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Editorial: Around the disputes over sovereignty

Despite its long academic tradition, the category of sovereignty is a concept which seems to be rediscovered nowadays. Contemporary challenges faced by states, both in their international and national dimensions, require the term *sovereignty* to be redefined. Representatives of various academic disciplines research this concept and reach interesting conclusions revealing new perspectives on the old concepts of sovereignty. However, within these novel approaches, the category of sovereignty invariably refers to the relations between states, to political systems, to organized societies and sometimes even to individuals. It is worth considering centuries-long heritage of thought devoted to sovereignty, as drawing from it might offer a greater insight into and solutions to certain current problems connected with the understanding of sovereignty.

This volume of *Horyzonty Polityki* (*Horizons of Politics*) is devoted to the theoretical understanding of sovereignty and refers to the topics discussed last year in volume 14, to some extent being their continuation. Bogdan Szlachta's article describes the Roman Church as an example of the first sovereign political entity, which was an important proposition also for secular political entities in the late Middle Ages and the early modern period. Anna Krzynówek-Arndt explains internal tensions within the area of modern concepts of sovereignty and the sovereignty of the people, in her considerations referring mainly to various interpretations of works by J.J. Rousseau. Beata Nuzzo presents the evolution of the understanding of internal sovereignty, which was at first identified with absolute self-governance and supreme authority of a state, while now it is – to a great extent – shaped by international

relations. Rafał Lis analyses the thoughts of J.J. Rousseau and J. Madison, paying particular attention to the issue of citizenship, which is a very interesting specification of the category of the sovereignty of the people. Sergiusz Bober views sovereignty in the context of multiculturalism and multinationality of contemporary federal political systems in India and Nigeria and tries to investigate the influence of the analysed phenomena on the understanding of the concept of sovereignty in these two countries. Adam Danek describes discrepancies between the concepts of sovereignty and a sovereign in a contemporary state within the area of the state leadership. He tries to establish who makes decision regarding the policy of a state, that is, what agent executes the sovereignty of a state. Marcin Baran analyses the reasons why it is difficult to reconcile modern understanding of sovereignty or the autonomy of a moral agent with the concept of really existing good. He mentions the problem of uncritically accepted premises of ethical reflections included in "the myth of enlightenment" and "the metaphysics of the modern world."

Wojciech Arndt