Sasińska-Klas, Jery Sielski, and Olgierd Grott present examples of populism in Poland (Andrzej Lepper, "Samoobrona", national-socialists), Roman Bäcker and Kazimierz Malak deal with Russian populism. Other authors presented examples from Catalonia, Sweden, Germany, the USA. Wojciech Stankiewicz presented examples of populism in Poland and in the world. The last part of the reviewed work is a supplement which contains an article by Maria Marczewska-Rytko, in which she discusses the phenomenon of populism in "Gazeta Wyborcza" and "Rzeczpospolita" newspapers. Wojciech Ziętara in his turn presents a selection of Polish academic literature on populism based on the written resources of the National Library in Warsaw and of university-level schools libraries. In the selection there are both concise publications and academic papers and chosen newspaper articles. .

The content of the reviewed book fully reflects the polysemy of the term populism, which at the end of the twentieth century became one of the key terms in political study. It must be praised that the editor divides the collected material into a theoretically-methodological and practical part. The texts are characterized with a proper construction, animated language, good academic skills, as well as richness of source materials. The authors used both Polish publications and, foremost, from foreign academic literature. In this volume, issues absent so far in Polish publications are discussed. It will most certainly contribute to knowledge of populism.

In the articles presented in the third part of the reviewed work there are some problems not dealt with in Polish academic discourse so far. Another advantage of the book *Populism at the Turn of the 20th and 21st century: A Panaceum or a Trap for Modern Societies* is the presence of foreign authors.

In accordance with the intentions of the editor of the book, it is addressed mostly to people interested in the modern political scene and the processes and transformations that are present there, but also to people that are professionally involved in the subject (academics, researchers, and students), as well as practitioners (local authorities and politicians).

To conclude, provided the very current topic, with very limited number of publication in the subject area, I would like to strongly recommend the reviewed work to everyone interested in the issue of populism in current politics.

Jerzy Muszyński: *Information Society: Political Science Drafts*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń 2007, p. 290

by Joanna Marszałek-Kawa

Prof. Jerzy Muszyński is a member of the Political Sciences Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences. His academic interest is centered around the issues connected with the history of political and legal doctrines, the history of states and legal rules, political

science, political systems, and the recent political thought. He is the author of numerous academic dissertations and articles, and an editor of collective works. He publishes his research both in Poland and abroad. Jerzy Muszyński has also been for many years an academic lecturer and researcher in the area of legal studies and political science.

The term of information society is used to describe a society in which information becomes a product, treated as a special non-material good, equal to, or perhaps even more valuable than material goods. There is an assumption that services connected with sending, processing, and storing information will be developing. The discussed term was introduced in 1963 by T. Umesamo in an article on the theory of evolution of a society based on information technology, and popularized by K. Koyama in 1968 in a dissertation entitled "Introduction to Information Theory".

The theories of social development explain an informative society as another step in the development of society, after the industrial society. It is also called a postmodern or postindustrial society.

An informative society, as a creation of information civilization, known as "the third wave" in the history of human evolution, seems so far to be a vision presented mostly from the point of view of technical studies, more specifically, information science. Although there is an increasing possibility of encountering problems in describing such a society in the assumptions and categories of other studies, especially economic ones, less often sociological and cultural, nevertheless, these are rather a kind of reflexions on

something that is elusive. Such an endeavour is undertaken by the author of the reviewed work from the point of view of political science, political theory, including the study of a state and authority. The main difficulty was to find a common ground that would make it possible to relate the "informatics version" with the "political science one", and in a wider sense, with humanities.

The selection of the author must be considered right, since he chose to present only the certain, deepest rooted in political science problems from the extensive field, referring to the information society in the process of formation. Due to the above, it is possible to look inside the society-in-creation in both an objective, fair, and mistrustful, critical way.

The reviewed work is a study that results from the inquisitive character of Jerzy Muszyński, especially as to the perspective of further development of humanity and the position and role of politics and authority in this development; thorough observation and evaluation of new phenomena connected with the vision of information technology, studying numerous documents and various kinds of publications relating to the title subject matter and in a wider sense to information civilizations.

The discussed work aims at answering two key questions for the modern political science: does the present stadium of civilization development lead to replacement of the mass society generated by the industrial civilization, whose effect will become an individualized information society? The author also wonders how real is the presently popularized and substantiated vision of such a society

with the description of its separate constitutive features and characteristics, or is there somewhere a more humanistic alternative of the development of humanity?

"Information Society: Political Science Drafts" consists of an introduction, six chapters and a bibliography. The first chapter is concerned with a vision of an information society. Apart from general characteristics, the author also presents there reflexions referring to political relations and authority and political institutions in such a society. In the second chapter Jerzy Muszyński presents the main currents of ideology in an industrial society and the ideologies that are a source of the cold war. Another part of the reviewed work is devoted to the discussion of the social and political foundations and results of an information civilization, including the changes in social structure, and political results of divisions in such a society. This part ends with ruminations on the subject of authority. The fourth chapter refers to civilizational mega-trends. In its introduction, the author defines the term of mega-trends, next, he deals with the relations between them and civilization. He suggests some possibilities of preventing negative mega-trends at the turn of the "second and third wave" of civilization. He also points at the chances to make use of positive mega-trends by information society. In the penultimate part of the reviewed work, the author focuses his main attention on an individual. He presents the structure and creators of information society, as well as the position and possibilities excluded from it. The sixth chapter contains in its turn a warning against an information civilization. It also discloses a vision of a civilization alternative to the one presented in the book.

The results of the research performed Jerzy Muszyński illustrate the fact that he became involved in an important and interesting subject not only to deepen the theoretical reflections referring to an information society, yet foremost due to the fact that the issues of an industrial society are salient and growing in meaning elements of a new vision of civilization.

In works on the discussed problem, J. Muszyński used the latest writings on the subject, including the papers of such authors as: Barber, Bertrand, Connetti, Drucker, Fukuyama, Huntington, Toffler.

To conclude, what must be emphasized again is the rich research workshop, proper language and construction of the book, and the logicality of arguments. *Information Society: Political Science Drafts* by Jerzy Muszyński is a work that is indispensable for the publishing market. A special attention should be given to it by political science students, but also by everybody closely interested in the issues of transformation accompanying modern society.