

Civil society Genesis

Boguslaw Blicharski
Association of Social Initiatives "Nasz Dom", Vice Head
Sosnowiec, Poland

Philosophical pedigree of civil society

- ▶ Civil society - a set of non-governmental institutions, voluntary organizations, trade unions, associations and foundations, which are a manifestation of the initiative and activity of citizens leading to their individual development independent of state interference.

- ▶ Aristotle - a precursor - spoke of the political community formed by individuals - political beings. The fundamental goal of the state and society is to ensure the individual's ability to fulfill their needs.
- ▶ John Locke - the emergence of a civil society is influenced by human freedom and the economy that is related to it. Such conditions appear when the state does not interfere in the economy and economic relations between citizens.
- ▶ Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel - the role of civil society is to be an intermediary between the individual and the state. Humans are guided by the interests of the community, and special institutions are established to fulfill those interests.
- ▶ Alexis de Tocqueville - political society (state - citizens) and civil society (citizens among themselves). The most important thing is the ability to associate in organizations.

- ▶ Karl Marx - civil society is concerned only with economic issues, market economy and class struggle.
- ▶ Ralf Dahrendorf - the existence of institutions independent of the state as organs of the will of the people.

Nowadays, civil society is understood as a society independent of the state, capable of defending its private interests and participating in shaping the content of the public interest.

Self-organization of civil society in Europe

- ▶ **Organizational forms of civil society**
- ▶ Organizations operating in the market with the aim of private profit: businesses, banks, insurance companies. Political organizations aiming to acquire and exercise public power: political parties, civic movements.
- ▶ Organizations operating to expand the scope of rational public debate: mass media, independent research centers, academic institutions. Social, economic, cultural, and political organizations aiming to exert influence on centers of power: associations, trade unions, business organizations, religious associations.

Examples...

- ▶ Revolution of the Red Carnations
Uprising in Hungary in 1956
Prague Spring - 1968
- ▶ **Self-organization of civil society in Poland**
- ▶ 1945 - 1989 - belonging to the bloc of Eastern states under the influence of the USSR. Civil liberties were limited.
Significant role of the Church
Events of 1956 (Poznań),
Letter 34 - 1964,
Student strikes - 1968, 1970, 1976, 1980.

Thank you for your attention...

Boguslaw Blicharski