

## SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONFLICTS OF THE NOWA HUTA STEEL WORKERS DURING THE SOCIALIST TRANSITION

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The present article examines the social and political conflicts that affected the working population during the socialist industrialization in Poland in the 1950s and 1960s as exemplified by the Nowa Huta steel works near Cracow. Among the consequences of the far-reaching transformation of these years was a systemic and structural turnaround in favour of heavy industries. Part of this process was the construction of the steel works in Nowa Huta, the biggest single project of the 1950–55 Six Year Plan. As a consequence of nationwide propaganda and recruiting efforts, the ever-growing workforce was made up of people of widely differing backgrounds. Now they were expected to form a new working community. The bitter clash of their hopes and wishes with the harsh reality of the Nowa Huta construction site could not fail to produce tensions. The constant pressure to adapt to ceaselessly changing living conditions and growing demands on production often met with resistance and protests on the part of the workers.