

Popular-Science Summary of the Project

The objective of the research project entitled "At the origins of German liberalism: the state in the thought of Robert von Mohl" is to analyze the understanding of the state in the thought of the 19th century liberal German scholar Robert von Mohl, who is considered to be one of the forerunners of the idea of legal state, social legal state and social market economy. The goal of the undertaken project is to provide Polish science with a monographic study constituting a synthesis, a description and an analysis of the state in the thought of one of the most prominent thinkers and politicians of the early German liberalism. Due to the lack of such a monograph in the Polish science, the realization of this project will fill the unquestionable gap. Meanwhile, for German science the results of the project could provide a new, fresh and comprehensive look at Robert von Mohl's thought about the state, from the abroad perspective.

In order to accomplish the main objective of the project, the author will undertake research tasks consisting in the analysis of the political and social situation of the German lands in the first half of the 19th century. The author will also present the biography of the liberal German scholar and will provide an outline of the views on the state held by other scholars, who were von Mohl's contemporaries. The work will analyze the understanding of the state from the methodological side as well as the concept of the objectives and spheres of human life. The author will examine the general perception of the state, its relations with the people living in the state and its particular types. The crucial research task will be the analysis of the main "area of focus" of von Mohl's studies, i.e. the legal state, its genesis and its formal and material aspects. This activity will be supplemented by an analysis of the functioning of administration in the state. The research process will be concluded with an analysis of the issue of power in the state, its uniformity and the representative system.

The objective of the above research tasks is not only to present the thought of Robert von Mohl on the state, but also to place his views on the ideological map of Germany of that time. The research will also have a contemporary dimension, as the author will attempt to show the similarities and the differences between today's vision of the legal state and its functioning and the views that von Mohl held on this subject. This task is particularly important in the context of the connections between von Mohl's concepts and the clauses of the social legal state and democratic legal state, functioning as a principles of the legal and political systems in present-day Poland, Germany and other European countries.