

## INTRODUCTION

The present volume of “Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric”, entitled *How to build a state? Chosen problems of political philosophy* refers to the subject matter taken up in the previous issues of the series – 15 (28) and 20 (33) which concentrated on main ideas of socio-political thought of the seventeenth century.

Articles included in this volume concentrate on the problem of construction of a state organism – *polis* in broad social, political and cultural sense; they also deal with the problem of weakness of states and underline the need to build the statehood. Conscious construction of a state always demands an intention, a deliberate plan, the basis of which is constituted of ideology and convictions. Adoption of strong ideological assumptions is particularly visible in contemporary discussions concerning the form and the role of a state, controversies related to its appropriate power and size, in disputes in which are engaged those who are in favour of reducing the activity of the state and propagators of the idea of construction of a modern statehood.

The concept of a state embedded in ideology was present also in earlier projects. Seventeenth century visions of a state were not an exception in this measure; they appeared on the grounds of philosophical ideas and became part of great philosophical systems. In this volume are included texts devoted to the concepts of a state of G. W. Leibniz, F. Bacon and T. Hobbes. The fact that the majority of formulas for a perfect state was of ideal character is symptomatic, they were formulas which have never lived to see accomplishment.

This characteristic difference between theory and practice is depicted in two articles dedicated to Leibnizian views on the state: the text by H. Świączkowska entitled *Linguistic foundation of Leibnizian project of modernisation of the country* and *The world of culture and the world of nature. Confronting chosen aspects of G. W. Leibniz's political thought with his philosophical system* by J. Sitniewska. The first of the two mentioned texts presents Leibnizian concept of reforming a state through regeneration of the language and as a consequence intellectual transformation of the

## Introduction

German society. The project of the reform of the state is related, according to Leibniz, to a vision of an ideal society based on knowledge. The second article dedicated to political thought of the German philosopher presents him as a realist aware of all limitations of his times.

The text by R. Botwina *English politics contra language: the Babel of 1621* describes the times of ‘the confusion of languages’ in seventeenth century England, when the multiplicity of languages of political discourse equalled the multiplicity of political concepts. The article written by K. Doliwa *State for individuals and community in the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes* is devoted to Hobbes’ concept of statehood, according to which a state, along with the institution of a sovereign, appears to be a natural consequence of rational human nature.

Both of the above-mentioned texts refer to the times of civil war – the period particularly dangerous for a state or even the very idea of statehood. The article by Ł. Niewiński *Andersonville POW camp as an example of a Civil War time polis* is also related to this issue, it describes certain episodes from the American Civil War when coalition operation of law was suspended to citizens’ horror.

The relationship of the concept of a state and ideology is visible in the text *New state, new law? An unknown draft of the Polish Labour Code from 1949* by A. Giedrewicz-Niewińska. The author describes the evolution to which, along with the change of political form of the state, the understanding of fundamental concepts of the Polish Labour Code was subject.

The presence of utopian elements in liberal thought throughout the centuries is explored by K. Kuźmicz in another article *Liberalism and utopia*, proving that liberalism, a doctrine present in the majority of democratic states, acknowledged as based on common sense, is not free from ideal elements.

The text of P. Niczyporuk *‘Mensarii’, bankers acting for public and private benefit* is focused on a particular legal solution being a specific reaction of the state, Rome in the fourth century B.C., to exceptional crisis situations and especially periods of sudden impoverishment of its citizens. The problem of the fight with election corruption in ancient Rome is taken up in the text by P. Kołodko *‘Lex Poetelia de ambitu’ of 358 B.C. as an example of legislation against corruption in elections*. Both articles show that the problems of the state as an institution are of timeless and universal character. The quest of a remedy to economic crisis and fight with corruption belong to main tasks of contemporary states.

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