

Summary of doctoral dissertation

Evolution of the political system of the First and Second Lithuanian Republic

From parliamentarism via authoritarian presidency

to semi-presidentialism - the political science analysis

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The aim of this work is to analyze the evolution of the Lithuanian political system and the individual factors that influenced changes within the years 1926-1940 and 1990-2020. A other aim of this study is to present a diachronic quantitative comparison of the political systems of the First Republic of Lithuania (interwar) and the Second Republic of Lithuania (present). The comparison of the values of individual indicators enabled to show the similarities and differences in particular periods of the evolution of democracy, which was extremely helpful in indicating the directions of development of political systems and their individual elements.

The dissertation broadens and organizes knowledge on the process of evolution of the Lithuanian political system in terms of selected elements in the theoretical and empirical context. The first one systematized the knowledge about the process of building and consolidating statehood, democratization and pluralisation of the political system in the Lithuanian state. In the empirical aspect, elements showing dependence, differences and similarities between the political system in the First and Second Lithuanian Republics were identified and ordered.

The first chapter addresses with issues related to the theoretical basis, in particular discussing the definitional issues of political system and political regime, focusing also on the authoritarian model

The second chapter deals with the determinants of Lithuania's systemic transformation, both in terms of cultural and social factors (social structure, the importance of political culture) and process factors (interests of the main political actors and functioning in the aspect of building the political regime until 1926).

The third chapter focuses on the analysis and characterization of issues related to the circumstances of the proclamation of the Act of Independence of Lithuania in 1918, the formation of parliamentary institutions and the evolution of the state system towards parliamentary democracy. The analysis of the institutionalization process of the most important components of the democratic system in Lithuania. This chapter places particular emphasis on the analysis of the institutionalization process of the most important components of the democratic system in Lithuania.

The fourth chapter focuses on the analysis of the nature of the political system transformation in the context of selected elements of the political system of Lithuania in 1926-1940. The individual subsections present the process of systemic transformation into an authoritarian model. The factors influencing the transformation of the Lithuanian political system were also identified. These include: the configuration of key political actors, changes in the party system and the system of local government as well as the establishment of a new constitution - legitimizing the authoritarian regime.

Chapter five presents the similarities and differences in the functioning of the individual elements of the political system of the First and Second Republic of Lithuania. By comparing the two systems, an attempt was made to identify common points and relationships between the democratic system in interwar and contemporary Lithuania. In addition to the analysis of the most important elements, an attempt was made to present the examined problem on the basis of indicators describing the state of democracy in Lithuania.

In conclusion, the key elements and events and processes influencing the systemic transformations within the Lithuanian state were characterized. In addition, dependencies, differences and similarities between the political system in the First and Second Republic of Lithuania were identified.

Keywords: evolution of the political system, First Republic of Lithuania, Second Republic of Lithuania, democracy, parliamentarism, authoritarianism, semi-presidentialism, political elites, party system, local government system, constitution, political culture, Smetona, Vanhanen Index, transformation, Europeanization.