

Abstract

Postsocialist transformation must be seen against the background of ongoing globalization. The progress toward institutional changes should be evaluated through the prism of their influence on country's development abilities. In Poland, over eighteen years of comprehensive systemic shift, GDP has increased more than in any other postsocialist country. While judging the transformation progress not only the improvement of competitiveness and growth in terms of quantity must be taken into account, but also social and cultural aspects. There have been five distinct periods from the viewpoint of economic growth. Had there been a better policy coordination of systemic change and socio-economic development, GDP growth over the periods considered could have increased by a half more. This opportunity has been missed due to the intermittent implementation of wrong economic policies based on wrong economic theories. Poland has the potential to double her GDP over next ten years. However, despite gains from both globalization and European Union integration, this potential will not be fully exploited due to the overall ineptitude of politics. Poland's transformation can be seen as a success, but only to the extent of two thirds of its potential.