

Constitutional development of selected Central European countries in 1945 – 1990

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the constitutional-law development of selected countries of Central Europe, namely the development in the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland, from 1945 to 1990. The thesis captures significant changes in the field of constitutional law in these countries and tries to put them into the background of social events and moods of the time.

After an initial outline of the social situation after the end of the Second World War, the work deals with the situation in post-war Germany, the division of its occupation zones including the circumstances that preceded the division, and then the emergence of political parties in each zone.

The third chapter deals with the development in the Federal Republic of Germany. It analyses the establishment of the Basic Law and the Republic itself and describes in detail the constitutional framework formed by the Basic Law, not forgetting the occupation status and the general treaty. The conclusion of this chapter belongs to the amendments to the Basic Law until 1990.

Developments in the German Democratic Republic are dealt with in the fourth chapter. It analyses in detail the constitution of 1949, as well as its changes and similarity with the Basic Law. The next part of the work describes the development since the adoption of the new constitution in 1968, its gradual amendment, and finally depicts the legal and social circumstances of the reunification of both German countries.

The next chapter describes the constitutional development in Poland, respectively. Polish and then Polish People's Republic. It deals with the circumstances of the adoption of the "small constitution" in 1947, its content to describe the development until the adoption of a proper constitution in 1952. The thesis then analyses constitutional changes and describes social moods and events, including declaration of war. The end of this chapter has been in development since the revolutionary year 1989.

The last chapter illustrates the position of churches in all states mentioned. They put their position in the constitutional context and then analyse the role that churches played in the individual states within each period.

Key-words: constitution, constitutional development, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, churches