

GERMAN IDEALISM AND NATIONAL PHILOSOPHY IN POLISH CHRISTIAN THOUGHT 1831-1863

Summary

This work presents the Polish thought, mainly philosophical and Christian oriented, in an important period of the history of Poland, i.e. the years 1831—1863. It shows, orders and analyses problems constituting an important component of the Polish intellectual culture during the period between the two national uprisings. Among them are the great philosophical problems of the German idealism, mainly Hegelianism, and the so called national philosophy in Poland, which is a specific echo of the former. It is these problems that the European and Polish philosophy has lived upon down to the present day.

The work gives an outline of a general characteristics of the Polish Christian Thought during the period between the two national uprisings. It points out the national and religious conditions that generated it, shows its relations to the Christian thought in the West and outlines the programme of this orientation based on the enunciations of its more prominent representatives.

The second part of the work presents the reaction of the Polish Roman Catholic writers to the thought of the German idealism, especially to Hegel's philosophical system. It reminds what „the career of Hegelism in Poland" consists in, and which basic ideas of this philosophy were adopted in Poland. Further, it reveals the distinctive features of the reception of Hegelianism and explains the reasons which decided about it. It specifies and presents the views of Roman Catholic thinkers, especially their polemic attitude to Hegelianism which was often transformed into sharp criticism.

The third and last part of the work presents a critical attitude of the Christian thought towards the national philosophy. The question of relation between national philosophy and Roman Catholic thought is not a new subject in the literature of this period. It was an object of numerous studies and analyses, but always the attention was mostly focused on the relation of the national philosophy to the intellectual tradition of Christianity and its contemporaneousness. The present work deals with the same problem, but in a different perspective. Here the object of analysis is the national philosophy as seen by the Roman Catholic thinkers. A wide spectrum of polemics and critical reactions of the Roman Catholic thought towards the national philosophy, especially towards the views of Bronisław Trentowski, is presented. The work reconstructs the views and reminds the figures of the major adversaries of the national philosophy, e.g. F. Kozłowski, I. Hołowiński, and E. Ziemecka. It also reminds the figures of H. Rzewuski, S. Witwicki and J.K. Szaniawski, known either from literature or for their political activity. The work presents the disputes and philosophical controversies which have not been sufficiently examined yet.