

History of democracy in Poland

Democracy - one of the types of the state system that assumes the participation of citizens in exercising power

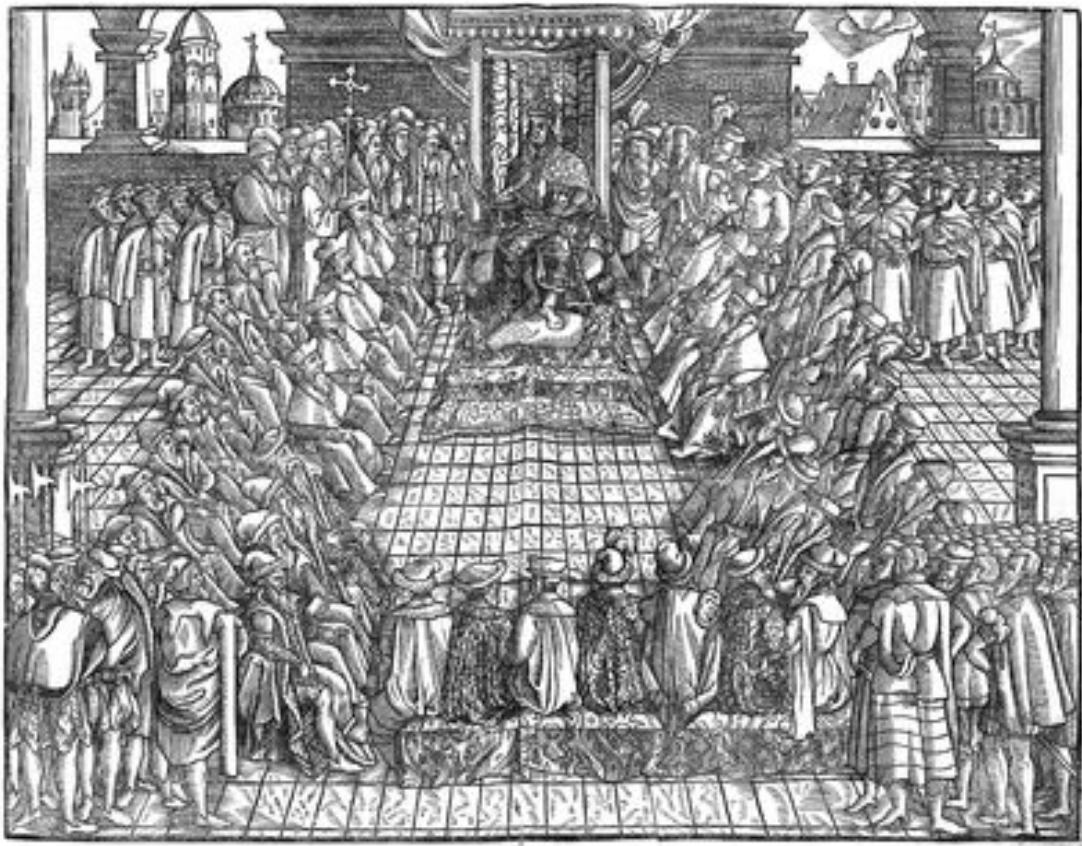


At the end of the fifteenth century, the authorities in the state were formed...

At the end of the 15th century, the state authorities were formed, which inextricably accompanied the democracy of the nobility, and in 1505 the general parliament became established. The general Sejm consisted of three sejmik estates: the king, the senate and the chamber of deputies. Initially, the sejmik instruction was a set of guidelines about the position of the deputies in matters proposed by the king. With time, the nobility began to add their own general and even private postulates. The Seyms were initially called by the king at any time, as needed. He also set the purpose of the meeting. In 1572, when the Jagiellonian dynasty had already expired, the nobility faced a serious problem of choosing a new ruler. It was decided that each subsequent ruler would be elected according to the rules of free election. After assuming the throne, the king-elect was to follow the established rules (written as Henrician articles). The articles guaranteed the nobility the preservation of privileges, determined the rules of the political system and the laws of the Republic, ordered the king to convene the general assembly every two years, the king has an advisory council composed of four senators (so-called residents) at his side, they did not allow the use of the hereditary title; the king was to be elected only by free election, they subjected domestic and foreign policy to the control of the Sejm, forbade the king to make significant political decisions without the consent of senators staying at the royal court, they showed the dependence of the monarch on the laws of the Republic, i.e. on the nobility who drew up these laws, citizens have the right to freedom of religion, allowed to disobey the king - the rebellion, in the event of his breach of noble privileges. The second was the pacta conventa, i.e. the so-called agreed terms - it defined the obligations of the elect

Coronation of Batory...

1576 Batory is crowned - the Sejm becomes a permanent institution, independent of the king's will. From then on, the king could no longer rule the state without the participation of the Sejm, which, together with the sejmiks, not only had the full legislative power, but also had serious powers in the field of executive, military and judicial power. During the interregnum, the independence of provinces began to increase and the tendency to transform the Republic of Poland into a federal state intensified. The systemic changes that took place during the interregnum finally shaped the old Polish parliamentarism.

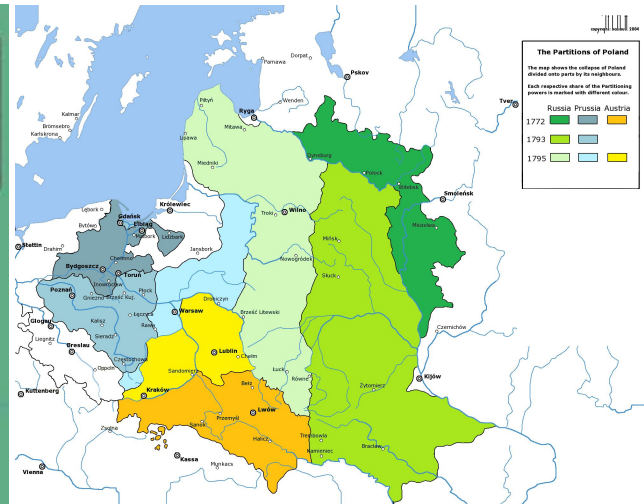
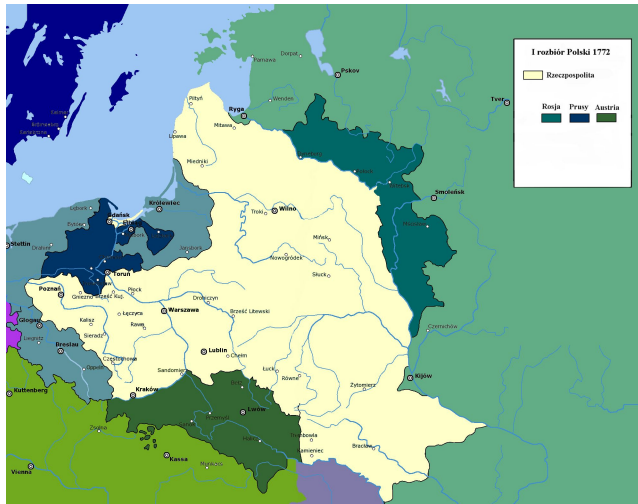


King Stefan Batory on the throne during the Senate, 1581.

The first partition of Poland...

1772 - the first partition of Poland takes place. 1792 The Four-Year Sejm passes the law on cities and 1791 a new constitution. Main provisions: the Catholic religion is ruling by freedom of religion; the nobility remains with their privileges; royal city law: contracts with peasants may not be arbitrarily altered by the heirs; possibility of ennoblement for townspeople. Poland became a constitutional monarchy. 1793 - the second partition of Poland. In 1794. a legal act is created, the so-called Połaniecki's universal published by Kościuszko. Abolition of personal serfdom, the right of peasants to move freely from place to place; guaranteeing irremovability from the ground, reducing serfdom by 25-50% during the insurrection and freeing the farms of insurgent peasants from serfdom; the principle of "national government protection" over the peasant. The nobility prevented the manifesto from being fully implemented. 1795 the third partition of Poland - loss of the country's independence. The period of partitions was not conducive to democracy. The main line of the political conflict was marked by the dispute over the issue of regaining independence and the methods of its resolution - through the national liberation uprising, grassroots work or gradual gaining of autonomy. 1921 The March constitution abolished the state system, eventually abolishing the nobility. Article 96 of this constitution stated that the reborn Polish state did not recognize any coats of arms, titles and hereditary privileges. In 1935, the April Constitution introduced changes, repealing the entirety of the provisions of the March Constitution. It did not restore the abolished states, including the nobility. This meant that the abolition of the nobility was maintained.

The Partitions of Poland



Constitution of May 3



Communist system...

The years 1944-48 - it was the time of building the communist system. 1945 - a state dependent on the USSR was established.

Poland was to be sovereign and democratic. A government was to be formed. A government with Soviet support was established. As a result, Poland was controlled and subjected to the party. 1945 there were still a few press titles independent of the party, there were church magazines, in mid-1945. a censorship office was set up, everything was censored. Change after 1947 - Stalin wants to bring order to the situation in the country. Ideology begins to change to a collective one. Terror takes on a different character - the victims of the terror apparatus are people created to be enemies of the state. The end of the proto-totalitarian period, building a new man, a communist society, demand for active participation, hundreds of young people began to engage in building a new just order, the cult of the leader appeared, the party's infiltration through the security apparatus developed - an autonomous ministry was created, subordinate only to the party leader, Growth of the secret party police and judicial apparatus subordinate to the party, monopoly of the media. 1953 the apogee of communist tendencies and Stalinism. Terror - thousands of people in prisons, resistance against the authorities, sabotage, espionage, political police. A huge army prepared for a world conflict. Full monopoly on mass propaganda - a church terrorized and subordinated to power.

1956 riots break out, workers strike. The whole 1960s were marked by little stabilization and economic progress. 1970 December workers 'revolt in the Gdańsk and Szczecin shipyards - collapse of the workers' party's legitimacy. 1980 - mass strikes, the rise of solidarity, the fall of authoritarianism, the introduction of martial law in 1980. This period can be called the period of the party-bureaucratic authoritarian dictatorship. lack of freedom, control, the birth of underground solidarity. The state had the power of an authoritarian state.

The years 1953-1980, however, can be treated as a period in the history of the communist system in Poland.

Parliamentary elections in June 1989...

Parliamentary elections in June 1989. they were not yet completely free, but they became a national plebiscite against the authorities, showed the strong support of the voters for the Solidarity camp, led to its victory in the Senate and the election of the Sejm. The appointment of Tadeusz Mazowiecki's government was a political breakthrough, the system of power was reversed - the opposition to date assumed leadership roles in the system of state power, although representatives of the previous system retained some of their positions. The amendment to the constitution in 1989 initiated the transformation of Poland's legislative system towards a democratic state ruled by law. Although the constitution of 1952 was formally retained, its provisions concerning the basic principles of the organization of the Republic of Poland were changed to democratic. The parliamentary elections in 1991 were the first fully free elections, they led to the deprivation of the former system of the last positions in the system of state power, to the election of the Sejm dominated by the former Solidarity camp. Adoption of the Little Constitution in 1992. was the next step in the democratization of the legal system. It stipulated that the organs of the state in the area of legislative power were the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland, in the area of executive authority - the President of the Republic of Poland and the Council of Ministers, in the area of judicial authority - independent courts.

PI WOLNOŚCI DOKŁAD
NIE WOLNIEC

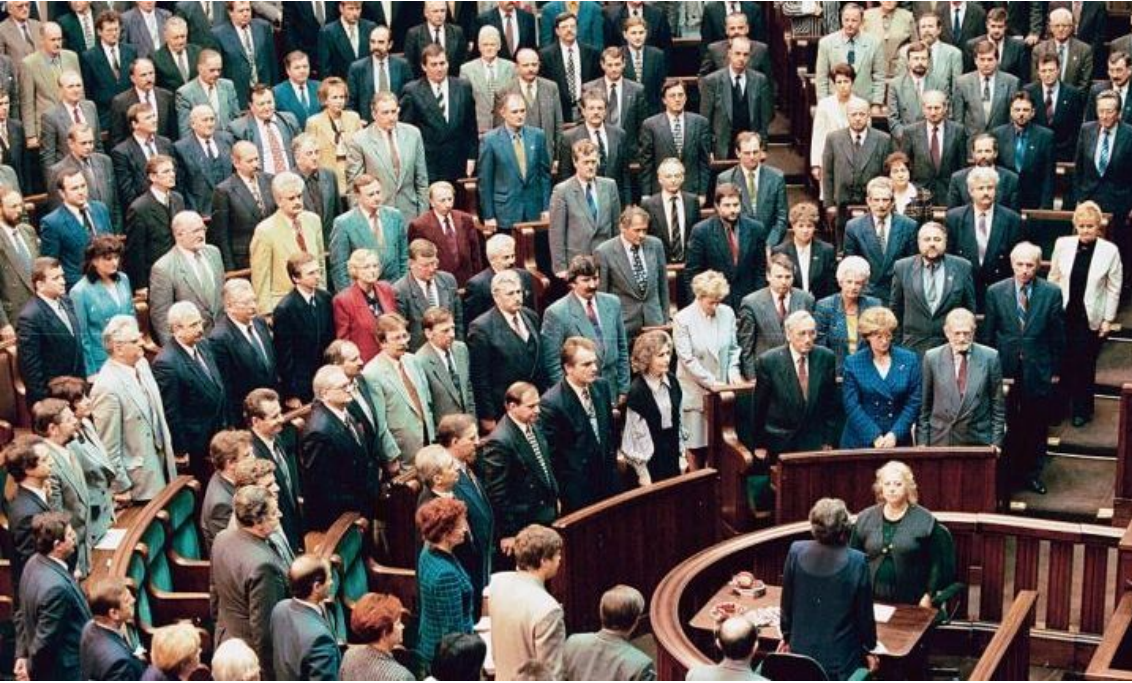
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SOLIDARNOŚĆ

LECH WAŁĘSA

Poland is fully democratic...

The parliamentary elections in 1993 brought about a change of government in line with the frequent democratic practice of replacing the existing ruling groups by a coalition of the former oppositionists. As a result, the pace of democratic reforms has slowed. Adoption of the Constitution in 1997. was the culmination of a key stage of system reconstruction. From that moment on, Poland became a fully democratic state.



Thank You For You Attention