

Nineteenth-century Polish historical thought on the Reformation and Counter-Reformation.
The syntheses and parasynteses of the history of Poland

Summary

The thesis presents the picture of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation in the syntheses and parasynteses of the history of Poland created in years 1795 – 1918. The author focuses mainly on the way historians interpreted both phenomena, especially within the context of the causes of the fall of the Polish Commonwealth in the 18th century.

The thesis has chronological and problematic structure. The first two chapters shortly discuss the location of the Protestant population across Poland and the state of knowledge of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation in the 19th century (excepted the syntheses and parasynteses of the history of Poland) and also present the dominant picture of the Reformation, and the fall of it, in general Polish historical writing up to 1795. The following part focuses on the analysis of the most representative 19th century writings on Polish history, written in the Polish language. In the third chapter the author analyses works created in the late period of the Enlightenment Era among the historians belonging to the so-called ‘Naruszewicz’s school’. The fourth chapter contains the analysis of the views of historians belonging to the community created by Joachim Lelewel, and then later continued by his followers (‘the Lelewel’s school’). The fifth chapter focuses on the analysis of the most prominent works created in exile among the members of the Hotel Lambert faction, which was oppositional to the Lelewel’s school. In the following chapter the author interprets the most important works of historians representing two main historical environments of the 19th century: the Cracow and Warsaw historical schools. The last chapter focuses on the analysis of the selected works of the Neoromanticism and Modernism Era.

The analysis of the synthetic and parasynthetic works on the history of Poland, created in the 19th century, shows that historians did not manage to create a consistent and coherent picture of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation. The main differences, especially as far as the Reformation is concerned, occurred among the representatives of the same historical school or environment. The historians’ views on the issues discussed were often closely related to the authors’ overall views on history, and also to their political and religious beliefs.