

STATE POWER OF RZECZPOSPOLITA DURING THE CRISIS OF XVIII CENTURY

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The causes and circumstances of the political crisis in Rzeczpospolita are examined.. The government activity is analyzed. The historical and legal assessment of the functioning of the supreme body of state power, Sejm. is provided.

XVIII century is a very broad research period. If you try to thoroughly analyze all the features and problems, even such seemingly narrow threads of a diet, it takes a lot of time and will require many resources. That is why you need to focus on some, the most important, in our opinion matters.

Gripping Rzeczpospolita in the XVIII century is necessary to assess the activities of the Seimas in a political crisis. This issue we touched on when the gentry considered the essence of democracy.

There are the following reasons for the political crisis in the Commonwealth.

The first and most important, in our opinion, it is the political system of the Commonwealth. Weak power of the monarch and his actual dependence on the nobility contributed to the country's decentralization. Some monarchs, such as August III of, in general not interested in public affairs. It was impossible to develop a unified political direction of the state. Magnate groups that actually have full power in the state, pursuing their own interests and only fought among themselves. This leads only to terror and the decline of the state. Saeima could not affect the situation as completely controlled by these same magnate clans. It is significant that "out of 55 diets that were convened in 1652 - 1764 42 were disrupted veto. The first time General Sejm was disrupted in 1652 deputy Vladislav Sitsinski, acting on the orders of Alexander Radziwill. According to scientists, from 50 last General Sejm without any obstacles it took only seven "[2].

It is extremely negative impact on the state of the state in the XVIII century. Gentry acted liberties. Abuse them with the god of the nobility led the country into anarchy. The situation when a representative of the nobility could block any decision of the Sejm, did a very problematic solution of many important issues. In addition, changes in the political system could be regarded as a violation of the rights of the nobility and was the basis for the disobedience of the government. Thus there is a deadlock.

Moreover, even if the Diet was not derailed and the decision on it was made, it is often not carried out, as in the Commonwealth was not central executive bodies. Know solve many questions on the local Sejmiks. Although competence rampart Sejm and county Regional Parliament was demarcated, in fact it was not carried out. It has already been mentioned example, when the nobility in 1671 in the district of Brest relational Sejmiks reported that a diet consider establishing taxes and military duties, she is referring to the absence of a quorum, it did not lead to an order of a diet rampart and postponed the debate on these issues.

In the second half of the XVIII century. attempts to reform the political system have been taken. Activities reformers particularly intensified after the death in October 1763 by King August. Thus, a diet in 1764 on the use of rights restrictions "liberum veto" was introduced. 3 this time "solutions for economic issues taken by a majority vote, but the deputies were not allowed to follow the commandments of the Regional Parliament, when they resisted the idea of majority" [1, p.79].

Finally, the rights of "liberum veto" was abolished only with the adoption of the Constitution of May 3, 1791.

Another cause of the Commonwealth of the crisis can be called numerous wars that took place on its territory. Especially on the state of the state influenced the Northern War. As a result of its country's economy was badly damaged. In addition, the Northern War became a kind of continuation of the civil war between the magnate groups. Another consequence of the war to the North of the Commonwealth was the growing influence of Russia in the internal political affairs.

Russia and Prussia were interested in maintaining a weak RP and therefore maintained the existing order there. That is why Russia is extremely negative attitude to the reforms of the 1760s. With the support of the Russian Empire King Rzeczpospolita Stanislaw Poniatowski he was elected. Also under the terms of, planted Russia and Prussia, the size of the army has been reduced. The Russian army was generally available in the territory of the Rzeczpospolita. Akramya addition, Russia is actively used the confessional issue. Prior to the Sejm by the Russian side raised the question of to balance-of the rights of non-Catholics (dissidents) with Catholics under the contract of 1686 between Russia and Rzeczpospolita. Sejm "positively this issue is not solved" [2, p.80]. In response, the patronage of Russia and Prussia in 1767 in Slutsk was established Orthodox, and in Torun - Protestant Confederation, which set out to achieve equality of religions in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. As a result, the Diet was met the requirements aspirations of the dissidents, as well as adopt an

instrument known as the "cardinal rule". This law we remembered. He secured the inviolability of free use of the veto, the preservation of gentry rights and preventing the political system reform.

These events indicate a strong limitation of the sovereignty of the Commonwealth by Russia and Prussia. Diet has not been able to resist the influence of these two states. The reforms that have tried to implement during the second half of the XVIII century. It was negatively perceived by Russia. It can be said that the adoption of the Seimas "cardinal rule" was the first step on the path of death Rzeczpospolita independence. In response to said act Barska Confederation, which was intended to put the old established order of return, but failed. Confederation of activities was the occasion for the first partition of Poland.

Another reason for the inefficient activity of the Seimas is a political struggle between the nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland. For a long period Lithuanians demanded of the Diet and the rampart on the territory of ON. Only in 1673 the turning point. On Seimas ambassadors raised the question about general diets as their territory. Deputies more than a week did not start to consider other issues, and finally left the meeting. In addition, they threatened not to give the Crown armed assistance against the Turks. As a result, the Diet was forced to agree to the "convening every third Sejm in Grodno" [3, p.194]. However, even after this rule is not respected. As noted by A. Rakhuba [3, p. 196], it could be partly due to the "unwillingness of Poles to go to ON and live in a town far enough away from Warsaw's standards, as well as the weakness and fragmentation of the Lithuanian society." In addition, as mentioned earlier, Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania had unequal representation in the Diet: the Polish side has always had the advantage.

Also, moguls Grand Duchy of Lithuania to seek independence from the Kingdom of Poland and the rule in the state. Activities magnate groups imposed a very negative impact on the state of the state. The lack of unity in the Commonwealth - another factor that caused the political crisis of the state. Diet, carried out for reconciliation magnate groups did not always have positive results. A striking example of this is the fight of Sapieha of a dominant position in the state.

All the conditions in which the Diet was forced to act during the XVIII century. Undoubtedly perashkadali effective work of the supreme body of state power. Even the efforts of reform, which was taken at the Diet, is constantly faced with obstacles. Rzeczpospolita was in grave domestic and foreign situation. To overcome this situation it was almost impossible.

Based on all the above we can draw the following conclusions.

General Sejm, in essence, remained a class-representative body that protected the old feudal order. The activities of the Sejm in the XVIII century. It was particularly inefficient and are not allowed to take steps to reform the outdated system of state power. A number of obstacles are not allowed in the Commonwealth parliamentary system to develop freely. This led to a weakening of the Commonwealth and, finally, the disappearance of the state itself.

In the Diet activity in the XVIII century we can find positive aspects. Relationship gentry to their rights, their participation in representative institutions indicates a good level of political and legal culture. In idea about rights of the nobility, we can trace the glimmers of democracy.

It is also noteworthy that the reform of the political system of the Commonwealth in the second half of the XVIII century carried out not through revolution, but through the activities of diets. Tradition and the ideals of representative offices established in the Commonwealth could become a good foundation for the development of parliamentary and democratic institutions.

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