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Summary

Polish state towards culture in the years 1918-1939

This is a dissertation devoted to the Polish administrative apparatus responsible for cultural matters in the state; it is a work about institutions, about people and their views, and decisions regarding the organization and normalization of the cultural or artistic life of the country, about the politics that was conducted in matters of culture in the years 1918-1939.

The subsequent chapters describe the structure of the administrative apparatus, the history of selected institutions, state activities in selected areas of cultural life, subsidizing and financial activities, decisions, regulations and legislation regarding this sphere of social life in Poland.

The dissertation attempts to analyze the mechanisms of state care over culture and artists, so the subject of research was also an administrative process, implemented by officials connected by interdependencies with various ministries or institutions. Understanding the parts this process consisted of, learning all its aspects and particularly the place and role of culture in a reborn state has become the main task of this monograph.

The first chapter introduces the history of the ministries responsible for administering the cultural matters in Poland and abroad, including, where possible, their internal transformations and attempts to shape care programs over culture.

The second chapter describes cultural institutions set up by state authorities and under the protection and influence of the state, taking into account the most important facts about the activities of these institutions and attempts to shape the area of social life, which was cultural activity.

The third chapter presents the methods of financing and subsidizing culture and all kinds of cultural activities, as well as the authors themselves, including financial assistance provided to them, benefits and prizes awarded by central government bodies of the Polish state and cultural institutions subject to these bodies.

This chapter also elaborates on the state's activities in selected areas of cultural life, such as museology and monument protection, which were not yet analyzed in previous chapters of the work, as well as the revendication of cultural property after the World War I. An interesting part of the monograph is the fourth chapter, in which the state's activities in cultural matters abroad were characterized. In particular, these concerned the Polish diplomatic missions aimed at maintaining cultural traditions among the Polish community, as well as using culture for the purpose of improving interstate relations and inter-state rapprochement.

Finally, the last but probably equally interesting part of the dissertation was an attempt to show the cultural policy of the state in the reviewed period. Analyzing the actions of the state and the official approach of state authorities, including individual ministers, regarding the state towards culture relationship, attempts were made to demonstrate whether such a policy was conducted during the Second Polish Republic. The fifth chapter contains the answer to this question.

This work is not a full monograph presenting the activities of the state in matters of culture in the smallest areas and in the smallest facts, but rather is it an attempt at a basic study of a problem worth further attention of researchers dealing with the interwar period.

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