

# Polish Economics and the Polish Economy: A Study for the Twentieth Anniversary of Transition in Poland

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## Abstract:

The anniversary of the launch of transition in Poland is a good opportunity for summarizing the changes that have occurred in Polish economics and the Polish economy over the last twenty years. The author believes that certain processes cannot be understood without providing a broader historical background to them. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to present what the author believes to be the most important trends in the development of the Polish economy and Polish economics not only in the postwar period, but also before World War II. Polish economics and the Polish economy have undergone transformation over two decades of transition. In this period, Polish economists began to adapt their research to major trends of modern economics. A majority of them agreed to the concepts of mainstream economics. The main weakness of Polish economics continues to be the limited number of publications in prestigious English-language periodicals. In effect, Polish economics continues to be little known in the world.

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## I Introduction

The year 2009 will witness the twentieth anniversary of Poland's transition from what was previously referred to as socialism and today is known as Communism,<sup>1)</sup> to a democratic system with a market economy. The transition anniversary is a good opportunity for summarizing the changes that have taken place in Polish economics and the Polish economy over the last twenty years. The

present author believes that certain processes cannot be understood without providing a broader historical background to them. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to present what the author believes to be the most important trends in the development of the Polish economy and Polish economics not only in the postwar period, but also before World War II.

Interestingly, it is Poland—with its Solidarity movement, Round Table talks between