

*Iwona Górnicka*

*The political press of 1669 – 1673 as an element of the struggle between the royal faction and the magnate opposition's propaganda*

A PhD dissertation abstract.

The subject of this dissertation is an analysis of political press issued in the years 1669 – 1673 in respect of a struggle between political factions of that time, namely, supporters of king Michał and the magnate opposition. The less than five-year-long period of the monarch's rule abounded in important political events that had a substantial impact on the further fate of the Republic of Poland.

The periodicals discussed in the thesis were founded during fierce political struggles of that time. Their subject matter referred to various types of events that were taking place in the country and abroad, serving as a commentary. By means of these periodicals, both groups were trying to exert influence on nobility's views in a suitable way and, hence, achieve the desired goal. Authors of these periodicals attacked their opponents, made attempts at discrediting them in the eyes of nobility, and wanted to undermine the arguments they put forward. One of the objectives that was shared by both these groups was to show themselves as defenders of the rights of the Republic of Poland and Nobles' freedoms. These served also for winning new supporters in the dispute taking place at that time.

The thesis comprises three chapters addressing the issue in a chronological order.

Chapter One is dedicated to fundamental issues related to the background and John Casimir's abdication. The narrative begins with the year 1661, when the royal court undertook efforts aimed at pushing through a *vivente rege* election. Another matter of key importance presented in the chapter is the formation of political factions in the interregnum period of 1668-1669.

In Chapter Two, the focus is put on analysing political press founded and distributed in the Republic of Poland in the years 1669-1671. Further in the chapter, an attempt at bringing two leading members of the magnate opposition Krzysztof Grzymułtowski and Jan Andrzej Morsztyn to trial is addressed.

Chapter Three is dedicated to the events of the years 1672 – 1673 and the role that political press founded at that time played in them. It provides also a closer look on activities undertaken by both camps during the two broken up *Sejm* sessions in 1672, and the propaganda war fought at the time of the Gołąb Confederation. This chapter addresses also the political journalism of the early 1673, when a reconciliation between the magnate opposition and the king's supporters was negotiated.