

Summary of the Doctoral Dissertation by

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Mieczysław F. Rakowski - a Political Biography

This dissertation outlines the career of Mieczysław Rakowski as a politician and journalist in the times of the People's Republic of Poland. It is both a chronological and a problem-focused description based on archival documents, memoirs and scientific literature. The dissertation is composed of 10 chapters.

The first chapter discusses the family background of Mieczysław Rakowski and his early career. The next two chapters present an analysis of how the new quality of journalism was developed in "Polityka" [Politics] weekly magazine.

Chapter four and five explore the work of Mieczysław Rakowski as a member of the Polish United Worker's Party (PZPR) during the era of Edward Gierek. It was important to demonstrate the turning point in the recent history of Poland - the emergence of the "Solidarity" movement and the approach of "Polityka" journalists to these events.

Chapter six and seven focus on the political career of Mieczysław Rakowski as a governmental negotiator appointed by Wojciech Jaruzelski to solve the political crisis by diplomatic means. They cover the events of the martial law and Rakowski's work on the governmental program and propaganda support.

Chapter eight is a study of Rakowski behaviour when his political career was brought to a halt. He resigned from the Deputy Prime Minister seat in 1985 and was appointed to a lower-ranked post as the Marshal of the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament.

The last two chapters discuss the major political achievements of Mieczysław Rakowski, who was appointed the Prime Minister, his economic reforms, diplomatic work in Europe, and the Polish legislative election of 1989 (the June elections), on the one hand, and the end of Rakowski's political career as the Chief Secretary of the Polish United Worker's Party (PZPR).