

Cezary Smuniewski

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8973-3539>

University of Warsaw, Poland

Ilona Urych

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4868-9460>

War Studies University, Poland

Mariusz Boguszewski

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1770-1933>

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

## **Theologically Inspired and Supported Patriotism as a Component of Poland’s National Security. Concept of Research and its Social Application**

### **Abstract**

The article<sup>1</sup> presents a concept of research and its social application concerning the creation and modelling of theologically inspired and supported patriotic attitudes in the Polish historical and security-related context. It concerns patriotism which, primarily, refers to Poland’s national heritage, theology, Catholic social science and national responsibility; secondly, it is directed at a sovereign economic development locally and on the international arena; thirdly, it shapes pro-societal and pro-defence attitudes;

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<sup>1</sup> The article has been written as part of the project “Bezpieczeństwo narodowe – religia – historia” (National security – religion – history) carried out at the Interdisciplinary Research Centres of the University of Warsaw “Tożsamość – Dialog – Bezpieczeństwo” (Identity – Dialogue – Security).

fourthly, it takes into account contemporary challenges linked with the environment, demography, migrations and “temporal challenges”. The text is classified among the papers on conceptualization of research projects in the area of security studies, social policies and political science, account being taken of the contexts and problem references to theology, history and cultural anthropology.

### **Keywords**

patriotism, theology, national security, Poland’s cultural heritage, religiously inspired pro-societal behaviours, national responsibility, research project

## **1. Introduction**

This article is aimed at presenting a concept of research concerning the creation and modelling of theologically inspired and supported patriotic attitudes in the Polish historical and security-related context, and subsequently the concept of social application of the effects of the inquiries. It concerns patriotism which, primarily, refers to Poland’s national heritage, theology, Catholic social science and national responsibility; secondly, it is directed at a sovereign economic development at home and on the international arena; thirdly, it shapes pro-societal and pro-defence attitudes; fourthly, it takes into account contemporary challenges linked with the environment, demography, migrations and “temporal challenges” – which is understood as taking care of the current national needs: natural disasters, epidemics, armed conflicts.<sup>2</sup>

The main question posed at the beginning of the research, the result of which is this study, reads as follows: What contents should be covered by a research project concerning theologically inspired and supported patriotism, perceived as one of the forces contributing to Poland’s national security and what steps should be undertaken in order to utilise the knowledge acquired as a result of this research for supporting the societal pro-defence potential? Aiming at the maximum synthesis of the contents and bearing in mind the optimal clarity of the message concerning the planned research ventures, the content of the postulated research was outlined by answering the following four questions:

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<sup>2</sup> The inspiration for research on the relationship between patriotism and Christian thought in Poland was John Paul II’s book “Memory and Identity”, in which the pope wrote, among other things, about homeland, nation, state and patriotism. Cf. John Paul II, *Memory and Identity: Conversations at the Dawn of a Millennium*, New York 2005, Rizzoli.

why? (Research motives and significance); what? (Research object and hypothesis); how? (Research methods, sequence of activities, dissemination and project performance indicators); what? (Anticipated research effect and its weight).

This text fits into a group of papers on conceptualization of research projects in the area of security studies, social policies and political science, account being taken of the contexts and problem references to theology, history and cultural anthropology. Thus, the article includes contents which may be used for future studies as regards the concept of research focused on the following concepts: patriotism of the Poles, theologically inspired thinking, national security, national identity, Poland's cultural heritage. In the research, the result of which is this paper, a holistic approach was employed, basing on the assumption that phenomena and situations were to be considered in a comprehensive and multi-faceted manner, while the collected source material is to be subject to mutual confrontation, aimed at acquiring information that would contribute to an orchestrated message. Theoretical methods, mainly the analysis, synthesis and inference, have been used in the course of the research.

## **2. Why? – Why is there a need to research theologically inspired and supported patriotism in Poland?**

It is actually an axiom that the patriotism of the Poles is strongly related to Christian theological thought. Therefore, it is by no mean surprising that the Conference of the Polish Episcopate publishes documents on patriotism. In 1972, on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first partition of Poland, the Plenary Conference of the Polish Episcopate holding its debates in Poznań, addressed a letter to the community of Catholics entitled "On Christian patriotism."<sup>3</sup> The 1974 Memorandum of the Polish Episcopate to the Government of the Polish People's Republic is permeated with patriotic ideas. The document places stress on national identity and points out the role of the Church: "The people have the right to be themselves and not to lose any of the goods that have shaped their history and their culture (...). The Church and the Catholic society were in history and continue to be the proper subject for the creation and perpetuation

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<sup>3</sup> Cf. Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, *O chrześcijańskim patriotyzmie*, in: *Listy pasterskie Episkopatu Polski 1945–2000*, P. Libera, A. Rybicki, S. Łącki (eds.), Part 1, Marki 2003, Michalineum, pp. 886–891.

of culture.”<sup>4</sup> In 2003, the Episcopate of Poland adopted the “Directory for the Pastoral Ministry to Families”. The document mentions, among other things, that: “Every family should nurture civil virtues: openness to another human being, loving them, ability to forgive, reliability in life, honesty at work, care for the common good, etc., foster patriotism, learn one’s own history, teach respect for other peoples.”<sup>5</sup> An important contribution regarding love for the homeland, is a document elaborated by the Social Affairs Council operating at the Conference of the Polish Episcopate, entitled: “Out of concern for people and the common good”<sup>6</sup>, which was published in 2012. In the document, there is a whole passage bearing the title: “Patriotism as a school of identity”. That document recalls that “Love of your homeland is – according to Christian teaching – is a dictate of conscience. Therefore, it is linked with the sense of duty, unlike the emotional experience.”<sup>7</sup> Polish bishops spoke out comprehensively on patriotism in Poland in a document issued in 2017, entitled: “The Christian form of patriotism. Document of the Conference of the Polish Episcopate prepared by the Social Affairs Council.”<sup>8</sup>

It is impossible to speak about the national identity of the Poles as well as the history, independence and sovereignty of Poland, without reference to the Church and the Catholic social teaching. Existing within the society seen diachronically, the Church reveals itself as preaching the Gospel to all human communities, with account being taken of their diversity. From the theological point of view, the history of salvation does not take place separately from the history of people, but permeates it all, whereas the social space, besides being a sociological place, is also a theological place (Lat. *locus theologicus*). It would be erroneous to state, however, that the data pertaining to the relationship between theological thinking and patriotic attitudes in Poland are crucial for the

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<sup>4</sup> *Memoriał Episkopatu Polski do Rządu PRL w sprawach istotnych kultury chrześcijańskiej w Polsce z dnia 24. I. 1974 r.*, typescript, Archives of the Conference of the Polish Episcopate, Warszawa.

<sup>5</sup> Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, *Dyrektorium Duszpasterstwa Rodzin*, Warszawa 2003, Fundacja Vita Familiae, no. 84.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, *W trosce o człowieka i dobro wspólne*, Warszawa–Tarnów 2012, Wydawnictwo Diecezji Tarnowskiej Biblos.

<sup>7</sup> Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, *W trosce o człowieka i dobro wspólne*, Warszawa–Tarnów 2012, Wydawnictwo Diecezji Tarnowskiej Biblos, no. 18.

<sup>8</sup> Konferencja Episkopatu Polski, *Chrześcijański kształt patriotyzmu*, Warszawa–Tarnów 2017, Wydawnictwo Diecezji Tarnowskiej Biblos.

research, locked within the areas of theology or religious studies. It concerns something else, which is revealed in research focused on examining the forces and processes shaping contemporary individual and social identity. From the viewpoint of creating national security, such research must not leave out new interpretation, reinterpretation and over-interpretation of patriotism. The researchers readily notice the contribution of Christianity to the Polish national identity, the understanding of the nation and collective memory.<sup>9</sup> At the same time, rarely, they recognise theological contents and religious thinking as capable of inspiring and supporting patriotic attitudes. Perhaps it is associated with two processes. Firstly with surrendering to the idea of inescapable Western laicization, as if nothing else can happen apart from building an a-theological and a-religious society, and secondly, with the very deconstruction of the notion of patriotism. Nowadays, this notion is perceived as an element of historical narrations, a needless anachronism, something that should be demythologized, humanized, globalized and pacified (since traditional patriotism is associated with national heroes, ethics of personal and collective life, fighting and dying for the homeland).

Patriotism is directly linked with creating Poland's national security. It is characteristic that when the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland of 2020 discusses the subject of national identity, it affirms primarily the fact that it is rooted in Christian heritage and universal values. Further on, the document unequivocally recommends that in order to consolidate this identity, it is necessary to: "Shape and develop patriotic attitudes as an indispensable factor in building community and national identity rooted in the Christian heritage and universal values."<sup>10</sup>

It is also important to investigate patriotic attitudes in the society with a view to creating national security. It should be assumed that national security is consolidated by patriotic attitudes, which are made up of: social responsibility of individuals and social groups with the parallel affirmation of communal value, rooted in the collective identity and directed at the development of the common good. Patriotic attitudes are characterised by strong emotional ties, the sense of belonging, loyalty and identification, as well as the sense of solidarity with other members of the group. Their power is co-participation in moral

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<sup>9</sup> Cf. K. Koseła, *Polak i katolik. Splątana tożsamość*, Warszawa 2003, Wydawnictwo Instytutu Filozofii i Socjologii PAN.

<sup>10</sup> *National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland*, Warszawa 2020, p. 28.

values, creating familiarities in current interpersonal relations and diachronic emotional relations, for example, by referring to national heroes, historical creators of culture, statesmen known from history, merited national leaders. The strength drawn from co-participation in moral values enhances the sense of reasonableness of the existence and development of the homeland, liberates superior motivations, renders individuals able to do service, and offer generosity to the nation understood as a political community, built on the foundation of families and striving at sovereignty in the form of an independent state. Józef Marczak's statement provides an additional confirmation of the need for systematic studies of patriotic attitudes. The scholar and the research team he headed concluded that patriotism, understood as the knowledge of, attachment to and continuation of national traditions, love of the homeland and the readiness to make sacrifices for its defence and enrichment, should be in the first place, classified as one of the national values which in the past contributed to the creation of Poland's national security.<sup>11</sup>

Theologically inspired and supported patriotism should be investigated bearing in mind its usefulness in the processes of creating Poland's national security. On the other hand, building of security is associated with the state of social awareness as regards both the threats to and the potential of a political community. The point of departure for the perpetuation and development of a political community are individuals and social forms of their existence beginning with the family, various kinds of social groups, to the nation. Those individuals should be understood as psycho-physical and social entities. The area of national security is no exception in this respect. Besides political, economic or military factors, it is also created by macro- and mezzo-structural social variables. They are made up of social groups based on the ties of identity and community, which are established at the local, national and supranational level.

The postulated research is significant in the context of the growing globalization processes and migrations. Social and cultural changes taking place as a result of globalization, underlie universalization of culture, its westernization and disintegration. Those processes interfere with the sphere of identity and cause synchronization or hybridization of culture<sup>12</sup> as well as relativisation

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<sup>11</sup> Cf. J. Marczak, R. Jakubczak, A. Skrabacz, K. Gąsiorek, K. Przeworski, *Doświadczenia organizacji bezpieczeństwa narodowego Polski od X do XX wieku. Wnioski dla Polski w XXI wieku*, Warszawa 2013, Akademia Obrony Narodowej, p. 101.

<sup>12</sup> J.A. Scholte, *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*, Basingstoke 2005, Palgrave Macmillan.

of norms and identities. The phenomena of emigration and immigration are the causes of threats, which manifest themselves in cultural, religious, ethnic and social conflicts of far-reaching economic consequences. All those processes are important in the context of Poland's national security.

Another premise why theologically inspired and supported patriotism should be studied, is that there exists a need for concern about the policy of remembrance seen as a major component of building national security on "own" foundations, basing on the anthropological realism of a concrete society with its hundreds of years of experience in creating a political community, struggle for independence and sovereignty. Therefore, it is crucial that in the creation of the security policy, the potential of history for the present and for the future is taken into account. The policy of remembrance that takes into account the contribution of the Polish social and political thought (special account being taken of the national, Catholic social and conservative thought), has a unique capability of initiating and modelling patriotic attitudes. The need for research arises also from the need to present and popularize national history and its heritage, the need to popularize the phenomena in science and culture linked with the heritage of Polish history, but also the need to build respect, ties and co-responsibility for Polish cultural heritage, consolidate the awareness of its value, the need to perpetuate and protect.

The research focuses on theologically inspired and supported patriotism should be carried out systematically and regularly. This may help to elucidate the tendencies in society with regards to attitudes that are opposite to patriotism, that is those which are underlain by individual selfishness and national egoism. In the former case, it concerns indifference as regards the fate of the national community and the processes of creating its security. In the latter case, it concerns nationalistic behaviours, understood here as nurturing the sense of one's own superiority, while at the same time feeling contempt for other national communities or the community of mankind. The identification of nationalistic attitudes may contribute to protecting national symbols against their abuse in the realisation of particular political interests and thus their becoming a bone of contention within a political community. The concern for patriotic attitudes demands the concern for national symbols so that they have the power to integrate citizens around common values.

### 3. What? – What should be researched in Polish theologically inspired and supported patriotism?

The significant role of the teaching of the Church in Poland with regards to love of the homeland and the duty to defend it, has been widely described in literature and is a fact.<sup>13</sup> However, a question arises regarding the potential of the Church in this area at present and in the forthcoming future, the usefulness of that potential in developing national culture and inseparable from it national identity, in accordance with the centuries-long tradition.

Therefore, the current process of creating patriotic attitudes of the Polish clergy and theologians (teachers of religion) must be diagnosed and analysed. In view of the above, there seems to be a need to study one of the elements of internationalization of the Polish national, Catholic social and conservative thought, and promoting that thought using the results of the research of patriotic attitudes of young Poles. Thus, it would mean the formation of a next generation that would be aware of its own civil identity.

There is a need to investigate the contents concerning patriotism of the Poles in the statements made by the bishops, distinguished scholars, theologians and experts in the Catholic social teaching, contained in the relevant documents of the Conference of the Polish Episcopate. Important information concerning the understanding of patriotism can be found in the letters of the rectors of the Catholic University, which are read out in the churches in Poland on Easter and Christmas.

It is necessary to carry out questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews with lecturers of Polish Catholic seminaries and theological faculties. The results should be analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively. This stage of the project should produce contents included in the final report and in the form of scientific articles written by members of the research team. The questionnaire surveys and interviews concerning patriotism, should take into account

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<sup>13</sup> C. Smuniewski, *Ku identyfikacji współczesnej drogi miłośnika ojczyzny. Z badań nad tożsamością i patriotyzmem w tworzeniu bezpieczeństwa narodowego Polski*, in: *Powrót do Ojczyzny? Patriotyzm wobec nowych czasów. Kontynuacje i poszukiwania*, C. Smuniewski, P. Sporek (eds.), 2nd revised and expanded edition, Warszawa 2021, Oficyna Wydawnicza ASPRA-JR, Wydawnictwo Instytutu Nauki o Polityce, pp. 19–50; C. Smuniewski, *Na drogach krzewienia miłości Ojczyzny. Patriotyzm jako fundament bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, in: *Klasy mundurowe. Od teorii do dobrych praktyk*, A. Skrabacz, I. Urych, L. Kanarski (eds.), Warszawa 2016, Wydawnictwo AON, pp. 39–51; C. Smuniewski, *Wychowanie do patriotyzmu. Studium o miłości ojczyzny w oparciu o biblijną i współczesną myśl katolicką*, in: *Bezpieczeństwo jako problem edukacyjny*, A. Pieczywok, K. Loranty (eds.), Warszawa 2015, Wydawnictwo AON, pp. 84–103.



references and contexts associated with: Poland's cultural heritage, sovereignty of economic local development and on the international arena, shaping pro-societal and pro-defence attitudes, challenges of the present times connected with the environment, demography, migrations and "temporal challenges" (e.g. natural disasters, epidemics, armed conflicts).

The concept of research concerning patriotism which is theologically supported by Poland's cultural heritage, whereby patriotism is perceived as a component of creating Poland's national security, assumes diagnosing, for explaining and describing patriotism internalised in Polish theological seminaries and theological faculties. It is mostly in theological seminaries and theological faculties that the future of the Church in Poland is shaped. They prepare not only priests to serve in parishes, but also teachers of religion, both clerical and lay. It is also assumed that the diagnoses of Polish historical remembrance require also a diagnosis of religious remembrance (theological remembrance which is present, for example, in a theology of nation<sup>14</sup> developed in Poland).

#### **4. How? – How should theologically inspired and supported patriotism be researched?**

##### Research methods

In order to implement the assumed goals of the project, at the outset, it is necessary to work out a research concept and select suitable methods. This requires a prior analysis of relevant literature. A subsequent stage of the undertaking will involve working out research tools (a survey questionnaire and an interview form). The research should employ the diagnostic survey method,<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Cf. *Spółeczeństwo teologiczne. Polska teologia narodu 966–2016*, P. Rojek (ed.), Kraków 2016, Wydawnictwo M; J. Buczek, *Teologia narodu w ujęciu wybranych polskich teologów*, Rzeszów 2014, Bonus Liber; J. Lewandowski, *Naród w dziejach Zbawienia*, Warszawa 2001, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, "Adam" Oficyna Wydawniczo-Poligraficzna i Reklamowo-Handlowa; Cz. S. Bartnik, *Teologia narodu*, Częstochowa 1999, Tygodnik Katolicki *Niedziela*; J. Lewandowski, *Naród w nauczaniu kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego*, Warszawa 1982, Ośrodek Dokumentacji i Studiów Społecznych.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. E. Babbie, *The Practice of Social Research*, Boston 2020, Cengage Learning; T. Pilch, T. Bauman, *Zasady badań pedagogicznych: Strategie ilościowe i jakościowe*, Warszawa 2010, Wydawnictwo Akademickie "Żak".

which will be useful for making a diagnosis, for explaining and describing patriotism internalised in Polish theological seminaries and theological faculties and enriching the system of theoretical social knowledge that is associated with the processes of constructing patriotism, which is theologically supported by Poland's cultural heritage, and whereby patriotism is perceived as a component of creating Poland's national security. The technique of survey and interview should be used. With a view to the adopted research techniques, the following research tools will be employed: a questionnaire survey for lecturers at Catholic theological seminaries and theological faculties and an in-depth interview form for lecturers at Catholic theological seminaries and theological faculties. In addition, the method of deduction, analysis, synthesis, induction will be utilised.

The project's participants should include lecturers at Catholic theological seminaries and theological faculties, who will be subject to empirical research with the use of the survey and interview technique. It is those project participants that teach, and in the case of seminarians, form future priests and teachers of religion. Their present students will soon be active co-creators of the socio-political and Catholic social thought, and consequently, they will have an influence in shaping citizens' identity and attitudes. They will also shape the sense of intergenerational communion of the Poles.

Owing to the specificity of the researched group, it is necessary to see to the maximum availability of the assumptions of the project and its transparency. The information on research should be available not only on the website dedicated to the project, but also in the media valued by the Church community. To this end, the project may be covered in the weeklies *Gość Niedzielny* or *Niedziela*, which are among the most widely read opinion-forming magazines in Poland, and are published by church entities.

### Sequence of actions

In order to implement the goal of the project it is necessary to carry out comprehensive research in the following order:

- analysis of source literature;
- preparation and launching of a website with project information with parallel advertising in social media;
- consultations with experts (in the area of security studies, political science, theology, sociology, culture studies);

- construction of research tools for carrying out questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews (project team and invited sociologists);
- carrying out questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews with lecturers of Polish Catholic seminaries and theological faculties;
- analysis of the acquired material, examination of divergences and consistencies of information;
- synthesis of the content;
- preparation and publication of scientific texts (articles);
- elaboration of the research report;
- preparation and dissemination of recommendations for various institutions, account having been taken of the specificity of the addressees, the list of which should include ministries and entities subordinated to or controlled by ministers;
- preparing and submitting recommendations for Roman Dmowski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski Institute for National Thought Heritage;
- preparing and submitting recommendations for the National Culture Centre;
- preparation of materials (popular texts, multi-media presentations, podcasts) addressed to high school students for their personal use;
- preparation of materials (popular texts, multi-media presentations, podcasts) addressed to teachers for use in the schooling process (for example, during form periods);
- organisation of a webinar for high school teachers in order to acquaint them with the prepared materials and how they can be used;
- preparation of materials (popular texts, multi-media presentations, podcasts) addressed to youth groups and organisations (for example, Polish Council of Youth organisations, student societies, Scouts, academic pastoral centres, Catholic Youth Association, religious organisations, Academic League, Parliament of Students of the Republic of Poland);
- preparation and publication of the reports on the implementation of the project.

### Dissemination

A subsequent step in the implementation of the project should be the dissemination of the results and popularisation of knowledge concerning the potential

of Christian thought, Polish national heritage in the promotion of patriotic, pro-civic and pro-social attitudes. This end will be served by the research report and scientific articles. For this reason, it is necessary to prepare recommendations addressed to the above-mentioned entities, and materials for high school and academic teachers and youth. In addition, training for teachers (webinar) should contribute to the promotion of patriotic attitudes. Among the recommendations of special importance should be that which is addressed to the minister responsible for education and science, as one of the goals of the project is to prepare adequate materials for formulating the contents of curricula and school textbooks. However, the dissemination of the results should be mainly carried out through popularisation of information promoting patriotic, pro-civic and pro-social attitudes.

#### Project performance indicators

The analysis of project performance should be based on the following measures:

- number of academic teachers participating in empirical research;
- number of project website visitors;
- number of recommendations prepared for various institutions, account having been taken of the specificity of the addressees, the list of which should include ministries and entities subordinated to or controlled by ministers;
- number of online downloads of popular texts, multi-media presentations and podcasts;
- number of e-mail messages sent out to high schools promoting the materials prepared for teachers and students;
- number of e-mail messages sent out to youth groups and associations promoting the materials prepared for young people;
- number of teachers taking part in the webinar promoting materials prepared for use in the process of schooling.

### **5. So what? – What will the research effects help to understand and what should be their consequences?**

The postulated research concerning theologically inspired and supported patriotism should provide unique information which may be useful in the processes of creating Poland's national security and social policy. The results of the research

will help to elucidate better those contemporary tendencies with respect to the development of patriotism, which is not a state, but a process assuming diversified forms in society. This concerns both personal attitudes and group behaviours. Becoming acquainted with the contemporary patriotism of the Poles and its internal developmental tendencies which are stimulated by religious messages, will help predict the “tomorrow” of social behaviours. The acquired information will serve as an aid to forecast the future social potential of the Poles, their responsibility for the common good, involvement in the creation of national security.

The research will provide detailed information on patriotism internalised in Polish Catholic theological seminaries and theological faculties, where in a large measure, the future of the Church in Poland is shaped. One of the results will also be the enrichment of the system of theoretical social knowledge, primarily associated with the processes of constructing theologically inspired and supported patriotism, but also patriotism as such; and secondly, concerning the influence of academic teachers on shaping the attitudes of academic youth, modelling civic and pro-defence competences. The enhanced sense of social empowerment of academic teachers with respect to formulating, enhancing and internalizing patriotic attitudes of young people, as well as their sense of responsibility for thus emerging civil society.

A material effect of the project should not only be the research report and the accompanying scientific articles, but also the contents which will allow for the preparation of teaching materials for academic lecturers and high school teachers. The research results should be utilised as a basis for making recommendations addressed to various institutions and ministries which could have an impact on dissemination of patriotic attitudes and shaping national responsibility of the Poles, popularization of the knowledge of Polish cultural heritage. Such recommendations should take into account the specificity of the addressees, the list of which should include ministries and entities subordinated to or controlled by ministers; The main recommendations should go to: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of the Family and Social Policy, Ministry of Sports and Tourism, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health. The list of the addressees of the recommendations should also include: Conference of the Polish Episcopate (Commission for the Clergy, Commission for Pastoral Service, Commission for Catholic Education, Council for the Apostolate of the Laity, Council for the Pastoral Care of Youth, Council for Culture and Protection of National Cultural Heritage, Council for

the Family, Council for Social Affairs, Council for the Mass Media, Scientific Council), Deans of theological faculties, Rectors of theological seminaries.

A consequence of the research should be the promotion of patriotic attitudes in society, especially among high school and university students. It is possible thanks to coordinated activities in social media, popular texts, multi-media presentations, podcasts. The material should be distributed to high school students for personal reading, to teachers for the use of those materials in the schooling process (e.g. during form periods), youth groups and associations.

The efforts promoting patriotic attitudes, including pro-defence, pro-civic, pro-social attitudes, should be especially addressed to high school students attending uniformed services classes. The students of such classes declare their readiness to professionally participate in the future in creating national security in its various aspects, namely work in uniformed formations (for example, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, the Police, Prison Service, Border Guards, State Fire Service, Forest Service). It should be anticipated that in future, they will actively partake in creating national security. Not without meaning is the fact that around 85% of the students of uniformed services classes declare that they are interested in the homeland and patriotism.<sup>16</sup> The interests that determine the lifestyles of the research subjects are local patriotism and love of the homeland.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, it is a group of people “susceptible” to internalization of values associated with respect, attachment to and co-responsibility for Polish national heritage, consolidation of the awareness of its value, the need to perpetuate and protect it. The analysis of the hitherto empirical research indicates the absence of programme items connected to getting acquainted with national and regional traditions,<sup>18</sup> which is additional evidence pointing to the need of carrying out the project within this group of participants.

An additional effect of the research, and thus an important source of information for future application projects, will be information concerning tendencies opposed to patriotism, which are underlain by egoism. This refers to both individual selfishness and national egoism. In the former case, it is indifference to the fate of the national community and the processes of creating its security, exclusive concern for one’s own existence of that of the immediate family,

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<sup>16</sup> Cf. I. Urych, *Potencjał obronny klas wojskowych. Teoretyczno-empiryczne aspekty kształcenia obronnego*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Sztuki Wojennej, Warszawa 2019, p. 151.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. I. Urych, *Potencjał obronny klas wojskowych*, p. 207.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. I. Urych, *Potencjał obronny klas wojskowych*, p. 182.

ignoring the wealth obtained, together with the indigenous history and culture, indifference to the fate of the compatriots. In the latter case – national egoism – it concerns this type of nationalism which nurtures the sense of one's own superiority at the same time feeling contempt for other national communities or the community of mankind.

## 6. Conclusion

In the Polish historical, social and security-related realities, the concurrence of the theological, social, political and defence thought implies the creation of national security though invoking Christian heritage, and the thought worked out by the Catholic social teaching. This means that in theologically inspired and supported patriotism, an important component of creating Poland's national security should be recognised. This component requires research and its social application with a view to the common good, which is the political community rooted in history and boldly entering the future. What is important is to effectively utilise the potential of the society in ensuring its security and development, promoting pro-civic and pro-social attitudes. Theologically inspired and supported patriotism favours in particular the consolidation of the national responsibility of the Poles. In this light, this article outlines the elaborated concept of research and its projected results with regards to patriotism theologically supported by the cultural heritage of Poland. The authors of that concept are convinced that the implementation of this research project and social utilisation of its effects will increase national responsibility of the Poles, and will contribute to the creation of national security. The postulated research will also present theology as a discipline which is in dialogue with other areas of knowledge, with a view to the good of human beings and social forms of their existence.

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