

The Diplomacy of the Second Polish Republic to the decomposition of the Versailles System

Poland owed her return on the map of Europe to profitable conditions, which took place on the international arena because of decision of the Great War. Polish Republic reborn after 123 years, didn't possess steady territorial borders and she came into border conflicts practically with all neighboring countries. Because of that, special meaning for Poland had the Versailles system – new international order, supported with peaceful treaties, which signatories were from one side victorious states and from second side every of losers states.

The most important from all treaties was the agreement signed on 28 June 1919 between allied and Germany, which were recognized to be guilty of started the world conflict. This agreement was also very important for Polish state, because it established his borders with western neighbor. Because of 87 Article, Germany were forced to approval total independence of Poland and they renounced for Poland all rights and titles to territories, which were on the power of the Versailles Treaty in borders of polish state. Main purpose of polish foreign politics became to keeping in invariable form the Versailles decisions.

Main investigative aim of this work is to introduce marginally and small – known matters from polish historiography, connected with activity of polish diplomacy aiming at stopped disadvantageous working for Poland, which had to broke fundamental decisions of the Versailles system. Protection of territorial integrity and political sovereignty was closely connected with Versailles Treaty, which this both attributes guaranteed to Poland. Konstany Skirmunt started politics aiming to making exactly Versailles decisions, which named the peaceful agreement with Germany the “constitutional card” of reborn polish state. Skirmunt's politics was continued by Aleksander Skrzyński and August Zaleski – who was able to kept independence in his diplomacy and he could established to direction of politics his predecessors.

This work was divided in four chapters. First chapter entitles “Take shaping new European order” consists of two parts. At first part were introduced struggles of victory

powers, which brought to establish main rules of new international system, on which should be base international relations in postwar Europe. The most important and standard peaceful treaty with Germany was made at time peaceful Parisian conference and it included fundamental rules of postwar order. Description and characterization of Parisian debates was so main object of consideration of this part of work. At the second part was described the situation of reborn Polish state at day before Versailles conference and her influence for position of Poland at the time of Parisian debate. It was presented attempts to achieve a compromise by governed at Pilsudski country and located in middle of world debates delegate Dmowski. Actions, which made Dmowski and representative of Warsaw government Paderewski were first serious diplomatic steps at the international arena, which should ensured reborn Poland territorial form according concepts of two main ideologists, Dmowski and Pilsudski. This second one, when he was at country and exercised power by the army, he led his own politics at the areas of former Russian Empire, what had influence at the final decision of "Big Three" and on picture of Poland during the debates.

Chapter second entitles "Birth of Locarno system" consists of three parts. At first one was characterized the process of formation the block of revisionists states, which didn't agree with conditions of peaceful treaties, in which was build Versailles system and from the beginning they tried o destroy it. The most important in this chapter was description of cooperation between Germany and Soviet Union, which the symbol was Rapallo. The common objective of both neighboring states was destroyed hostile international system, which the symbol was Poland. Recovery of lost lands for reborn Polish state was main factor, which connected both states.

At the second part of chapter two described view of victory powers to exercised by Germany treaty peaceful obligations, which were Franco – British compromise. Very fast turned out, that biggest contradictions between allies started appearance in situation, when Germany politicians on purpose avoided to kept conditions of treaty. In such circumstances showed the main factor, which made weakness of new European order. The climax was Ruhr occupation, which brought break of French politics and subordination to her to the politics of London. At this moment into European politics joined The United States of America and western powers were in debt by them. Finally, Germany got from that state and from Great Britain credits and new profitable conditions to paid reparations. That were first serious modifications into conditions of the peaceful treaty included with Germany, which deprived

France to take control over paying reparations by Germany in agreement with rights of commission of compensations.

In result of subordinated Paris to British politics, it was started time of illusion cooperated western powers with Germany, which changed the Versailles system into Locarno system, which undermined the most important rule of Versailles Treaty, which was guarantee of inviolable borders in it included. Run of negotiations about west security pact and session of powers at conference in Locarno were described at the third part of chapter two.

Chapter third entitles "The Diplomacy of the Second Polish Republic into Locarno system" was divided in three part. First part was introducing to formed main and fundamental rules of polish foreign politics and also how it was practically realizing. First minister, who announced in public, that main purpose of polish foreign politics was keeping status quo in agreement with conditions Versailles Treaty, was Konstanty Skirmunt. When he led polish diplomacy, he was trying to made it independent, without Pilsudski power, because Pilsudski until that moment totally influenced of following ministers of Foreign Affairs. First serious test for polish diplomats and their skills of protection Versailles order, which guaranteed security to Poland, was conference in Genoa. That's why polish minister at this time had special observation. Next were characterizing short periods of led Polish diplomacy by following ministers: Gabriel Narutowicz, Aleksander Skrzyński and representatives of national democracy: Marian Seyda, Roman Dmowski, Maurycy Zamoyski.

Second part of third chapter was devoting unlucky cases for Poland, which started to happened at the international area because of conference in London and introduced plan of Dawes. In the consequence of arised profitable situation for Germany, new minister of Foreign Affairs became Aleksander Skrzyński, which had to restored stability state position and checked unprofitable changes of treaties. The climax were actions of polish diplomacy at time of conversations about west security pact, and also at time of finalized to them at the Locarno conference. Main purpose was to stop diversified of guarantee in Western Europe and Eastern Europe, what finally didn't succeed. In result establishment of Versailles order were seriously modified, unfortunately for Poland, which border with Germany was until that moment inviolable.

At the third part Second Polish Republic was aiming to stopped another decisions of powers, which would broke Versailles order and set free German state from following treaty hard restriction. The same politics like Skrzyński was continued at different conditions by August Zaleski, which just like his predecessor – security of Poland connected with inviolable

peaceful treaties, system of collective security and National League. Zaleski started fight to reinforcement weakened position of Poland because of Locarno agreement. He was trying to take constant place with Germany in board of National League and renew alliance Polish-Romanian. At this period followed principal decomposition of Versailles system.

Chapter fourth entitles "The last stage decomposition of Versailles – Locarno order" was shared in two parts. At first part showed existing schedule of decisions of Versailles Treaty, however mostly didn't respect in period of Weimar Republic. Passivity and infirmity of western powers encouraged Hitler to one-sided pronounced treaty obligations. Nazis started unrestrained armaments and it caused reconstruction of shape of Europe and destroyed borders established in peaceful treaties.

Second part of fourth chapter showed Polish actions at the international area under total direction of Joseph Pilsudski, which conceptions were realized by Joseph Beck. Politics to keeping the same distance from Berlin to Moscow was priority purpose. Good relationship with neighbors and biggest than earlier self-reliance with making decisions of international politics should help Poland to keep politics status quo. Better relations with Germany would guarantee security from western neighbor and keep boards from Versailles Treaty. Main goal of this part of chapter was showing themes, which Beck directed in his passivity politics, for example when Hitler broke next articles of the peaceful treaty, or when the remilitarization of Rhineland was taking place, and he made insincere and evasive obligations to France. The biggest controversy Beck done through used the Anschluss of Austria and the annexation of Sudety. The power politics made of the last foreign minister of the Second Polish Republic and her achievements proved to be short-lived. Poland, which aspired to destruction Czechoslovakia and used her difficult location to recover Cieszyn Silesia, in a very short time divided her fate.

The investigative purpose of this work – to show position and specific actions of Polish diplomacy to decomposition of Versailles system, was realized primary at second and third chapter of work. Actions of Polish diplomacy was reconstructed on base documents from Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, central and foreign institution situated in Archive of New Acts in Warsaw. The most important were teams: Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, Polish Republic embassy in London, Polish Republic embassy in Berlin, Polish Republic embassy in Paris, Polish Republic delegation at National League in Geneva. The most important to reconstructed conceptions and goals, which Poland was aiming in international politics, were archive documents: instructions, telegrams, telephonograms and

screeds, which were founded in Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, his departments and also reports and elaborations of Polish diplomats, which were working in main capitols of Europe: London, Paris and Berlin.

The whole work closes the ending and the bibliography. In the ending summarized the activities of Polish diplomacy to the decomposition of the Versailles system, which confirmed reborn of Polish statement and which Poland became the symbol.

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