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The English Levellers and Thomas Jefferson

ABSTRACT

Many figures among the American Founding Fathers adopted various philosophical arguments that originated in the stormy 17th century English disputes. The American founding debate remains therefore reminiscent of such diverse ideas as coming from Coke, Bacon, Hobbes, Milton, Harrington, Locke and the Levellers. One of the outstanding voices of the foundational period in America was, of course, that of Jefferson. In his complicated political philosophy we find many ideas akin to those that were propagated by the English Levellers a century earlier. Who were the Levellers and what do they have in common with the author of the Declaration of Independence? Why it is important to highlight their heritage in Jeffersonian thought?

BIO

Nina Gładziuk obtained her Ph.D in political philosophy at the University of Warsaw in 1992 and her post-doc degree (habilitacja) at the Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2006 where she works continuously since 1990. She was a lecturer at the University of Warsaw, Warsaw School of Economics and Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński University. Currently she serves as professor at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw. She was awarded Katarzyna Kalwińska Fellowship at the New School for Social Research (1986-88), Fulbright Research Senior Grant (1994-95) and Research Grant at the International Center for Jefferson Studies (2002) Her books include: *Cóż po Grekach? Archetyp polis w twórczości Hannah Arendt* (Warszawa 1992); *Omphalos. Płeć jako problem filozofii politycznej Greków* (Warszawa 1997); *Druga Babel. Antynomie siedemnastowiecznej angielskiej myśli politycznej* (Warszawa 2005).