

Lithuania and the Lithuanians as an Integral Part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Awareness of the Poles of the Modern Era (XVI–XVII Centuries)

Abstract:

In the 16th and 17th centuries Lithuania and the Lithuanians played an important role in the Old Polish awareness. This is evidenced by the opinions of the intellectuals of that time. They mainly expressed their opinion at the theoretical level. These opinions were in line with the opinions of the nobility, although they were more practical and laconic. Each of them confirmed the thesis about the subjective image of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its inhabitants. The shape of this image was of ethnogenic, dynastic, political, patriotic, religious and cultural character. All of them, in spite of slight differences, basically remained coherent, and positively evaluated the presence of Lithuania and its inhabitants in the structure of the state. It was remembered though, that the symbiosis of the Crown and Lithuania was a condition of the supreme nature – namely the power of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Keywords: Lithuania, the Crown of Poland, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the awareness of the 16th–17th centuries.