

I research in this study the question of the three partitions of Poland in the years 1772, 1793 and 1795, which created one of the main problems of international politics in the second half of the 18th century. This problem had its importance for the whole Central and Eastern Europe. The backwardness of Poland and its growing anarchy in this country initiated the struggle of three Great Powers – Russia, Austria and Prussia. Following this process, Poland, the second largest kingdom in Europe, was eradicated from the political map and for more than a century its independence was destroyed, which caused serious problems in the future. By destruction of Poland the three Great Powers liquidated a buffer zone between themselves and gained common borders. I concentrated myself on the analysis of the internal conditions in Poland and on the international circumstances, which influenced the development on the way to the partition. I tried in my paper to answer some basic questions concerning the internal development in Poland, importance of the partition for participating Great Powers and for the European power-balance.