The main aim of the dissertation is to analyse the process of transformation of Polish internal security policy in 1989–1993. The author investigates the scale (‘depth’) and direction of changes in this process as well as the ‘public philosophy’ of internal security that was prevalent in the first years of the Third Polish Republic. The paper employs functional analysis as proposed by Robert K. Merton in *Social Theory and Social Structure*. The dissertation belongs to the academic field of political science, more particularly to an area of research called transitology.

The dissertation presents both positive and negative results of political actions undertaken to adapt and modify the internal security system of that time. The benchmark, or structural context, was Poland’s transition from totalitarianism to democracy. The author focuses on the following points: analysis and description of the process of transforming internal security institutions in Poland; presenting a functional balance of internal security policy in the discussed period; analysis of the Polish political elites’ positions on the shape and functionality of internal security institutions; identifying internal, foreign and theoretical patterns which became the core of Polish internal security; identifying institutions and individuals initiating particular solutions for Polish internal security as well as defining the achieved consensus in this matter.

The thesis provides an overview of all political actions, both implemented and considered. Aside from procedural issues, the discourse and its socio-cultural background were also analysed. The problematic aspects of the institutional solutions are complemented with subjective and intersubjective factors that form the security culture.

Keywords: politics, 1989, Poland, internal security, transformation