



Summary of the PhD dissertation

## **Parliamentarians from the Podkarpackie voivodeship in 1999-2015**

Politics is all activities aimed at participating in power and influencing its division. The group that undoubtedly has such an influence are parliamentarians. Deputies and senators elected by citizens receive a warrant that guarantees them to co-create the law that shapes the life of electorate. The mandate of a parliamentarian is connected not only with privileges, but above all with duties. When exercising it, politicians must be guided by the good of the entire nation, while respecting the legal order of Poland. The law has equipped them with tools that allow them to lobby for voters and the regions they represent – each deputy and senator may speak in the Sejm and Senate during plenary sessions and during sessions of parliamentary committees to which he belongs. In addition, it also has the ability to submit interpellations and queries. Moreover, participation in the exercise of executive power in the country guarantees enormous opportunities. Holding ministerial positions and performing important state functions enables a real influence on the shaping of state policy.

The above statements became a source of inspiration to try to investigate the activity of parliamentarians from the Podkarpackie voivodeship in 1999-2015 and how they used these tools, acting for the benefit of their voters, but also of all citizens. The development of technology has made it possible for every citizen, from anywhere, to become an observer of the work of deputies and senators. Their activity is therefore often the subject of public debate, but it should be emphasized that the public opinion receives only residual information through the media, e.g. fragments of speeches from Sejm or Senat, which attract attention due to the topics discussed and the emotions they evoke. So the media looks for sensation, often overlooking important topics and projects. Therefore, when analyzing the activity of Subcarpathian deputies and senators in this dissertation, an attempt was made to be guided by objectivity and reliability through a search of the press and the Internet. For this purpose, an interview-questionnaire was prepared to provide material based on the memories and opinions of the heroes of this disquisition. Unfortunately, reaching these people and then persuading them to answer the set of questions presented to them turned out to be a significant problem. In the process of collecting the materials, the author also encountered another, big problem – the chronological scope of the dissertation covers relatively

recent years in relation to the time of its preparation. Thus, press articles have become the primary research base. Thousands of editions of local titles were to be queried.

The dissertation is divided into two parts – introductory and basic, and consists of five chapters. It opens with a chapter devoted to the 1990s and describing the political changes in the country. It refers to the beginnings of the uprising and the existence of the III Republic of Poland. The Round Table discussions and the consequences of this event are briefly described. Thanks to the analysis of individual elections (presidential, parliamentary and local elections), the realities of democratic and political life in south-eastern Poland during this period were introduced, and the influence of politicians occupying functions among the national executive authorities was indicated.

In the second chapter, an attempt was made to characterize the Podkarpackie voivodeship. For this purpose, the history of the areas of south-eastern Poland was presented, indicating the conditions related to the separation and establishment of this voivodeship. Moreover, thanks to information on demographic and economic issues, the level of social and economic development and the potential of this region have been indicated. The following subsections are an attempt to present the subcarpathian political scene and the processes taking place there. Two periods were distinguished – the years 1999-2005 and 2005-2015. The first is the time of the ending domination of right-wing groups, the decline in support for Akcja Wyborcza Solidarność, and the left wing strengthening its position under the banner of the Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej. In 2005, however, there was a change in the public space and the previous division into post-Solidarity and post-communist groups ceased to apply, and a bipolar division of the party emerged. There was also a political conflict between the two new parties with a solidarity pedigree called Prawo i Sprawiedliwość and Platforma Obywatelska, which determined the national and regional policy for the coming years. The chapter tried to answer the question of what caused the conflict and why Podkarpackie voivodeship was called the "PiS bastion".

The following three chapters deal with the main issues of the dissertation. The third presents the participants of political life – parliamentarians from the subcarpathian region from 1999-2015. Short notes present the profiles of all deputies and senators in that period. Their political beliefs and preferences as well as the values which they followed during their political career were indicated, thus creating the profile of a subcarpathian member of parliament from the years 1999-2015.

The fourth and fifth chapter are an attempt to account for the heroes of the disquisition in terms of their activities. However, only a group of deputies and senators was subject to examination. Due to the time frame of the dissertation and, consequently, the large number of people holding a parliamentary mandate at that time, the selected group, which, according to the author of the dissertation, seemed to play the most important role in politics. Chapter four analyzes the transcripts of both houses of parliament in terms of the speeches of this group of people. In this way, it was possible to indicate the topics that were dealt with by subcarpathian parliamentarians for



subsequent terms and to examine the level of their activity in the forum of the Parliament.

The last, fifth chapter of the dissertation continues the reflection on the activity of deputies and senators, this time presenting their efforts in the framework of work in parliamentary and senate committees, because it is there that specific solutions regarding draft laws are developed. In addition, the content of their queries and interpellations, which are a form of control over the authorities, was also analyzed. In the last subsection of the dissertation, an attempt was made to present the achievements of politicians within the framework of their offices in the bodies of executive power in Poland.

In the final part there is an end, which is a set of conclusions from the analysis of the collected material. In addition, there is a list of these materials and an annex in which you can find a questionnaire with questions to parliamentarians.

The presented disquisition can be a valuable source of information about the activities of politicians from Podkarpackie voivodeship. It allows to confront the knowledge of ordinary citizens, which is primarily derived from the media, with slightly different information, and thus to better assess them as their representatives. The subject matter of the research undertaken may become an incentive for further research of a scientific and cognitive nature, not only in the area studied by the author, but also in other voivodeships and throughout the country.

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