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POLISH TOBACCO MONOPOLY IN 1919-1939: ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT

The article analyses historical, socio-economic and legal aspects of functioning of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly during 1919-1939, which had a clear organizational structure. It shows the features of tobacco cultivation, activities of the tobacco companies, trade departments, the cooperation of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly with other monopolies of tobacco: Hungarian, Yugoslav, Russian. In the mid-1920s it included more than 26 factories, 30 trade departments, shops, laboratories. The paper studies legal regulation of labour relations in the tobacco companies. Labour relations were regulated by various regulations of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Key words: the Polish Tobacco Monopoly, factory, trade departments, tobacco products, labour relations.

The beginnings of tobacco cultivation in Poland go back to the 16th century. Despite a series of denials and harmfulness for human body the rate of tobacco trade and size of tobacco plantings were growing from year to year. A commercial direction was developing instead of a consumer one in tobacco production. From the middle of the 18th century the tobacco has been grown for industrial needs, tobacco companies have appeared, and a monopoly has been gradually introduced. In the 1930s of the 19th century the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly was formed. It owned five tobacco factories: in Vynnyky, Krakow, Monastyraska, Yagilnytsia, Zabolotiv; trade departments in Lviv, Stanislaviv, Kolomyia, Peremysl, Rzeszow, Nowy Sacz, Wadowice. However, because of the First World War almost all the tobacco factories of the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly, except the Krakow Tobacco Company, suffered damage.

After the First World War, the property of the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly passed into the ownership of the Polish authorities. As a result of the economic policy concentration the Polish State began to control profits from taxation on the tobacco production. For this purpose the Directorate of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly in Warsaw was created. It was divided into 9 departments: general and personnel, production, trade, organization of sales, technical, inspection, calculation of budget, labour, tobacco production. Each of the departments performed its functions. The Directorate of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly was headed by the Chief Director. He represented the State Tobacco Monopoly and was accountable to the Minister of Treasure. The Chief Director decided important questions connected with the activities of the Tobacco Monopoly together with the Advisory Committee, which included delegates from the Ministry of Treasure (3), the Ministry of Industry and Trade (1), the Ministry of Agriculture (1)¹. The Directorate of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly cared about the qualification level of officials and employees of the tobacco industry. The employees were encouraged to attend professional theoretical and practical courses in Zabolotiv and scientific courses in Hungary, where they were taught the latest methods of tobacco growing and manufacturing of tobacco products.

The Polish Tobacco Monopoly began its activity with the Krakow Tobacco Factory, purchasing raw materials in Bulgaria and England. The largest tobacco plantations functioned in the southern Polish provinces, particularly in Galicia. Later, with the support of the Ministry of Treasure the Polish Tobacco Monopoly took a clear position on the reconstruction of factories and departments of tobacco trade in Zabolotiv, Monastyraska, Yagilnytsia, Borshchiv (territory of Galicia), construction of new factories in Warsaw, Lodz, Radom (a city in the central part of Poland), and the purchasing of private factories in Kovel (Volyn area) and Poznan (city in the Western Poland)².

On 1 June 1922 the Polish Sejm issued the Regulations "On the implementation of the tobacco

¹ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 41–45.

² *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy jako pracodawca* (1929). Poznan: Nakładem Dyrekcji Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Wydanie trzecie, 5.

monopoly", which made the right to monopoly supervision over imports of raw materials and the activities of the private sector legal; and it made the formation of new private factories impossible¹. As of the mid-1920s the Polish Tobacco Monopoly owned about 20 factories: in the southern provinces (Vynnyky, Krakow, Monastyriska, Yagilnytsia, Zabolotiv), the central and eastern provinces (Warsaw (3), Lodz, Radom, Grodno, Kovel, Bialystok, Wilno), the western ones (Poznan (3), Bydgoszcz, Koscian, Starograd Gdanski, Wodzislaw-Slaski, Grudziadz)². In 1924 due to the Italian loans the Polish Tobacco Monopoly bought 9 private factories: "Nobless (the best cigarette factory in Warsaw)", Szereszewski "in Grodno", "Janowski" in Bialystok, "Balberski" in Vilnius (Wilno before 1939), "Sarmatia" in Poznan, "Goldfarb" Starograd Gdanski (the best tobacco and common tobacco factory in Poland), "Adam" (the best cigarette factory in Poland) in Bydgoszcz, Grudziadz and Inowroclaw. In 1925 the Polish Tobacco Monopoly bought the factory "Dubes-Droste" in Poznan, "Rosenberg" in Koscian, "Tajka" in Wodzislaw-Slaski, and in 1926 it bought and reconstructed a factory in Yagilnytsia. It costed about 22 million zlotych to purchase all these factories. The amount included costs for factory buildings, equipment, and workers compensation³.

Every year the number of companies of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly was growing. In the mid-1920s most of the private tobacco factories were bought by the state. Others stopped their activities. It was a period of complete elimination of the private tobacco industry⁴.

Monopolistic tobacco factories cultivated tobacco leaf, bought and processed raw materials, manufactured tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, cut tobacco, chewing tobacco, pressed tobacco), and sold tobacco products. Factories were equipped with special machines for cutting paper, tobacco, for filling up paper cartridges with tobacco, etc.

The Polish Tobacco Monopoly owned also more than 30 departments which sold tobacco products and tobacco raw materials (11 from them operated at tobacco factories as trade departments): in Lviv, Peremysl, Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk), Kolomyia, Nowy Sacz, Krakow, Monastyriska, Yagilnytsia, Borshchiv, Wadowice, Tarnow, Lublin, Kielce, Kalisz, Czestochowa, Rivne, Brzesc, Oswiecym, Aleksandrow-Lodzki, Warsaw, Maczki, Poznan, Torun, Katowice, Wilno, Rzeszow, Lodz, Radom, Kovel, Grodno, Bialystok, Bydgoszcz and others. Another department of purchasing raw materials was in Sofia. It purchased raw materials in the territory of Bulgaria. The main objective of the trade departments was to sell tobacco products to district warehouses which supplied the tobacco to retail stores. Warehouses received 10–13% discount, and stores got 9 % discount⁵.

The Polish Tobacco Monopoly also owned 8 shops, which sold tobacco products (Warsaw, Krakow, Lviv, Poznan, Vilnius, Bydgoszcz). Several shops were located in rented premises in Lublin, Aleksandrow-Lodzki, Brzesc, Maczki. In addition, there was an institution that studied the processes of growing and fermenting tobacco. Since 1919–1920 Inspectorates of tobacco production were situated together with tobacco factories in Zabolotiv and Warsaw. Offices of purchasing tobacco operated in Borshchiv, Yagilnytsya, Kremenets⁶. In the early 1920s the Polish Tobacco Monopoly owned about 50 enterprises and trade offices.

In 1919 about 470 thousand kilograms of tobacco raw materials was processed at the factories of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly, and in 1925 it was more than 17 million kg of tobacco, which was used for producing 56 million pcs. cigars, about 8 billion cigarettes, 12 million kg of tobacco⁷.

¹ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 13–15.

² *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy jako pracodawca* (1929). Poznan: Nakładem Dyrekcji Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Wydanie trzecie, 6.

³ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1926–1927* (1928). Rocznik II-gi. Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Tłoczono czcionkami Drukarni Państwowej, 13.

⁴ *Polski przemysł i handel. Księga adresowa i informacyjna przedsiębiorstw przemysłowców, handlowych i finansowych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (1930). Warszawa-Lwow: Izba Przemysłowo-Handlowa, Drukiem Artura Goldmana, 1137.

⁵ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 165.

⁶ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy jako pracodawca* (1929). Poznan: Nakładem Dyrekcji Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Wydanie trzecie, 7.

⁷ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1926–1927* (1928). Rocznik II-gi. Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Tłoczono czcionkami Drukarni Państwowej, 28.

The number of manufactured tobacco products at the Polish Tobacco Monopoly by 1924¹

Product Name	Quantity (pcs, kg)
Cigars	24.083.331
Cigarettes	3.774.552.605
Tobacco (premium grade)	2.250.096
Tobacco (low quality)	1.227.046
Pressed tobacco)	302.421
Tobacco	150.423
Chewing tobacco	3.320

In 1924 budget receipts to the Ministry of Treasure from the tobacco monopoly accounted for 133 million złotych, in 1925 they accounted for 182 million złotych².

The tobacco industry has quickly developed in other countries too. For example, from 1 July 1923 to 30 June 1924 monopolistic tobacco factories in Hungary processed about 31 million kg of tobacco, in 1923 factories in the Austrian Republic processed about 17 million kg of tobacco, factories in Czechoslovakia processed more than 20 million kg of tobacco³.

Cigars were made only in the tobacco factories in such places as Grudziadz, Bydgoszcz, Krakow, Vynnyky, Zabolotiv. The premium grade tobacco was represented by such brands as: Kir, Ksanti, Sultanski, Makedonski, Najprzedniejszy Sredni Turecki, Kresowy; Adonis, Dubes, Korana, Perla, and others.

Both old and new production methods were used for manufacturing tobacco products. These cigarettes were popular among the population: Hawana, Belweder, Wawel, Brytanika, Trabuke, Kuba, Portoriko, Cigarillos, Virginia, Brazil Virginia. Cigarettes without holders of Austrian brands were used too: Sfinks, Kedyw (later Kalif), Egipski, Sport, Dames, Damskie, Presydent (former Kaiser), in the 1920s. New brands were extremely popular: Cowboy, Wisla, and cigarettes with holders: Klub, Sejmowe, Pogon, Syrena, Wanda, Farys, Emir, Medium, and many others. Austrian brands are preserved in the names of cut tobacco: Najprzedniejszy, Przedni i Sredni Turecki. In the early 1920s cardboard tobacco production was implemented: Makedonski, Sultanski, Ksanti, Kir, and the cheapest were Krajowy and Kresowy cardboard tobacco. As a rule, the richest social groups smoked the so-called luxurious foreign tobacco products, therefore the Directorate of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly faced the task to replace foreign premium products with local Polish products. As early as in 1925 factories began to produce premium cigarettes "Triumf"⁴.

Prices for tobacco products in Poland in January 1925⁵

Product Name	Price (in grosz for a piece; in zloty for kg)
Cigars (pcs.)	22.7
Cigarette (Pcs)	2.72
Tobacco (kg)	15.02

¹ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 84–85.

² *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 160.

³ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 82.

⁴ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 74, 79.

⁵ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 78.

Prices for tobacco products weren't steady and even during a year could have varied due to the devaluation of the zloty.

In 1929–1930 the consumption of tobacco products per person in Poland was about 687.8 g worth 23.36 zlotych. In 1929–1930 the Polish Tobacco Monopoly sold 20.957.200 kg of tobacco products for 711.976.800 zlotych, including 169.100 kg of foreign goods worth 5.470.600 zlotych. The percentage consumption of different tobacco products is: cigars – 1.93%, cigarette – 33.97, tobacco – 61.18, chewing tobacco – 2.12%, foreign goods – 0.8%. In particular, as of 1929 the Monopoly collected 8.958.900 kg of tobacco on 6.662.000 hectares of local tobacco plantations. In 1928 and 1929 the factory capital was 49.534.700 zlotych, the current capital was 142.193.700 zlotych, the capital of growing tobacco was 978.200 zlotych. In 1929–1930 budget year the state tax was around 400 million zlotych, and 23 million zlotych were used to repay the Italian loan¹.

As in 1926 the Polish Tobacco Monopoly owned 22 tobacco factories and a big number of trade departments. The tobacco companies have used both local and foreign tobacco (Brazilian, Greek, English, American, etc.). Turkish and English tobacco was in great demand². A significant number of tobacco products was imported from abroad.

The Polish Tobacco Monopoly had close economic ties with Hungarian, Yugoslav, Russian tobacco monopolies. For example, in 1925 about 4 million kg of tobacco were purchased in Yugoslavia, 350 thousand kg were purchased in Hungary, 660 thousand kg were purchased in the USSR. One of the conditions of trade relationship between tobacco monopolies was exchange of tobacco for local products (oil, salt, etc.)³.

An important component of economic relations at the enterprises of the tobacco industry were labour relations. They were regulated by the various regulations of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly (in particular "The Regulations on Rights and Obligations of Employees of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly") and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, which guaranteed rights and determined the obligations of workers, in particular the duration of the working day, the right to paid holidays, payment of wages, insurance, hygiene, education, housing, and other kinds of social security.

As a result of the First World War the number of workers who worked in the tobacco factories reduced. In particular, only 390 persons worked in Vynnyky factory in 1922. In 1928 their number increased to 634, and later it was growing. As of 1938 this company employed 306 workers⁴. In 1921 the factory in Zabolotiv employed about 50 people⁵, in 1922 the factory in Krakow employed 50 persons⁶ in 1921 the factory in Monasteryrska employed 374 persons⁷.

In 1926 the factories of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly employed approximately 13 thousand regular workers and 3 thousand temporary and seasonal workers⁸. However, the global economic crisis in 1928–1933, which led to the decline of industrial production and trade, unemployment, and so on, negatively affected the development of the industrial economy and the situation of the Polish population. As a result, the number of tobacco factories and workers employed there reduced. During this period about 400 people

¹ *Polski przemysł i handel. Księga adresowa i informacyjna przedsiębiorstw przemysłowców, handlowych i finansowych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (1930). Warszawa-Lwow: Izba Przemysłowo-Handlowa, Drukiem Artura Goldmana, 1138.

² Центральний державний історичний архів України у м. Львові (далі – ЦДІА України, м. Львів), ф. 443, оп. 1, спр. 2. Звіти про закупівлю та переробку сировини на фабриці тютюнових виробів у с. Винники (1921), том I, 1–3.

³ *Polski Monopol Tytoniowy 1919–1925* (1926). Warszawa: Nakładem Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego. Odbito w Drukarni Państwowej w Warszawie, 166.

⁴ ЦДІА України, м. Львів, ф. 443, оп. 1, спр. 1. *Обіжники, інструкції, листування та інші документи фабрики тютюнових виробів у с. Винники про умови праці на тютюнових фабриках (1886–1903, 1922–1939)*, 83, 134, 145, 167.

⁵ ЦДІА України, м. Львів, ф. 443, оп. 1, спр. 6. Відомості про виплату заробітної плати за вересень–грудень 1921 р. працівникам фабрики тютюнових виробів у містечку Заболотів (1921), том I, 11.

⁶ ЦДІА України, м. Львів, ф. 443, оп. 1, спр. 11. Відомості про виплату заробітної плати за квітень 1922 р. працівникам фабрики тютюнових виробів у м. Краків (1922), 1–5.

⁷ ЦДІА України, м. Львів, ф. 443, оп. 1, спр. 22. Відомості про виплату заробітної плати за квітень–травень 1921 р. працівникам фабрики тютюнових виробів у містечку Монастирська, том II і останній (1921), 62–67.

⁸ *Polski przemysł i handel. Księga adresowa i informacyjna przedsiębiorstw przemysłowców, handlowych i finansowych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (1930). Warszawa-Lwow: Izba Przemysłowo-Handlowa, Drukiem Artura Goldmana, 1137.

worked in Vynnyky tobacco factory. The tobacco factories in Zabolotiv and Krakow became less productive¹.

According to "The Regulations on the Rights and Obligations of Employees of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly"² one of the criteria for the special legal status of a worker of the tobacco company was a Polish citizenship. In addition, there were some other requirements: age from 18 to 35, physical and mental capacity, a command of the Polish language, etc. A working week in the factories and offices of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly lasted 46 hours a week, 8 hours a day, and 6 hours on Saturday. A day off was Sunday and holidays. If necessary, a worker agreed to work overtime. However, a working time should not have exceeded 12 hours a day. A worker received bigger wages for working overtime. If an employee of the tobacco company worked out a year, he had the right to 8-day holiday, and after three years he had the right to 15-day holiday, after 25 years he had the right to 25 days of holiday³.

It is worth noting that mainly women worked in the factories of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly. According to the then labour legislation, the company which employed more than 100 women should have had on-site child care centers. The structure of the Polish Tobacco Monopoly included 7 institutions of childcare in Bialystok, Kovel, Monastyriska, Warsaw, Vynnyky, Wilno, Wodzislaw-Slaski; and Vynnyky tobacco factory might have been the only enterprise in the Western Ukraine, where an on-site child care operated⁴.

Wages depended on worker's qualifications in tobacco factories. Wage rate was affected by work experience. Factories could pay an additional 50% of worker's wages, with account of work experience. In addition, men got tobacco allowance. In Warsaw a qualified mechanic of the tobacco company earned about 340 zlotych a month, a qualified worker earned 190, a worker woman did 150 zlotych⁵.

However, despite the formal requirements, the Labour Inspectorate noted the ineffective protection of labour and hygiene offences in tobacco companies for many times. In particular, the labour inspector noted air contamination, lack of daylight and ventilation systems, outdated equipment, and there was a lot of waste in the carpenter's room in Vynnyky tobacco factory. A staffroom for a doctor who examined workers didn't serve its purpose. This room was small, dark, damp, harmful both for the doctor and for workers.

In 1939 the Polish Tobacco Monopoly, like other monopolies, was eliminated.

During the 20th century monopolistic associations have become an important component of socio-economic development of European countries. In 1919–1939 the Polish Tobacco Monopoly, which had a clear organizational structure, functioned in 1919–1939. In the mid-1920s it included more than 26 factories, 30 trade departments, shops, laboratories, etc. The Polish Tobacco Monopoly functioned on the basis of regulations (patents, laws), which made centralization of capital and production legal, regulated the labour relations in the tobacco factories.

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² *Przepisy normujące prawa i obowiązki robotników Polskiego Monopolu Tytoniowego (1927)*. Warszawa: Drukarnia Państwa, 1–53.

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