

**Abstract:**

The aim of this thesis is to describe the polish elears in services of the Habsburgs in 1618-1620. The main focus is put on the cause of formation of this cavalry unit, and circumstances under which they began to serve in the services of the Austrian empire. I equally focus on their identity and their place of origin. I also try to analyze internal relations within the Polishh-Lithuanian Commonwealth and its foreign policy, which, I believe determined the very existence of the polish elears, that I percieve as one of the symptoms of crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.