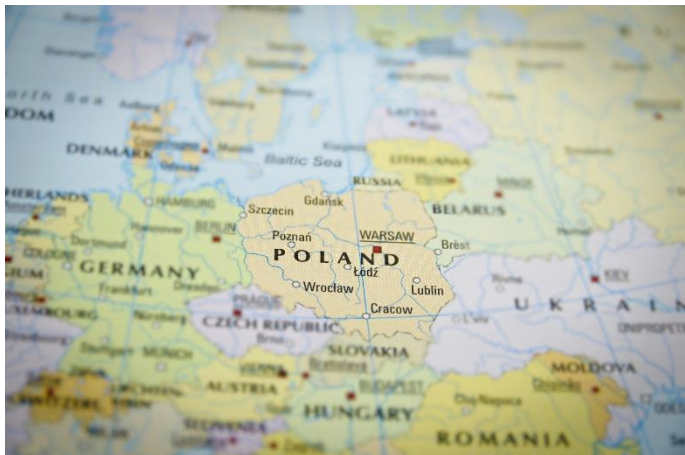


ANP Newsletter

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EU on loan

When I traveled around Poland in the nineties, I thought that if we entered the EU, it would be in 20 or 30 years. In Poland, poverty, mess and corruption everywhere, with what to the EU? I always associated the union with a higher level of material culture. And with the Palmolive soap fragrance as the fragrance of a better world. I didn't think much about the values behind it all. The fact that the Community undertook the process of Poland's accession was shocking to me, but even then I thought it was a promotion. In a sense, the West of Europe recognized it after the collapse communism, the



execution of these movements has the historical sense of finally breaking through the most important divisions of civilization through the inclusion of the East. Because the East has always been on the border, under the influence of Russia or Turkey, at least under the influence of different values and a different civilization.

But, I thought, Poles appreciated the good that is offered to them. And it was like that for quite a few years. I do not know if the politicians thought, as I did, that we got something on credit, for Solidarity, for the Pope and Walesa, and others, Slovaks, Hungarians or finally even Bulgarians and Romanians, were eagerly connected to

this act of historical fulfillment of time (about Czechia, no I say because they have always belonged to the West a bit more, just like Greater Poland).

In any case, we tried to align ourselves with the Union, to give what we could give, i.e. democratic institutions, free courts and acceptance of the EU legal order. Because we couldn't give much more. The Treaty of Lisbon was signed by Lech Kaczyński. Who, after all, did not make any decisions without his brother's approval. After half a generation had passed, a significant part of Poles came to the conclusion that our vision of the world is as good or competitive as the one in Brussels and Strasbourg. And because these visions are just as good, the whole Union comes down to cash flows. So everyone can have the vision they want, and the money is due to everyone.

This is ridiculous thinking. We do not enrich the Union, we got into the Union on credit.

For this reason, we get funds, we get the right to work and the possibility of leaving, we finally get the right to call ourselves Europeans. The Union can do without us. Our currency was not any access to the market or our extraordinary economic power, because this is either unnecessary for the Germans or the French, or they would have it anyway. Our currency is the acceptance of the EU order, the acceptance of values, the reconstruction of this part of Europe in a spirit that leads to peace, order, respect for the law and minorities. Nobody says it, the thesis is incorrect for each side - but our currency for progress and the money we get like no other country was and still is - the acceptance of values that historically were in many cases in this part of Europe unknown or little used.

If we stop paying with this currency, who needs Poland in the European Union?

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We are from Jedwabne, we are from Michałów

I'm not at all sure if I want to talk about refugees any more. I experience this situation as the pain of being unable to completely influence such an important course of events. But also as the most painful experience in all of this, i.e. the awareness that we are in the minority, that most Poles do not care much about this situation. That the completely immoral dilemma put forward by PiS: whether to defend borders or help refugees is rather universally accepted among Poles and the choice made for the benefit of the so-called security.

Shortly before the Sunday demonstration, in close circles, we talked about how our national xenophobia and the closure in extreme cases lead to Jedwabne. That it is the same tendency, the direction that makes us understand only Poles and preferably "our own". And in the extreme case it leads to closing "strangers" in the barn and setting fire.

But, I think to myself, even this majority should not care about the dying refugees, because they are "strangers", this is real, mature power not only to look at the posts and adjust its policy to the primitive or bloodthirsty or simply louder majority, but it is there to influence and shape views. In my opinion - to influence good, understanding, and not to support idiosyncrasy, hateful allergies and a sense of threat. Power should be smarter, especially than the frustrated part of society.

If it were so, that everything was decided by the bars, the death penalty would still be carried out everywhere in Europe. And certainly in Poland. So sometimes this wisdom of power against the views of the majority can happen and push the world towards good.



And my reflections on the relationship between Jedwabne, Michałów and the PiS government, as it turned out, came not only to my mind. This is a reflection that terrified me. Is it really so that we have learned nothing? Can nothing be done about it in Poland? Will we elect a government that supports and uses our lowest, vilest national instincts? History always happens before our eyes, and many years later historians judge it. But we have a responsibility to judge now.

ANP Newsletter

Sovereignty or burden

In the judgment of the Tribunal, traditionally referred to as the Constitutional Tribunal, Ref. Act K 3/21 of October 7, 2021, it was only about the fact that the protection of the right to a fair trial, which is a treaty law, which was undertaken by the European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union, did not mean that the right to influence the selection of judges in Poland.

The view expressed by the Przyłębska Tribunal has already been repeated many times in the positions of Poland before the Tribunal in Luxembourg. From the logical point of view, the whole thing comes down to who will interpret European regulations, including Art. 19 TFEU.

It would seem that this is the competence of the European court. Because with the approach of the Polish Tribunal, virtually every area of regulation can be excluded from the competences of the Union's bodies. The Court of Justice has long expressed the fundamental view that EU laws are the final effect of system solutions and have a decisive influence on it, so if the Court could not influence the shape of the courts, its influence on securing the right to a fair trial would be a fiction.

The judgment of the Polish Tribunal has a symbolic dimension, it is the view of one political party. This party has made such a tribunal that no reasonable person takes it seriously, at least it is not a real legal view that will influence the course of things. She made herself a Tribunal according to her measure of relation to the law, a Tribunal it deserves, a Tribunal which no one wise manages to accept. I suspect that even some fans of the

ruling party understand that it is a shame, that this is not a law or a court of any kind. Those who considered him to be the true Tribunal are the same ones who believe that Kaczyński did not cheat at the two towers and that Obajtek is a reliable businessman. And that Witek had the right to reassume, and Zalewska made a good reform in schools.



So maybe this is the most dramatic in the end, at least from the perspective of my generation and my environment. For years, I have been preaching the view that we are a nation so

underdeveloped that this kind of nationalist sovereignty is a burden for us, not any value.

That is why I would prefer that we obey the Union and Union law as much as possible, because these are usually better ideas for life than our own. And I must admit honestly, I had no imagination to predict how much of this we have here. Fortunately, this verdict has no real meaning, at least it will not affect anyone's views or actions. Because who he is in Poland after these six years is already well known.

The author of all articles also published on LinkedIn is Michał Tomczak.