

**Presidium of the State National Council in the constitutional system of the Polish state  
(1944-1947)  
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Summary:**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the legal and institutional position of the Presidium of State National Council in the Polish political system over the period 1944 – 1947. The choice of the subject was associated with a relatively low interest which today accompanies the legal aspects of the takeover by the Polish Workers' Party. Therefore, the subject of the thesis is of great importance due to political, social, and economic changes which occurred in Poland after World War II, when a specific model of political system in the form of a State National Council and its Presidium was created. It is worth noting that many legislative acts from this period are still in force, especially in the range of ownership relations. It mainly relates to the legal regulations concerning the reform of agriculture and nationalization. All of them were discussed at the meetings of the Presidium of the State National Council, which approved the decrees of the executive power. The Presidium of State National Council functioned between 1944 and 1947. However, the dissertation would not be complete if it did not discuss the impact of former legal regulations on the legal system at the time, or the contemporary importance of acts issued after World War II.

The thesis contains four chapters not including the introduction, conclusions, a list of references, and three annexes. The first chapter discusses the history of the communist movement in Poland, first socialist organizations in the nineteenth century, as well as the activities of the Polish Communist Party. This chapter explains why the party was not called communist, and why it did not introduce in Poland the dictatorship of the proletariat, but presented a relatively liberal program.

The second chapter presents the facts concerning the State National Council. In particular, it discusses the legal framework of the provisional parliament: the Statute of the Provisional Councils, Manifesto of the Polish Committee of National Liberation from 22 July 1944, which referred to the basic principles of the Constitution from 17 March 1921, and the Act from 11 September 1944 on the organization and the range of activities of national councils. It also presents the composition of the State National Council and the way of appointing new members. After analyzing the composition of the provisional parliament it was stated that even though the authority was considered a representative of the workers and peasants, in practice the two social classes were poorly represented in it.

The third chapter discusses the institutional character, composition, competences and activities of the Presidium of National Council regarding the rights acquired by the custom constitution. In addition, special attention was drawn to the competence concerning the legalization of political parties and legal position of the Presidium of the State National Council, in relation to the government, Audit Office, and its relation to the field of national councils and successively recreated local government. The last chapter is devoted to the position and the relation of the Presidium of the State National Council to the administration of justice. In particular, it discusses the activities of the Special Commission to Combat Embezzlement and Economic Sabotage, which was an extrajudicial body, fully subordinated to the Presidium of State National Council. Moreover, this chapter discusses the process of recovery of the administration of justice after World War II, which was controlled to a great extent by the Presidium of State National Council.

The thesis ends with an assessment of the Presidium of State National Council in the political system at the time, which attempts to explain the role of the Presidium and its role in People's Poland system of government. It also presents the effect of decrees, laws, and regulations, which were issued by the Presidium of State National Council on today's legal system.