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**Stefan Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży
przedniej komunizmu. Wybór pism*,
ed. by Professor Maciej Zakrzewski,
Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej, Wydział
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In the last several years, the figure of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński inspired manifest attention among researchers. However, their works mostly concerned the post-war period in the cardinal's life.¹ The book entitled *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu. Wybór pism* [literally: The Intelligentsia as the Avant-Garde of Communism] with twenty-page-long

- 1 E. Czaczkowska, *Kardynał Wyszyński. Biografia*, Kraków 2013; *Społeczna potrzeba pamięci. Osoba i dzieło Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego Prymasa Tysiąclecia*, ed. by A. Rynio, M. Parzyszek, Lublin 2017; R. Łatka, B. Mackiewicz, D. Zamiatała, *Kardynał Stefan Wyszyński 1901–1981*, Warszawa 2019; *Prymas Stefan Wyszyński i Episkopat Polski*, ed. by R. Łatka, D. Zamiatała, Warszawa 2023. Worth mentioning are also the primate bishop's diaries entitled *Pro memoria* that have been published since 2017. As yet, twelve volumes have been published.

introduction by Professor Maciej Zakrzewski will certainly help in becoming more acquainted with the prewar ideas and works of Stefan Wyszyński.

The book is the 20th volume of the *Polskie Studia nad Totalitaryzmem* series published by the Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej / Centre for Political Thought, and Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. As part of the competition on *Pomniki polskiej myśli filozoficznej, teologicznej i społecznej XX i XXI wieku* (The Monuments of Polish Philosophical, Theological, and Social Thought of the 20th and 21st Centuries), the team led by Professor Bogdan Szlachta conducted complex research and editorial studies that led to the critical edition, preparation to print, and publication of works by 30 leading Polish writers and researchers of totalitarian systems. The works portray comprehensive and multi-faceted effort rooted in various ideological and political currents that provided insights into communist and nazi ideologies, together with their intellectual and social roots and practical manifestations.²

While defining the reasons for the publication of the book, in his introduction entitled *Przeciwko zniewoleniu. Zagadnienie totalitaryzmu w przedwojennej publicystyce Stefana Wyszyńskiego* [literally: Opposing Enslavement. The Question of Totalitarianism in the Prewar Works of Stefan Wyszyński], Maciej Zakrzewski emphasised that the reader would have an opportunity to become familiar with hardly known prewar activity of the future Primate of the Millennium, and his diagnosis and critique of totalitarian systems. The author also remarked that the selection consists of Stefan Wyszyński's fourteen most important works devoted to totalitarianism. They all date back to 1930–39, and were published in the press, while some also as brochures and books. Some of them have only survived in single, hardly accessible copies. In the process of selection, minor articles (such as book reviews) and ones that to a certain extent reiterated some points were omitted.³ The introduction also contains basic information about the primate bishop and his thoughts, defines the chronological scope, and

2 *Milion złotych na badania nad XX-wiecznymi totalitaryzmami*, https://www.uj.edu.pl/wiadomosci/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_d821KZvhit4m/10172/134604622 (Accessed on: 23 October 2023).

3 M. Zakrzewski, *Przeciwko zniewoleniu. Zagadnienie totalitaryzmu w przedwojennej publicystyce Stefana Wyszyńskiego*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu. Wybór pism*, ed. by M. Zakrzewski, Kraków 2023, pp. VIII–XXVI.

offers an outline of the historical background and the figures involved. The biographical context and the Catholic social teaching, as the author of the introduction noted, provide the key points of reference that also introduce the reader to the presented texts. The whole guides the reader into the issues in question in a highly accessible manner.⁴

The selection opens with Wyszyński's article entitled *Faszyzm a Kościół* [literally: Nazism vs the Church] published in "Prąd" magazine in 1930, and analysing the contemporary attitude of Nazism to the Catholic Church.⁵ It is followed by a text entitled *Socjalistyczna własność wspólna w ocenie "Rerum novarum"* [literally: Socialist Collective Ownership as Assessed by "Rerum novarum"] published in 1931 in a theological journal "Ateneum Kapłańskie",⁶ whose editor-in-chief Wyszyński was in 1932–39.⁷ In his reflections, Wyszyński addressed the harm stemming from collective ownership to workers and the reasons behind its injustice, and analysed the negative bearing it could have on community life. These are followed by three short texts: *Z powodu odezwy Kard. Prymasa w sprawie przesilenia gospodarczego*,⁸ *Nowe metody walki religijnej w Rosji Sowieckiej*,⁹ and *Główne podstawy przebudowy ustroju społecznego*¹⁰ [literally: Reacting to the Cardinal Primate's Address in the Economic Crisis; New Methods of Religious Struggle in Soviet Russia, and Main Foundations for Reconstructing the Social System]. The one concerning the methods of religious struggle in Soviet Russia seems the most interesting of the three, as this is where, following an account of a German tourist visiting the "museums of atheism" in the USSR, published in "Germania" catholic daily on 28 October

4 M. Zakrzewski, *Przeciwko zniewoleniu...*, pp. VIII–XXV.

5 S. Wyszyński, *Faszyzm a Kościół*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 1–22.

6 S. Wyszyński, *Socjalistyczna własność wspólna w ocenie Rerum novarum*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 23–42.

7 E. Czaczkowska, *Prymas Stefan Wyszyński — "antysemita", "rasista" i "faszysta". Historia podwójnej manipulacji tekstami z "Ateneum Kapłańskiego", "Polonia Sacra" 2019, no. 4, p. 5.*

8 S. Wyszyński, *Z powodu odezwy Kard. Prymasa w sprawie przesilenia gospodarczego*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 43–48.

9 S. Wyszyński, *Nowe metody walki religijnej w Rosji Sowieckiej*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 49–57.

10 S. Wyszyński, *Główne podstawy przebudowy ustroju społecznego*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 59–68.

1932, Wyszyński endeavours to demonstrate that a form of fight against religion that operates quietly and without bloodshed yet steadily and persistently is more dangerous for the Church than gory persecutions.¹¹ One of Wyszyński's most important and best known texts is *Kultura bolszewizmu a inteligencja polska*¹² [literally The Culture of Bolshevism vs Polish Intelligentsia] from 1934. Here, Wyszyński draws attention to disturbing tendencies of rapprochement between Warsaw and Moscow in cultural rather than political matters.

Infiltration of Poland with Bolshevism begins under a non-descript and hardly manifested guise — from some obscure radicalism [...] The term “radicalism” has recently been overused [...] emerging journals and organisations make it their honourable duty to convince the world about their radicalism, as if they deemed walking on the edge entirely normal.¹³

The article mentions several symptoms of Bolshevisation in Poland, notably coinage of specific terminology, identifying the Church as the public enemy, development of proletarian culture, and popular tourism propaganda.¹⁴ Its author believes that the reasons for such a status quo are many, and tries to penetrate the looming threats and find a solution to the problem discussed.

The family, the Church, the state, and the profession must come to speak. The family will give the society a well-raised citizen, the Church will instil him and the society with the profound sense of the dignity of a citizen-Christian as well as justice reinforced with love, and the state will ensure proper conditions for achieving mundane and ultimate goals, while the profession will create an aura of mutual aid, cooperation, and care. The new and lasting social order will be produced not by struggle, but by solidarity in cooperation.¹⁵

11 S. Wyszyński, *Nowe metody walki religijnej w Rosji Sowieckiej*, p. 51

12 S. Wyszyński, *Kultura bolszewizmu a inteligencja polska*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 69–105.

13 S. Wyszyński, *Kultura bolszewizmu...*, pp. 71–72.

14 S. Wyszyński, *Kultura bolszewizmu...*, pp. 69–105.

15 S. Wyszyński, *Kultura bolszewizmu...*, p. 99.

The reviewed selection also includes such articles as *Z walk religijnych w Niemczech*,¹⁶ *Nowy najazd komunizmu na Polskę*,¹⁷ *Jak skutecznie walczyć z komunizmem?*,¹⁸ *Katolicki program walki z komunizmem*,¹⁹ *Antyreligijne wychowanie w organizacjach socjalistycznych*,²⁰ *Czy katolik może być komunistą?*,²¹ and *Stanowisko i zadania duszpasterza wobec współczesnych ruchów społecznych*²² [literally: On Religious Struggles in Germany; A New Onslaught of Communism on Poland; How to Fight Communism Efficiently?; The Catholic Programme of Fighting Communism; Anti-Religious Education in Socialist Organisations; Can a Catholic be a Communist?, and The Position and Duties of a Pastor Facing Contemporary Social Movements]. The final text, which also lent its title to the entire selection is a brochure entitled *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu* from 1939.²³ In it, Stefan Wyszyński tried to answer the question how the Polish intelligentsia can participate in the fight against communism. He focuses on communism seeking ways to subject the world to revolution. The response to those aspirations should be the rebirth of the private and social Christian life, pointing out the positive and better solutions, understanding the enemy, and consolidating the community in concerted action.

One would be hard pressed to find stylistic or punctuation errors, or just ordinary typos. Only some minor reservations might be made regarding the introduction, where within just a few lines, Father Professor Antoni Szymański is twice mentioned as one of the greatest authorities

- 16 S. Wyszyński, *Z walk religijnych w Niemczech*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 107–126.
- 17 S. Wyszyński, *Nowy najazd komunizmu na Polskę*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 127–140.
- 18 S. Wyszyński, *Jak skutecznie walczyć z komunizmem?*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 141–148.
- 19 S. Wyszyński, *Katolicki program walki z komunizmem*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 149–160.
- 20 S. Wyszyński, *Antyreligijne wychowanie w organizacjach socjalistycznych*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 161–172.
- 21 S. Wyszyński, *Czy katolik może być komunistą?*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 173–189.
- 22 S. Wyszyński, *Stanowisko i zadania duszpasterza wobec współczesnych ruchów społecznych*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 191–201.
- 23 S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu*, in: S. Wyszyński, *Inteligencja w straży przedniej komunizmu...*, pp. 203–325.

in the field of Catholic social teaching (p. VIII). There are also minor errors and omissions in the footnotes, such as the ellipsis left on p. XXIX. Unfortunately, it also has to be noted that no book of this series contains an index of places, and one would greatly facilitate the use of the publication for the interested reader.

The editorial aspects of this edition of selected works of Stefan Wyszyński cause no major issues. The book looks appealingly as it has been published in hardcover on good quality paper. Attention is drawn to the cover of the book (and the whole series), whose very design suggests a unique quality. The publishers have retained the original character of the texts, only proofreading for spelling mistakes and updating punctuation to current conventions. All the articles received footnotes concerning persons and subjects so that readers unfamiliar with the subject could easily find basic information concerning the people and events referred to in the text. The whole spans 366 pages, including the bibliographic note and the index of persons.

Most of the texts discussed above are published on such broad scale for the first time. Their compilation in a single volume with the commentary from Professor Zakrzewski offers the reader a substantial share of early works of the primate bishop, presenting his insight and critique of communist, nazi, and national socialist ideologies. Let us hope, that there will be more series like the *Polskie Studia nad Totalitaryzmem*, popularising the works of eminent intellectuals, and rendering the particulars of prewar and postwar views on totalitarian systems.