

Summary of doctoral dissertation

Name of the dissertation author: **Sebastian Drabik**

Title of the dissertation: **The Polish United Workers' Party in Cracow in the years 1948-1990. The structure, members, and activity.**

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During the People's Poland period, the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) was the most important government institution. This dissertation has been dedicated to the history of the Polish United Workers' Party at the regional level. The author focused on the analysis of the functioning of the party in the territory of the Krakow province (within its changing borders) in the years 1948-1990.

The work has been divided into three parts. The first one concerns a party apparatus, called "the inner party" by historians. The author characterized in this passage the functioning of party structures such as reporting and election conferences, the Provincial/Krakow Committee and the lower level committees. He attempted to describe the environment of the party apparatus workers. He also presented the profiles of the first secretaries of the Provincial/Krakow Committee and analysed their political activities.

Discussed in the second part were issues concerning regular members and candidates of the Krakow's Polish United Workers' Party. The author presented the status of a member and candidate as well as analysed the role that representatives of this so-called "outer party" played in the society. In addition, the author conducted an analysis of the social composition of the Krakow's party organisation.

The third part of the work deals with the main areas of party activity. It also discusses basic instruments for exercise of power by the Polish United Workers' Party (the nomenclature system, censorship, political police, or state administration) and the scope of influence of the party on social life.

The Krakow's Polish United Workers' Party was one of the most numerous in the country, and successive management teams in Warsaw regarded it as one of the most important voivodeship organizations on the political map of Poland. Over the past four decades, its social structure underwent significant changes. Local party authorities had to rely on the specifics of Krakow and the Krakow region. The local society was attached to faith and tradition. The party tried to change the social attitudes. However, this goal was not fully achieved.

The dissertation was written mainly on the basis of archival materials collected in several archives located in Krakow and Warsaw. The author also used published source materials, press sources, memoirs of party activists and compilations.

Sebastian Drabik