

Summary of doctoral dissertation

Author:	Beata Biel
Affiliation:	Jan Długosz University, Faculty of Humanities, Institute of Literary Studies
Dissertation supervisor:	dr hab. Urszula Cierniak, prof. UJD
Theme:	The New Man in the Utopia of 'Nowe Drogi' and Its Literary Contexts

This thesis presents the vision of the New Man of the communist era created on the pages of the Polish party monthly 'Nowe Drogi' ('New Roads'). The magazine was established in 1947, propagated the communist worldview, and promoted the 'bright future' projects to the citizens.

This publication was relatively a compendium of knowledge about the currents and transformations in the ideological image of the 'New Man', which would, according to the communists, cover up 'Old Man' in the near future. In the presented dissertation, this image juxtaposes with the idea of the man of the communist future as depicted in the literary fantasies of twentieth-century Russian and Polish writers, who in various ways entered into polemics with the communist utopia.

To illustrate this literary involvement in the ideological debate, selected works by such authors as Yevgienij Zamiatin, Andrei Platonov, Arkadij and Boris Strugacki, Mikhail Bulgakov, Iwan Yefremow, Sergey Sniegow, Aleksander Bogdanov, Tadeusz Jeske-Choiński, Władysław Lem Reymont, Stanisław Lemont, and Stanisław Lemont, Janusz Zajdel, Edmund Wnuk-Lipiński, Krzysztof Boruń, Andrzej Trepka, Antoni Słonimski have been analyzed in this work.

And wondering to what extent the analyzed texts constitute a form of literary protest against the attempts of ideologists to form a 'bright future' by the ideologists of Marxism-Leninism.

The chronological dates of the work cover the period from the October Revolution to the moment when society threw off the ideological yoke of communism.

The methodology of the work, taking into account the strategies of cultural comparative studies and methods of intertextual research, serves the realisation of the set research goal. Both approaches made it possible to look at ideology as an essential reference point for the analysed

utopias and anti-utopias. Methodological considerations are part of the Introduction, which introduces the work's subject matter, hypotheses, and aims, which we present in five chapters.

The first chapter, entitled *Theory of Utopia and Anti-utopia*, discusses the concept from the philosophical-sociological and theoretical-literary perspectives. The second chapter, *Nowe Drogi - a historical outline*, presents the genesis, analysis of the structure and content of the periodical, as well as its ideological profile, created by the periodical during over forty years of its existence. 'Nowe Drogi' was also related with similar press organs of the world workers' movement. This chapter introduces the analysis of the revolutionary utopian project that the ideologists tried to implement in Poland, following the example of other countries building communism, particularly the USSR.

The composition of the following three chapters of the dissertation constitutes a triple discourse on the New Man between Marxist-Leninist theory, utopia and anti-utopia. This discourse revolved around categories such as the social essence of man, the Marxist idea of the 'full man' and ethics and morality. These categories we presented in the chapters: *Individualism versus Collectivism*, *The New Man in a World of Work and Matter*, and *The New Man and Morality*. Each of these consists of three parts. In the first part, it is always presented the theoretical assumptions of Marxism-Leninism propagated by 'New Ways', which relate to the leading theme of a given chapter. In the second part, remaining in the orbit of the influence of ideological propaganda, it is concentrated on the fantastic world of communist literary utopias. Their task was not only to propagate a vision of a bright future but also to shape the attitudes of exemplary citizens of the new system. In turn, in the third part of each chapter, it is presented what elements of the vision of the New Man from 'Nowe Drogi' can be found in literary anti-utopian fantasies. It has been assumed that the works analysed in this dissertation, regardless of the time of their creation, enter into a philosophical dispute with Marxist-Leninist ideology about the New Man and the nature of humanity.

In the research, it has been proved that utopian and anti-utopian fiction was a space of discourse with the ideology imposed by the theorists of Marxism-Leninism. It was also a crucial place of struggle for dignity, hope and truth in the life of every human being, including the one programmed as a New Man.

17.05.2022

Beata Biel