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THE LINES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The trade is always greatly influenced by the trends of economic policy of the state and that is why the knowledge of the development of trade in German Democratic Republic is a considerable help in the investigations of national economy of that country.

From 1950 to 1955 retail sales increased almost twice. This was enabled by a large expansion of industrial production on one hand and a prominent growth of real wages and farmers incomes on the other. The higher standard of living caused a change in demand which was met by a proper assortment of consumers goods. In the whole turn-over of that time the share of food articles decreased and that of the industrial products increased.

Besides a considerable growth in commercial transactions a very important feature of development is the fact that private enterprise shares in about 30% in the whole retail turnover and it is most interesting that this share did not decrease from 1950 to 1955 but it has even increased. The state influences the private business in an indirect way by an almost completely socialized whole sale apparatus supplying retailers with goods. In order to bind closer the private business with the socialized business an extremely interesting experiment is now being made in German Democratic Republic. The private trade acts as the agency of socialized business selling goods supplied by the state apparatus and receiving a certain commission.

The augmentation of turnover of about 100% from 1950 to 1955 and its further growth in 1956 and 1957 caused some changes in the management and organization of trade. The lower business units have gained a greater independence and that has enabled them to meet better the varying demand of the population.

STANISŁAW GWIAŹDZIŃSKI

THE ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNS OF OLSZTYN DISTRICT AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF THEIR EXPANSION

The town settlements of East Prussia began to rise as early as the beginning of the XIIIth century, and their flourishing period falls upon the XIVth and XVth centuries.

Up to XIXth century the base of the development of towns were handicraft and trade. But the XIXth century brought a breakdown in this expansion caused by a mass outflow of workers towards the larger centres in the west. Since then we can observe a steady decline of small towns.

In 1945 Poland recovered a part of the Mazowsze Pomerania, the political and economic conditions underwent a considerable change and thus the further

development of the towns of East Prussia altered its former course. Olsztyn, once the capital of the regency, has become the main town of the district and in spite of great war destructions has already attained the number of 60.000 inhabitants (in 1939 there were only 45.000). Besides this town some larger centres as: Iława, Ostróda, Kętrzyn, Giżycko, Szczytno and others have also expanded but most towns, particularly small ones, after enormous war losses amounting sometimes to 90%, had no possibilities of further development.

This situation requires some immediate steps to improve the present state and to remove the results of previous mistakes. That is why the economic authorities, both central and local, have decided to enliven the towns by rebuilding industrial works, railway lines, by developing agriculture and breeding, by supplying tourist accommodations, home-building, increasing the number of trade services etc.

The means devoted for this purpose in the Five Year Plan will certainly improve the conditions of small towns inhabitants.

JERZY KRASUSKI

THE PRUSSIAN DILEMMA: GERLACH — BISMARCK — MOLTKE

The contemporary historiography of Western Germany tries to rehabilitate Prussia by counterbalancing the Prussian chauvinism and rapacity with conservatism and traditionalism of Prussian gentry. L. Muralt speaks of „christian responsibility of Bismarck“, H. J. Schoeps of „different Prussia“, G. Ritter of the preponderance of political aspects over the military ones in Prussian politics from Frederick II to Bismarck, R. Stadelmann of Moltke's sympathy rather for liberalism than conservatism. Those efforts to rehabilitate Prussia undertaken from the conservative point of view can be nothing but a failure. In the entire course of history Prussia was always a destructive factor — overthrowing traditional institutions. The examples are numerous: the secularization of the Knights of Teutonic Order of Prussia, the general policy of Frederick II, the unification of Germany accomplished by Bismarck and the alliance of Prussian Junkers with Hitler. The traditionalism gained greater influence only at the time of the reign of Frederick Wilhelm IV. Ludwig von Gerlach was the chief promoter of this traditionalism. His idea was the realization of „God's Kingdom“ in the sense of the medieval system of estates. But it was the tragedy of this „Christian-German“ trend that it was based on protestantism which was worthless as a base for a conservative attitude. Thence come the pro-catholic sympathies of both Gerlach and Frederick Wilhelm IV. Bismarck's policy broke up with the traditionalism of Frederick Wilhelm IV. Bismarck defended conservatism in making a compromise with progress. Moltke followed this line still further. He expressed the tendencies of this part of the gentry which — facing the crisis of the feudal land estate — tried to maintain its hegemony by developing militarism. Thus the Prussian conservatives joined turn by turn liberalism, chauvinism, imperialism, and Hitler and as the final result their own state ceased to exist.