

Abstract

This bachelor thesis analyzes influence of the Smolensk aircraft catastrophe on Polish politics. Work is based on the analysis of internal political development and changes in the political language of the relevant actors and it identifies sources of polarization of Polish politics after 2010. Theoretical framework is an attempt of Tomasz Zarycki to synthesise Rokkan's and Lipset's theory of cleavages with Kitschelt's concept of political conflict. The main part is an analysis of the language of political actors which includes selected events in the period between the catastrophe and the end of 2011.

Key words

Polarization, cleavages, centre, periphery, Smolensk, Poland, Civic Platform, Law and Justice, Kaczyński, Tusk