

SUMMARY

This dissertation presents the origins of general Charles de Gaulle's concept of the state. A range of selected factors have been analysed in order to show their impact on shaping the aforementioned concept. De Gaulle's family background, his World War I experiences, the influences of christian movements such as *Le Sillon* and *Le Correspondant*, as well as the impact of the following writers and thinkers: Charles Péguy, Ernest Psichari, Émile Boutroux, Henri Bergson and Maurice Barrès shaped de Gaulle's political thought relatively quickly – in fact already in the 30s of the 20th century. The concept of a strong head of state acting as neutral arbitrator, *pouvoir modérateur*, has already been developed in the beginning of the 19th century by Benjamin Constant and clearly coincides with Charles de Gaulle's vision. Certain similarities have also been noticed between the concept of de Gaulle and the doctrine of Carl Schmitt, with regard to its pragmatism and efficiency of measures taken (de Gaulle was a partisan of the *doctrine des circonstances*). This dissertation further presents the parallels between the Constitution of the Fifth Republic and the Polish April Constitution. Many solutions implemented in the Constitution of the Fifth Republic were in fact inspired by the last draft constitution of the government of the National Revolution. Despite the ideological and moral grounds of the *France Libre* and Vichy being extremely distant, the constitutional solutions adopted by both were surprisingly similar. De Gaulle's thought evolved in a broader context of critical attitude to parliamentarism, which could but did not necessarily have to (as proven by the example of de Gaulle) deny the fundamental ideas of democracy. De Gaulle created an intermediary model of governance, the so called semi-presidential system, aimed at serving the French Republic for many years in order to implement *une certaine idée de la France*.

KEYWORDS

Maurice Barrès, Henri Bergson, Émile Boutroux, Benjamin Constant, Le Correspondant, doctrine of circumstances, France, Charles de Gaulle, April Constitution, Constitution of the Fifth Republic, Charles Péguy, Philippe Pétain, a certain idea of France, Józef Piłsudski, president, draft constitution of the government of the National Revolution, Ernest Psichari, Carl Schmitt, Le Sillon, executive power, Vichy;