

Stanisław Kasznica

Władza. Do druku przygotował i wstępem opatrzył Paweł Czarторыski

Power, ed. by Paweł Czarторыski

SUMMARY

Stanisław Kasznica (1874-1958), professor of Administrative Law at the University of Poznań was also an active politician before and after World War I, and a member of the Polish Senate, 1922-1927. His *Autobiography* may be found in "Analecta" No. 1(1995). The present paper on *Power*, written originally during the German occupation and destroyed in the Warsaw Uprising, was written again in the last years of Professor Kasznica's life, but it could not be published due to communist censorship. After forty years it is now being published in "Analecta" for the first time.

Kasznica's considerations on power are the effect of his lifelong activities as civil servant, legislator and educator. They are not based on a particular theory, but result from experience and observation of actual life, presented in very concise and accurate form. The Polish term *władza* includes the meanings of "power", "rule" and "authority" in English; it may be applied to political rule as well as to any supremacy of one individual over another. So, the treatise is divided in two parts, the former concerned with the power of an individual, and the latter with organized power.

Supremacy of one individual over another, according to Kasznica, may result from physical strength, economic prevalence, emotional ties, and finally, from intellectual superiority, while each of those relations may be used for egoistic or altruistic purposes. Individual authority may also be acquired and transferred in different ways, while one and the same individual may accumulate various sources of power.

Power also belongs to organised groups at various levels. Diversified social structure, including leadership and organisations formed in view of achieving definite targets may and should be, according to Kasznica, independent from the State. This very much lies in the Polish tradition, when the Country was under foreign rule, but it is also very close to the philosophy of modern non government organisations.

In his last chapter, Kasznica analyses state rule from the four points of view mentioned above, namely those of spiritual and emotional ties, physical and military strength, intellectual and educational impact, and finally economic power. In all those fields, totalitarian methods of the Nazi and communist systems are opposed to democratic principles.

Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki
[Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science]
V, 1996, 1, 7-84