SUMMARY

doctoral dissertation

„Historical reenacment groups as subjects of political activity".

Doctoral dissertation in the filed of social sciences in the discipline of political and administration sciences.
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Historical reconstruction groups are nowadays more and more recognizable and active organizations both in Poland and in the world. In Poland, the term „historical reenactment" began to be used widely since 2000, and popularization is largely the responsibility of people involved in the 20th-century reconstruction, with particular emphasis on World War II. The term „reconstruction" is commonly associated with the process of producing (based on materials and technologies available modernly) replicas of preserved cultural objects of past eras, with the word replica being the key term here. The main research goal of this dissertation is to emphasize the role and importance of historical reenactment groups in the Polish political and social space.

The chronological framework of the dissertation covers the period from the second half of the 1990s to 2018. The analyzed research period is important, because this period was the time of intensive development of the reenactment movement in Poland. The political and social role of the historical reenactment movement, as a phenomenon present on the contemporary political scene, remains a new and unexplored topic. The main purpose of the dissertation is to answer the question of what role and significance are the reenactment groups in the Polish political and social space. The research hypothesis of the dissertation is: the successive development of historical reenactment groups in the years 1992-2018 mean that they became an important participant in the Polish political scene. Additionally, the dissertation presents the following auxiliary hypotheses: the terminology of research on the historical reenactment movement in political science requires the development of a conceptual apparatus; Historical

reenactment groups are active participant in the social life of local structures; new media are an essential tool for communication between reenactment groups and other groups and the public.

The nature of the research carried out is complex and multidimensional, which results from the fact that the analyzed phenomenon is interdisciplinary. In order to verify the hypotheses, the following research methods were adopted in the dissertation: systemic, observational, behavioral, quantitative and also historical. The presented dissertation consists of an introduction, four chronological chapters, an ending and an extensive appendix. The first chapter entitled The history of the origin of historical reenactment groups in Poland focuses on answers to the following research questions: what is the genesis of historical reenactment groups? What are the categories of historical reenactment groups? Who are historical reconstructors? and what are the motives for participating in historical reenactment groups? The first chapter is of a theoretical nature, an important issue was the systematization of the notions: historical reconstruction, historical reenactment and historical reconstructor. This part of the work also presents the genesis of the reenactment movement and the typology of historical reenactment groups.

The second chapter of the work entitled Historical reenactment groups towards the current policy of the Polish state is aimed at defining the place of historical reenactment groups on the Polish political scene. In view of the above, three research questions were posed: what is the role of historical reenactment groups in public space? What is the connections between historical reenactment groups and political events shaped? and what role are historical reenactment groups playing in the national defense strategy? The conducted analysis allowed to state that the community of historical reenactors, regardless of the form in which they conduct their activities, occupies an important place in the public space. This is reflected in the cooperation with government and self-government administration, cultural institutions, associations, schools and enterprises. Through their activity, they perform important social functions in the public space. They mainly activate local social groups, perform an educational and educational function in the field of creating the historical policy of the state, and significantly influence the development of citizens political culture. The research conducted for the purposes of the dissertation allowed to state that in 2014 nearly 85% of the surveyed reenactors declared conservative voting preferences. This chapter also highlights the role of historical reconstruction groups in the national defense strategy.

The third chapter The political views of members of historical reconstruction groups represented on the basis of Internet resources are determined by the political preferences of the reconstructors. In the above chapter, the following research questions were posed: what extent

does the participation of reconstructors in the reenactment environment affects into their political awareness? Which of the features of the reconstruction movement indicate that it may be a new political and social movement? What influence do groups of historical reconstructions have on the state's historical policy? The profiles of 7 historical reenactment groups active on Facebook were analyzed in detail. This research allowed to establish that these groups do not generally refer directly to political issues on their profiles. The dominant subject matter is reports on events in which group members participated as reenactors. Nevertheless, the reconstructors refer to the political reality, referring to media comments on their activity in the public space.

In the last chapter: Activities of selected reconstruction groups in Podlaskie province, focused on a detailed analysis of two historical reenactment groups. The research focused on the essence and principles of their functioning as typical groups of World War II reconstruction. In this part of the dissertation, the following research questions were posed: how are groups of historical reconstructions constituted? To what extent does membership in historical reenactment groups affect in their political and social activity? What political preferences dominate among reenactors? To what extent and to what extent the role of historical reconstruction groups in the local political and social space? Based on the research carried out on the above-mentioned groups of reconstructions, an attempt was made to establish the essence of the mechanisms of the reconstructors activity in the political space. Particular attention was focused on examining their political awareness and political preferences.

The results of the research presented in the fourth chapter are supplemented by an appendix containing detailed results of the surveys. The dissertation ends with a conclusion containing comprehensive conclusions from the theoretical-empirical analysis and conclusions regarding the verification of the research hypotheses. In this part of the dissertation, reference was also made to the obtained research results from the point of view of their cognitive and pragmatic values in the aspect of political science analyzes. The main finding resulting from empirical research is the statement that historical reconstruction groups are an important participant in the political and social life of local communities. They become active participants of the political scene and aspire more and more to the role of a political actor.