

Between Cross and Hammer. Reception of Social Thought in the Catholic Church during the First Half of the 20th Century

ABSTRACT

The thesis examines the construction, development, transfer, and adaptation of Catholic social thought in the first half of the 20th century. Social Catholicism is understood not only as a concept defined by the social teachings of the Church in the form of encyclicals, but primarily as a collective social practice present in society in various forms. From this perspective the thesis contributes to the debate around the secularization discourse and the role of religion in modern society.

The analysis of the Social Catholic movement is done in two different national contexts: Belgium and Czechoslovakia. Comparative method finds its place dominantly in the second part of the study, which puts together the network of Social Catholic organizations and different actors in both countries.

The focus on the discourse and social practices of Social Catholicism and Catholics' involvement among the working class tries to reinforce connections and links within ecclesiastical, social, and cultural history.

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