

The Gdańsk Liberals: An Exemplification of Polish Pragmatic Liberalism

Piotr B*

Institute of Political Science Polish Academy of Science, Polna, Warszawa, Poland

Abstract

The purpose of article "Gdansk's liberals – pragmatic liberalism" is to present the ideology and socio-political program of the Gdansk liberals. Subsequently, an attempt will be shown to incorporate the concept of the Gdansk liberals in the party program of the Liberal Democratic Congress (Kongres Liberalno-Demokratyczny). The author in the introduction focuses on the definition of intellectual formation called the Gdansk liberals. Then they were presented the basic ideas, the political program (system of state, privatization as an attempt to create a middle class, regionalism, and the issue of "liberal revolution"). Article ends with reflections on the relationship of Gdansk's liberals to Congress.

Keywords: Gdańsk liberals; Pragmatic liberalism; Liberal revolution

Introduction

The purpose of this article is to present the pragmatic liberalism, ideology and socio-political program of the Gdańsk liberals. Later, an attempt will be made to show the concept of Gdansk liberals incorporated into the program of the political party - Liberal Democratic Congress (Kongres Liberalno-Demokratyczny).

The Gdańsk liberals were an intellectual formation created in the early 1980s, bringing together the intelligentsia of Gdansk who opposed the communism. The members of this group at the beginning of their existence did not have specific views, but they were primarily reluctant to join the political system at the time. Their ideas began to crystallize when in 1983 it was published the first issue of the "Political Review" ("Przegląd Polityczny"), whose editor-in-chief was Donald Tusk, current president of the European Council (originally written under the pseudonyms Anna Barycz and Tadeusz Doniecki). In addition, the editors were composed by Wojciech Duda, Marek Zająkała, Jacek Kozłowski, Andrzej Zarębski and Wojciech Fułek¹. Among the Gdansk liberals apart from those mentioned above were Dariusz Filar, Lech and Longin Mażewski, Piotr Kapczyński and Jan Szomburg. Views of the Gdańsk liberals were reflected in the program of the party Liberal Democratic Congress (1990), which ended its existence in 1994, joining the Democratic Union (Unia Demokratyczna).

Fundamental Ideas

In the first issue of the "Political Review" the editorial stated: "We do not have the ambition to create our own political program at least. It is probably still too early."² Indeed it was too early, because liberal ideas were discussed in Poland, but in the larger academic centers such as Warsaw, Poznan and Krakow. Only minor works on this subject were published in Gdańsk. In the first few years of the activities of the Gdańsk liberals there was no debate on the essence of liberalism. It should be noted, however, that the aim of the "Political Review" was to create an ideological and substantive basis for the new policy. The realization of the goal that put a "Political Review" seems to be an article Tusk "Reflections on Liberalism". It did not contain any serious research on the main philosophical assumptions of this doctrine. Freedom seemed to be the author of the idea of the most important characteristic of "liberalism practical".³ However; Tusk barely mentioned his

fundamental ideas of the Gdańsk liberals. Tusk stated in it: "What does the liberal demand in a state of parliamentary democracy, what else in a totalitarian state? In communism or fascism every liberal is entered radicalism attitudes and actions."⁴ Three years later, Tusk asked rhetorically, "how important for us to be able to dispute the liberals of the free world within mentation intervention of the welfare state, the degree of freedom of competition, the nuances of the liberal conception of man, etc. - for us who live in the country of unlimited power policeman and an officer of the party?"⁵, and I answered the question as follows: "it was only sensible to adopt the broadest version of liberalism, which he means as much as anti-totalitarianism"⁶. Because there is no way undermines the simple truth that "liberalism offers a radical form of escape from the totalitarian system, because it is obvious opposite of"⁷. In the '80s liberalism was seen "not as a program of socio-political and economic, but as a personality predisposition, way of thinking and the initial canon of political principles"⁸. For these reasons, he did not require any justification. This caused a complete loss from the field of view of the problems of building the next system formation. There was no reflection on what it was like to move on to the new order, and what ideological-programmatic assumptions should be adopted by free Poland. Liberalism must have transformed itself into a utopia or a more subtle vision that became popular only because it was the most contrasting with the realities of the communist regime.⁹ Tusk substantially agreed with this assessment, but was convinced that "(...) we developed a (meaning: Gdansk liberal) some insights and assumptions" importing the following:

⁴Barycz A (D. Tusk), Reflections on Liberalism, "Political Review", No. 1984, No. 2, p. 23.

⁵Doniecki T (D. Tusk), The Way and the Choice, "Political Review", No. 1987, No. 9, p. 18.

⁶Ibidem.

⁷Węgiełek J, Traps of Liberalism. "Political Review", 1991, No. 13, p. 11.

⁸Doniecki T (D. Tusk), Way and choice, Op. Cit., p. 18.

⁹Szacki J, The rebirth of liberalism? Idem: Dilemmas of Historiography of Ideas and Other Sketches and Studies, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warsaw 1991, p. 201.

*Corresponding author: Piotr B, Institute of Political Science Polish Academy of Science, Polna, Warszawa, Poland, Tel: +447548881283; E-mail: biegasiewicz@gmail.com

Received June 14, 2017; Accepted June 28, 2017; Published June 30, 2017

Citation: Piotr B (2017) The Gdańsk Liberals: An Exemplification of Polish Pragmatic Liberalism. J Pol Sci Pub Aff 5: 268. doi: [10.4172/2332-0761.1000268](https://doi.org/10.4172/2332-0761.1000268)

Copyright: © 2017 Piotr B. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

¹Paradowska J, Baczyński J, Folders of Liberals, Obserwator Poznan 1993, p. 55.

²From Editorial, "Political Review", 1983, No. 1, p. 1.

³So the phenomenon of Gdansk is called JK Bielecki in an interview with Marek Rudziński. I have no conscience conflict. Marek Rudziński talks to Jan K. Bielecki, "Youth Banner" from 24-26 V 1991, 1991, No. 9, p. 15.

1. One of the main sources of civilizational collapse in Poland is etatism; Without a fundamental change in the sphere of ownership of means of production and the limitation of state omnipotence, Poland has no chance of recovering from the crisis;

2. Guarantees for the proper functioning of the economy are private property, free market and free competition of free generators; Any ideas related to the “third way”, “no bourgeois civil society”, “socialism with human face” etc. They are utopian and political fiction, regardless of their origin; The idea of civil society in the traditional sense of the term (and therefore the only positive one tested) is immanently linked to economic freedoms;

3. Polish society is largely egalitarian, it is still common to allow etatist omnipotence and overprotectiveness, one of the main tasks of the opposition is to change that attitude;

4. Poles need reforms - they must at the same time demand rights.¹⁰

Political Program

In the 1980s, the liberal program in Poland was reduced to four principles: “freedom, not equality,” “individual, not mass,” “law, not violence,” “property, not alienation,” “evolution; not revolution”,¹¹ but the Gdansk liberals quickly created their own concept of political - democratic capitalism - inspired publications Michaela Novaka, whose elements were republic presidential-parliamentary, regionalization, separation of church and state, widespread privatization, as well as the revolution liberal as a way to come to them.¹² The political program developed by the Gdansk liberals contains a vision of the political, economic order and considerations on the way out of communism and the separation of church and state. The most important element of the ideas of Gdańsk liberals was privatization and regionalism. These were the two main conditions for the final overthrow of communism in Poland.¹³ “Competent” separation of church and state was the least refined element of the program of Gdansk liberals (they admitted that “neutrality worldview should take in Poland different shape than the West,” but the details of the program on this subject have only “become the subject of public debate”). It was only known that this should “bring about the development of the Church itself.”¹⁴ This issue will be omitted in further reflection.

State supreme governing body

According to the Gdansk liberals, the president of Poland had to come from direct elections. The term of office would be 6 years, but there would be no re-election ban. Besides the traditional powers of the head of the parliamentary state, the President would have a number of personal competencies. The most important of them would be: nominating and releasing the head of the armed forces, appointing a commander of the armed forces for the time of war, the powers associated with the introduction and conduct of extraordinary states, the appointment and dismissal of the prime minister, the possibility of defining a separate act of direct relations between the president and the ministers of foreign affairs and defence, the right of veto of the legislature and the unlimited possibility of dissolving the parliament before the end of the term.

¹⁰Ibidem, p. 25.

¹¹Filar D, Being a Liberal, "Political Review", No. 1988, No. 11, p. 20.

¹²Mażewski L, Democratic Capitalism, "Przegląd Polityczny" (1991), No. 14, p. 21. D. Tusk, Solidarity and pride (Op. Cit.), p. 54.

¹³Tusk D, Pomeranian regional idea. Paper presented at the 2nd Kashubian Congress, "Pomerania. Socio-Cultural Monthly", 1992, No. 6, p. 2.

¹⁴Mażewski L, Democratic Capitalism, op. cit., p. 23

For official actions, the president would not be held accountable for political matters, but only for criminal and constitutional reasons on the basis of consistent resolutions of both chambers. The justification for such a solution would be to make the head of state independent (by way of appointment) from the parliament and to create it equal to the parliament's legitimacy to power. The all competency would allow the president to be active in political life, especially as defence and foreign policy issues would be entrusted to him bypassing the government. The right of veto suspension and unlimited resolution of the chambers would mean a profound interference in the legislative activity.

Parliament should consist of two equal chambers: the Sejm (lower house) and the Senate (upper house). The parliamentary tasks would primarily be legislative activity (presidential decree could only take place through parliamentary mandate during inter-parliamentary periods) and government scrutiny. The Gdańsk liberals rejected the conception of the Senate as representative of the regions. It would come from regional-based elections (according to which smaller towns are subject to the nearest major center), but would not represent a region, as it would be contrary to the idea of a regional state (a Unitarian and non-federal state). Both chambers would come from the general election with a majority.¹⁵

The Gdańsk liberals demanded the independence of the Senate from the Sejm. The dissolution of the lower house of the Polish parliament would not entail the filing of elections to a higher chamber. The effect of the Senate's continuity could be strengthened if, with the four-year term of senators being renewed, half of its composition was renewed every two years. In addition, the Gdansk liberals have postulated that the higher chamber is competent to draft statutes. The establishment of a legislative act in the described manner would only occur in the event of natural disaster, war and emergency at the request of the government. Laws passed by the Senate alone would be subject to approval by the Sejm within 30 days of its establishment. The legal acts established in this special procedure would cease to apply in two cases: 1) if the lower house of the Polish parliament would not approve them and 2) if they were not submitted for approval.

The Gdańsk liberals were opponents of the Senate's transformation into a self-governing chamber. They were supporters of the general election to the upper house. They did not want the passive right to be voted only by qualified citizens who had the function of coming from the local government elections.¹⁶

Privatization as an attempt to create a middle class

The difficulty in introducing the changes proposed by the Gdansk liberals was that there was no significant breakthrough in the breakthrough years for building a new system that would coincide with its real interests. Lech Mażewski recalled that: “The medium class with the pattern of its western counterparts could be the backbone for us.” But this was not. Therefore, Janusz Lewandowski and Jan Szomburg and Lech and Longin Mażewski proposed universal privatization as a tool capable of creating it. It was not an original idea, because in countries where the sociological dimension of the appropriation was strongly emphasized, the focus was on the empowerment of small shareholders. It was characteristic of the “people's capitalism”, proclaimed by Ludwik Erhard at the congress of the CDU in Hamburg in 1957 and for the subsequent re-privatization of the public sector in Austria, where it was also about the privatization of social privatization (soziale Privatisierung). The social motif was clearly intertwined with fiscal

¹⁵Ibidem, p. 25.

¹⁶Tusk D, Vision of Parliament in the new Constitution of the Republic of Poland, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warsaw 1995, p. 43.

motives in numerous re-privatization undertakings. Conservatives openly declared aim was the British folk capital market (people's capital market). It was a conscious process of creating - through direct, indirect and not capitalizing savings - a broader layer of risk taking individuals, necessary work revitalize the economy, building economic culture (enterprise culture). It was also in France and other Western countries.

The universal and mass privatization of Lewandowski and Szomburg was supposed to be a top-down transformation of the amorphous state ownership into a decentralized system of individual and voluntary powers over existing production assets.¹⁷ According to Lewandowski and Szomburg, the effects of the transfer of ownership rights to a wide range of society would not only be a radical socialization of the dispersing economy, but also the spread of private property, the creation of a market economy and the creation of "property specialists" - middle class representatives. The parcel of state property meant that every Polish household would have the property right "which will soon be able to try on the stock market".¹⁸

The result of the reflections of Lewandowski and Szomburg was the idea of taking over the re-privatization of all natural persons over 18 years of age who were Polish citizens - they would receive nominal property bills of 2 million zlotys (today's 200 zlotys, approximately 40 sterling pounds). They could be used only for one purpose: as a right to take shares of equivalent value. The holder of the voucher could choose the moment in which he appears on the stock exchange as a potential shareholder, knowing the fixed schedule of re-privatization with the dates of introduction of individual companies on the stock exchange. Apart from the issue of ordinary bearer shares, the issue of preference shares of the company concerned was also issued to its employees. It would take over these shares for vouchers or buy them with a rebate, thus providing the right amount of voting power at the shareholders meeting. The legal form was obtained by Janusz Lewandowski and Jan Szomburg in the Act of 30th April 1993 on national investment funds and their privatization (Ustawa z dnia 30 kwietnia 1993 r. o narodowych funduszach inwestycyjnych i ich prywatyzacji). This law envisaged the conversion of about 5% of state-owned companies into commercial law companies and the transfer of their shares to national investment funds. This law was intended to transfer the shares of commercialized businesses to two types of funds:

- A common investment fund;
- Compensation fund investment.

National investment funds, in accordance with the letter, were state-owned companies with the aim of managing privatized state-owned companies. The shares of these companies themselves were subject to the following division:

- 60% of shares had to hit different NFIs, however, one NFI held a 33% controlling

Stake, while the rest, 27%, received each NFI equally and 15% of those shares were reserved for the management company of the NFI as compensation. For her work;

- 15% of the shares went free to company employees;
- 25% of the shares were held by the State Treasury to subsidize the social security

System or as a compensation fund for employees of the budgetary sphere or pensioners.

By assessing the above distribution of shares, attention should be paid to the appropriation of the NFI and its management boards to the dissemination of the rest of the shareholders. This is because they have become the real owners of commercialized businesses. In addition, the employees of the privatized company were too comfortable to participate in both the privatization of their company and the Universal Share Certificate (Powszechno Świadcstwo Udziałowe; USC) equivalent to one share in each NFI. The USC itself cost 10% of the average monthly salary announced by Polish Central Statistics Office and the approximate valuation of shares received by one citizen was estimated at about 20 thousand polish zlotys (approximately 5 sterling pounds).¹⁹

Among the proposed proposals for emancipation, attention is deserved. A Compensation Share Certificate, which was to be distributed free of charge to persons who did not receive valorization of their benefits or wages from the government in the second half of 1991.

In concluding the program of universal privatization, it should be emphasized that, at the moment of specifying the NFI and their privatization, it completely abandoned the idea of creating a middle class. Its purpose has been to seize state-owned enterprises, improve their market position, and compensate for the absence of increases in the budgetary sphere. The main weakness of the program was the limited scope of privatization, which covered only 10% of state-owned enterprises at that time, which, even in mass participation, could not provide the capital needed to create their own businesses. The proposals of Lewandowski and Szomburg were not unanimously accepted by the Liberal Democratic Congress. Part of the Gdańsk liberals saw the shortcomings of the Universal Privatization Program.

The leaders of the opposition in the Congress were Lech and Longin Majeewskis, who, because of their lack of acceptance for their privatization program, left the Congress and joined the Conservative Party of Alexander Hall. Even as members of the Congress, they proposed a commercial commercialization project at the Congress of the Congress (17th June 1992), competing against the then-program of Lewandowski and Szomburg. The main assumptions of the mass and universal privatization of Mażewskis were:

- A system of credit vouchers;
- Regionalization of privatization rights;
- Regionalization of stock exchanges;
- Use NFI for privatization purposes.²⁰

Authors of the concept of credit vouchers referred to the idea of Lech Wałęsa, "100 million zlotys for everyone" (today's 10.000 polish zlotys, approximately 2.000 sterling pounds). According to Walesa, every adult citizen was eligible to receive a loan of 10.000 American dollars, which had to be repaid within 20 years. However, for the first 10 years, one's would not be charged interest. From 11 years the interest rate would be 10% per annum. So repaying the loan earlier, the citizen could count on lower investment costs. In the concept of Walesa, to which the brothers Majewski referred to, the sum received could be used to repay debts, purchase state and communal property, and purchase shares of commercialized enterprises.²¹

¹⁹Thieme J, Republic of Investors, "Wprost", 1991, No. 3-4, p. 24.

²⁰Mażewski L, Mass and universal privatization, Wydawnictwo Trio, Gdansk 1993, p. 32.

²¹Mażewscy L, Privatization on Credit, "Dziennik Bałtycki", 1992, no. 42, p. 19.

¹⁷Lewandowski L, Szomburg J, Property as a threshold for economic reform. Economic Alternative, "Political Review" 1991, No 14, p. 25.

¹⁸Ibidem

The whole process of privatization in accordance with this concept should become the domain of individual teams counting a number of voivodships, to which 20% of the proceeds from the commercialization of enterprises would be charged. Privatization, in line with the concept of a conservative Congress option, should be done with reprivatization through reprivatization bills, as well as returns in kind where possible. The property repatriate was to be the National Repurchase Fund, which had the power to exchange reprivatization vouchers for shares of commercial enterprises (at central level) or financial assets (at local level). Another point of the Mażewski brothers program was the division into the central stock exchange and its regional counterparts. This would allow access to the capital markets of smaller and lesser-known privatized state-owned and private companies, for which certain conditions of admission to the markets were relaxed, such as period of operation and size. On the other hand, at central level they would have to be subject to all restrictions.

The Liberal Democratic Congress conservative option program also assumed a modification of the rules for the formation and functioning of the NFI. As a result of these changes, the NFIs would become joint stock companies of the Treasury and management companies. Citizens could place credit bundles in the selected fund, which would force competition between them for investors. The authors of the concept claimed that the result of mass credit would be the emergence of the middle class. Thanks to it, according to Lech and Longin Mażewski, the transformation of Poland would take place not as a result of the administration, but thanks to the forces actively interested in defending and deepening "democratic capitalism". They believed that "the property revolution would lead to the individual interest joining the common interest."²²

In summary: the Congress conservative option program assumed universality, despite the emphasis on participating only in the most active entities - people capable of multiplying the acquired capital and returning it after a maximum of 20 years. Moreover, it did not put the employees or managers of the privatized enterprises in a privileged position. It is therefore possible for authors to conceive that the aim was to create a middle class by using regional instruments as close as possible to the citizen. Also worth mentioning is the combination of privatization and reprivatization, which Lewandowski and Szomburg overlooked in total silence [1].

The presentation of liberal privatization projects in Poland after 1989 aiming at creation of the middle class allows us to answer the question posed at the beginning. Liberal projects seem to confirm the following thesis: they believed that the best way to create a middle class, then limited to entrepreneurs and consolidating it in the structure of Polish society, would be to provide capital to citizens. They will use it to invest not only in their own home but also in building or strengthening their own businesses.

The privatization project of Lewandowski and Szomburg [1] suffered an absolute defeat - not in the Poles but in the NFI, their management companies and the employees of the commercialized companies. The concept of Majewski brothers was definitely a better solution. It had the potential to cover all Poles by providing them with capital in the form of a preferential loan. It was not a money distribution, because on the borrower's side was born a debt, which after a maximum of 20 years should be returned. The concept of mass and universal privatization put emphasis on entrepreneurship and accountability, not just past *condicto sine* the development of capitalism, but also the development of the middle class. The results of

Polish privatization were much more modest than the expectations of the liberals. As a result of the universal privatization program, citizens received a voucher of today's value of PLN 20, which in no way could help them start a business or secure a substantial investment. Common Stock Certificates were often sold after a while from purchase at the same bank where they were obtained. Until now, most citizens have not been deprived of their citizenship. Perpetual usufruct, cooperative and communal property are just some examples of areas whose privatization has been lost.

The development of the middle class took place without political elites, including those liberal proponents interested in current profits from the commercialization of enterprises. He made it in the midst of small business - trade, services, small production. Today's small entrepreneurs started their businesses with the introduction of the economic laws of Mieczysław Rakowski and Mieczysław Wilczka, and developed them without the capital inflow from privatized companies. Privatization itself has preserved the division of Poles into: the class of beneficiaries of change, and those who have come to their own positions. The potential for dissatisfaction has become a breeding ground for parties interested in gaining access to power.

The authors of the presented conceptual errors can be seen in the desire to shape the Polish society in accordance with their will and imagination. The strategy adopted by them was erroneous: instead of limiting state participation in the process of economic and social reconstruction, they carried out active pro-state economic and social policies. They could not reduce the burden on the middle class. In the liberal's opinion, these burdens guaranteed funds for its development. In fact, the middle class in Poland was born outside of the liberals.

Regionalism

Some representatives of the Gdańsk liberals, including Tusk, had at least an ambivalent attitude towards Poland. For Tusk: "Polishness is abnormality (...) Polishness invokes invariably the reaction of rebellion: history, geography, historical bad luck and God knows what else has thrown on my shoulders a burden that I have no special desire to carry and I cannot dump I want anyway?), Burn the badge and make it proudly."²³ The source of this dual relationship to the homeland can be seen in the double identity of the national part of the Gdańsk liberals. Many of them were Kashubs or had Kashubian origin - among others.

The solution to Polish problems was regionalism for the liberals in Gdańsk. In their understanding, this was a far broader concept than folklore, folk and ritual. Indignation caused them to limit the idea of regionalism only to the cultural sphere.²⁴ Regionalism was for them a political movement whose intention was to defend the values threatened by central government, progress, egalitarianism and unification.²⁵ The goal of regionalism was to allow Pomerania and other aspirations of self-government to be understood not as a rebellion against the center, but as an active participation in the reform of the whole state, to realize the regional system.²⁶ The autonomy of small homeland was to be achieved not with Poland but with regard to central bureaucracy.²⁷ Tusk proposed to:

²³Tusk D, The Broken Pole, "Znak", 1987, No. 11-12, p. 12-15.

²⁴Idem, Confused in action - regionalism today, "Pomerania.Socio-Cultural Monthly", 1998, no. 12, p. 14. Idem, Vision of the Parliament in the new Constitution of the Republic of Poland, (Op. Cit.), p. 17.

²⁵Ibidem.

²⁶Idem, This, Pomeranian regional idea. Paper presented at the 2nd Kashubian Congress, "Pomerania.Socio-Cultural Monthly", (Op. Cit.), p. 2.

²⁷Idem, Strong regions - a strong country, "Pomerania.Socio-Cultural Monthly", 1992, no. 4, p. 7.

²²Mażewski L, Mass and Universal Privatization, (Op. Cit.), p. 56.

Intensifying the existing ways of functioning of regional organizations by promoting regional culture and self-education of future local government staff;

Undertaking a broad educational campaign, showing the dangers of a centralized state model and the opportunity arising from the decentralization of power;

Establishment of closer cooperation between regional unions;

Improving and enhancing the effectiveness of lobbying in the Sejm and the Senate, and in particular gaining the regional ideas of the individual members of those clubs which remain indifferent to the issues of regionalization;

Establishing contacts with entrepreneurial circles and in particular with regional chambers of commerce and private capital clubs. "An increasing number of such circles are interested in increasing the role of local government, as decentralization provides greater opportunities for effective control of taxpayer dollars"²⁸;

Work on a specific economic program that addresses the realities and capabilities of individual regions;

To prepare for the election campaign together with the political parties which are ready to implement the idea of regionalism?²⁹

The Lech Majewski program of "Regionalism of Administration" was an attempt to apply the idea of regional self-government to reality. This concept was based on the decentralization of administrative activities in accordance with the principles of democracy and participation in the functioning of a given self-government unit of its citizens. This participation, according to the author's intent, consisted of the participation of individuals in the election of representatives of municipal and provincial assemblies as well as the activity of pressure groups aimed at realizing the interests of specific communities. Democracy in Lech Maje ski's project was not limited to the choice of the representatives of the organs - assemblies or councils, but also the manner of cooperation between them. It is worth noting that the system of self-governments did not propose the introduction of intermediate units between voivodships and districts.

The key issue of the project was the demarcation between the competence of the municipality, which should be autonomous and the tasks entrusted to it by the state. In the sphere of its own actions the municipality should not be constrained by the supervision and management of the central authorities. The organizational chart of the municipality included:

Representative Assembly - council board or council;

Executive body - board of municipalities, cities;

The head of the municipality, the president of the city;

Administrative staff.

The number of members of the representative assembly and the executive body should depend on the number of inhabitants of the given local government unit. The democratic election of members of municipal councils should take place in the absolute majority system, i.e. in two rounds. The condition for selection is that the candidate receives more than half of all valid votes in the constituency. The assembly is chaired by the head of the municipality, or mayor of the city, who has an advisory or deciding vote depending on whether or not

he is a member of the council. The body convening the board meeting is in turn the board. The project assumes a general presumption of competence in local council issues. In addition, it has the right to issue local acts and the status of administrative staff. Central authority may also advise the municipality of its competence on the tasks entrusted by statute.

The board is similar to the collegiate board, except that individual board members do not have individual rights. It is made up of members headed by the head of the municipality. Executive electing takes place in democratically elected councils from among its members for a term of office. The Management Board shall meet in accordance with its rules of procedure after the Chief Executive has been appointed. In addition, in moments important for the functioning of a given small homeland. The main task of the board is to implement the resolutions of the council and their own, as well as the current reporting of matters of the municipality.

The head of the municipality (city president) appoints and dismisses the council for an indefinite period of time. Candidates for this post are presented after consultation with the board and the governor. The head not being a member of the board is the chairman of the board and there is decisive voice there, the council only has an advisory role. In addition, he is a representative of his community and a representative of central government. The head is also the head of administrative staff, whose numbers depend on the size of the local government unit.³⁰ The supervision measures of the voivode and the central authority will be used only in the relation to unlawful acts. The average level of territorial division in this program is voivodship. The administration of the voivodship consists of two assemblies: the resolution (voivodship council) and the advisory (voivodship chamber). The voivodship is governed by the voivode, who is also subject to administrative staff. The resolution assembly consists of three types of members:

- Deputies elected in the voivodship;
- Equal number of councilors nominated by the president at the request of the Prime Minister from among the citizens of particular merit for the given voivodship;
- Councilors elected in the democratic elections by citizens of the voivodship twice as large as the other two groups of members of the assembly of the legislature.

The introduction of deputies to the county council has, according to Lech Mażewski, to ensure coherence between government and local government, and the inclusion of councilors nominated by the president is a compromise between the authorities and society. It is worth noting the close association of the non-elected councilor with the mandate of a deputy. At the moment of losing the right to sit in parliament, he is also deprived of the opportunity to sit on the council. The number of voivodship councilors will be similar to that of members of municipal assemblies, depending on the number of inhabitants of the given local government unit. Paralelnie to the council of the municipality voivodship council is characterized by a general presumption of competence on matters of provincial coverage. The Voivodship Chamber of Commerce comprises three types of members:

- Half of them are representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions, professions, crafts and chambers of commerce.

²⁸Idem, Pomeranian regional idea. Paper presented at the 2nd Kashubian Congress, (Op. Cit.), p. 11.

²⁹Ibidem.

³⁰Mażewski L, New System of Local Authorities. Presentation presented at the 1st Gdansk Congress of Liberals 10 - 11 December 1988, "Pomerania.Socio-Cultural Monthly", 1989, no. 3, p. 17.

- 25% are recruited from enterprises specific to the given voivodships;
- 25% of the space is reserved for representatives of organizations dealing with ecology, public health, education and culture.³¹

The Voivodship Chamber of Commerce has advisory competence only. The voivodeship is in turn the executive body of the voivodeship self-government without the right of veto to the resolutions of the council. The scope of its tasks vis-à-vis the voivodship is the same as that of the municipality. Supervision over the activities of the voivodeship administration should lie with the joint commission of the two chambers of Polish Parliament. It should be noted that the presented program was, according to the author, the “institutional brake of presidential power”. It enabled to disperse the negative effects of the necessary reconstruction on various local systems (Tadeusz Mazowiecki’s cabinet). In addition, it mobilized local resources, which enabled him to entrust local governments with social policies and the organization of collective consumption.³²

Liberal revolution

According to the “Sociological dictionary” of Krzysztof Olechnicki and Paweł Załęcki, a revolution is:

- “The process of violent and radical changes in the existing state of affairs or the system of relations; Overturn, rapid transition from one developmental stage to another; Opposite concept of evolution”;
- “The violent change of the existing social organization and the shape of the system of the state, of the nation, of society accompanied by the usually armed attempts to exchange political elites”.³³

In addition, researchers referring to the “revolution” as a rule also take into account the criterion of mass participation, which distinguishes it from the revolts³⁴ and the coup.³⁵ For the definition of revolutions, the following are characteristic:

- Violence - sudden and speedy;
- Radicality - bringing about fundamental changes in social life;
- Massiveness - participation of a large number of people;
- Exchange of social elites - as a result of successful revolution;
- Violence - exert an influence on the mental process, behavior or physical condition of a group of people without their consent;
- The social dimension of change - encompassing changes in all spheres of social life
- In addition to Piotr Sztompka, I would also like to distinguish:
- Emotional and intellectual reactions characterized by revolutions, such as the eruption of mass mobilization, enthusiasm, excitement, joy, euphoria, optimism and hope, sense of power and power, joy of activism and a sense of life reasserted by exuberant aspirations and utopian visions of the near future.³⁶

Since the philosophy of liberalism adopts an evolutionary model of change in society, a revolution in the sense given above is not in line with the liberal idea. According to Karl Popper, the leading proponent of liberalism, the optimal model of social change is the partial social engineer, which consists of:

- Institutional approach to social problems - focusing on improving the actions of individual institutions, avoiding holistic goals;³⁷
- Small-scale social experiment that determines gradual social change in one institution
- at a given time;³⁸
- Rationalism implies partial compromise and openness to criticism, so you can focus on skin direct goals, rejecting the ultimate solution.

If the interpretation of the liberal position is the point of view of Popper, the term “liberal revolution” is intrinsically contradictory. In the meantime, the Gdansk liberals, when they existed as a compact ideological formation, invoked the concept.³⁹

By popularizing liberalism, Tusk was aware that the liberal idea could not be applied to the reality of real socialism because “it is impossible to take liberal heritage uncritically because it becomes a rather embarrassing thing: the mechanical transfer of the concept of programs of democratic societies was and is impossible. Adopting liberalism as an ideological foundation for political action is an unprecedented experiment that requires original and interpretative and specific way of acting.”⁴⁰ The term liberal revolution can be considered a significant novum modifying the liberal tradition. This idea has never been more widely developed, but it can be conventionally included in all those activities that do not fall within the evolutionary concept of social change.⁴¹ They are:

- Non-compliance with the law, consisting of writings, circles, groups, political parties capable of mobilizing people to mass actions such as demonstrations and strikes, whose “effect... was to be aware of the proposal for a new social construction remaining solidarity in action with Everyone who is close to the idea of Free Poland”;⁴²
- Exerting pressure on power - “tearing up the power of social space, which must be managed by, on the one hand, organizing social pressure, coercive coercion and, on the other, by building social, economic and political infrastructure”.⁴³

After 1989, the term “liberal revolution” was referred to the radical economic change in economics. Gadowski, the spokesperson for this understanding, remarked that “the transition from the stage of evolution to the stage of the so-called liberal revolution seems to be inevitable, because the possibilities for continuing the reforms according to the existing evolutionary scenario are exhausted”.⁴⁴ As Gadowski noted, “despite the introduction of market mechanisms into

³¹Ibidem, p. 18.

³²Idem, Democratic Capitalism, (Op. Cit.), p. 21.

³³Olechnicki K, Załęcki P, Sociological Dictionary, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Torunskiego, Toruń 1999, p. 177.

³⁴Topolski J, Revolution in Modern and Modern History, "The Quarterly of History", 1976, no. 2, p. 81.

³⁵Kolakowski L, Revolution as a Beautiful Disease, (in): Idem, "Can the Devil Be Saved and 27 Other Sermons", Wydawnictwo Trio, London 1984, p. 101.

³⁶Sztompka P, Sociology of Social Change, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Cracow 2005, p. 279.

³⁷Popper KR, Open Society and its Enemies, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warsaw 1993, vol. 1, p. 120.

³⁸Ibidem, p. 125.

³⁹Ibidem, p. 127.

⁴⁰Tusk D, The Right to Politics, "Political Review", 1989, no. 12, p. 24.

⁴¹See. KR Popper, Open Society and his enemies, (Op. Cit.), P. 140.

⁴²Barycz A (D. Tusk), Why? Review, "Political Review", 1984, No. 2, p. 2.

⁴³Tusk D, The Right to Politics, (Op. Cit.), P. 32

⁴⁴Gadowski W, Liberal Revolution, "Political Review", 1991, No. 14, p. 9.

the economy, it remained largely dominated by state-owned enterprises that behaved otherwise than private.⁴⁵ According to the author of “The Liberal Revolution cannot be made by democratic means.”⁴⁶ The only chance to do so is to find support among the beneficiaries of capitalist change. Privatization and economic policy must be subordinated to the creation of this class, which, as Gadomski writes, “Entrepreneurs must have access to cheap credit, even if this is contrary to anti-inflationary policies. There must also be exceptional facilities for those who want to become entrepreneurs.”⁴⁷

As I tried to show, the Gdańsk liberals used the term “liberal revolution” in a different sense than in the social sciences. Referring to the definition of the concept of “revolution” presented at the beginning of this subsection, it can be stated that the Gdansk liberals have defined them apart from such features of the revolution as:

- Violence - its role in the liberal revolution was negated by Tusk by the statement: “The political ethos of the opposition of our generation is clearly changing. Until recently radical, revolutionary, believing in the sense of violent coup today, we are ready to give importance to values and concepts such as political and civic responsibility, the power bill, political culture, reason and moderation, imagination and predictability.”⁴⁸
- The social dimension of change - The Gdansk liberals focused on the political and economic spheres bypassing the cultural sphere and in the 1990s only limited to the economic sphere;⁴⁹
- Exchange of social elites - one of the main goals of the Gdańsk liberals was to create a middle class rather than overthrow the old social elites;⁵⁰
- Violence - was completely negated by the Gdansk liberals.

Some of the components of the revolution in turn have been selectively accepted in the discussed concept, e.g.:

- The radical resilience of the revolution was limited to the economic sphere;⁵¹
- It is also worth stressing the attitude of the Gdansk liberals to;
- Massive - this feature of the revolution has fully endorsed;
- Emotional reactions that would be a kind of catalyst for change in the “liberal revolution”.⁵²

In conclusion it can be stated that the redefinition of the term “revolution” in the thinking of the Gdansk liberals was due, on the one hand, to the social conditions of real socialism, which were fundamentally incompatible with values accentuated by liberal traditions such as free market and democracy, and, on the other, limiting the role of coercion in social change. The formation of the term “liberal revolution” by social conditions - the experience of totalitarian communism and fascism draws the attention of Bruce Ackerman. For him, “the goal of revolutionary liberals is not a radical transformation of human nature. Liberalism wants to support, not

suppress, the extraordinary variety of human aspirations. It aims to work for social justice in terms of the distribution of opportunities for individual growth and development.⁵³ In this way liberal revolution was understood by the liberal Gdansk.

The Gdańsk liberals and liberal-democratic congress

The road to their own political party for the Gdansk liberals began on 24th of February 1989, when an application was submitted for registration of the Gdansk Socio-Economic Society “Congress of Liberals”. Their ideological declaration, which was signed by all the leading representatives of the “Political Review” (D. Filar, Lewandowski, Lech Mażewski, Tusk, Szomburg) was, as they wrote about it, “long distance work” and boiled down to the following:

- Support for private entrepreneurship and other forms of economic activity of citizens;
- Actions for the re-privatization of the Polish economy and the appropriation of citizens;
- Rebuilding the ethos of entrepreneurship, working culture and the climate of social trust in market institutions and private property;
- Inspire the authentic forms of self-organization of the economic environment for the defense of his interests;
- The pursuit of full democratization of life at the basic and regional level;
- Action for the gradual democratization of central political institutions and the reconstruction of constitutional order.

Most of the above mentioned points were in principle common to people from different political orientations at the turn of the eighties and nineties. Among them are the theses 2, 3 and 4, which appear to be the result of the influence of the concept of democratic capitalism of Novak. The Declaration was not a political program. It was about to come out a year later. During the founding conference of the Liberal Democratic Congress. There were loudspeaker slogans implicitly included in the “Political Review”, repeated later in “Marriot Hotel Theses” (15th of November 1990), together with statements from the already mentioned article by Lewandowski and Szomburg [1], on:

- Freedom is understood as “the value of the superior and the first principle of social order that can and will be guaranteed only where respect for the permanent values of human settlements among moral norms.”⁵⁴ Freedom that leads to material inequalities according to the Gdansk liberals “a price worth paying for creativity and social wellbeing,” favoring “the formation of political, economic and cultural elites appreciated especially in the development and civilization of every society”;⁵⁵

Private property - the “material guarantee of human freedom” that justifies and restricts “property in freedom” by creating “civil society”;⁵⁶

- Economic rebirth which could only be achieved “through the development of private Entrepreneurship organized in a market

⁴⁵Ibidem, p. 10.

⁴⁶Ibidem, p. 11.

⁴⁷Ibidem, p. 13.

⁴⁸Barycz A (D. Tusk), Reflections on Liberalism, (Op. Cit.), p. 19-23. W. Gadomski, Liberal Revolution, (Op. Cit.), p. 17.

⁴⁹Gadomski W, Liberal Revolution, (Op. Cit.), p. 17.

⁵⁰Ibidem.

⁵¹Doniecki T, Way and choice, (Op. Cit.), p. 11.

⁵²Gadomski W, Liberal Revolution, (Op. Cit.), p. 11.

⁵³Ackerman B, The Future of the Liberal Revolution, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warsaw 1996, p. 16.

⁵⁴Ideological Declaration of the Gdansk Socio-Economic Society “Congress of Liberals”, “Political Review” 1989, No 12, p. 28.

⁵⁵Ibidem.

⁵⁶Program Declaration of the Liberal Democratic Congress, D. Tusk (eds.), “Ideas of Gdansk Liberalism”, Wydawnictwo Gdanskich Liberalow, Gdańsk 1998, p. 190.

competition system” based on the “freedom of transaction and individual ownership.”⁵⁷

During the presidential campaign in December 1990 the Gdańsk liberals gained an unexpected promoter - Lech Wałęsa - who benefited from their help (especially Janusz Merkel, Andrzej Zarębski and Jacek Kozłowski), established a plenipotentiary Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the chairman of the Liberal Democratic Congress political council. The influence of Congress in Wałęsa's center of power was one of the sources of Congress's election success. The party gained 7.5% of the support in the parliamentary elections (27th October 1991), which allowed it to enact 37 Members of Parliament (Bielecki won the nationwide 115,000 votes). Despite its success, however, this was the beginning of the end of ideological liberalism. This period was named by Bogusław Mazur, journalist “Wprost”, “a quarter of the liberals”⁵⁸ due to the participation of their representatives in the highest authorities of the state from 12th of January 1991 to 5th of December 1991. Bielecki became Prime Minister, Lewandowski Minister of Property Transformations, Andrzej Zawiślak Minister of Industry and Trade, Press Spokesman Zarębski, next ministers joined Michał Boni (Minister of Labor and Social Policy), Krzysztof Zabiński (Head of the Council Office of Prime Minister), Robert Głębocki (Minister of National Education) and Kozłowski (Director of the Government Press Office). Paweł Piskorski and Lech Mażewski were also nominated as the special advisers to the Council of Ministries. Bielecki government was, however, a return to “pragmatic liberalism,” characterized by: “expecting that liberalism will ever be in Poland, because today the response of economic operators to market signals is limited or very weak. This is no longer a liberal proceeding. Going further, it can be said that the purpose of this government is to participate in the state building market economy, and this is not quite a liberal slogan, but that is reality.”⁵⁹ The “invisible hand of the market” disappeared - it was the title of one of the commentaries on the action of the Bielecki government [2,3].

Conclusion

The government of Bielecki, contained the opinion that “it is a paradox that the liberal-led government is going to take a decision from liberalism so distant”.⁶⁰ Exposé of Bielecki began by saying, “My desire is not to lose hope of those who have it and that those who do not have it can gain it”,⁶¹ but in the following paragraphs there are economic conclusions. The goal of reforms was unequivocally defined: market economy and the building of political and economic foundations of freedom. More than about the mechanisms of action, Bielecki spoke about the people and the opportunities offered to them by the free market. He appealed particularly to young people, seeing the future beneficiaries of change. The whole speech was accompanied by the belief that millions of people could be involved in the process of building capitalism. The task of the government was to open the fields for human energy and entrepreneurship. At that time, the liberals of Gdańsk began to move away from the universal privatization program. The change in thinking occurred in the *Cetniew Program*: “Poland: towards democratic capitalism” (19th May 1991). Their policy

has become more “rational and pragmatic”,⁶² which de facto meant moving away from the universal privatization program. The road to rapid growth of the middle class has become a popularization of property by “creating the conditions for honest enrichment through entrepreneurship and diligence.”⁶³ The first step was to open Poland for foreign capital who should participate in “transformations of the nationwide ownership structure and its adaptation to world market requirements”.⁶⁴ Transformation itself ceased to be the most important element of the Congress ideology, as economic success began to be defined as “strong money, future-oriented industrial and agricultural policy”.⁶⁵ In the manifesto of the Liberal Democratic Congress, the liberals of Gdańsk stated that they must become “a party of the Polish right in the conservative line, referring to the republican tradition of our statehood.”⁶⁶ The privatization itself at that time became only a means of “selling large state-owned enterprises to the investor, taking into account their financial obligations”.⁶⁷ The last idea for the implementation of Liberal Democratic Congress liberalism in Poland was to tie up its electorate with the quasi-middle class of the early nineties - entrepreneurs. The expression was the Pact with a private company (25th of October 1992), and in particular the statement that it was necessary to “guarantee the representatives of Polish capital more influence on the government's economic policy”.

References

1. Lewandowski J, Szomburg L (1991) Property as a threshold for economic reform. *Economic Alternative. Political Review*.
2. <https://rfdvcatedra.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/sage-dictionary.pdf>
3. Anne W (2016) Social Remittances and Migration (Sub)-Cultures in Contemporary Poland. *Central and Eastern European Migration Review* 14: 1-17.

⁶²*Cetniew Program Poland: towards democratic capitalism*, (in:) D. Tusk (ed.), “Ideas of Gdańsk Liberalism”, (Op. Cit.), p. 220.

⁶³*Ibidem*.

⁶⁴*Ibidem*.

⁶⁵The identity of the Liberal-Democratic Congress, (in:) D. Tusk (eds.), “Ideas of Gdańsk Liberalism”, (Op. Cit.), p. 140.

⁶⁶*Pact with a private enterprise*, (in:) D. Tusk (eds.), “Ideas of Gdańsk Liberalism”, (Op. Cit.), p. 160.

⁶⁷*Ibidem*.

⁵⁷*Ibidem*.

⁵⁸Mazur B, The Quadrant of the Liberals, “Wprost” 1991, No. 8, p. 13.

⁵⁹Bielecki JK was aware that the Congress was promoted thanks to him. In discussion, Liberalism used (“Political Review” 1991, No. 13, p. 9) Bielecki spoke of this fact as follows: “Let us not forget that the political advancement of the Congress is directly related to my person, my promotion. And neither my nor my congressional policy; Paradoxically, the lack of political significance of the liberals and of my person was one of the major leaps up.”

⁶⁰No I have conflicts of conscience. Interview with J. K. Bielecki, “Youth Banner” of 24-26 May 1991, p. 15.

⁶¹Bielecki JK (in Tusk D), *Ideas of Gdańsk Liberalism*, (Op. Cit.), p. 46.