

**The term ORDO SOCIALIS** goes back to Carl Sonnenschein, the socially engaged priest from Berlin in the twenties of the last century. After his death the Bund Katholischer Unternehmer – **BKU** – (Association of Catholic Entrepreneurs) purchased the title in the eighties of the last century and had it registered as brand name. Thus **ORDO SOCIALIS** is an academic subsidiary of BKU.

**The initiative for founding the association** was taken at the inter-national congress held in Rome in 1985 dealing with the subject “Church and Economy in the Responsibility for the Future of World Economy” (s. the publication with the same title on our website under authors & publications). 400 entrepreneurs and representatives of the Church from all over the world attended this congress. The name of the speakers included besides of those of the cardinals **Ratzinger, Casaroli and Pope John Paul II** also that of the archbishop of Cologne, **Joseph Cardinal Höffner**, at the time chairman of the German Episcopal Conference and for many years consultant to the BKU (1949-1962). “The Global Economy in the Light of the Catholic Social Teaching” was the subject of his address.

Especially the addresses of **Cardinal Höffner and Cardinal Ratzinger** on the contribution of the Catholic Social Teaching to the structuring of the Social Market Economy in Germany generated a continuous discussion on fundamental questions of business ethics also in the German public. **Today the discussion is focussed on the contribution of the Catholic Social Teaching to the structuring of globalization and the worldwide common wealth.**

**Initially the developing countries** were the concern of ORDO SOCIALIS **with publications in English, Spanish and French.** They focussed on groups such as politicians, journalists, teachers and professors, priests and entrepreneurs/managers. The propagation of these publications was also realized in cooperation of partner associations of BKU within the framework of UNIAPAC in Brussels and in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation.

After the collapse of communism in 1989 a new area of highest urgency was open. **Since then OS-publications have been circulated in nearly all languages of Middle and Eastern Europe** and partially also been printed there (s. experience reports under: Events/News, Experience reports of OS-Writings).The main publication of the Catholic Social Teaching in German language, the Christliche Gesellschaftslehre (Christian Social Teaching) by Joseph Cardinal Höffner (1963) has been newly edited in 2002 by Prof. Dr. Lothar Roos in a revised and extended version. Meanwhile it has been translated in ten languages. In 2010 the Chinese version is published in Shanghai.

**The publications of OS are intended to give impulses for judging and forming in the countries concerned the socio-political development in the light of the experience of the Catholic Social Teaching.**

Up to the end of 2007 the publication were exclusively printed as booklets/paperbacks in the different countries. **In the meantime the texts are globally offered on our Website.** This is intended as a deliberate contribution to globalisation.

The headquarters of **ORDO SOCIALIS e.V.** are in Cologne  
We make out receipts for donations and membership fees

**ORDO SOCIALIS:** [www.ordosocialis.de](http://www.ordosocialis.de)