

Jerzy Staroński, E. Iserzon (Ed.), *Prawo administracyjne* [Administrative Law], Warszawa 1965, PWN, 580 pages.

This book by J. Staroński and E. Iserzon is a publication of fundamental importance in the field of administrative law. It is designed both for students of law and for those who are engaged in the practical work of State administration. Since administrative law contains an immense amount of regulations, the authors were faced with the temptation of trying to squeeze the whole of this material into their book, and to give an account of all the main legal institutions. J. Staroński and E. Iserzon did not succumb to this temptation, however, but decided to give the reader a book that deals only with the more basic problems of administrative theory and of administrative law. The book discusses all the main aspects of the law in the economic, social, and cultural fields. The main subjects are: the functions of State administration, the definition of administration and administrative law, the sources of administrative law, the agencies of State administration and the basic principles governing the organization of the administration in a socialist country. The organization of the administration is described in the book without reference to the central administrative bodies. The authors describe the division of the country into administrative divisions, the development of local administration in People's Poland, the People's Councils and their agencies, the administration of the national economy, the civil service, and the work of social organizations that co-operate with the State administration. The authors describe the activities of the State administration as consisting of regulations passed by agencies of the State administration, administrative acts, contracts, social-organizational activity, and practical and technical activities. Administrative proceedings are stated to be of three different kinds: general proceedings, compulsory (executive) proceedings, and punitive proceedings. In that part of the book which deals with the work of detailed sections of the administration, most space is devoted to discussion of economic administration. For example, the authors provide information on the planning and running of the national economy, on private businesses and craft workshops belonging to individuals, on home and foreign trade, on the supply and sale of commodities, on the fixing of prices, on the allocation of building sites, on investments in building, on mining, on agriculture and forestry, on water resources, communication and transport. Among other fields covered by administrative law, the book deals with the law in the field of culture (e. g. education), health and the social services (e. g. the health service, social security, public assistance), the legal position of physical persons (e. g. citizenship, changes of name, birth, death and marriage certificates, matters relating to aliens), the regulation of economic activity (e. g. meetings and gatherings, religious matters, the press and publishing), as well as the law on the maintenance of law and order (e. g. identity cards and passports, and protection and defence of the frontiers).

A point worth stressing is that throughout the book the authors have tried to draw attention to the development of new legal institutions and to the social significance of these. The book provides insight into the role and significance of administrative law as the basis of the legal activities of the State administration in a socialist country.

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