

# Marek Rembierz

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"Society under Construction — Opportunities and Risks", Eds. P. Bałdys, K. Piątek, Bielsko-Biała 2015 : [recenzja]

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Ecumeny and Law 4, 307-309

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

*Society under Construction — Opportunities and Risks*  
Eds. P. BAŁDYS, K. PIĄTEK, 207 pp.  
Bielsko-Biała: Wydawnictwo Naukowe  
Akademii Techniczno-Humanistycznej, 2015

Prepared in English and edited by Patrycja Bałdys and Katarzyna Piątek, the reviewed book presents interesting results of research and analyses carried out by Polish and Ukrainian scholars. It constitutes another important outcome of the Polish and Ukrainian scientific initiative that brings research results worth disseminating. In the reviewed volume, attention is focused primarily on various aspects of the complex processes of transformation in Poland and Ukraine.

In the article “Pros and Cons of Polish Socio-Economic Transformation (1989—2015),” Patrycja Bałdys and Katarzyna Piątek examine multiple consequences — and diverse assessments — of processes occurring in the Polish transformation after 1989.

“Modern Ukraine as a Society at Risk,” an article by Larysa Klymanska and Viktor Savka, analyses — as the title suggests — different aspects of change and social crises in Ukraine in which, in many respects, there exists a specific society at risk.

The text titled “It Takes a Vision to Raise a Nation: Peacebuilding with Men in Ukraine” by Maureen P. Flaherty considers the complex processes which accompany creating a national identity and the possibility of forming a democracy in the conditions existing in modern Ukraine.

In the article “Myth or Reality. Religion and the Contemporary Ukrainian National Idea,” Katarina Novikova discusses the meaning of religion in the formation of modern Ukrainian identity. The role of Christian Churches (especially the Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox

Churches) is considered here, but also neo-pagan beliefs that gain a growing number of followers. The authoress thinks that the subsequent waves of Ukrainian social protests, which are acquiring a large scale (Maidan), significantly strengthen the current processes of national self-identification (Ukrainian self-understanding).

Three authoresses of the text titled "Evaluation of the Past as a Risk and Opportunity in the Social Development," Larysa Klymanska, Marina Klymanska, and Halyna Herasym, take into consideration the socially important issue of distorting Ukrainian history and the effects of this practice. How to shape the memory of history not to deform it and not to generate conflicts? This question, as it were, constitutes the axis of the text's reflection.

In his article "Ideology of Responsible Business and Its Research Application in Social and Economic Reality," Robert Geisler competently analyses the notion of corporate social responsibility understood in many different ways and broadly promoted nowadays (at least as a catchy slogan).

Yaroslav Pylynskyi, in his text titled "Proper Education Helps Ukraine to Overcome Corruption," considers the functions of educational activities in overcoming one of the most distressing (anti-developmental) Ukrainian social pathologies at present, namely the scope of corruption. In the article, the role of education in shaping desirable social attitudes and eliminating unwanted behaviour is rightly considered indispensable.

In the text titled "The (Re)constructing of a Multicultural Old Industrial Region in a Turbulent Context. The Case of Upper Silesia, Poland," Adrian Cybula undertakes to discuss the (re)construction of multicultural border of Upper Silesia after 1989; the author also highlights the current socio-economic capital of the region.

The article "Social Institutions in Unstable Society: Problems of Stability and Dynamics" by Viktor Savka examines manifold transformations of the Ukrainian society, especially in the dimension of its constituent subsystems.

Marta Geisler's text "Space and Relationships in the Age of Postmodernity" considers the postmodern context of changes in interpersonal relationships in their various dimensions (from the microscale to the macroscale), including dynamically developing virtual communities.

In Agnieszka Wrońska's text titled "Polish-German Stereotypes. History and the Present," the mutual perception of Poles and Germans (among others stereotypes about Germans) undergoes the authoress's analysis on the basis of rich and aptly selected source material.

In the text by Patrycja Bałdys and Katarzyna Piątek titled "Toward the Year 2025: Opportunities and Risk of Transformation in Poland and

Ukraine. Final Reflections,” the authoresses discuss current and possible future effects of social, political, and economic changes in Poland and Ukraine, as well as the transformation of Polish and Ukrainian relations (taking into account the complex history of their relations). At this point, it is hard to provide conclusive answers; however, the authoresses show prospects for multifaceted transformation in an interesting and discussion-provoking a manner.

This publication should initiate a series of successive Polish and Ukrainian publications regarding social changes taking place in both countries. This is an important task and a challenge that must be taken already at present. I would like to encourage the Editors of the volume to continue their efforts in this respect. Thanks to its substantial advantages, the book should also contribute to a better mutual understanding in the Polish and Ukrainian relations.

*Marek Rembierz*