

The project assumes the initiation of systematic research on Poland's political history in the 1990s. The main goal of this project will be a comparative analysis of how political parties, those co-created Polish governments in 1989-2001, implemented the declared program aims, as well as the what were the real interests of their leaders and activists. On the one hand, the time frame of the project is marked by the collapse of the PUWP's monopoly rule and the establishment of Tadeusz Mazowiecki's government. It closes in 2001, when Jerzy Buzek's cabinet ended, and the new rules for financing political parties from the state budget that were introduced and contributed to the stabilization of the party system.

One of the crucial goals of the research project will be to analyze both the process of membership negotiations with NATO and the EU and the policies of individual governments. It seems that all major political forces fairly widely shared these goals, but it requires clarification whether specific parties forming coalition governments had a shared vision of foreign policy and what cooperation in the field between successive cabinets and presidents looked like. The key internal policy issues characteristic of this period were first of all the crisis of the state apparatus inherited from the People's Republic of Poland, followed by its stabilization and development determined by the development of local government and subsequent reforms of the government centre. No less important is the existence of a strong center of executive power i.e. President of Poland, whose powers were subject to further modifications resulting from the entry into force of the small constitution (1992) and the constitution of 1997, as well as the different culture and political position of subsequent presidents. Finally, one of the most important factors shaping the political and social order after 1989 was the rapidly changing economic situation (the recession of 1989-1992, then the economic situation of 1993-1996, and finally the slowdown of 1997-2001).

Although the political parties creating the activities of the eight governments existing in that period, they had a common goal, which was the construction of a democratic state of law of a free market economy, associated with Western political and military structures. But at the same time, there were significant differences in the level of methods by which they tried to achieve them and interest representation mechanisms. These governments also differed in terms of stability of the parliamentary base and relations with the president.

The project implementation involves carrying out a broad, multi-faceted query in the press and other published sources, as well as in gradually opening Polish and foreign archives. During the project, the 30-year grace period for access to several documents will gradually be lifted, which should contribute to uncovering new interesting facts. During the research, the new and unique materials will be obtained (including those from private collections), and some of them will be disseminated via the project website. The results of the project will be presented in journal articles and conferences proceedings but also in a book published at the end of the project.