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Starting the discussion of the book prepared by Cezary Smuniewski (professor at the War Studies University in Warsaw) and Paweł Sporek (Pedagogical University of Cracow) two general issues should be noted, which are directly related to it and affect its assessment. First, it should be noted that a visible increase of interest in patriotism, national identity, development of movements and organizations promoting defence and cultivating national heritage and legacy of history have been observed over the last decade in Poland. Those processes are accompanied by heated social and political discussions. This agitation seems to be a force oriented against the current of the present time together with its steam roller of globalization and unification. Secondly, the today's reflection on patriotism in Poland arises in the context of the legacy of 20th century totalitarianisms and clashing of various visions of the future of the European Union. Poles, who brutally experienced both fascism and communism, and at the same time their country became a cradle of the Solidarity social movement, without which no transformations in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Berlin Wall would have taken

place, ever more frequently say that the Peoples of the Old Continent have not yet drawn adequate conclusions from the anti-human ideologies of the past century. It may be easily noted that those two general remarks unequivocally fit in the issue of narrations typical of research in the area of studies on the national security of Poland.

Having in mind those two above observations, we can immediately place and try to understand the monograph edited by Cezary Smuniewski and Paweł Sporek in the current of important contemporary topics. The book *Powrót do Ojczyzny? Patriotyzm wobec nowych czasów. Kontynuacje i nawiązania* not only fits into the context of contemporary Polish research, but also seems to be an important point of reference for discussion. The book is an answer to the questions formulated in various spaces of life of the Polish political community.

The editor of the volume already on the first pages of the monograph disclose their own awareness of how important and high-ranking the discussed topics are, and first of all of the multitude of issues associated with patriotism, which contribute to the multi-facetedness of the process of creating Poland's national security: "The importance of patriotism in the contemporary scientific reflection and public discourse is indubitable. Also the very notion does not yield to negation, although it is a subject of various disputes and discussions. Only it does not concern the very sense of the love of the Homeland, but rather its forms. The statement that the future of Poland depends solely on the economy, integration with Europe, the future of which is rather obscure, seem to be insufficient nowadays. After all, we know that national security means not only a concrete material dimension, but also such values as family, education...

It is the people who grow up within the spirit of the nation, its traditions and beautiful though at times difficult history. These are people integrated with culture, which constitutes both the foundation of the lives of individuals and the society, as well as building national security, the basis for which has been and will invariably remain the discovery and formation of one's own and common identity." (pp. 9-10). Such an understanding of the processes contributing to the creation of Poland's national security is in full accord with the lesson learned by the Polish political community from the history. The past of our nation makes us fully appreciative of the need to respect this non-material dimension – the spirit of the nations – in the reflection on creating national security, including military security and defence.

Cezary Smuniewski's and Paweł Sporek's motivation arising from the judgement of the present, which lies at the beginning of drafting this monographs, seems to be by all means very important. Speculating why nowadays the reflection on the role and meaning of the homeland understood as a category which is fundamental for thinking about a collective and individual identity, the scholars state: "The modern times are a picture of dynamic changes, which are reflected in the cultural, political and social reality. The civilizational development, the clash of globalist tendencies with ever more noticeably meaningful national movement, the upset possibilities and potentialities of various discourses conducted in public space augment the existing divisions and build new barriers on the road to consolidation of civic communities at the state and supra-state level." (p. 10). In light of the above statement it should be inferred that studies concerning patriotism cater for the needs which manifest themselves on at least two relational levels: first, consolidation of civic communities

at the state level” and - what seems particularly interesting and actually may be perceived as controversial – “consolidation at the supra-state level”. The understanding of the patriotism of Poles as an element which may contribute to creating building of relations in contemporary Europe is a brave thought because it means that true patriotism not only has nothing to do with deification of one nation and contempt for other nations (as it happened for instance in Nazi Germany), but may actually turn out to be a space for a peaceful encounter with other nations and political communities.

As co-authors of the monograph Cezary Smuniewski and Paweł Sporek invited scholars representing various disciplines and academic centres, frequently expressing very different views, who are however united by the concern about the shape of the Homeland and the need to think over the issue of patriotism.

Such an approach proved to be by all means correct. The reader gets a thick volume composed of twenty thematically diverse texts, the first one of which is a synthetic introduction “From the editors”. The reading of the book makes one unequivocally recognize that the Authors are interested in: broadly conceived culture, socio-political thought, theory of national security and presentation of changes taking place in thinking about the issues associated with the notion of homeland and nation. The book seeks answers to a number of questions: How can the notion of patriotism be understood today/ What models of patriotism determined the shape of the Polish nation in the past and to what extent the function (or can function) in contemporary cultural, social, political and economic space. How can a patriot be imagined nowadays? How is patriotism to be taught? Which values customarily associated with patriotism help one to sustain

in the today's world, and which ones do not pass the test of time in a clash with the new reality created in the space of globalisation processes determined by media phenomena? What model of patriotism can be adequate for a contemporary Pole? What kind of thinking about a mother country could be combined with political effectiveness and building Poland's position on the international arena? How are patriotic attitudes to be evoked in the foreigners, refugees, businessmen, repatriates who come to Poland and want to settle down here?

The book consists of four parts:

1. Patriotism in thought. On the basis of theory;
2. Patriotism in word. With the voice of literature;
3. Patriotism in education. Towards upbringing.
4. Patriotism in experience. Faces of daily reality.

From the above it follows that four notions – thought, word, education, experience – proved to be key issues for the originators and scientific editors, opening an integral reflection on patriotism. This idea should be by all means appreciated. The first part includes the following texts: Cezary Smuniewski - *Towards identification of "the homeland adorer's" contemporary journey. In the light of research on identity and patriotism in creating national security*; Marta Szymańska - *Patriotyzm – rozumienie pojęcia na gruncie polskim. Próba rekonesansu*; Konrad Majka - *Nationalism versus patriotism. Differences, similarities, reliances*; Marcin Mazurek - *The cosmopolitan patriotism*; Lech Szyndler - *Antropological aspects of patriotism (formula of efficient Thomism in Prof. Mieczysław Gogacz's approach)*. The second part, which includes analyses of literary texts, starts with Paweł Sporek's *Rarely on my lips... of Jan Kasprowicz as the voice*

of opposition to the profanation of the idea of patriotism and affirmation of love for native country; followed by an article by Karolina Zakrzewska – Stanisław Wyspiański's metaphysics of the nation; and Małgorzata Gajak-Toczek – Bonifacy Miązek in search of the native home. Lyrical writings of contemporary exiles. The third part of the book consists of studies which are focused on education and upbringing: Iwona Morawska – Pros and cons of patriotic education; Leszek Jazownik – On patriotic upbringing in modern school; Dorota Karkut – Patriotism – always an important and current subject of the Polish language and history lessons; Maria Sienko – Small, bigger and the biggest homeland of man. Shaping patriotic attitudes in Polish language classes (according to the curriculum offered by the series "I like it!"); Zofia Budrewicz – Patriotism in intercultural education of Polish philology; Henryk Gradkowski – How Romantics used to be and are currently read at school?. The fourth part of the monograph is devoted to the specific spaces where patriotism is realised: Janusz Królikowski – The "political" function of the Church in service to the homeland; Ilona Urych – From physical culture to patriotism and from patriotism to physical culture. About shaping attitudes towards creating national security; Jolanta Fiszbak – The 'illness' not only of the Soplica family – about patriotism and modern Polish youth's love of freedom; Katarzyna Grudzińska – Patriotism of contemporary youth – declarations and attitudes (of military profile class, secondary school students); Alina Kulczyk-Dynowska – Natural heritage vs. patriotism – the example of national parks.

From among all articles, three seem to deserve special mention. The first one is the article written by Konrad Majka (pp. 63-85) discussing differences, similarities, and primarily

relationships between patriotism and nationalism. The young scholar presents the issue that is of interest to him linking it to the emergence of first national ideology in Europe, i.e. the French Revolution.

The second text deserving separate discussion is the essay written by Prof. Janusz Królikowski (pp. 327-343) on the political function of the Church in service to the homeland. The author considers the contemporary cultural and political situation. In this context he asks: what form of service should the Church present nowadays to continue contributing to the life of the national community, and in this way shape – also in the political dimension – the image of the homeland fitting the new times? He concludes that the principal participation of the Church in politics consists in carrying out the moral mission, which is the foundation of democracy and a measure of its authenticity. So understood contribution of the Church to the life and functioning of the political community goes beyond the traditional concept of *in negativo* with respect to the freedoms enjoyed by the Church within the framework of the state order, situating itself rather *in positivo* in the perspective in which the Church is openly entrusted with “public function”. This is one of the key issues which is nowadays of crucial importance for shaping relations between the state and the Church. The scholar is of the opinion that the Church does and can even more effectively contribute to the deed of consolidating, developing and maturing of the political community, showing respect to its own nature and its own objectives, as well as showing respect to secularity and independence of the state within its distinctive order.

The third text which is worth noting has been written by Prof. Cezary Smuniewski (pp. 15-46). This text

is at the same time the first article in the monograph. The author of the article – for many years associated with the Warsaw academic community – has made an attempt to present the possibilities for creating Poland's national security in a very close relationship with the national identity and patriotism of the Poles. A special role in his analysis has been played by the sources situated within culture shaping the attitudes towards the homeland. In the author's opinion, patriotism comprises an expression - emotionally and volitionally extended over time - of the national identity which is an element decisive for constructing security of the nation, which has been always manifest in the political, economic, spiritual, cultural and defence might of the state. The author concludes that the patriotism of the Poles, deprived of the support of identity arising from culture inseparably linked with religion, is endangered with becoming a useless theory or ideology drawing its strength from contempt for otherness.

The monograph is addressed to people interested in the problems of patriotism, broadly conceived national security of Poland, political science, education, as well as literature and broadly conceived culture. It may prove useful for the faculty and students as a teaching aid in classes on national security, cultural security, education for security. The book may also be of use for the faculty and students of pedagogical departments, as well as philologists.

Concluding, it should be stated that the monograph constitutes one of the most significant contemporary works on patriotism and national security in Poland. It is an important voice in the discussion on education and upbringing in the spirit of responsibility for the common good, which is the Homeland.