

Summary for the general public

Since the political changes that took place at the turn of the 1990s, contemporary historical and legal sciences have not considered many issues that were groundbreaking for the development of Polish law and statehood. An important issue for the development of Polish statehood should be considered as one of the most fraught with consequences, and at the same time overlooked so far in legal scholarship - the search for the sources of the birth of the modern Polish state in place of the model of statehood based on the feudal system, which disappeared with the end of the First Polish Republic.

The origins of the paradigm still in force today, defining the way of understanding the state and public affairs, should be sought at the turn of the 19th century. It was during this period that the political and legal ideas of the Enlightenment era began to undergo gradual conversion in political practice, taking the form of specific institutional solutions. The plane of change in the way of thinking about the state consisting in the transition from the feudal system to a political model constituting the beginning of the formation of a modern model of organizing collective forms of human existence.

The above-mentioned process resulted in the gradual formation of a new concept of the state and its tasks. The state ceased to be subordinated to the monarch or, as was the case in Polish Sarmatian culture, the dominion of *szlachta*, in which the principle of all noblemen have equal rights was in force. However, it gradually became a form of the common good of all citizens unrelated to the personal of estate factor, ..

The aim of the project is to undertake research aimed at answering the question: When was the process of creating the legal basis of the modern Polish state initiated? The way to obtain the answer will be to undertake comparative research taking into account two key periods in the history of Poland. The first is the period of the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski (1764-1795), during which the process of reforms in the spirit of the Enlightenment was initiated. The apogee of the process of repairing the Republic of Poland was the work of the Great Sejm, both in terms of theoretical concepts and the introduced legal regulations. The second area included in the comparative analysis will be the years 1807-1830, the period of the existence of the Duchy of Warsaw (1807-1815) and the Kingdom of Poland in the constitutional era (1815-1830).

The area where the answer to the question about the beginning of the process of formation of the modern Polish state will be sought will be the area of administrative law that was emerging at that time. On this ground, as part of the public law system related to the tasks and role of public authorities, a change in the way the state is understood is particularly visible. Against this background, a change in the priorities of public authorities comes to the fore, as evidenced by a shift in the focus of interests from rural areas to dynamically developing urban centers, which were then the seeds of the economy.

The summary of research results obtained in the above-mentioned fields of analysis will constitute the basis for formulating conclusions that will allow answering the question about the initiation and course of the initial period of shaping in Polish lands the concept of public law appropriate to a modern state, the development of which led to contemporary legal and institutional solutions.