

## Summary

In the political history of Poland after 1948, the influence of the Polish United Workers' Party on the political and social life of the country still arouses the interest of researchers. Until the end, PZPR was a "state party" shaping the social, political, economic and cultural life of the country in the real dimension. The decade of the eighties turned out to be a difficult, complicated period, full of challenges of a socio-political as well as economic nature for the Polish United Workers' Party. These challenges concerned both the leadership and the party base.

The dissertation presents the last decade of the PZPR against the organizational development of the party's central party apparatus. The issues being the subject of the dissertation remain in close connection with the history of the PZPR, and in particular their internal organization. The work attempts to prove the thesis that the PZPR in the eighties, despite fundamental changes in social relations and announced reforms, did not depart from its doctrinal assumptions and the model of functioning. A certain conservatism of the PZPR leadership was opposed by the party base, which finally refused to support the party's authorities in 1989.

The subject matter undertaken in the dissertation in this approach has not been the subject of wider research so far. The work expands knowledge about the PZPR systemic and organizational mechanisms and internal relations between the party leadership and its base. The study is in the system paradigm (the party is treated as a subsystem in the political system). Detailed research methods include institutional methods and a case study with a particular focus on the analysis of political behaviour and attitudes.

The work structure consists of five chapters and is divided into two parts. The first includes the historical and institutional analysis of the PZPR in the years 1948-1990. The second part is the analysis of the socio-political behaviour of the party in the face of socio-political changes in the 1980s.

The basis for the study are various materials: archival, published documents, press materials, memories and studies. The materials stored in the Archive of New Files in Warsaw were widely used, often for the first time. A full list of archival materials and literature used in the dissertation can be found in the bibliography.

## Keywords

political history of Poland, Polish United Workers' Party, socio-political changes of the 1980s