

Summary the dissertation:

Politics and diplomacy in the Activities of Jan Dmitri Solikowski from 1564 to 1603

The dissertation presents a figure often overlooked and underestimated in contemporary historiography - Jan Dmitri Solikowski. He was born in 1539, in Sieradz. He received a thorough education: he studied at the Cracow Academy and then for a year in Wittenberg. On his return to his homeland, he was ordained a priest and assumed various dignities: both clerical and secular. He was royal secretary, diplomat, canon of Wrocław, Sandomierz and Łęczyca, papal legate and archbishop of Lwów. In addition, he had literary talent and wrote many valuable works.

Research focuses on Solikowski's political and diplomatic achievements, although it is important to remember the particular role he also played in the religious life of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at the time.

The source base consists of materials available in Polish libraries and archives and collections held in Vienna.

The dissertation consists of six chapters. The first one: *Political activity connected with the chancellery of King Sigismund Augustus (1564-1572)* presents the beginnings of Jan Dymitr Solikowski's activity, connected with the internal and external policy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, during the reign of the last Jagiellon. A particular moment in this regard was his assumption of the post of secretary in the royal chancellery (1564). This was a great honour and an excellent opportunity to learn about the mechanisms of the state and gain valuable experience. The future archbishop quickly showed his potential and his superiors trusted him. This gave him the opportunity to participate in many diplomatic missions. At this stage, he was primarily concerned with maritime affairs, which also played an important role in his career in later years. He was sent to Denmark, Pomerania, Prussia and Warmia. Another important achievement was his participation in the deliberations of the Congress of Szczecin.

The second chapter presents the secretary's activities during the first and second *interregnums* and during the short reign of Henry Valois. After the death of Sigismund Augustus, he sided with the French pretender to the throne and became extremely committed to supporting his side. Particularly helpful in this regard was his work as a journalist, effectively encouraging the election of the French king's brother and fending off attacks from political opponents. Solikowski was one of King Henry's most loyal supporters. Solikowski was one of King Henry's most loyal

supporters. When the monarch secretly left for France, he believed in his return for a very long time. He even went to Paris to convince him not to give up the Polish-Lithuanian throne. The unsuccessful reign of the Valois did not discourage the secretary from continuing his political activities. During the second interregnum, he became the right hand of his protector Stanisław Karnkowski (Bishop of Kujawy). After the election of Stefan Batory, he undertook a secret mission to find out the religious preferences of the future king. When he made sure that Batory would be positive about the church, he showed him his support.

The third chapter presents the activities of Jan Dmitri Solikowski during the reign of Stefan Batory. The first part concerns foreign policy. Solikowski carried out missions to Regensburg, Rome and to Prussia and Inflants. These were missions of great importance to the position of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth on the international stage. By undertaking such difficult tasks, the future archbishop once again proved his diplomatic talent, mental toughness and loyalty to the ruler. The second part of this chapter reveals Solikowski's stance towards the internal situation of the state. Despite many military successes, Stefan Batory came into conflict with the nobility, clearly exacerbated by the controversial case of the Zborowski brothers. Although Solikowski did not always agree with the monarch, he tried to behave loyally, bearing in mind the *raison d'etre* of the state. By this time, he already had considerable political and diplomatic experience, which was also appreciated by the monarch. His successful missions and diligence earned him the dignity of Bishop of Lvov (1583).

The next part of the work: *Political involvement during the Third Interregnum and the election of Sigismund III Vasa*, presents a particular phase of the archbishop's career. The interregnum after the death of Stefan Batory was even more turbulent than the previous ones. When a double election took place: Sigismund Vasa and Maximilian, Solikowski did not support either of them. Moreover, he headed the so-called neutralists, a the group of people, who believed that both elections were illegal. He demonstrated his political independence and proved that he could act independently, without the support of patrons. Ultimately, in order to avoid a civil war, he supported the son of the Swedish king and, and tried to convince the nobility of the diocese of Lwów to do the same. The archbishop was certainly, at the time, not motivated by personal sympathy towards the Swede. He only changed his mind for the good of the state.

The fifth chapter, as the title indicates - *Activity in the early years of the reign of Sigismund III Vasa (1588-1603)*, describes Solikowski's activity at the threshold of the new king's reign. Although he was no longer a young man, he continued to participate actively in public life. He took part in the sessions of the Diet of Inquisition, where he sided with the king. He was involved in the affairs of his diocese. With great devotion, he fought to ensure the security of the Ruthenian lands,

supported the initiative of the established the Holy League against Turkey. He acted as an advocate of Church unification and played an important role in the work on the Union of Brest. In this part of the dissertation we also find a discussion of the archbishop's last mission to Inflants, where he went as an outstanding expert on the realities there.

The last chapter of the dissertation deals with the journalistic works of the Archbishop of Lwów. This is a controversial topic because some of the texts were published anonymously. This gave rise to many erroneous theories. Works of a clearly political nature have been analysed. As far as possible, the circumstances, the motives for their creation, and the links between the proclaimed content and Solikowski's public activities have been shown. An important aspect turns out to be the question of the reception of the individual works by the potential recipient.

The conclusion presents a summary of the analysis of the source material and attempts to answer the research questions posed. Solikowski has not been a figure willingly discussed by researchers so far. This dissertation proves that his significance is much greater than it appears and that he played a significant role in the history of the Commonwealth in the second half of the 16th century.