

ABSTRACT. Miłosz Jan, *Świadkowie Jehowy w PRL - uznani, zwalczani, tolerowani* [Jehovah's Witnesses during the times of communist regime - recognized, tolerated, fought]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz - „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 121-135. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

Following the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Poland after WWII, we may make out three main periods. The first one ranges from 1945 to 1950, when this organization was recognized as legal by state authorities. The second one, between 1950-1956, when it was fought with all means by the regime. The last period starts from 1957 till 1989, that is the end of communism in Poland. These three periods were characterized as follows: by state recognition, oppression from the state and stabilized toleration. The most significant and formative period was the third one, when the division of the congregation into regional departments took place. The legalization of Jehovah's Witnesses as a church took many years of battle with the regime, but finally became successful. After 1989 the congregation gained full rights as a religious organization and ever since has been legally authorized to function as such in Poland.

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