fact that this wide analysis covered local, parliamentary and presidential elections.

The goal of the work is not to analyze the result and the proceedings of elections in the whole history of III Polish Republic so far, yet to illustrate the processes of birth and formation of elective processes. To add to the rightness of the construction of the reviewed work, it is only the parliamentary elections of the year 1991 and 1993 that allowed Polish society to free themselves fully from the limitations of plebiscite mechanisms and pass on to elections attitudes. The four year period analyzed by the author must be seen as a key one for the process of creating political, legal-system and economic constituents of Polish Republic. It must also be underlined that the period described in the book by Arkadiusz Kawecki was formative and system-creative in character, and the election of 1993 finished the stage of basic crystallization of Polish political scene.

The work, entitled *From a Plebiscite to Elections: Birth of a Democratic Party System of Regional Societies* consists of six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and an index of tables (multiple and detailed). In the book a reader will also find numerous charts, maps, election leaflets, and posters that additionally and precisely illustrate the presented material. In the first chapter, the author presents the development of situation in Poland, which resulted in the first, partially free election of 1989. the second chapter of

the reviewed work focuses entirely on the former Szczecin District, presenting the backstage, proceedings and results of the parliamentary election of June 89". It must be appreciated that the author, reproductions of whose considerably enhance the reading pleasure. The ending part of the work is preoccupied with the media in Szczecin at the time. The third chapter is devoted to the local elections of 27 May 1990. The dissolution of the solidarity camp and the process of new political parties creation on the right side of political scene is described in detail. Moreover, new local powers and post-PRL [Polish People's Republic] are also presented there. The consecutive chapter relates to the presidential election of November and December 1990. Arkadiusz Kawecki shows here not only the course of events and results of both voting parts, but also the organizations of election committees in the area that is the subject of the reviewed work. The fifth chapter, under the meaningful title "From Plebiscite to Deficit", is about the parliamentary election of 1991. An intricate analysis is presented here of the post-solidarity, centre, and populist groups, people's movement, Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej [a leftist party]. A separate place is devoted to the competition for senator posts. There are also present the techniques and methods of election communication in elections for Sejm (the other parliamentary chamber). The sixth chapter describes the way leading to leftist domination in the West Pomerania district as a effect of the parliamentary election of 1993. in the introduction to this part of the work, the author presents the changes of election system introduced a day before

the election. Next, he presents the course and results of the election campaign for the Senate.

Another advantage of the reviewed book is also its proper construction, live language, good academic knowledge, as well as the abundance of source materials. Arkadiusz Kawecki worked on Polish political science literature, more often than not referring to the press sources, using also extensively election materials, posters, leaflets, and election papers. The author remarkably skillfully presents statistic data referring to the course and result of elections, presenting the former Szczecin District on the background of the whole Poland.

Addressees of the discussed work entitled *From a Plebiscite to Elections: Birth of a Democratic Party System of Regional Societies* are both people that professionally deal with the issues of the creation of Polish

democratic system (academics, researchers, but also students of political science, international relations, history and the law, administration, with special emphasis on the ones deeply interested in the recent history of the Western Pomerania), and practitioners, as well (local authorities, politicians).

To finish with, I would like to strongly emphasize that the reviewed work by Arkadiusz Kawecki is a successful connection of theoretical ruminations on the plebiscite character of the first parliamentary election of 1989, and a practical presentation of the course and results of the consecutive elections in the former Szczecin District. The book must be evaluated as very good and necessary on Polish publishing market. It is a work useful for political science, history, and law students, as well as for academics, politicians, and people that are strongly interested in the issues of election competition.

**A publishing review of a work edited by Maria Marczevska-Rytko entitled *Populism at the Turn of the 20th and 21st Century: A Panaceum or a Trap for Modern Societies*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń 2006, p. 250.**

*by Joanna Marszałek-Kawa*

Recently on the publishing market there appeared an interesting work devoted to the issue of populism in the current politics. This book definitely deserves special attention. First of all, it successfully fits in the bibliography so far, just to mention the work edited by Ryszard Markowski *Populism and Democracy* or a book by Joanna Dzwonczyk entitled

*Populist Tendencies in a Post-Socialist Society*. Secondly, the reviewed work presents the reader with a wider perspective.

The academic editor of the reviewed volume is Dr Maria Marczevska-Rytko, a professor at the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin, an author an editor of numerous works, academic dissertations and articles