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Summary of doctoral dissertation  
Regionalism of Łowicz during the Polish People's Republic

The aim of this dissertation is to analyse the regionalism of Łowicz during the Polish People's Republic. The premise of this thesis is to present the origins and activities of social organisations as well as individual manifestations of concern for the welfare of their small homeland. For this purpose, I have traced the role, importance and nature of the observable socio-cultural activity in 1945-1989.

The region of Łowicz, famous for its centuries of intellectual and cultural traditions, is one of the most interesting and richest ethnographic regions in Poland. The subject of this dissertation mainly refers to events that took place between the liberation of Łowicz along with the entire region, from German occupation, and the political transformation of June 1989. In view of the traditions associated with the regionalism of this area, which date back to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, I found it appropriate to elaborate on them in abbreviated form. The activities undertaken after 1945 were a continuation of those that had been initiated by the first regionalists from Łowicz. At the same time, it should be emphasised that during the Polish People's Republic, there was no classic form of regionalism, which has its origins in 19<sup>th</sup> century France. Under the new socio-political conditions, regionalism was able to develop, not at the grassroots level, but under strict government control.

The basis for the factual arrangements of the dissertation consists of archival sources, information gleaned from published studies on Łowicz and the surrounding area, which are relevant to the issue at hand and secondary sources, which are relations from regional activity in 1945-1989.

Archival documents were an important source for this dissertation. I therefore performed queries on the files' located in the State Archives in Warsaw, Łowicz Department, the State Archives in Łódź, and the Institute of National Remembrance, Łódź Department. I also scoured the archives of Łowicz institutions and social organisations. The private archives of the residents of Łowicz and the surrounding region were and invaluable sources of informations. Some of the archival materials (documents, photographs, posters, posters, invitations, pennants, etc.) that refer to Łowicz regionalism can be found in the author's private archives.

The Warsaw State Archives, Łowicz Department, had the richest collection in terms of socio-cultural life. I submitted queries to 19 sets of files that contained information on the activities of the local administrative units, organizations and associations. Magazines appearing in Łowicz were also a helpful source of information. I performed a query to analyze 57 periodicals that appear in the city in 1945-1989.

The results of my research, based on a standardized interview, also contributed to this dissertation. My research group consisted of people directly connected with the then functioning organizations showing regionalist activities. I expanded this group to include people who had been direct beneficiaries or participants in the socio-cultural life promoted by Łowicz regionalists. I interviewed each of them in friendly conditions using a previously prepared questionnaire (which can be found in the Appendix). Sixty people were interviewed.

The thesis of this dissertation is verified in five chapters. The first of which, entitled "Cultural determinants of the region and the beginnings of Łowicz regionalism (until 1939)", is the introductory chapter. The history of Łowicz and the Łowicz region is presented in four sub-chapters. In order to delineate my research interests, I have made a sketch of folk culture as a determinant of the Łowicz separateness and included a brief presentation of Łowicz regionalism up until the outbreak of World War II. I believe this to be necessary, as it illustrates regionalism in its pure, original form, and indicates those actions taken by individuals and organizations that were continued in a later period.

The second chapter entitled "Attempts to revive regionalism in the new political conditions", presents the cultural losses inflicted by World War II, and the attempts to revive regional activity up until 1948.

The third chapter, "Nationalisation of regionalism (1948-1956)", refers to the period of Stalinisation, in which one could see attempts at liquidating the grassroots sociocultural movement, and increased activity of state organs in creating a new, centralized approach

to the broadly understood culture. This chapter was also given a part devoted to the role of the church at this time in preserving cultural traditions.

The fourth and the most extensive, chapter, entitled "Regionalism of Łowicz in the conditions of real socialism", deals with issues related to regionalist activities in 1956-1989. It is divided into four sections, each referring to an important historical event during this period. I have therefore analysed the initiatives undertaken by social activists during the "Polish October" (Gomułka's thaw), the celebration of the 1000 years of Christianity in Poland, the years of stabilisation (1971-1980) and the period of martial law and its consequences.

The fifth chapter of the dissertation is an extensive attempt to assess the achievements of regionalism in the Łowicz region of Polish People's Republic.

The dissertation is supplemented by the appendixes, which contain the Dictionary of Łowicz regionalists from the period of Polish People's Republic and Dictionary of social organisations operating in 1945-1989 (excerpt), the interview questionnaire and a list of publications from the Scientific Station in Łowicz of Mazovian Centre for Scientific Research in Warsaw.

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