

## **Oppression.**

Oppression is a darkness in the political sciences, for it speaks to whatever represses and stifles in mankind's effort to govern himself. Oppression counters whatever is freeing and discovering about the inward person's discovery process. The present author reflects on his own admittedly fleeting experiences of Communism in Poland, in the mid-fifties. He was teaching at the University of Iowa at the time, and his University, through the United States State Department, participated in faculty exchange programs with Polish Universities. The hosts were gracious, housed us with East European courtesy, and took us around Krakow, as part of our broad mutual mission to promote mutual respect between our two cultures. One brief excursion with Leszek Kolakowski stands out in memory. It was a gray day. We slipped into his steel grey Microbe, and circled the city eyeballing ring roads lined with what were the classy baroque facades of a yesterday when this distinguished city had testified to the diverse tastes of a faculty and administrative city which characterized the city's distinctive profile. The visiting eye, training for the difficult and distinguished, soon realized the wearing away of the finer edges of residential Krakow, and the advent of a quarter in which squat red brick buildings spread deeply into the city outskirts, the manufacturing quarter. Written all over this new environment was the signature of the new world, the world in which finical eye choice yielded to flat homogeneity. Or was that enough to say of the change that had supervened on our ride? As we walked the sales floors of Building 563 A we saw that there was no differentiation among the products on offer; shoes were the name of the game in this building, the only the only difference, from one grey box to another, residing in the size of the product within.