

Preface

The research presents impact of economic deficit on trade functioning and life of Polish citizens. Doctoral thesis portrays Kielce residents confronted by provisioning difficulties. On the one hand, activities conducted by authorities are described (administrative decisions), on the other, ventures led by citizens aiming at solving food and emergency goods deficits. The study depicts development and operations administered by unofficial group called deficit operators, as a consequence of economic deficit affecting society.

Thesis provides outlook on retail trade in Kielce during the last years of the Polish People's Republic (PRL). The document describes customers' behavior and way of living in a reality of constant deficit. In order to present complexity of a given period various factors have been investigated. Therefore, subject of research encompasses socio-economic situation in PRL, distinctive aspects of communism period, as well location and time characteristics. The analyzed examples are shown in the context on then economic and socio-political situation. Consequently, it aims at describing pivotal factors impacting internal market. The essential part of research depicts means and ways of enduring crisis situation by Polish citizens.

The source for the doctoral thesis are numerous archival documents, interviews, memories, statistical data, regional and specialist press. Due to dispersion of archival material, the query was conducted both in state and company archives. The study has been complemented by researches into Polish economic situation, economic reforms and economic offences. Autobiographical materials have served as an extremely valuable historical source. Moreover, diaries, memories, memoires of Kielce residents have been part of the dissertate. In order to provide in-depth analysis of then period interviews with employees of retail stores were organized. Additionally, to complete collected data own survey has been conducted.

As the analysis proved, the functioning of retail trade in the 1980s in Kielce was a complex and multi-layered problem. Decisions taken at the state level in then period demonstrate that implemented methods aiming at improving deficit situation were only temporary and seemingly solved increasing number of issues.