

ORGANIZATION IN THE CENTRAL PLANNED ECONOMY

Transportation

After World War II the railroad system was reconstructed and the lines most frequently used were converted to electric power. Polish railroads continue to play a meaningful role in the flow of products within the Eastern Bloc, especially between East Germany and the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia and the Polish ports. The highway system is multilane near Warsaw with projects underway to link Warsaw and the provincial centers. Shipping is well developed and there are three major sea ports; Szczecin, Gdynia, and Gdansk as well as smaller fishing and coastal navigation ports. Domestic and international air transportation is provided by the state government. Inland water is not considered an important means of transportation.¹¹

Agricultural Marketing

Despite the private nature of farming, the flow of agricultural products both upstream and downstream has been controlled by the government. Animals and commodities were ordered and purchased by the state. Polish agriculture was and still is primarily a integrated system. However, unlike free market systems in which the basic purpose of vertical integration is to offer better quality, reasonable prices, and reliable supplies of products, vertical integration under centrally planned economies has disrupted the flow of products, disregards any

¹¹Britannica Encyclopedia, p 451.