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## Abstract:

Following the change of legal and political principles, the rules of social structurisation, along with the connotation of some conceptual categories important for defining social structure, were altered as well. Although political transformation was intentional and expected to produce only positive outcomes, the diagnosis and evaluation of its results for society are still, 20 years later, being examined and discussed.

An important theoretical issue is that of the extent to which the present shape of social structure and the observed state of stratification are due mainly to universal processes, hardly controllable (such as the processes of reaching social positions in market economy), and that to which they result from intentional actions (such as education and employment policy or social policy). Although producing an unambiguous opinion on the above is difficult, the matter is certainly worth considering. Taking into account the present state of observations and drawing on available research results as well as own analysis, this task is undertaken in the present article.