



Leszek Balcerowicz

Leszek Balcerowicz, born in 1947, economist, professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, MBA graduate of St. John's University in New York, author of the economic reforms in the post-communist Poland after 1989, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the first non-communist government of Poland after the World War II, President of the National Bank of Poland (2001-2007), laureate of over 20 honorary doctorates from universities all around the world; author of more than 100 publications on economic topics issued in Poland and abroad, laureate of many prestigious Polish and international prizes and distinctions. In 2005 Leszek Balcerowicz was awarded the Order of the White Eagle – Poland's highest distinction for his contribution in the economic and political transformation in Poland. In 2007 Leszek Balcerowicz founded The Civil Development Forum Foundation – FOR, think tank based in Warsaw. Since then he has been serving as the Board Chairman.

Education

Leszek Balcerowicz graduated with distinction from the Foreign Trade Department at the Central School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw (SGPiS), now Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), in 1970. In 1974 he received the MBA Diploma at St. John's University in New York; in 1975 he received his Ph.D. in Economics at the SGPiS. Amongst his academic distinctions, he has been offered visiting fellowships at the University of Sussex (1985), at the Marburg University (1988) and at the Stanford University (2011). Since October 1992 Leszek Balcerowicz has been teaching at the SGH where he also heads the Department of International Comparative Studies.

Political activity

Leszek Balcerowicz is considered the architect of the Poland's economic reforms initiated in 1989. He designed and executed the radical stabilization and transformation of the Polish economy after the fall of communism. In September 1989 Leszek Balcerowicz was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister of Finance in the first non-communist government in Poland after the Second World War. He also became the President of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers. He retained his positions in the government until December 1991. From April 1995 to December 2000 he was the President of the Freedom Union, a free market - oriented party and from October 1997 to June 2000 he was Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and President of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers. In 2001-2007 he was the President of the National Bank of Poland (NBP).

Other appointments

- Between 1992-2000, Leszek Balcerowicz was the Chairman of the Supervisory Council of the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) based in Warsaw.
- In 2006, Leszek Balcerowicz became a member of the Group of Trustees of the Institute of International Finance (USA).
- He has been a Corresponding Member of the History and Philosophy Class of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2006.
- In 2007, Leszek Balcerowicz has founded The Civil Development Forum Foundation – FOR, think tank based in Warsaw and has been serving as its Board Chairman.
- Between 2009-2011 he was a Board Chairman of the Polish Economists Association (TEP).
- In 2011 he has been appointed a member of the Advisory Scientific Committee providing advice and assistance on issues relevant to the work of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB)
- He is also a Distinguished Associate at the International Atlantic Economic Society (IAES), a member of the Washington-based international advisory body the Group of Thirty (G-3), and the Honorary Chairman of Bruegel – Brussels-based think tank.
- He is a member of the Pallanza Group, an annual gathering of U.S. and European leaders hosted by the Istituto Bruno Leoni of Milan, Italy.

Honorary doctorates

Leszek Balcerowicz gives lectures and seminars all around the world. He holds honorary doctorates from more than 20 universities in Poland and abroad:

1. University of Aix-en-Provence, France (1993),
2. University of Sussex, UK (1994),
3. De Paul University of Chicago, USA (1996),
4. Szczecin University, Poland (1998),
5. The Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland (1998),
6. Dundee University in Scotland, UK (1998),
7. Staffordshire University, UK (1998),
8. Economic University in Bratislava, Slovakia (1999),
9. Viadrina European University in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany (2001),
10. University of the Pacific in Lima, Peru (2002),
11. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, Romania (2002),
12. Gerhard Mercator University in Duisburg, Germany (2004),
13. Karol Adamiecki University of Economics in Katowice, Poland (2006),
14. Poznan University of Economics, Poland (2006),
15. Wroclaw University of Economics, Poland (2006),
16. University of Gdansk, Poland (2006),
17. Warsaw School of Economics, Poland (2007),
18. University of Warsaw, Poland (2008),
19. University of New South Wales, Australia (2008),
20. Cracow University of Economics, Poland (2010),
21. Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (2010),
22. Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (2010),
23. Burgas Free University, Bulgaria (2010),
24. Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (2011),
25. Higher School of Economics - National Research University, Moscow, Russia (2011),
26. Central Connecticut State University, USA (2011),
27. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine (2013),
28. St. John's University, New York, USA (2014).
29. Kharkov National Academy of Urban Studies, Ukraine (2015),
30. Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukraine (2015).

Awards

- In 1992, Leszek Balcerowicz was awarded the Ludwig Erhard Prize by the Ludwig Erhard Foundation, Germany.
- In 1998, he received "Finance Minister of the Year" title from the British financial monthly periodical "Euromoney".
- In 1999, the European Institute in Washington granted him "Transatlantic Leadership Award" for the most outstanding European personality in 1998.
- Later on that year, he received the Central European Award for the Finance Minister of the Year 1998 in Central and Eastern Europe.
- In 2001, he was awarded the Friedrich August von Hayek Prize, Germany.
- In the same year he received the Carl Bertelsmann Prize for his contribution to the process of transformation of the Polish economy.
- In 2002, the Fasel Foundation honored him with a prize for his merits for the social market economy.
- In January 2004, another British monthly periodical "The Banker" recognized Leszek Balcerowicz as the Central Banker of the Year for Europe.
- In October 2004, he was granted the annual "Emerging Markets Award" for the best president of a central bank in the Central and Eastern Europe.
- In 2004 Confederation Lewiatan awarded him Wladyslaw Grabski Award which is granted to public figures for a significant contribution to the development of entrepreneurship.
- In 2005 he was awarded Poland's highest distinction – the Order of the White Eagle - for his contribution to the economic and political transformation.

- In 2006 he received the ACCA Achievement Award.
- In 2006, he was selected by *FT.com* readers one of the five winners in the Pioneering Thought Leadership Project.
- In 2008, the Leontief Center in St. Petersburg (Russia) awarded him the International Leontief Medal “for outstanding academic achievement and contribution for market reforms in Poland”.
- Polish catholic weekly “Tygodnik Powszechny” awarded him St. George’s Medal for “creating good in public life” in 2008.
- In 2009, he was featured in a documentary titled: “Balcerowicz. All or Nothing” by Andrzej Fidyk, which showed his reforms securing Poland’s transition from socialism to market economy.
- In 2010, Wiktor Academy honored him with its award “Superwiktor 2009”. Academy [distinguishes](#) the outstanding individuals, nominated by TV stations.
- In June 2010, Leszek Balcerowicz received the Jan Nowak-Jezioranski Award for his outstanding contribution to the Polish transformation.
- In November 2010, Professor received the Gold Hipolit Award which is given to exceptional individuals who promote patriotic values and organic work in order to create prosperity.
- In 2011 Leszek Balcerowicz received “Magellan of the Year 2010” title for educating the polish society and making people aware of the problem of public debt through the Public Debt Clock Project. The title was given by the Corporation of Alumni of Cracow University of Economics, Poland.
- In 2011, Newsweek Poland awarded Leszek Balcerowicz with the Newsweek Liberty Prize for promoting ideas of civil society and its independence from the state.
- In 2013, he was rewarded with the Forbes Milestone Prize in the category “Politics”.
- In 2014, in Moscow, he was honoured with the Jegor Gajdar Prize. Gajdar, himself, was a Russian reformer and supporter of democratic changes in the post-communist countries.
- In March 2014, Leszek Balcerowicz received the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana (II Class) granted him by the President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves.
- In May 2014, he received “Puls Biznesu” Award from the readers of this Polish business newspaper for ‘the most merited Politician who has significantly influenced economic development’.
- In May 2014 Confederation Lewiatan awarded him the Lewiatan Special Award for indicating, 25 years ago, the right direction for the Polish economic policies.
- In May 2014, in New York, Leszek Balcerowicz received one of the most internationally renowned merit Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty, granted by CATO Institute.

Publications

Leszek Balcerowicz is the author of more than 100 publications on economic issues in Poland and abroad. Selected publications include:

- *Socialism, Capitalism, Transformation*, Central European University Press, Budapest 1995,
- *Wolnosc i rozwoj: ekonomia wolnego rynku* (Freedom and Development: the Economics of Free Market), Wydawnictwo Znak, Cracow 1995,
- *Post-Communist Transition: Some Lessons*, Institute of Economic Affairs, London 2002,
- *Towards a Limited State*, World Bank 2003,
- *Institutional Systems and Economic Growth*, in: Challenges of Globalization. Imbalances and Growth, edited by Anders Åslund, Marek Dabrowski, Peterson Institute for International Economics, p. 153-199, Washington, DC 2008,
- *Zagadki wzrostu gospodarczego* (Puzzles of Economic Growth), edited and co-authored by: Leszek Balcerowicz, Andrzej Rzońca, C.H. Beck Sp. z o.o., Warsaw 2010,
- *Odkrywając wolnosc. Przeciw zniewoleniu umyslow* (Discovering Liberty. Against the Enslavement of Minds), essays selected by Leszek Balcerowicz, who is also the author of the preface to the book, ZYSK i S-KA Publishing, 2012,
- *Economic Growth in the European Union*. Lisbon Council e-book, Leszek Balcerowicz (principal author), A. Rzonca, L. Kalina, A. Laszek, 2013,

Trzeba się bić. Opowieść biograficzna (We must fight. Biographical story), Leszek Balcerowicz, Marta Stremecka, Czerwone i Czarne Publishing, Warsaw 2014.