

Description for the general public

Octroyment of a liberal constitution to the Kingdom of Poland constituted an important moment in the history of the Polish nation. It left a lasting mark on both the political elites contemporary to this event and on the next, young generation of romantics, affecting the shape of Polish political thought, and especially of the liberal thought. The research objective of the project is to explore these connections and interactions between the manner of interpretation of the Kingdom of Poland constitution in the politically tumultuous period in which it was binding, and the shaping of liberal world-view of Polish elites. In order to tackle this task, the project authors will carry out a broad archive query, departing from the assumption that knowledge of the roots of Polish political liberalism, forged in the fire of passionate debates and constitutional disputes, lies hidden primarily in archive sources. These sources have been applied in historical works concerning the era of the constitutional Kingdom of Poland to a very narrow extent, much smaller than it may seem. This is the main reason justifying the purposefulness of more detailed research on the genesis of Polish political liberalism.