

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In recent years, memory politics, also referred to in the political discourse as "historical politics", has been the subject of a lively interest in many scientific disciplines including sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, social psychology, political science, and the subject of numerous controversies, critiques and disputes in the public debate. Political interest in the past and its use for political purposes raises many extreme emotions. One of the areas of dispute is the conflict-generating nature of historical anniversaries and the commemoration of specific events and people. The potential of the past and the visions associated with it often contribute to the creation of a political and ideological outlook and to the ideological justification by the political elites of various goals, from lofty ones shaping national and state identities, and legitimising specific political activities, to goals and agendas of a more particular nature, for example settling accounts with political opponents or diminishing their merits. One of the tools with which this process is carried out are the anniversary resolutions adopted by the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland. This project is focused on these resolutions.

The purpose of the research project is to determine the role and place of the anniversary resolutions of the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland in the Polish memory politics.

The project covers the years between 1989 and 2019. More than five hundred parliamentary anniversary resolutions and numerous draft resolutions that have never - for various reasons - made it onto the political agenda or were rejected at the parliamentary committee stage will undergo qualitative analysis.

The specific objectives of the project and the corresponding research questions will amount to verifying the assumed hypotheses. The basic thesis amounts to the belief in the importance of anniversary resolutions as a tool of memory politics in relation to the commemoration of past events. Additionally, in the course of the analysis of the collected source materials, the attention will be focused on the motives of the Sejm's and the Senate's adopting anniversary resolutions, their political, social and international significance, and on trying to answer why these and not other events deserved commemoration. The results will allow, among others, to develop a typology and a catalogue of anniversary resolutions. The conclusions drawn from these analyses are intended to contribute to the comparative international studies on the importance of tools of memory politics in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This project will assume the perspective of political science.