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“The rules of the voting rights in the Republic of Poland in 1918-1935”

This doctoral dissertation is devoted to the basic rules of the voting rights in Poland in 1918-1935. First, they were formulated in the electoral system for constituent assembly in 1919. They were not mentioned directly but they were included in numerous regulations of this legal act (through describing their guaranty). The first legal act which *expressis verbis* mentioned voting rules as voting rights was article 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland in 1921. The rights included: universality, equality, directness, secrecy of voting, proportionality. However, according to popular (before 1918) doctrinal view the main voting rights included: universality, equality, directness, secrecy of voting.

In this doctoral dissertation the author tried to prove the following research postulates. Firstly, the author presented the understanding of individual voting rights in the Republic of Poland in 1918-1935. The second postulate was to present the views of leading political parties on the electoral law created in the II Republic of Poland, which was described in great detail in the chapter devoted to the programme of political parties. The next argument of this doctoral dissertation was the analysis of the influence on March Constitution regulations and electoral system in 1922, which showed where the particular normative solutions were taken from. Another argument was to demonstrate the influence of the political law doctrine views on the shape of the rules of the voting rights. The author of this doctoral dissertation by showing the understanding of the electoral law by different scientists tried to decide which view on specific voting rules of the electoral law was dominant in the period presented in this paper. This doctoral dissertation also includes research questions. The main and the most important question was to show the problem of practical application of the rules of the voting rights. The most important was the voting practice used after 1928 when without changing “the letter of law” the ruling party politicians breached the voting rules.

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The aim of this doctoral dissertation entitled "The rules of the voting rights in the Republic of Poland in 1918-1935" is to present the evolution in application of the electoral law and its rules, which can be observed since the time the April Constitution was adopted. This paper is divided into three large chapters starting with the beginning and ending with the conclusion. The main chapters are divided into smaller subsections.

Chapter one contains introduction topics that discuss the origin of the rules of the electoral law and their creation at the end of the XVIII century. The author agrees with the scientists involved in elections that voting rules started to create during the French Revolution. The culmination of the topics concerning France was a large paragraph describing the elections in the III France Republic, which system and constitution had an enormous influence on Polish March Constitution.

Chapter one discusses the issues concerning the creation of the rules of the voting rights in invading countries. The author in the initial part refers to Austrian, German and Russian solutions in order to show models for the electoral law and the practice used at the beginning of interwar Poland.

In the second chapter the author presents topics concerning the regaining of the borders, setting the sovereignty of Poland after World War I and presenting the areas where the first democratic elections were held. The largest part of the second chapter are issues discussing the establishment and the political programmes of the leading political parties during interwar period in Poland. What is more, in this part the author concentrates on the analysis of the sources of the electoral law. He names and criticises common law acts from constitution to regulations (through the most important electoral law acts- three electoral systems). Moreover, the presented acts of the internal law are issued mostly by Ministers of Interior. After discussing the official and non official sources of the electoral law in the second chapter the author described the process of enacting the electoral system for Constituanta (Legislative Sejm in 1919) and March Constitution. In the conclusion of this chapter topics concerning voting administration and penal- voting rules are presented.

The last chapter *is stricte* devoted to the rules of the voting rights. Firstly, the definition of the rules of the voting rights is presented *in corporeand* and their catalogue. The rules of the voting rights in interwar Poland are understood by the author as constitutional legal standards on which the electoral systems were based. On the basis of these legal standards the Sejm was elected. According to August Paszkudzki the standards were:

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universality, equality, directness, secrecy of voting. The aspect of proportionality was understood as voting system *sensu stricto*. This chapter is divided into four subsections which describe each voting rule individually starting with: universality, equality, directness, secrecy of voting. In the first place, every subsection discusses the doctrinal understanding of each voting rule. Next, the guaranties for each of the rules of the voting rights were discussed as well as the practical aspect of their implementation.

In conclusion of this doctoral dissertation the author once again pointed the definition of the electoral law *in corpore*, their catalogue and understanding of individual rules. In addition, once again the important voting practice was highlighted, the practice mostly used from 1928 which “turned upside down the democratic law system” by introducing authoritarian system. All significant crimes and voting violations are presented, especially “Briest trials in 1930”.

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