
Studia Politicae Universitatis Silesiensis, T. 3 : summary.

Studia Politicae Universitatis Silesiensis 3, 313

2007

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

S u m m a r y

Because of the subject-matter raised here, the works presented in the volume in question, as well as in the part devoted to reviews and discussions, were divided into four thematic groups, i.e. the political thought, political systems, international affairs and European integration. To the most interesting articles within the scope of the political thought belongs the one which deals with a crucial subject from the perspective of the needs of the turn of the centuries and in which a thought about widely-understood relations between a liberal democracy and a social teaching by the Catholic church from Michael Novak's perspective is presented. What is also interesting is the work devoted to deliberations on the main values and conceptions characteristic of the socio-political model of the United States of America.

In the part devoted to the political systems, a special emphasis is put on the work highlighting the issues concerning the nature of the French party system, as well as the article showing the evolution and specificity of the party system in Ireland. Also, worth recommending are the text imprinted into the current of the studies on the topic of a territory government, and a direct democracy, and the one discussing the process of planning the *strategy of local and regional development on the Polish-German borderline*.

In the part concerning international affairs and European integration the most important seems the article presenting deliberations on the implications of the third war in the Persian Gulf for the process of Iraq democratisation in the light of the USA strategy. The issue needs to be paid attention to, above all, in the context of difficulties in realising the main aims formulated by G.W. Bush's administration in relation to Iraq in 2002. Crucial, especially because of a discussion on the main integrative dilemmas the European Union experienced at the beginning of the 21st century, is the work paying special attention to the most significant aspects of a political debate on the issues of a *social model in Europe*.

The last part of the volume in focus includes reviews and discussions.