Europeanization as a subject of research appears in many works by Western authors. The influence of this phenomenon is analyzed in different study areas such as national law (Wawrzyniak & Kubuj, 2011), political systems (Goetz & Meyer-Sahling, 2008), government institutions (Folke Schuppert, 2006) or political parties. This kind of research is conducted primarily in long-term member states of the European Union (EU). Polish research on the Europeanization is developing slowly as in 2014 Poland celebrated only the tenth anniversary of accession to the EU. The EU membership has influenced many organizations, including Polish political parties. However, can the changes be interpreted as the impact of European integration on the statutes and organization of political parties in Poland? The publication of Ania Pacześniak entitled *Europeanization of Polish Political Parties* is a recommendable attempt at explaining the above question.

The publication consists of six chapters. The first chapter presents definitions, theories and typologies of Europeanization. As Pacześniak rightly points out, Europeanization is not synonymous with European integration. From a cultural perspective, Europeanization is the process of adopting European habits and culture. However, with the development of European Communities we can say that Europeanization is the impact...
of European integration on Member States, their citizens and institutions. As a result, it is not only the societies that adopt European patterns, but also authorities, politicians and political parties. The most popular definition explains that Europeanization is ‘an incremental process reorienting the direction and shape of politics to the degree that EC political and economic dynamics become part of the organizational logic of national politics and policy-making’ (Ladrech, 1994). Some researchers claim that Europeanization is a process that may occur in two directions. We can distinguish top-down/downloaded Europeanization (from the European Union to the states) or bottom-up/uploaded Europeanization (from the states and their institutions to the Union). In the first case the European institutions and their activities influence national policies. An example of the second direction is the situation when national parliaments delegate legislative power to the Council of the European Union. Therefore the Council creates laws which apply to the territories of the Member States. The author also argues that Europeanization is a process that occurs independently from political parties’ opinions on European integration (Pacześniak, 2014, pp. 20–22).

The second chapter is devoted to political parties and their place in the political system of the EU. Pacześniak in her research on the Europeanization of Polish political parties focuses on four parties: Civic Platform (PO), the Law and Justice party (PiS), the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and the Polish People’s Party (PSL). This choice seems to be appropriate, because all these parties have already been valid organizations before Poland’s accession to the EU, and they are still active on Polish and European political stage, regularly winning seats both in the national parliament and the European Parliament. The second chapter also describes the specifics of political parties and their environment in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The author presents the functioning of political parties before the fall of the communist regimes and in democratic forms of government. Pacześniak describes in detail Polish political stage between 2001 and 2013, analyzing the results of parliamentary elections and the relevance index of Polish political parties.

The third chapter presents concepts and operationalization of research on the Europeanization of Polish political parties. This chapter also presents methods, techniques and tools used in the research. The author decided to analyze the process of Europeanization of Polish political parties in three dimensions: (1) structural and organizational; (2) programmatic, (3) cultural. In the first case, the author analyzes the constitutions of researched organizations. She also verifies whether the parties employ experts on European issues. In addition she examines whether the members of the European Parliament affect the national party structures. To examine the programmatic dimension of Europeanization of Polish political parties, Pacześniak analyzes the content of election programs. The researcher uses the existing data and complements it with the results of qualitative research. The author examines the range of Europeanization of political programs from 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2011, with surprising results. The PO, which appears to be a pro-European party, in the election programs of 2001 and 2005 presented a low degree of Europeanization. In fact, in those documents we can find only a few
general references to the European Union. The PiS, which seems to be moderately pro-European, has the highest level of stability as to the Europeanization of their political programs. The analysis of election programs shows that the PiS paid the same attention to issues connected to the European Union during the whole period in question. The SLD has a relatively high level of Europeanization, especially after the accession to the EU, so the program content is the same as the political image of the SLD. The case of the PSL is also interesting. In the programs from 2001 and 2005 we can find a lot of references to the EU although PSL demonstrated at that time an ambivalent attitude to the European structures. In the following years PSL politicians became clearly more pro-European. However, their political programs presented low degree of Europeanization (Pacześniak, 2014, 192–194).

This chapter also deals with the cultural dimension of the Europeanization of Polish political parties. The European Parliament is dominated by the culture of compromise. Polish members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are put through the “process of socialization” in the European Parliament, where decisions do not cater to narrow interests. They learn a different style of discussion, negotiations and cooperation, not only with the fellow MEPs, European politicians and administration, but also with lobbyists and experts. The researcher investigates whether these new skills of MEPs impact the national parties. For this purpose she uses individual in-depth interviews and survey research. In the last section of the chapter the author describes in detail the data, methods, techniques and research tools used in the study.

The next three chapters present the results of research on Europeanization of the Polish political parties in the three aforementioned dimensions: structural/organizational, programmatic and cultural. Pacześniak effectively uses the existing data such as reports or results of other research. Techniques and research methods selected by the author are well suited to the task. The author does not limit herself to one method and uses quantitative and qualitative methods in order to attain her goals. As previously pointed out, the results of interviews conducted with politicians deserve attention. These interviews present opinions of politicians about the authorities of their party or relations with other politicians – topics that do not appear in their official statements. It turns out that Polish representatives in the European Parliament behave quite differently than in Poland – they understand that the politicians from another party are not enemies, and they are willing to talk and negotiate to reach compromise (Pacześniak, 2014, pp. 212–214). However, Pacześniak’s research demonstrates that the intensity of the cultural dimension of Europeanization is very low: even if Europeanization occurs in this dimension, it affects small groups which are associated with international environment.

The publication of Anna Pacześniak is in fact the first attempt to investigate the Europeanization of Polish political parties, which in Polish research is still an unexplored territory. The book may be recommended to Polish and foreign researchers interested in the Europeanization of political parties as the study may be used as a model or useful guidelines for their own research. The publication may be helpful in particular
to researchers interested in the process of Europeanization of political parties in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have been the members of the European Union for only a few years.

REFERENCES


