

**FUNDAMENTAL
CONDITIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
OF POLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649421435

Fundamental Conditions of the Economic Independence of Poland by Józef Freilich

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JÓZEF FREILICH

**FUNDAMENTAL
CONDITIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
OF POLAND**

Fundamental Conditions of the Economic Independence of Poland

BY JOSEPH FREILICH, PH. D.

(Translated from the French)



POLISH NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

CHICAGO
POLISH NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1918

PREFACE

The problem of the economic independence of Poland, as the question of economic independence of state organisms, in general, is one of the most complicated problems of political economy.

For it is certain that now, in this economic period of the twentieth century, characterized by a world-wide exchange of merchandise, there does not exist a single state organism which is economically independent in the strict sense of the word. Even the most powerful contemporary states, from an economic point of view, that possess enormous forces of production and consumption, are not self-sufficient and can barely carry on an isolated economic life. They are obliged to depend to a great extent on the politico-economics of other organisms, either as consumers or as producers but generally as consumers and producers at the same time. Only the earth, considered as a whole, constitutes a complete economic organism which is sufficient unto itself, since naturally, it is forced to be so.

But, the different parts of this organism, the states and countries that make up its constituent parts, cannot possess absolute, economic independence: they are political organisms endowed only with relative economic independence.

So examining, in our study, the conditions and factors of economic independence in Poland, we can have in view only those elements that, deciding the degree of her independence, result chiefly from the favorable situation of the elementary factors that, in the largest sense of the word, determine modern production, that is: **natural resources, human work and capital**. In addition to these principal factors there are still other important elements that must be considered, namely: the geographical situation of the country, access to the sea, and general means of communication with the world at large, that is to say, with all the other economic organizations of our globe.

The Polish lands, at the present divided between the three partitioning States, Prussia, Russia and Austria, condemned for more than one hundred and forty years to vegetate in political and economical conditions entirely different, often opposed, considered as a whole, as one political and economical unit, undoubtedly respond to the conditions required by theory and practice, for the existence and development of independent, economic organisms. All of these conditions and factors, especially the natural wealth of Poland, and her geographical situation, by virtue of which her natural and artificial ways of communication connect western Europe with the Orient, the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea, all these essential and secondary

factors show that the Polish lands, as a whole, consolidated into a state organization, will form a great economic organism, in the center of Europe endowed with a serious force of expansion, possessing a degree of independence equal, at least, to that of the other countries of Europe which have been looked upon as economic organisms eminently independent.

The aim of this work is to retrace and to determine the conditions and factors which constitute the basis of the economic independence of Poland. It is proposed to show the industrial evolution of Poland and to place in evidence the principal conditions that would considerably accelerate and facilitate this evolution.

The degree of economic development of every politico-economic organism depends essentially upon its industrial development in quantity as well as in quality. The more a state possesses the character of an industrial organism, the more apt will its industrial production be to meet the competition of the world markets with success; the more will such an organism be considered as developed, firmly established and as possessing in itself the elements of its future expansion.

Although before the European war, Poland did not have a distinctive industrial character, although much of her territory was agricultural, still taken as a whole, she possesses the fundamental conditions necessary to become an immense European industrial workshop. But, in order that this may come to pass, the political and economic causes that have hindered the normal development of industry must be eliminated. The principal cause was the dismem-

berment of the Polish economic organism by the three sharing States.

The formation of an independent Polish state, including all Polish territories, is a necessary condition of the future economic development of Poland, and therefore, of the political and cultural development of that part of the European continent comprised between the Baltic Sea and the Carpathians, between the Odra and the Polesie.

I.

THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE POLAND - SHARING STATES AND THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF POLAND

The economic life of the country of the Poles, especially the industrial production, has developed under the unequal, and generally unfavorable conditions brought about by the economic policies of the three sharing States. These policies are essentially different for each part of Poland and take into very little or no account whatever Polish interests and requirements.

In the Kingdom of Poland, (the part held by Russia) which is the part of Poland most developed economically, the foundations of the national industry were established by the local government of the Kingdom formed at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. A wide and methodical movement to improve and increase the industry of the country was undertaken by the government. All the merit of having brought the manufacturing industry to life and of having assured its progress should go to Prince Xavier Francois Lubecki, Treasurer of the young Kingdom and in charge of the direction of its finances toward the end of the year 1821.

Conducted systematically and with great energy by Lubecki, the industrial movement of the Kingdom developed in two different directions. First, new industrial centers were protected and others created for the benefit of the Treasury. Then profitable foreign markets were secured for the national products. The question of opening up outside markets in Russia and the Extreme Orient, for the products of the Kingdom; in other words, the questions of transit and customs relations between the Kingdom of Poland and Russia, were regulated through Lubecki in a most satisfactory manner.

In fact, after this settlement of the custom relations on the basis of the tariff of 1822-24, the exchange of merchandise between the Kingdom and Russia could be carried on almost without import duty. The commercial policy of Russia at that time was highly prohibitive toward the western States, while the Kingdom of Poland possessed an autonomous Polish-Prussian and Polish-Austrian tariff (decisions of the trilateral commission; treaty of 1818 with Prussia, and of 1819 with Austria). This situation had a very favorable influence upon the development of the young and rising industry of Poland.

The Kingdom of Poland became in part the finishing shop of foreign half-made products, especially Prussian, which finally reached Russia as Polish products and, because of the Polish-Russian customs conventions, almost without import duty. Besides this system of custom relations, outlined above, between the Kingdom of Poland and the Western countries on the one hand, and Russia on