

Studia Ekonomiczne 69

SPOŁECZNO-KULTUROWE UWARUNKOWANIA SYSTEMÓW GOSPODARCZYCH

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STRESZCZENIA

THE ONTOLOGY OF THE MARKET

Summary

The article contains a description of three moments of the market: its existence relationship, independence and autonomy. The dependence of the market on the society and natural environment in the aspect of the existence has been proved. The fundamentals of the market are decisions of the economic subjects, social actions and real processes (production, transport).

The money and credit are also very important fundamentals of the market. There is a feedback between the market and its fundamentals. The market is an object which is dependent in the sense of existence because its attributes are definite by other real objects. Institutions are the main factor that determines the market. The final factors are economic laws and values. The main characteristic of neoliberal economic system is the dominance of the economic values over the universal values.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CRISIS CONDITIONS

Summary

Crisis forces to the continuous overcoming of the permanent obstacles towards the development which is the barrier for the new ideas, new ways and thoughts, new concepts on the one hand and for the re-definitions of the social justice on the other hand which is always socially harmful and has got extensive political consequences. The difficulty really lies in the fact that all which demands repairing and correction should be done simultaneously and should run parallelly.

The times of repeating formats, patterns, procedures, standards are over. The capability of noticing the fundamentals of things in out of characteral approach is basic. It can be seen more and more in science, new technologies, in organization and management, in new forms of leadership in economy and politics. Modern leadership is not possible without creative abilities. Innovation is a must as a result of crisis which questioned and humiliated the routine and lack of imagination, following the stiff procedures by eliminating varieties which could give a chance of alternatives.

Justice is an important requirement for every social order. It permanently deals with con-troversial access to the resources and rights which is rationally verified when a deserved share principle is respected as rational and justified division of the burdens and profits, resulting in social split, is meant. Much attention has been paid by Amartya Sen, Willy Kymlicka, Martha Nussbaum or John Rawls whose Theory of Justice is recognized as one of the most outstanding works of XX century in the field of the humanities and social sciences. While dealing with theory of justice, which Rawls' theory perfectly serves, one should also study the theory of conflict in its practical dimensions which is greatly presented by Ralf Dahrendorf in his Social Conflict. The lack of effective reaction to inequality and conflict leads to the risk of confrontation which can effectively be avoided by the state of law which has got the necessary instruments. The lack of effective reaction to conflict leads to chaos and usually ends with the necessity of using force. In such situations political solutions are usually searched for based on the previous experiences defined on the basis of theory of politics or theory of conflict. Tending to the approach of common sense, Rawls thinks that justice is the first virtue of the social institutions being under-stood as objectivity.

THE SPECIFIC CHARACTER OF THE CULTURAL PARADIGM IN STUDIES ON THE SOCIAL SYSTEMS ACCORDING TO TALCOTT PARSONS

Summary

Talcott Parsons is among the twentieth century scientists who reintroduced the communication of two cognitive perspectives, once examined together in economics. It's about studies of society and economy as a whole. Reference is made in this study to those Parsons' works in which the examined ideas were developed to their fullest extent. These are the social system and Economy and Society (co-author: N.Smelser). Parsons made structural and functional descriptions of social systems by using the concept of formula variables. Polish elites are looking for and promoting a social system close to the ideal type which puts an emphasis on universalism and achievements as well as the desirable cultural personality type: homo americanus.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE CIVILIZATION FACTORS UPON THE FORMATION OF AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Summary

The topic of this dissertation is philosophical reflection upon the social world, a part of which is filled with the economic activity of man. The notions, values and moral norms resulting from a thought and human experience constitute the basis of the civilization development. The multitude and variety of civilizations and therefore the various forms of economic life are the reflection of the aksiological order shaped by the set of the universal norms. The values followed by man and moreover by industrial man objectivize in the process of historical development. They form the institutional foundation which determines choices, activity and behaviour. The cultural varieties lead to the basic civilization differences and thus to different economic orders.

The principal objective of this dissertation is to state the basic ideas and values which shaped the development of the western (Latin) civilization. The main thesis of my dissertation is the statement that the economic life cannot be separated from the cultural – material, intellectual and spiritual achievements of man. Hence the conclusion that economic activity cannot be embedded in the value system different from the one that is generally accepted and gives the identity to the community. The economics alienation from the cultural context towards abstraction and formalized language of description of the investigated processes lead to its lack of ability to enter into constructive discussion with e.g. philosophy, sociology or history. Moreover it is often helpless against challenges of the modern world.

The question that arises is as follows: What would be the proper normative – aksiological basis for the globalizing economy?

THE SOCIAL CAPITAL AS A FACTOR OF ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY

Summary

This paper discusses the relationship between the social capital and adaptability and flexibility of the economy.

The paper begins with a brief of definition and types of adaptability and flexibility. Next part of the article provides the main definition and components of social capital. It concludes with the implications of the social capital as the economic development factor.

SOCIO-CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS' COMPETITIVENESS

Summary

The main aim of the article is to show the role of the social and cultural factors in the theory of the economic systems and in the issues connected with the international country's competitiveness. The main hypothesis underlines that the social and cultural factors are not the ones of many determinants of country's competitiveness (on macro level) but have to be treated as a special, prior to others, group of factors which influences the shape of the realized economic system, and therefore its international competitiveness.

THE CRISIS AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Summary

This paper presents the analysis of the economic systems from the perspective of the economic crises. The main aim is to determine whether or not the economic crises are most likely to occur within some types of the economic systems. The chosen studied economic types are market economy and mixed economy. Six countries have been analysed – three representing market economy: Chile, Argentina, and South Korea and three representing mixed economy: United States, Sweden, and France. For each of these countries the GDP growth rate has been compared. It has been shown that market economy countries have the largest amplitude of the GDP growth rate fluctuations. Further analysis is based on the depression index which is evaluated from the GDP growth rate. The depression index reflects the frequency and duration of the economic crisis. It has been shown that countries of market economy have the highest values of the depression index. Finally, the Phillips index is considered. The Phillips index describes the relation between inflation and unemployment at a given time instant. Again, it has become apparent that the market economy countries have the largest fluctuations of the Phillips index. The analysis presented in this paper implies therefore that mixed economy countries are less susceptible for the economic fluctuations and are better suited for the time of the economic crisis.

THE ROAD TO MARKET ECONOMY

Summary

Twenty years ago the economy of Poland and the economies of other post-communist countries entered the road of system transformation. The conversion from the centrally-planned economy to market economy required radical changes such as: privatisation, liberalisation of the economic sphere, introducing of the market mechanism and converting into the open economy. It was also necessary to introduce a major monetary reform and to heal the public finances.

Poland, as the first country to enter the road of transformation, experienced apart from the unquestioned successes also failures. The example of the latter is the absence of restitution as the basic step towards the ownership changes. An increasing imbalance in public finances is also a serious problem Poland is currently facing. Here, the budget policy of Estonia is (not only for Poland) a positive example.

In spite of all problems and deficiencies the transformation process of the new East-Central European economies should be regarded as successful one. An unquestionable proof of the creation of the market economy was the accession of eight post-communist countries to the European Union in 2004.

THE PROCESS OF OWNERSHIP TRANSFORMATION AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Summary

The basic aim of the economic system transformation is to change the structure of the economy which can be described as its denationalisation or – in other words – the allocation of equity of formerly state-owned enterprises into private business entities. Privatisation in the post-communist countries leads, therefore, to the political system dominating for over one century in those parts of the world where civilisation progress is the fastest. The aim of this paper is to show the differences between privatisation processes in three neighbouring post-communist countries: Poland, Czech Republic and Eastern Germany. The research method used for this purpose is mostly descriptive analysis with some elements of the quantitative analysis.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN POLAND IN THE OPINION OF THE SOCIETY

Summary

Political and economic changes, which began in Poland in 1989, had an effect on the economic situation in all the sectors of the economy, including household sector. Since the beginning of the economic transformation, households have had to make important choices about income and expenditure, behaving in a changing reality, as well as developing their needs and expectations about goods and services provided. Furthermore, Polish households have faced other socio-economic changes as the transformation process was accompanied by two other (overlapping) processes, i.e. globalization and integration of Poland into the European Union.

On the one hand, the paper has analysed the statistical data, e.g. concerning income generated by Polish households as its level reflects how they have adjusted to economic conditions. In order to do so, the author referred to statistical data derived from Central Statistical Office, and to be more precise Statistical Yearbooks for particular years and Household budgets. On the other hand, the article has presented the subjective opinions held by Polish people about socio-economic changes. Therefore, the author referred to the reports published by Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS) for the period 2008-2009 that were prepared on the basis of the questionnaire survey, to be more precise a representative random sample of the adult Poles was interviewed.

SOCIO-CULTURAL CONDITIONS IN DIFFERENT MODELS OF THE MARKET ECONOMY

Summary

The paper presents the influence of the socio-cultural factors on the market economy. The aim of it is to show that the main models of the market economy are conditioned by different socio-cultural factors. In this paper four models of market economy are discussed: 1) a welfare state model (Sweden), 2) social market economy (Germany), 3) a Japanese model (Japan) and 4) a neoliberal model (USA).

SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF THE EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE MODEL'S (EWSM) EVOLUTION

Summary

The changes of the socio-economic and political conditions taking place in Europe for many centuries have led to the formation of the nation state model in which the social solutions play a significant role. We can symbolically call this model the European welfare state model (EWSM). The broadly defined cultural factors, including especially socio-political and economic factors, had an important influence on the evolution of the EWSM. The European state model formed as a result of the cultural transformations which took place in Europe in the past centuries is one of the important causes of the lower competitiveness of the European countries in comparison to other fields of economy. However, at the same time, the social solutions used in various types of the EWSM are one of the greatest cultural successes of the European society. Nonetheless, the international financial crisis as well as the crisis of the Eurozone, arising in the first decade of the 21st century, will enforce serious changes in the European model of the welfare state.

HISTORICAL CONDITIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY IN GERMANY

Summary

The purpose of the study is to point the most important historical conditions which stimulated creation of the social market economy and ordoliberalism as its foundation. Factors that will be discussed are relevant according to the author for implementation of the social market economy in Germany in years 1948/49.

A COMEBACK OF THE RHINE MODEL? THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF MODERN CAPITALISM – GERMAN CASE

Summary

The Varieties of Capitalism approach, a recognized method of institutional analysis, does not devote too much space for role of culture. This article is an attempt to endogenize the culture while taking advantage of the concept of coordination mechanisms. They make up a transmission belt between values and beliefs to rules and institutions. Such an analytical step enables to widen the classification of the institutional arrangements. It is possible to distinguish between liberal capitalism based on culture and on ideology. The second part of the article contains a case study on German capitalism: the role of culture in evolution of this type of capitalism. There are some indices that in the last years the impact of culture in this system has grown and has crowded out the ideology of the social state.

NORDIC WELFARE STATE MODEL. AN OUTLINE OF EVOLUTION AND PROSPECTS

Summary

Nordic welfare state model has recently become very popular among many politicians and economists after nearly three decades of being relegated from economic history and theory. Today economic growth, low employment and inflation figures often prove superiority of the model over different ones like the continental or Anglosaxon models mostly due to the successful linkage of the economic policies with social and political sphere. Scandinavian countries still may boast themselves with generous public policy, low inequality and poverty indicators or positive effects of state intervention in the areas of education or labor market. All these elements constitute the modern model of Nordic welfare state in which one may spot remains of the previous, 'classical' model dating back to post-war period, as well as modern policies adjusted to the expectations of contemporary, global economy. The paper tries to identify the features of the present Nordic model which give it this characteristic, yet difficult to follow, social and economic dimension of successful policies.

SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF THE SYSTEM CHANGES OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE THATCHER ERA

Summary

The present article is an attempt to show the relevance of the socio-cultural factors to the structural changes that took place in Great Britain in the Thatcher era. The period in question was characterized by some spectacular transitions in the organization of the British economy, as well as with equally important phenomena which occurred within the culture and society of the country. The hypothesis suggests that it is possible to draw a causal relationship between the two kinds of factors, namely socio-cultural and economic.

In the first part of the article the primary economic changes, both in the regulatory and the real dimension, have been described. Besides conversions in the fiscal and financial sectors, also restrictions imposed on the functioning of quangos and the formative power of trade unions have been taken into consideration. Moreover, such issues as privatisation, minimalization of employment in many of the formerly state-owned enterprises and the consequent variation in its distribution across sectors, changes in the industry and the trade structures, have been addressed by showing the empirical data.

All the above phenomena have been placed in the socio-cultural environment in the subsequent part of the article. First of all, it should be noticed that the highly individualistic character of the British society as well as the spread of the postmodern thought shaped a surprisingly positive attitude towards Thatcherism. Despite severe social effects of the undertaken reforms, Margaret Thatcher continued to win the elections and have the support for her policy. Self-reliance and individual choice were developed and the small private enterprise thrived. Moreover, the shrinkage of the working class and its changing face, namely the equation of its aspirations and life styles with the middle class, cause a great popularity of such programs as e.g. *"the Right to Buy"*. The unrest within the society, the nationalist movements, the collapse of the Establishment, the attachment to the imperialistic view of the country, and the "spirit of capitalism" rooted in the history and religion of Great Britain exerted an important influence on the economic changes of the period.

However, it would be difficult and improper to draw a simple causal relationship between the two kinds of factors in question. Sometimes, like in case of unemployment, inflation and common discontent, the economic situation determined social phenomena. But there are also examples of the inverse relation. The Protestant ethic advocates hard-work, self-reliance and is far from criticising gathering wealth, thus it promotes capitalism. Notwithstanding, it would be safer to ascribe rather a facilitative role than a causative one to the socio-cultural factors. In many cases, it is impossible to trace which was the first incentive for the change: economic or socio-cultural. The multiple feedbacks occurred there. The role of the socio-cultural environment in shaping the British economy is, however, unquestionable.

SOCIO-CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF SPANISH ECONOMIC SYSTEM EVOLUTION

Summary

Spain is a very interesting example of a country which has transformed its under-developed economy into an economy that is modern and competitive. This economic and political transformation has been accompanied by crucial social and cultural changes. This article discusses the socio-cultural determinants of Spanish economic system evolution. The first part of the article pays attention to the historical background of changes dated back to the XIX century. The second part discusses the socio-cultural surroundings of evolution of Gen. Franco's dictatorship. The last part of the article stresses the main socio-cultural determinants of contemporary economic system in Spain.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS IN THE FORMATION OF THE UKRAINE' S ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Summary

The paper presents social and cultural factors that affect the functioning of the Ukraine's economic system. The problem in question is of microeconomic nature and focuses on the patterns and mechanisms of the behaviour of the active economic entities in Ukraine that produce an effect on the formation and development of the national economy.

In the first part of the paper the author, based on the typologies of features and profiles of cultures developed by L. Harrison, has presented the features that are characteristic for the Ukraine's economic culture. Short-term time orientation, lack of providence and propensity to save, irrational financial behaviour, widespread corruption, family orientation and preference for the closed social contacts are evidence of the dominating features of conservative culture in Ukraine. Factors have been also indicated that hypothetically have an effect on the moderate level of the social capital in Ukraine.

The second part has described the business and enterprise culture in Ukraine based on the works of R. Gestelland.

The third part has shown the specifics of the Ukrainian economic culture in the light of system transformation. The understanding of the origin of behavioural patterns of the economic agents in the socialist economy helps to detect and overcome the barriers in the

formation of the new patterns and mechanisms of free market economy in Ukraine. The basic unhealthy features that were characteristic of the behaviour of the economic entities in the socialist Ukraine included: disrespect for public property, deceiving the State as the central planner by minimising contributions to collective effort, and using collective property for private purposes.

The phenomenon of regionalism in Ukraine, associated with the economic interests of the individual regions, and regionalism of historical and ethnic nature, have been presented in the fourth, final part of the paper. Regional specificity has arisen in Ukraine as the result of historical development and demographic structure of the nation.

Having known the social and cultural considerations in the process of forming the Ukrainian economic system, particularly of the origins and causes of adopting defined attitudes in the society, may help to define future trends in the development of the social culture and capital of Ukraine. Elimination of the social aberrations and dynamic growth of the social capital could gradually add to the establishment of capitalist economy and democratic society in Ukraine.

VIEWS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONFUCIANISM FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA AND OTHER EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

Summary

Confucianism as an ethical system has become fundamental for Chinese civilization. The reformers at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries while not rejecting Confucianism, were critical of its role in the Empire period.

Max Weber pointed out that Confucianism had not helped in creating capitalist economy. When, however, a dynamic economic development of Eastern Asia occurred, it was attributed to great extent to Confucianism or Asian values.

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

Summary

The purpose of article is characteristics of the main social and cultural factors which influenced on the past and will influence on the future economic development of India. The considerations concentrate on the thesis that culture, religion and mentality of India's inhabitants do not support neither fast, nor sustainable social and economic growth.