

International Political Science

Political Science in Poland

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The first step toward the establishment of an independent discipline of Political Science in post-war Poland came in 1956 with the founding of the Polish Political Science Association (PPSA) by a group of social scientists. From the very beginning the PPSA has been affiliated with the International Political Science Association (IPSA). However the PPSA and political science really began to develop rapidly only in the middle and late 1960's in connection with the recognition of Political Science as an independent field of study in 1964. In that year separate courses called "Foundations of Political Science" (that is, separate from already existing sociology, economics and law courses) began to be offered in universities, polytechnics, and other higher educational institutions. Organized research programs sprang to life also.

The Polish Political Science Association now has ten regional divisions based on extensive autonomy. The Association has business meetings every three years and between times scientific conferences. In 1973, for example, the Third Scientific Conference took place which dealt with methodological and theoretical problems of political science. In November 1975 the Fourth Scientific Conference discussed political consciousness and political culture in Polish society. Polish Political Scientists are presently active in the IPSA and head several IPSA research committees and special groups. In the autumn of 1975 an *Ad hoc* panel of representatives from Political Science Associations of the socialist countries met in Poland and endorsed IPSA activities.

The president of PPSA is Professor Kazimierz Opalek; vice-presidents are Professors Jerzy Wiatr, Warsaw University, and Bronislaw Miszewski, Gliwice Polytechnic. The secretary is Wiktor Pianowski of the Central Methodological Institute of Political Science Studies Warsaw. The PPSA publishes an annual journal in English, *Polish Round Table*, currently in its sixth year, edited by Professor Jerzy Wiatr.

The "Foundations of Political Science" course is taught in the third year in all Polish universities, polytechnics and higher educational institutions. The syllabus, issued by the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology,

concerns the following topics: basic problems of the marxist theory of politics, political organization of society and its functioning, modern political movements and doctrines, government socio-economic policy, and basic problems of international relations. These topics also define the areas of research within the discipline. About 600 scholars, among which 40% hold a doctor's degree (although not all in Political Science) are involved in lecturing on the foundations of political science.

The Jagiellonian University in Cracow, the Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the Silesian University in Katowice, and Rwoclaw University have independent institutes of Political Science while Warsaw University in 1975 established a joint Journalistic and Political Science department. This department trains political scientists in several specialties and has a doctoral program.

Beyond university related activities there also exist several independent research centers for political studies: The Polish Institute of International Relations in Warsaw (which publishes, among others, the annual *Studies on International Relations* in English), the Western Institute in Poznan and the Institute for Basic Problems of Marxism and Leninism attached to the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, in Warsaw. Also in the capital is the Central Methodological Institute for Political Science Studies. This Institute is attached to Warsaw University and publishes the quarterly journal *Studia Nauk Politycznych (Studies in Political Science)*, now in its 20th issue, edited by Professor Artur Bodnar. The Institute concentrates research in two areas: methodological problems of political theory, and; the political process in decision making. The Institute issues textbooks, organizes seminars, scientific panel discussions, etc.

In 1972 there also was established the Committee for Political Science within the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1975 this same committee was enlarged by including in it all other Academy of Science activities dealing with political problems. The committee discusses the direction of political studies in Poland and acts as a coordinator for all research programs. Professor Kazimierz Opalek is the president of this committee and the leading political scientists from Polish universities and research institutes are included as members.

In short, Polish Political Science is going through a period of dynamic growth.