

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

The starter for founding the association was an international congress held in Rome in 1985 about "Church and Economy in Responsibility for the Future of Global Economy" (see our publication with the same title under <http://www.ordosocialis.de/authors.htm>). 400 entrepreneurs and representatives of the Church from the whole world took part in this congress. Besides speakers like Cardinal Ratzinger, Cardinal Casaroli and Pope John Paul II., there was also the Archbishop of Cologne, Joseph Cardinal Höffner, chairman of the German Bishops Conference and consultant to the BKU for a long time (1949-1962). His theme was: "The Global Economy in the Light of Christian Social Teaching".

Especially the addresses of **Cardinal Höffner and Cardinal Ratzinger** about the contribution of the Catholic Social Teaching to the evolvement of the Social Market Economy in Germany triggered off a sustained discussion about business-ethics - also in the German public. Today the discussion focuses on the contribution of the Catholic Social Teaching to the question of globalization and to worldwide common wealth (to these issues see the book of Schüller and Nothelle-Wildfeuer coming soon on this website.)

Initially the developing countries were the concern of ORDO SOCIALIS with **publications in English, Spanish and French**. They focused on groups like politicians, journalists, teachers and professors, priests and entrepreneurs/manager. The propagation also took place in the context of partner associations of the BKU within the framework of the UNIAPAC, the International Association of Christian Entrepreneurs in Brussels, as well as in collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Germany.

After the collapse of communism in 1989, a new field opened up of special urgency. Since then the **OS-publications spread out in nearly all languages of Middle and Eastern Europe** and were partially also printed there (see the experience reports under: Events/News, Experience Reports of OS-Writings).

The main work of the Catholic Social Teaching in German language, the "Christian Social Teaching" by Joseph Cardinal Höffner (first published in 1962), was newly published by Prof. Dr. Lothar Roos in a revised and extended version 1979. Meanwhile it has been translated in 10 languages.

The publications of OS are meant to give ideas for judging and forming the socio-political developments from the point of view and the experiences of the Catholic Social Teaching.

Up to 2006 the publications were printed exclusively as booklets/paperbacks in the various countries. The plan now is to offer all present and future OS-publications globally in the Internet. This is meant to be a deliberate contribution to globalization.

We wish you an inspiring and orientating reading!

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