

## Summary

The aim of the doctoral dissertation “The erosion of the political leadership of First Secretaries of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party”, is to analyze a gradual collapse of the political leadership of the persons, who served functions of First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, taking place in the context of the most important internal system mechanisms. Regarding this study to the category of internal mechanisms, which included among others protests and strikes of social masses and the inability to guide the whole party-government apparatus, especially as a result of existing trends to extract factions of the party, and consequently fractional struggles, it should be noted that the erosion of political leadership could take place only if selected people serving as First Secretaries of the Party. The analysis, therefore, will be regarded only to: Bolesław Bierut (since 1944), Edward Ochab, Władysław Gomułka, Edward Gierek, Wojciech Jaruzelski (until 1990). Serving the function of First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party by Mieczysław Rakowski extends beyond the area of research interest of this work because of the inability of reference to that exercised its function any internal system mechanism. The turn of the 80s and 90s it is to be associated with the collapse of the current system and democratic transformation, whereby these processes were taking place as a result of multidimensional build internal and external conditions, unrelated to the fall of the political leadership Mieczysław Rakowski. In relation to other people, one can point to the erosion of their political leadership as a result of the above-mentioned mechanisms.

In the context the hypothesis of this dissertation is as follows: the faster the consensus gets exhausted, the faster the erosion of the political leadership First Secretaries of the Party gets in the following structure: First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party - the ruling elite - the ruling class - social masses. The dissertation consists of seven sections: introduction, one theoretical chapter, three chapters discussing relations between First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and the ruling elite, the ruling elite and the ruling class, the ruling class and social masses, ending and bibliography.

For the most adequate research method was adopted: an analysis of the content and, in addition, a comparative method.

It is assumed that results of this study significantly will be influenced the development of political science, especially in the area so far insufficiently explored, since, as have been established internal system mechanisms, which are the source of destruction of the non-democratic system (in this case the political system of Polish People's Republic) so far still not taken any research on identifying the causes of the disintegration of the political leadership secretaries of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, to which it causes will not be classified system internal mechanisms, representing only a general framework and defining possible context of the process a collapse of the political leadership of these persons. Their importance is secondary rather than conclusive, because they allow you to make a selection of persons whose a political leadership will be analyzed. In other words, they are the basis for the application of the concept of a leader for above-mentioned First Secretaries. Hence the possibility of conducting research in this area will be an inducement to further explore this area of knowledge, for a comprehensive analysis of diverse causes of falls authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.