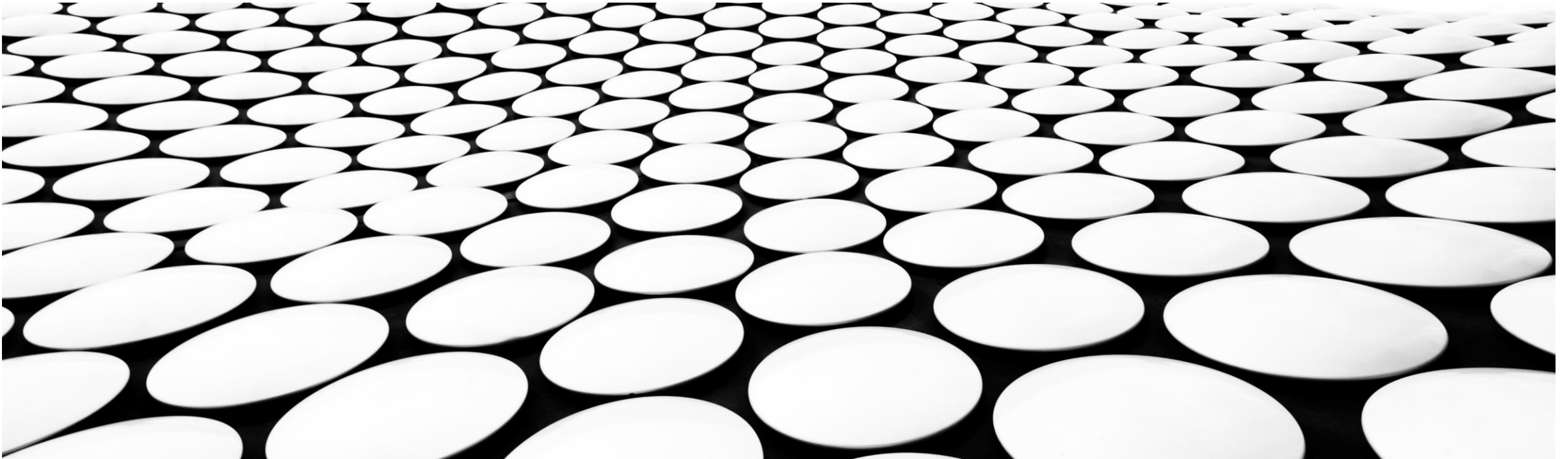

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

ILONA ŠVIHLÍKOVÁ



AN EXCEPTIONAL PAST

- History of cooperatives (1847)
- A huge and developed cooperative sector after the I. World war
- History of worker´s participation - Baťa and his heritage
- Distortion of the ideas in centrally planned economy



M. Dr. Fr. Grill Rampelík



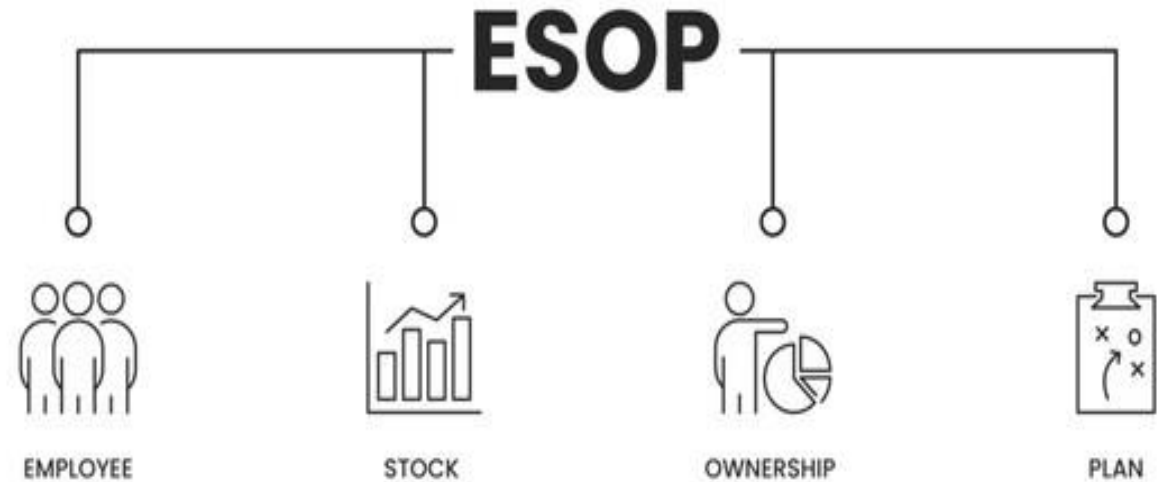
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- The potential of employees and management by privatization was ignored
- Cooperatives viewed through the lens of the „communist“ régime
- Strong hierarchical system (neoliberal policies)
- Strong engagement of transnational corporations
- Low – wage economy
- Economic democracy – a long-term neglected topic



CURRENT DISCUSSIONS

- „ESOP“ in Czech circumstances
- For management members, or start-ups
- Discussion oriented towards making start-ups more attractive (shares as a bonus for workers)
- Not for all!
- No interest in economic democracy as a way to enhance the position of workers
- A tool for increasing productivity
- **The future of economic democracy?**



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