

Title**Political polarization in the party systems of Poland and Hungary in the first two decades of the 21st century****Abstract**

Political polarization is one of the most popular issues in contemporary political science. This work is part of the scientific discussion on this topic. The purpose of the work was to analyze the political polarization in the party systems of Poland and Hungary in the first two decades of the 21st century.

The dissertation presents three concepts of political polarization. The one-dimensional concept is based on Giovanni Sartori's proposal that political polarization is the ideological distance between parties. In the two-dimensional concept, political polarization is not only the ideological distance between groups, but also the "vanishing of the political center". The political polarization of the multidimensional concept concerns the polarization of elites as well as the polarization of society (it manifests itself both in the political and social dimensions).

After conceptualizing political polarization, presenting the methods of its measurement (based on three distinguished definitions) and methods of obtaining information on the ideological positions of political parties, the evolution of the discussed party systems was presented using the synchronistic method. Then, the study of political polarization in the party systems of Poland and Hungary in the first two decades of the 21st century was carried out based on the identified one-dimensional, two-dimensional and multidimensional concepts. The analysis was carried out, among others, based on information from the Manifesto Project Database and Chapel Hill Expert Survey. The work attempts a comparative analysis to show the similarities and differences between the party systems of Poland and Hungary (generally and in specific periods). In addition, an attempt was made to predict how polarization processes in the Polish and Hungarian political systems will develop in the future.

Keywords

political polarization, party system, political parties, Poland, Hungary