

**Summary of the doctoral dissertation**  
**“Criminal law protection against usury”**

**Artur Aleksander Dąbrowski M.A.**

**Written under the supervision of Prof. Włodzimierz Wróbel, PhD**

The issue of usury is topical and socially important. There is a number of people who experienced behavior the purpose of which has been to exploit the difficult situation of another person in order to gain advantage. The purpose of this dissertation is to draw attention to the issue of usury in the field of criminal law. The author's considerations have been motivated by the will to present and evaluate the currently applicable provisions of Polish criminal law regarding the offense of exploitation, to determine the applicability of those provisions to various types of contractual relations, as well as the need to formulate *de le ferenda* in the described scope.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters.

Chapter I (“Methodological aspects of the dissertation”), which constitutes an introduction to further considerations; the following have been presented: the subject and purpose of the research, as well as the problems and research hypotheses.

Chapter II (“The Moral Aspects of Usury”) attempts to define usury, presents the problems of usury practices in terms of ethical systems (shaped in religious systems), and also establishes a moral assessment of exploitation.

Chapter III (“Civil law aspects of exploitation”) is devoted to the aspects of exploitation under civil law. The discussed issues include the development of regulations on usury in Poland and the interpretation of the currently applicable provisions of the Civil Code in the field of exploitation, as well as the issue of exploitation in selected mutual contracts (bilaterally binding).

Chapter IV (“Usury in the criminal law system”) presents the aspects of exploitation in criminal law. The chapter presents issues of the development of criminal law regulations dealing with usury in the Polish legal system. The analysis has included provisions of the currently applicable criminal act on exploitation, as well as the relationship between the provisions of the Civil Code relating to exploitation and criminal law regulations. The author touches upon the issues of legal goods protected by provisions of the criminal code, which provide criminal protection against exploitation. The author has also focused on the subject of criminal-law exploitation in mutual contracts (bilaterally binding) and in relations between the employer and the employee.

The purpose of Chapter V (“Exploitation in criminal law regulations of other countries”) is to depict the method of formulating legal provisions serving criminal law protection against exploitation in countries that differ from each other in terms of population, wealth of the inhabitants (GDP per capita and unemployment rate), as well as in terms of culture.

Artur Aleksander Dąbrowski

23.11.2020 r.