Critical Dictionary of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements

Antrovis

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Introduction

One of the visible consequences of the systemic transformation that began in Poland in the late 1980s was that religious and esoteric ideas from abroad found fertile ground in the country. On the one hand, there was a noticeable decline in trust in the Catholic Church, and on the other, interest in phenomena such as dowsing, bioenergy therapy, natural medicine, and UFOs was growing. These developments contributed to the emergence of several new religious movements. One of them was Międzynarodowe Centrum Odnowy Ludzi i Ziemi ‘Antrovis’ (the International Centre for the Restoration of Mankind and Earth, ‘Antrovis’), henceforth Antrovis. The group’s philosophy combined elements of theosophy, hermeticism, messianism, millenarianism, ufology, and paleoastronautics with some influence from Eastern philosophy. Its members held millenarian beliefs, anticipating a profound transformation of humanity and the emergence of a new, spiritually advanced era. These beliefs were closely intertwined with apocalyptic ideas, according to which humanity was approaching a period of global catastrophe and purification that would precede the renewal of the Earth and the establishment of a new order.

Origins and Development

Antrovis was officially registered as an ordinary association on 31 July 1990 by Edward Mielnik, then a man in his late forties who worked as a high-pressure boiler stoker (Sjoblom 2011). His esoteric career began in the 1980s, but the turning point came in 1983, when he was reportedly visited by the Virgin Mary and urged to save the Slavs with the help of aliens. Initially, Mielnik pursued his mission on a small scale, teaching selected individuals in Wrocław. However, by the end of the 1980s, his activities had spread throughout Poland. At the time of registration, Antrovis had thirty-one members, twenty-six of whom were founding members. Its headquarters was located in Wrocław, chosen because of its proximity to Mount Ślęża. Other branches were scattered throughout Poland and even beyond its borders among the Polish diaspora. It is difficult to determine how many people were associated with Antrovis during its period of activity, as the number of participants attending its meetings varied considerably. Some sources give a figure of more than 1,000 people, while others put the number at several thousand.

The development of Antrovis was facilitated, among other things, by the rapid growth in the popularity of

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glossy magazines observed in Poland during the 1990s. One of the new magazines devoted to presenting phenomena not fully understood by science was *Nie z tej Ziemi* (*Out of This World*). Its second issue featured a full-page advertisement for Antrovis. This provided considerable publicity, as, according to US government documents, the magazine had a circulation of 100,000 copies (Imijewska 1990). According to the text, Antrovis brought together people representing a wide range of professions, from artists to engineers and physicists, and originating from countries including Poland, West Germany, the USSR, and Great Britain. It also provided an etymological explanation of the name Antrovis. According to this account, UFO specialists had allegedly received a signal from outer space containing the word 'ANTRON,' which symbolised a renewed cosmic structure. 'ANTROVIS' was therefore said to signify new life. The advertisement further stated that the main purpose of the group's existence was to prepare for visits from aliens. In addition, the group claimed that its activities would contribute to the fight against disease, provide advice on herbal medicine and macrobiotics, and promote knowledge about healthy eating and ecology.

Group meetings were reportedly held in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to deep introspection. Mielnik suggested various relaxation techniques to participants, intended to help them breathe more effectively (Glaser 1991). In addition to meditation and relaxation sessions, the meetings featured lengthy lectures combining concepts from mechanics, biology, bioenergetics, parapsychology, physics, medicine, mathematics and science fiction. Their purpose was to introduce initiates to the first, exoteric level of knowledge concerning the group's doctrine. The decision to proceed to a higher, esoteric level was made by the leaders. There was also an opportunity for confessions, during which contactees—people who claimed to have had contact with beings from other planets—openly discussed their experiences, fears and, often, problems within their families.

Cosmology

Although the cosmology developed by Antrovis appears coherent and logical at first glance, it contains several discrepancies, and different sources sometimes present conflicting views. The entire universe was understood as being based on three principles of the Father: coherence, knowledge, and 'the importance of what is created.' The Father was understood in pantheistic terms as the creator and source of the immanent principles governing the universe (Niezgoda 2014, 160). The eternal and infinite universe was imagined as a sphere, the axis of symmetry of which was a tunnel through which energy flowed, connecting two poles: positive and negative. The energy flowing through this tunnel was divided into twelve different frequencies. The first seven frequencies constituted the material manifestations of the universe, while the remaining five formed the anti-material realm. The essence of the universe was understood as continuous development, consisting of a process of transition from a particular form in the northern hemisphere, through annihilation in the southern hemisphere, to a new synthesis in the north.

The universe was thought to have a fixed and hierarchical structure. The basic unit of this structure was the planet. Twelve planets formed a system, twelve systems formed a galaxy, and twelve galaxies formed a cosmos. Twelve cosmoses were under the care of Logos, understood as emanations of the One.The One, referred to as the Father, was described as a pantheistically conceived creator and the source of the immanent principles governing life in the universe. Different laws applied on each planet. Those that conformed to the laws of the Father were called living, while those that contradicted them were called

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dead. Dead laws were created through free will, which, as will become clear below, contributed to the downfall of the Slavs and was regarded as equivalent to the biblical fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When dead laws caused excessive damage to the universe and significantly disrupted its evolution, the intervention of Logos became necessary.

The solar system, in which the planet Earth was located, was regarded as a kind of embryonic genotype of the universe. It contained the planet Atlanta, identified with Eden and therefore with Paradise, where the patterns of living beings and the material needed to shape ideal physical forms were located. The solar system also included Jupiter and Saturn. The former was a 'conceptual planet,' while the latter emitted energy vibrations of various frequencies, thereby providing a rhythm to the life of the cosmos. Finally, there was Earth, a planet with a frequency of two hertz and a red colour, which embodied the laws of cause and effect (Dąbrowska 1993). Beings who were unable to keep pace with the course of evolution, as well as rebels from other planets who could not adapt to the laws prevailing there, were sent to Earth. Although disobedient, they were also strong and possessed the ability to build Earth and adapt it to the energy of the universe. However, they had to acquire the knowledge necessary to free themselves from dead laws, and the cycle of reincarnation was supposed to assist them in this process.

On the one hand, Earth embodied the laws of the universe and maintained harmony with the cosmos, and on the other, owing to the presence of rebellious beings, it was the place with the highest concentration of free will and the centre of negative energy in the universe (Niezgoda 2014, 161). Its principal purpose was to restore the renegades to harmonious coexistence with the cosmos—that is, to determinism. Various spiritual leaders were therefore sent to Earth with the task of guiding the fallen brothers towards obedience to the Father's rules. These higher beings, known as Masters, arrived from other planets in spaceships and differed from Earthlings in both knowledge and energy. Their actions often led to the emergence of great civilisations. Only those who were energetically prepared for contact could fully understand their message. The fate of the Masters on Earth varied. Some were worshipped as gods and had monuments erected in their honour, while others were cursed, persecuted, and even killed. Here, we can see the influence of Erich von Däniken and his concepts of paleoastronautics and ancient aliens.

For more details of Antrovis's cosmology, see the 1991 text of Antrovis, *Ziemia – kosmos [Earth – Cosmos]* (Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Antrovis).

The Slavs and the Polish Mission

The creators of Antrovis believed that they were living in a groundbreaking era in which a mission dedicated to Earth would be fulfilled and all beings would attune themselves to the energy of the universe. This rise from the fall was to be achieved with the help of the Slavs, who were believed to have come to Earth from Atlanta either 8 or 10 billion years ago (Iwanicki 2017). They settled near Mount Ślęża, which served as a reservoir of five antimatter energies. Among the Slavic tribes, the Polans were considered particularly significant, possessing the ability to predict the future. At approximately the same time, the Hebrews were believed to have arrived on Earth from the planet Hebra and settled in the region of Mazovia. Since the planet Hebra was said to be renowned for its manipulative abilities, the Hebrews allegedly began using their extraordinary techniques of manipulation, implanting their terrible weapon of free will throughout the world. This was intended to help them obtain positive energy, thereby protecting

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their planet from antimatter. Although the Slavs knew that the universe was governed not by free will and chaos but by harmony and order, they allowed themselves to be manipulated by the Hebrews. The biblical story of the Fall was thus interpreted as a story about the discovery of free will. The Slavs, and especially the Polans, played the role of the ancestors of humanity, symbolised by Adam and Eve. They were regarded as ideal prototypes of human beings who initially possessed knowledge but later, as a result of the Fall, forgot it. Their fall was therefore understood as an event of cosmic proportions.

The first Slavic tribe to be manipulated by the Hebrews were the Vistulans. Blinded by their newly acquired free will, they convinced the other Slavs that the Earth's energy centre was located not at Mount Ślęża but in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. As a result, the Slavs began to interbreed with the Hebrews, while free will—focused more on matter than antimatter—began to spread throughout the Earth. Through the deception of the Hebrews, the Slavs directed all their energy towards them. This was said to have resulted in the emergence of the first Hebrew god, Gotlieb. He initiated the Hebrews' domination of the world, and one of his weapons against the Slavs was allegedly the creation of Yahweh. The latter's purpose was supposedly to cause discord among people and destroy their internal cohesion while energetically strengthening the Hebrews. However, his mission ultimately ended in failure (Mielnik 1997).

Jesus was later described as a combination of the Hebrew soul shaped by Gotlieb on Hebra and an earthly body received from Mary, a Polish woman. Members of Antrovis taught that she had been artificially inseminated under cruel and humiliating conditions. Jesus's purpose was supposedly to unite the Hebrews and introduce a new religion based on what was considered the most powerful weapon of all, which is love. Through love, people were believed to become willing to sacrifice their lives for their homeland, family or ideals. Jesus's fate, however, turned out quite differently. First, instead of strengthening the Hebrew gene, he was rejected by the Jews. Second, he turned to the light side and began to strengthen and heal the Slavs, reminding them of their Slavic roots. It was therefore no coincidence, according to Antrovis teachings, that Jesus was considered Polish. Members of Antrovis believed that the Poles were a chosen people because of their heritage as creators of culture and ancestors of humanity. They were considered particularly well suited to the new reality because, through centuries of suffering, they had become a repository of knowledge that could help other nations on their path towards antimatter. The influence of Polish messianism, which I have discussed elsewhere (Cyrocki 2023), is clearly visible here. However, as in the case of the nationalists associated with Roman Dmowski's political camp, Antrovis borrowed certain ideas from the Polish messianist tradition while giving them an entirely new meaning.

For further details, see the 1991 text of Antrovis, *Układ embrionalny*, cz. 1: *Atlanta, Jowisz, Saturn, Ziemia, symbole [The Embryonic System, Part 1: Atlanta, Jupiter, Saturn, Earth, Symbols]* (Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Antrovis).

Eschatology

As already mentioned, the beliefs of Antrovis members were apocalyptic and eschatological in nature. It was believed that, from 1993 onwards, the Earth would enter the equatorial belt of the universe, characterised by zero frequency, after which the transition to antimatter would begin. The entire process was expected to be accompanied by physical changes on Earth, including the disappearance of magnetism, the melting of the ice caps, meteor showers, and an increase in cosmic radiation, which would

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cause the spread of skin diseases as well as a lengthening of the Earth's orbit. A deterioration in human relations was also anticipated. National borders were to be abolished and, in place of national governments, a single universal government promoting a common currency was to be established. All of this was expected to lead to a nuclear war in Asia, an escalation of religious conflicts in the Middle East and the assassination of Pope John Paul II (Ramet 1998). Antrovis's inability to develop and reach a wider audience was attributed to persecution by the ruling group. Changes in sexuality were also expected. Women were to become more masculine and men more feminine. However, the disappearance of gender differences was not necessarily viewed negatively, as it was associated with a transition to a higher level of consciousness.

The final transition to the antimatter side was to take place on the night of 3 December 1999. It was claimed that a certain group of people would be saved from the impending catastrophe. Mielnik distinguished between individual and collective forms of evacuation from Earth. The former was already under way for people who had reached the appropriate level of energetic attunement, while the latter was to take place from Mount Ślęża. Different sources gave different estimates of the number of evacuees. The most commonly cited figures were 144,000 white people and between 400,000 and 600,000 people of other skin colours, although some sources gave the figures as 144,000 white people and 6,000–8,000 people of other races. Another text mentions 144,000 righteous people who would welcome visitors and their teachings from space and who would be responsible for introducing changes on Earth. The most commonly cited destination for the evacuation was the planet Mirinda (Ramet 2024). However, other destinations were also mentioned. One was Solaria, a planet slightly smaller than Earth with a tropical climate, inhabited by pure-blooded vegans over two metres tall. Another was Onjoronk, inhabited by small beings measuring approximately 1.2 metres in height. The planet Weltaja may also be mentioned, where five yellow-skinned races allegedly coexisted, although they were reportedly not particularly interested in matters concerning space.

Following these changes, the Earth was expected to become a place of an entirely new quality. In the new system, the planets would no longer move in elliptical orbits around the sun but instead follow a figure-eight trajectory around the sun and Saturn. Action would become identical to thought, and the human mind would acquire the ability to manifest itself immediately in material form. In the new world, people would be created energetically, and their upbringing would take approximately three weeks. The Earth was also supposedly to be renamed Polonia. According to Mielnik, it would have a constant temperature of 24 degrees, with no glaciers or seasons. The bodies inhabiting the new Earth would retain the appearance of 20-year-olds in the case of women and 25-year-olds in the case of men.

For more details of Antrovis's eschatology, see the 1992 text of Antrovis, *W kosmicznej przestrzeni: pojazdy, przybysze, posłania, przepowiednia fatimska [In Outer Space: Vehicles, Visitors, Messages, the Fatima Prophecy]* (Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Antrovis).

Dissolution and Its Aftermath

The members of Antrovis did not live to see all these changes. The group officially disbanded in 1993, although some sources state that this happened in 1994 (Zagorska 1998). As the dissolution was sudden, and two people associated with the group were reported missing around the same time, various

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speculations began to emerge. Mielnik claimed that the dissolution was voluntary because the group's mission had been completed. However, some have suggested that the Polish authorities may have played a part in it. Despite the break-up, there are indications that Antrovis continued to operate. Young people were reportedly meeting secretly at the home of Grażyna Grabowska, Edward Mielnik's right-hand woman. A strong cell of the group was allegedly located in Sobótka, a town at the foot of Mount Ślęża. The main figures associated with Antrovis became increasingly elusive, which added to the mystery and fuelled further speculation.

In the media, Antrovis came to be portrayed as a particularly dangerous group, allegedly involved in organ trafficking, disappearances, embezzlement, suicides, family breakdown, and even murders. Such allegations were linked to a number of disturbing events involving individuals associated with the group. It is worth mentioning the case of 18-year-old Andrzej Cielecki (Gorostiza 2025), for example. The young man was interested in ufology, spiritualism, and paranormal phenomena. In the early 1990s, he discovered Antrovis through magazines and became actively involved in the group's activities. His parents fully accepted their son's interests, seeing nothing wrong with them. They were convinced that it was simply a kind of discussion club devoted to UFO phenomena. After some time, however, Andrzej's behaviour began to change for the worse. He broke off friendships, distanced himself from his family, stopped going to school, and instead isolated himself in his room and meditated for long hours. He also stared at photographs of extraterrestrial beings presented at Antrovis meetings, while warning his family about poisoned food. After the failed landing of a spacecraft, which according to Antrovis members was supposed to take place in 1992, the boy managed to break off contact with the group. Nevertheless, his behaviour did not improve. He ate only mandarins and did not take off his outer clothing, as if he were living in constant anticipation of some momentous event. He suffered from anxiety attacks, insomnia, and physical pain. In March 1993, he left home to go to school and never returned. To this day, it has not been possible to establish what happened to Andrzej.

Another high-profile case officially taken up by the Office of State Protection was the murder of Bogusław Taczka (Zadrożna, in Religia bez ściemy 2024). He was a 36-year-old physical education teacher who had been living with his wife in Lübeck, Germany, since the late 1980s. It was there, through the Polish diaspora in Germany, that he learned about Antrovis. He regularly travelled to the group's meetings in Poland. His wife later recalled these trips with regret, saying that he returned mentally and physically exhausted, suffering from severe anxiety attacks and headaches. When his condition deteriorated following hypnosis, he was taken to a psychologist, who advised him to break off contact with Antrovis. In 1995, roughly two years after the group had officially ceased its activities, Bogusław was due to undergo knee surgery. Before the operation, he confided to his wife that he was afraid that his healthy organs might be removed. He subsequently left home again to meet people associated with the group. He was last seen in Warsaw, where he boarded a train to Szczecin. A few weeks after he was reported missing, his mutilated body was recovered from the Oder River. An autopsy established that he had been murdered. He had suffered numerous head injuries and, most strikingly, his testicles had been surgically removed. These circumstances subsequently fuelled speculation about a possible connection between the murder and Antrovis. Some accounts have claimed that the movement taught that the type of spacecraft used by a civilisation was an indicator of its level of development and that human organs, particularly testicles, could serve as a source of energy for spacecraft. However, the latter claim should be treated with particular caution. In a private conversation, Mikołaj Kołyszko, a Polish scholar of religious studies and researcher of religious and ufological phenomena, drew my attention to the lack of reliable evidence that

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this claim originated with Antrovis members themselves. This caution is particularly important given the difficulty of distinguishing documented elements of the group's beliefs from allegations and later sensationalised accounts. At the same time, the removal of Taczka's testicles presents an intriguing parallel with the American new religious movement Heaven's Gate, in which some of the male members voluntarily underwent castration (Harvey 2025). This is, however, only a striking coincidence and does not in itself establish any connection between the two movements or suggest that the Polish group shared Heaven's Gate's beliefs or practices. Although the circumstances of Taczka's death understandably contributed to suspicion surrounding the movement, no charges against Antrovis or its members were ultimately substantiated, and the case was reportedly dismissed in 1996 (Zadrożna, in Religia bez ściemy 2024).

Antrovis brought together people from diverse social and professional backgrounds, including individuals without a public profile as well as prominent figures from political, media, and cultural circles. Its members came from a range of professions, including law, medicine, the arts, journalism, and politics, and there were even rumours that a foreign consul was associated with the group. Notable collaborators included politician Barbara Labuda, journalist Zygmunt Broniarek, and actors Emilian Kamiński and Krystyna Sienkiewicz (Sielezin 2012). Such individuals could potentially have used their influence to conceal certain matters; on the other hand, their involvement could just as easily have made them targets of rumours or slander because of their private activities. Reports appeared on the internet and in newspapers claiming that Antrovis meetings sometimes ended with stays in psychiatric hospitals and that members were encouraged to break off contact with people with whom they supposedly lacked an energetic connection. A certain Andrzej Żakowicz reportedly transferred all his assets, including his flat and car, to the group. Later, when he attempted to reclaim his property, the leadership allegedly refused to return his donation. There were also rumours that Mielnik advised against pregnancy after 1984 and that, if a pregnancy did occur, women were urged to terminate it. This was allegedly based on the belief that, after that year, biorobots were being born instead of humans. However, it is difficult to find reliable confirmation of these allegations. Mielnik claimed that he felt like a victim of the Catholic Church's Inquisition, which he alleged had spread false information about organ trafficking and murders.

It is worth considering the issue raised by Eileen Barker. Very often, if a member of a new religious movement commits a crime, people assume that this is because of their membership in the movement, suggesting that the organisation itself is responsible for the tragedy. If, on the other hand, a member of a socially accepted religious group commits a crime, it is less likely that their religious identity will be mentioned (Barker 2012). This illustrates the methodological difficulties researchers face when attempting to establish what can reliably be said about Antrovis. Many legends have grown up around the group, and although some of them may appear credible, it is difficult to determine unequivocally how closely they correspond to the historical reality.

Further Fate

Although the group officially disbanded, reports of activities involving its former members continue to surface from time to time. Some sources claim that, as late as 1994, the organisation still had forty-two members (Zagorska 1998). Six years later, a lecture on creating a happy reality was scheduled to take place at Częstochowa University of Technology. It turned out that the speaker was Ewa Mielnik, the author

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of *Nie ma Boga* (*There Is No God*) and one of the leaders of Antrovis. Interestingly, she attempted to deny any connection with the group, claiming that this was simply a coincidence of names (Gradek 2000). There are also indications that new members were still being recruited as late as 2016 (Zadworny 2016). Even if these reports are accurate, however, they provide little evidence of a sustained revival of the movement. Antrovis is therefore best understood today as an extinct religious movement, with only sporadic traces of activity surviving after its formal dissolution.

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Books Published by Antrovis

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Analiza Wszechświata [*Analysis of the Universe*]

Człowiek energetyczny [*The Energetic Human]*

Energie – czakramy [*Energies – Chakras*]

Grudzień'91 [*December '91*]

Istota Wszechświata [*The Essence of the Universe]*

Moje kontakty z kosmitami [*My Contacts with Extraterrestrials*]

Nowy Kosmos [*The New Cosmos]*

O działaniu energiami [*Working with Energies]*

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Praca nad sobą [*Working on Oneself*]

Relaksacje [*Relaxation*]

Słuchanie Wszechświata: wybór artykułów prasowych Antrovisu [*Listening to the Universe: A Selection of Press Articles from Antrovis*]

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Układ embrionalny [*The Embryonic System*]

W kosmicznej przestrzeni: pojazdy, przybysze, posłania, przepowiednia fatimska [*In Outer Space: Vehicles, Visitors, Messages, the Fatima Prophecy*]

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Wszechświadomość: Prawa uniwersalne [Universal Consciousness: Universal Laws]

Ziemia – kosmos [Earth – Cosmos]

The Antrovis Antitriptych

Anna Mielnik, *Bóg człowiekowi taki los zgotował* [*God Has Dealt This Fate to Man]*

Edward Mielnik, *Koniec Boga, początek Człowieka* [*The End of God, the Beginning of Man*]

Ewa Mielnik, *Boga nie ma* [*There Is No God*]

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