

Summary in English

Reprivatisation in Poland during transition – a new institutional economics perspective

The dissertation is devoted to an analysis of the process of reprivatisation in Poland during the systemic transformation following 1989, viewed through the lens of new institutional economics. The main research objective is to understand the reasons behind the absence of a comprehensive statutory regulation concerning the restitution of nationalised property. The dissertation employs key theories of new institutional economics, in particular transaction cost theory, property rights theory, and public choice theory, to analyse both top-down reprivatisation mechanisms (implemented through legislative acts) and bottom-up mechanisms (pursued through civil and administrative court proceedings).

The dissertation attempts to systematise knowledge regarding the institutional, legal, and economic determinants of the reprivatisation process in Poland, presenting it as a complex and conflict-laden aspect of the systemic transition. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying and quantifying the transaction costs incurred by former owners seeking restitution of property. The conducted empirical analysis – based, among other things, on interviews, observations, and document analysis – demonstrates that the judicial path to reprivatisation involves numerous institutional and financial barriers, which result in the secondary victimisation of entitled individuals.