

Holy See towards the crisis of sovereignty of John Casimir Vasa and Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki's election (1660-1669)

The main objective of the project is to show and characterize the political commitment and diplomatic practice of papacy towards the crisis of the royal power of John Casimir Vasa, his abdication and election of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki (1660-1669). Among the most frequently mentioned in the correspondence of the Apostolic Nuncios events, the following should be highlighted: rebuilding the monarch's authority after the defeats of the Swedish Deluge, resuming the war with Moscow, parliamentary debate over the political reform projects, *rokosz* of Lubomirski, royal abdication, as well as the subsequent interregnum and new election. The analysis will cover also papal reactions and preparation in front of the above-mentioned events, the Commonwealth's elites' role as crucial for the effective diplomatic activity of the Holy See in the Polish-Lithuanian state, the confessional aspect in the mechanism of establishing political friendships by Apostolic Nuncios, papal diplomats' political communication channels and ways of transmitting diplomatic information.

A particularly interesting aspect of the project is the research emphasis put on the semantic side of epistolographic message of papal diplomats. Some notions regarding the specificity of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's political system will be subjected to the semantic analysis, with particular accent put on the issues characteristic of the discussed period, such as free election, *vivente rege* election, *rokosz* and abdication, to explore the papal interpretation of them and orientation of the Holy See in the Polish-Lithuanian political situation.

The implementation of the project necessitates an execution of a thorough archival research abroad (Rome, Paris, Vilnius, Vienna, Saint Petersburg, Kiev), as well as in Poland (Warsaw, Cracow, Poznań, Wrocław, and Kórnik). The analysed manuscript material will be primarily constituted by diplomatic and private correspondence, but also personal and parliamentary diaries, instructions, propagandistic writings, universals, political pamphlets and others. The adopted research methods will employ both the achievements of traditional historical criticism and methodologies of the new history of diplomacy: connected history, confessional theory, contemporary communication theories, semantic analysis of the epistolographic language function, as well as historical current of gender studies.

The immediate incentive to undertake such research is provided by the following facts: firstly, there are basically no studies on the Polish-Papal relations in the second half of 17th century, despite the priority of this period in the context of the Christian Europe's conflict of with the Ottoman Empire; secondly, I would like to break with the bilateral vision of diplomatic contacts of the Holy See and examine the described relations in a broad European context; thirdly, the extension of research on history of papal diplomacy on the territories of Central and Eastern Europe realizes an important research postulate of many contemporary early modern historians.

Although in the second half of 17th century the Holy See's role in the European international system drastically decreased, due to progressive secularization of politics and evolution of the tactics of diplomatic negotiations, the remnants of the mediatory position of Rome still guaranteed the Pope an important influence on European policy matters. For this reason, in my opinion, the politically-diplomatic involvement of the Holy See, in relation to the crisis of royal power of John Casimir Vasa, his abdication and then election of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki, is a problem the elaboration of which contains a great research value, not only for a Polish historian, but also among the whole Europe.