

## REVIEW

**Guy Standing, *Prekariat. Nowa niebezpieczna klasa* [Precariat: The New Dangerous Class], Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2017, pp. 368.**

Global crises that destabilize the world's economic situation, and therefore also political ones, are not unreal. Job instability and economic insecurity create in society reluctance to the surrounding system. Precariat is a concept that gradually appears in the economic and political debate. According to Guy Standing, this is a social group that brings together the poor but also the impoverished, uncertain what tomorrow may bring to them, unemployed, indebted, young people without a chance to have work, but also those who work but are exploited or work on junk contracts or work in the informal sector. This definition that was presented here comes from Guy Standing's book, 'Precariat: The New Dangerous Class'. The notion of precariat in the Polish debate has appeared just recently, but it is not often used by the political class mainly due to the fact that it presents unfavorable phenomenon to the ruling classes.

In the introduction the author determines and presents the book's construction to the reader. The book consists of five questions to which the author answers, namely: Why this group is called precariat, who is in it, why this group is expanding, why should we care about its growth and where can it lead? All these questions are answered by the author in separate chapters. The answer to the last question was divided into two chapters, which was also mentioned by the author already in the introduction.

Guy Standing in his book presents a thesis on the fragmentation of social structures, and therefore decides to present seven social layers that are related one to another. The first is the elite which consists of wealthy people who rule the world with their fortunes. The other one is the salariat that consists of employees of public administration and corporations. Another group is working class that consists of professionals and technicians who are usually mobile and have specialized skills. Next, according to the author, is the working class which constitutes gradually a smaller part of society due to the fact that it shrinks. Below that layer is precarious precariat, followed by the unemployed unable to adapt to society and excluded.

The book consists of seven chapters. In the first one the author defines the precariat and presents it above the hierarchy. He also tries to convince the reader that the process of the precariousness of society is developing. In the next two chapters the author responds to the questions he had asked at the beginning of the book, namely, why the precariat is gradually increasing, and who really creates precariat. His reflections are based on concrete examples, which is an undoubted advantage of this book, as these examples are reflected in real situations. The

author distinguished various social groups that are characteristic of precariat. It is also positive that despite the distinction of particular social groups within precariat, the author notes that not every member of such a group must belong to it.

The fourth and fifth chapters are devoted to the problem of migration and time, respectively. The author notes that migrants are one of the largest groups among the precars, and one of the fastest growing. The author also draws special attention to the so-called labor export regimes, in order to win the tenders of companies from other countries, or hire migrants as a cheap labor force. The key problem that was raised in the fifth chapter is time. The author of the book review draws attention to the time spent on work by the precariat, forcing the reader to reflect on how precars are supposed to find time for consumption and rest.

The last two chapters, the fifth and sixth one, are reflections on how the world could prevent the precarisation of society, which is becoming more and more extensive. The author illustrates this with opposite notions, depicting the politics of hell and the alternative policy of heaven. This is an excellent summary and presentation of the situation because the author refers to concrete examples of what leads to precariousness and what can prevent it.

Jacek Żakowski, a journalist who wrote the preface in the Polish edition of the book, undoubtedly in an interesting way introduced the reader to the subject through the references to Poland.

The reviewed book was released in 2001 and the translated version appeared on the Polish market in 2014.

In summary, Guy Standing's book - 'Precariat: The New Dangerous Class' is one of the few that represents the phenomenon of socioeconomic precariat, referring to concrete examples and objectively presenting a problem that more and more countries will face. Undoubtedly, Guy Standing is a specialist in this field. He is a professor of economic security at the University of Bath in England and a co-chair of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) as well. In the view of the above, this publication is most recommendable on the Polish publishing market.

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