

Pleasure Against Nation, Nation Against Pleasure

The Slovenian front against abortion¹ that emerged soon after the apparent political changes cannot be in all respects compared to the American one. However, it is a fact that it borrowed most of its terminology from its American counterpart. To a great extent it made use of anti-communist rhetoric from the darkest times of the cold war. Ultimately, the motive remained the same: *the disapproval of sexual pleasure*. Undoubtedly, the religious resistance against abortion on demand had a triggering role, since the campaign against free abortion had been instigated by the Party of Christian Democrats almost simultaneously as it has been established in a new pluralist political setting. On the other hand, in Slovenia a peculiar feature of an element, which we may label as the *Slovenian ethnic paranoia* is distinctly noticeable. By a pointed interpretation of the statistical indicators of the falling birth rate, a range of right wing ideologies delineate abortion on demand as a threat to the very existence of the nation in a foreseeable future. The argumentation supporting restrictions of the freedom of choice or even a total ban on it, as a rule conveys a message that women's right to have abortions gives rise to a certain way of life, which damages the survival of the nation. According to this line of argumentation, a free abortion represents a licence for an irresponsible attitude towards sexuality, which harms the stability of family and so diminishes morality in general. In such a perspective, this brings about a tolerant attitude towards homosexuality and pornography, which especially cripples the spiritual growth of the youth. As one may observe, the Slovenian anti-abortionist rhetoric does not differ very much from others of the same kind. The difference is maybe

- 1 It should be remarked that Slovenia – especially compared, for example, to Poland – does not represent the worst case among the former socialist countries. Tendencies to ban or limit the freedom of choice for women were actually quite quickly repudiated in the political arena after the “fall of the wall”. Due to an activity of women's pressure groups, which gained a wide support by general public, the traditionalists lost a political battle in the Parliament in 1991, when the freedom of choice was written into the new Slovenian Constitution. It can be speculated upon how much the already considerable level of women's emancipation attained in the socialist period, hampered attempts to introduce regressive legislation. Nevertheless, the ideology that incorporated anti-abortionism, persists and finds its articulation in the initiatives concerning a “renewal of moral values”, in some pressures to introduce “catholic ethos” into the school curriculum, in a fight “against pornography”, but above all in hindering the full equality for homosexuals even through referendums on liberal family and gender legislation. The Slovenian version of a fundamentalist movement managed to win until now three referendums mainly due to the legislation, which makes low electoral participation valid.