

Abstract of the doctoral dissertation

Motorization of households - between ideology and consumerism in Polish socio-economic policy after 1945

The aim of the thesis, entitled "Motorization of households - between ideology and consumerism in Polish socio-economic policy after 1945", is to present the Polish automotive industry, against the historical and political background in relation to the beginning of the entire industry worldwide and its influence on the citizens' consumer attitudes. The dissertation also attempts to establish how these attitudes were translated into the motorization of households, which took on a different character in many dimensions in the following decades, especially in the 20th and 21st centuries. The production of vehicles over time also became an important issue in government policy, which consequently translated into the ability to meet the needs of buyers. The thesis also presents two different concepts in the approach to motorization. One concerns the autocratic state's approach to industry, and the other is closely related to the free market economy. The point of reference here was the Polish state, which, mainly due to external conditions, had an imposed authoritarian system, immediately after World War II, and then from 1989, began the path of transition from such a form of government to a parliamentary-cabinet democracy with a free market economy. The development prospects of motorization in Poland are also presented, with particular emphasis on the Silesian Voivodeship. The entire thesis is complemented by scientific research, including a research questionnaire with quantitative and qualitative elaboration and expert interviews.

The thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I is titled "The automotive industry as an important issue in state policy." It comprises three subchapters: 1.1 "The share and importance of the automotive industry in the world economy," 1.2 "The share and importance of the automotive industry in the Polish market," 1.3 "The influence of the policy of the Polish authorities on the development of the industry related to car production." Chapter II is titled "The concept of motorization in the state of autocratic socialism on the example of Poland." It consists of two subchapters: 2.1 "Political decisions of the Polish People's Republic's authorities with regard to the automotive industry" and 2.2 "Rationed policy and the automotive industry." Chapter III is titled "Free market and consumer behavior as an element of a country's economic growth." It has three subchapters: 3.1 "The importance of the free market after the political transformation of 1989," 3.2 "Consumer behavior and the car sales market in Poland," and 3.3 "The importance of economic growth on the perception of the country in international



politics." Chapter IV, which is entitled "Development prospects of the automotive industry in Poland.", consists of four subchapters: 4.1 "Modern technologies and scientific facilities in the automotive industry," 4.2 "Development directions of the automotive industry in the country and the world," 4.3 "Elements of the climate package and environmental protection as an important factor in car production," 4.4 "The role of the automotive industry in the Silesian Voivodeship, in relation to the country as a whole." Chapter V, which is generally a study of own research, is titled "Own research. Statistical analysis, evaluation of opinions on motorization of households in the context of ideology and consumerism, in Polish socio-economic policy after 1945, and expert interviews." This chapter does not contain subchapters.

The entire dissertation addresses one of the most significant aspects of the modern world, which is the automotive industry. It is both a branch of the economy and an element of social life, which generally influences the political actions of nearly all countries in the world. Nowadays, it is impossible to imagine the functioning of households without motor vehicles, as they have become an indispensable element of both movement and universal fascination. This thesis therefore attempts, among other things, to unravel this present-day phenomenon.



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