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Economics beyond borders
– economic education according to Janusz Korczak

Janusz Korczak – Economic education through the lens of self-reliance

prof. Marta Rakoczy



Japan, Osaka, Kansai, April 26, 2025

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Cooperation and solidarity: Janusz Korczak's economical education

„Wanting to produce good citizens, we don't need to create idealists. The Orphans' Home is not deigning to look after children who have no parents, and in substituting for the dead parents in their material care it has no right to demand anything from the children. Why don't we have to teach the child as early as possible what money and compensation for work are, so that he feels the value of the independence that a wage provides, so that he learns the good and bad sides of possessing. No caregiver will raise a hundred idealists out of a hundred children; a few of them will emerge of their own accord, and woe to them if they don't know how to count. For money provides everything except happiness; it even does provide happiness, and reason, and health, and morality. Teach the child that it also offers unhappiness and illness, that it takes away reason”.

Janusz Korczak, *How to Love a Child*
English trans. Anna Maria Czernow



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Towards young people's economical agency

„Everything costs money. I feel that the community is dying”

„I associate the merchant with the deceiver. The idea of a community, where people get together to gain something, is losing”

Mateusz
polish student



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„Little Jack”'s economical ethics

- entrepreneurship
- economical knowledge
- economical autonomy
- calculation
- transparency
- foresight
- hard working



- precise accounting
- saving a money
- honesty
- community
- cooperation
- solidarity



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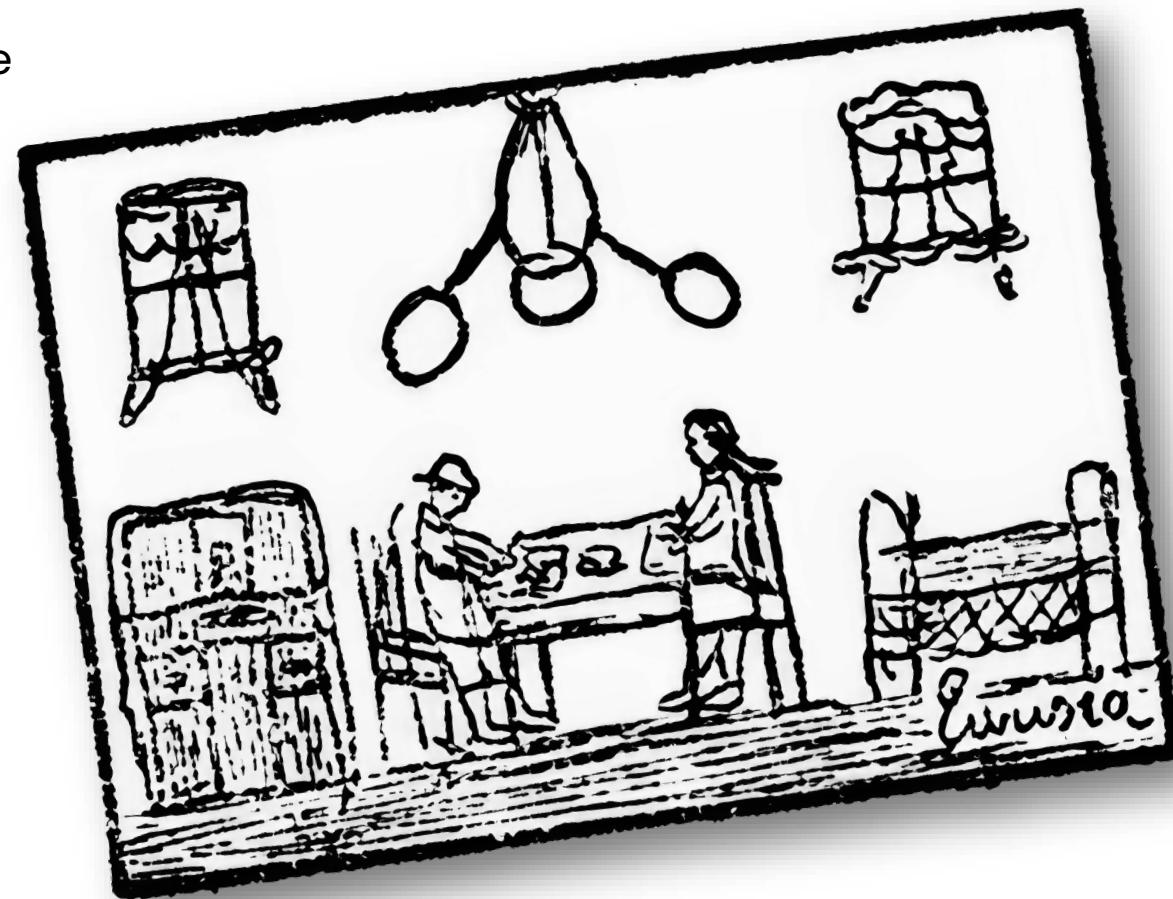
The Korczak's economy of cooperation and solidarity

People think that only the workers get tired, and the factory worker and the merchant hardly at all. This is a great mistake. The labourer, when his work is finished, has free time for his own use; the entrepreneur, it seems, has no free time at all. The worker is also robbed of his free time, but in another way: through fear of old age, unemployment and illness.

The difference between a merchant and a thief. This is a difficult subject [...]. It looks like the merchant is a thief – which is not the case at all. The merchant cannot sell at the price at which he buys the goods. He must and has the right to make money, to take more than he paid himself.

The merchant has a shop that he pays for, the merchant is busy all day in his shop, so he must have help, he has no time to take care of his own business. The merchant pays for gas and electricity, and for coal in winter. Some of his goods spoil and damage and even perish. He pays taxes.

Janusz Korczak



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„Some children get pocket money for good grades. This is a strange way because, after all, we learn for ourselves, to have some knowledge. If a child is taught to learn purely to get money or a new toy, this is not the best way to bring up a child”

Antek
polish teenager

Youth and economy today

„If a child doesn't deal with money at a young age, then if they get a paycheck at a later age, they won't know what to do with it, they might spend it all at once and they won't have anything to live on [...] And this way they'll know that they need to save something so that they have some left over for later, or they'll put aside pocket money to make a present for themselves, to make some dream come true [...] They'll know for the future that they need to put aside, collect for something. If someone loses something, or gets ill, they will know that they have set aside money for medicines, for some accident, and not that they are spending zero and living from paycheck to paycheck.”

Oleksiei – ukrainian
polish teenager



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