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*Cuba and Cuban Revolution in Polish press 1959-2016*

(Summary)

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the image of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution that emerges from articles published in various Polish journals in 1958-2016 period. It is an attempt to answer the question of how the perspective on which Cuba and its revolution were presented in the Polish press changed depending on when a given text was published, who was its Author and in what newspaper it was published, and how objective Polish journalists were writing about Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. This topic has not been thoroughly elaborated so far, only articles concerning the image of Cuba in single journals or in a short period of time have been published. However, a comprehensive publication comparing the content of Cuba published in the Polish press over the decades or in newspapers of various political origins has not been released. The basis for this thesis were primarily press sources enriched with archival materials from the resources of the Institute of National Remembrance, the Archive of Modern Records in Warsaw, the State Archives in Katowice, State Archives in Rzeszow and the National Archives in Krakow. The dissertation consists of an introduction, a list of abbreviations, 4 chapters, a conclusion, a list of photos, appendices, bibliography and a personal index.

Chapter I deals with the ideological and social foundations of the Cuban Revolution. The Author describes the philosophy and poetry of the Cuban hero and national bard - Jose Marti, with particular emphasis on anti-colonial and independence themes in his poems and writings. He tries to explain how they were implemented in the ideology of the Cuban Revolution. Then Marxism-Leninism is presented as the main element of the post-1958 Cuban government's worldview regarding the revolutionary and post-revolutionary events on the Island. The Author described the reasons why this philosophy became a point of reference for the new Cuban government. It also presents Guevarism as the closest and, in the opinion of revolutionaries, the most suited to local needs.

Chapter II presents the image of Cuba and its revolution in the weeklies and monthlies of People's Poland. The Author presents press articles on the Cuban revolution published in the pages of "Polityka", "Sprawy Międzynarodowe", "Perspektywy" and "Forum". It tries to capture the difference in the perception of this topic in these magazines, resulting, inter alia, from the different target audience. It also takes into account and discusses the differences in the perception of Cuba within each of these newspapers, depending on the time of publication of the articles and their Authors.

Chapter III discusses the image of Cuba and the Cuban revolution in the pages of the Catholic press published during the Polish People's Republic. This is an important issue, because in the times of the Polish People's Republic, the Catholic press was the only one which was relatively independent of the then government. Each of the magazines discussed in this chapter differed in terms of the purpose it had for itself, and thus, in terms of the way it describes issues related to Cuba and its revolution, which the Author tried to highlight. In this chapter, the Author described the image of Cuba presented in "Tygodnik Powszechny", Miesięcznik "Znak" and the Tygodnik Katolicki "Niedziela". Catholic journals in the People's Republic of Poland tried to help the Polish Catholic to find himself in the unfavorable ideological reality, in which the worldview promoted by the state was Marxism-Leninism, and the content published in the press was under control of preventive censorship. Therefore, when discussing topics related to Cuba, the focus was on issues related to the functioning of the Catholic Church in Cuba and changes in its relations with the state authorities over the years, as well as attempts to dialogue with Marxism through the theology of liberation and the philosophy of Christian democracy. The differences between the Catholic Church in Poland and in Cuba were also noted.

Chapter IV is devoted to the analysis of the image of Cuba and its revolution in the conditions of media pluralism and liberal democracy in Poland after 1989. The Author focused on presenting the broadest possible spectrum of political views as far as the journals discussed in this chapter are concerned. For this reason, it includes the following topics: "Polityka", "Wprost", "Przegląd Tygodniowy", "Przegląd", and "Gazeta Wyborcza". "Polityka" has been discussed as a newspaper that was previously the official press organ of the Polish United Workers' Party, compared to how its editors' perception of the Cuban Revolution altered after the political change. The weekly "Wprost" in this chapter represents the right-wing press, "Przegląd Tygodniowy" and "Przegląd" - the new left wing, unrelated to the People's Poland, and "Gazeta Wyborcza" represents the broadly defined anti-communist opposition circles that

entered the mainstream press after 1989. In this chapter, the Author shows how various issues can be presented in the press, depending on the worldview of a given editorial office.

As a result of the research undertaken on the subject, conclusions were obtained that the subject of Cuba and its revolution was raised more often by the press in the times of People's Poland than in the Third Polish Republic. In the Polish People's Republic, Cuba was largely presented in the press in a positive way, as a state which, despite adversities, was able to constitute itself in a way that it considered right and to provide its citizens with a relatively stable standard of living. Nevertheless, press releases about Cuba and its revolution varied depending on the target group to which the journal was addressed and the period in which the article was written. Critical and negative opinions prevail in the press of the Third Polish Republic on Cuba and the Cuban Revolution, which is the result of pluralisation in the media market and the change of the paradigm to a free-market and liberal-democratic one.

The thesis is supplemented by an index of abbreviations, a personal and appendices. The entire dissertation is closed with a bibliography, which was preceded by the conclusion which summarizes the topic.

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