

THE ORIGINS OF POLISH SOCIALISM: THE HISTORY AND IDEAS OF THE FIRST POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY, 1878–1886. By *Lucjan Blit*. International Studies, published for the Centre for International Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1971. ix, 160 pp. \$10.00.

This brief book examines the origins, short-lived activities, and precipitous demise of the Polish Social Revolutionary Party—Proletariat. Decidedly internationalist in its program, the party represented the first appearance of an antipatriotic faction in Polish Marxism and may be viewed as the spiritual antecedent of the SDKPiL (Social Democratic Party of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania) of the 1890s. The author treats the early history of the Proletariat as a biographical reflection of its founder and principal spokesman Ludwik Waryński. Of petty gentry background, Waryński rejected both the patriotic tradition of his own class and the cautious rationalism of the Warsaw positivists. Though drawn to Marxism, Waryński and his followers remained spiritually allied with the Russian *narodnik* movement in which they had received their revolutionary baptism. Their unwillingness to countenance an appeal to Polish patriotism (against the urgings of Marx, Engels, and the First International) stemmed from their belief that such a step would serve to blur class distinctions and return political initiative to bourgeois hands. Though granting that any political party in nineteenth-century Poland which purged Polish independence from its platform stood little chance for success, Blit persuasively argues that the Proletariat made a significant contribution to radical Polish politics by directing popular indignation against social injustice and away from a hitherto exclusive preoccupation with national self-interest.

Blit's study synthesizes the rich Polish literature on early Polish socialism (especially the vast monographic work on the Proletariat by Leon Baumgarten) and uses the extensive published documents that have appeared recently in Poland. However, Blit is more at home in his descriptive passages on the personalities and activities of the *Proletariatczycy* than in sifting through the polemics which have absorbed Polish historians of the origins of Polish socialism.

Coupled with a recent study by the West German historian Ulrich Hausteine (*Sozialismus und nationaler Frage in Polen*, 1969), Blit's work opens to students of Marxism who are not versed in Polish the intriguing Polish chapter in the early history of European socialist parties which regrettably has received little attention in Western accounts. From this first installment of a purported multivolume history of Polish socialism, readers may look forward to Blit's subsequent contributions.

LAWRENCE ORTON  
Oakland University

HUMANIZM SOCJALISTYCZNY. Special issue of *Studia Filozoficzne* for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Polish People's Republic. Instytut Filozofii i Socjologii, Polskiej Akademii Nauk. Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1969. 445 pp. 30 zł., paper.

A group of Marxist and non-Marxist Polish sociologists and philosophers associated with the magazine *Studia Filozoficzne* celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Polish People's Republic with a collection of articles whose aim is to show the