

Summary

Constitutional development in England – from the outset to the 17th century

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse the constitutional development in England from the fifth century to the beginning of the seventeenth century and it attempts to give a comprehensible and thorough summary of this period.

The thesis is composed of ten chapters and its subchapters. The first chapter deals with the anglo-saxon period, which started in the fifth century with the arrival of german tribes to England and it is divided into three subchapters. The first subchapter analyzes not only the general historical development, but also some of the earliest laws of anglo-saxon kings. Second subchapter is concerned with the composition of the main authorities of anglo-saxon state, power of its rulers, officers of the king's court and with the role of the Christian Church, which was very important. The last subchapter focuses on the reign of Edward the Confessor and the enclosure of anglo-saxon period.

Next chapter is concerned with the Norman period and it is composed of seven subchapters. These subchapters deal with the laws of William the Conqueror and the Domesday Book, feudalism in England, power of the king, chief officers of the state, organization of authorities of the kingdom, of the courts of law and administration of the kingdom. Two last subchapters analyze the reign of William Rufus and Henry I. The third chapter analyzes the constitutional development under the two great rulers, Henry II. and Richard the Lion Hearted, and it is composed of two subchapters. This chapter points out some of the main changes in constitutional development of those times. It also describes aims and content of important documents borned in that time. Among them belong for example Constitution of Clarendon, Clarendon Assizes and Northampton Assizes.

Next chapter is concerned with the rule of John the Lackland and with the issue of the Great Charter of Liberties, which possesses an exceptional importance. For this reason I dedicated to the Great Charter its own subchapter.

The fifth chapter concentrates on the development under Henry III. and the issue of Provisions of Oxford and Provisions of Westminster.

Next chapter is dedicated to the age of Edward I. and it is divided into four subchapters. These subchapters deal with the evolution of Parliament, courts of law and offices of that time. The last subchapter is concerned with a document called „*Confirmatio Cartarum*“.

The seventh chapter deals with the reign of the last Plantagenets and of the House of Lancaster and York. It consists of six subchapters and it deals mainly with development under individual rulers, but also with the evolution of courts of equity and parliament.

Following chapter describes the age of Tudors on the english throne. It consists of five subchapters and each of them is dedicated to individual sovereigns of the House of Tudor. I paid special attention to newly developed courts of those days, called Court of Star Chamber and Court of High Commission.

Next chapter analyzes the system of administration under Tudors and the last chapter deals with the development of parliament. Special subchapter is dedicated to the development of parliament under Elizabeth I.