

Kate Korycki (2017)

Memory, Party Politics, and Post-Transition Space: The Case of Poland

Data opublikowania: 31.08.2017

Poleca Redakcja Pol-Int

Czasopismo	East European Politics & Societies
Skrócona nazwa czasopisma	EEPS
Numer/tom	31/3
Ilość stron	518-544

ISSN: 1533-8371

Historia, Politologia

Angielski

In this work, Kate Korycki analyzes and interprets the Polish political field as a field of memory. First, she claims that *programmatic identities* of Polish political parties are weak. Despite this weakness political competition remains fierce, because parties fashion enduring *political identities*. She identifies three mainstream political identities of political actors in Poland, given by their temporal orientation and their judgment of communism. Second, Korycki claims that the field of political competition predicated on the turn to the past and on moral opprobrium is the particular achievement of the party that captured political power in Poland in 2015. Similarly to its 2005 electoral success, the party narrated the country's main problem as communist state-capture. It claimed that (former) communists and their post-dissident allies captured political, material, and symbolic levers of power. This way of presenting the problem polarized the field, casting political opponents as essential enemies, and casting the narrators as country's saviors. Third, this achievement was possible because the party narrated communism as essentially and existentially anti-Polish: it presented it as equal to Nazism, it made it foreign, and it made it coincidental with Jewishness. It then launched such discursive "weapon" against its present-day opponents.

(From the publisher's website.)

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