

# BIAŁYSTOK LAW BOOKS

BLB

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Artur Olechno

POLITICAL SYSTEMS  
OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

art.	- article
c.	- century
D.D.R.	-(Deutsche DemokratikRepublik) East Germany
e.g.	- (exempli grati) for example
E.U.	- European Union
g8	- group of Eight
i.e.	- (id est) that is
jr.	- junior
M.P.	- Member of Parliament
N.A.T.O.	- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
op.cit.	- (opus citatumest) the work has been cited
O.S.C.E.	- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
p.	- page
R.F.	- Russian Federation
R.F.S.S.R.	- Russian Federal Socialistic Soviet Republic
S.S.R.	- Soviet Socialist Republic
U.N.O.	- United Nation Organization
U.S.A.	- United States of America
U.S.S.R.	- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
W.T.O.	- World Trade Organization



# INTRODUCTION

Constitutional changes have been present in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe for over 20 years. They encourage to take a closer look at the procedures of the governments' creation and transformation, as well as at their final effects<sup>1</sup>.

Establishment of the democratic state and its further consolidation necessarily requires reform of the so far functioning mechanisms, including creation of a number of institutions essential to the functioning of a new state system. The crucial and first place task is to establish positions of the major state organs, their placement in the accepted classical model of Montesquieu's division of powers, conferral of the respected competences and regulation of their mutual relations. Due to limitations set by this series edition, the presented publication focuses on the above mentioned elements and dedicates particular chapters mainly to the analysis of constitutional solutions (the citations of numbers always refer to the articles of the given constitutional act of the state described), usually leaving aside the political practice and other than constitutional acts of law.

Particular democratic institutions are presented in the light of Polish and world used models, focusing on their constitutional position, competences and administrative structure. Author intends to show the genesis and evolution of the discussed institutions in the times of the political transformations. In other words, the idea is to present, at least slightly, an interesting subject of "constitutional engineering" of the newly established state. In addition, the book touches upon the problems of reception of the constitutional laws existing in the Western countries

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1 Example of the new Constitution of Hungary approved in April 2011 seems to be a perfect example of the ongoing changes. As the Constitution came out after the work on this publication had been done, Author removed the chapter dedicated to Hungary based on the old law and hopes to present Hungarian new order in the future publications.

in the systems of Central and Eastern European countries, as well as in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Selection of countries for this publication is subjective, but at the same time mainly based on the experience coming from lecturing on the topic and the interest of students or even their suggestions to examine those countries in the first place.

A longlasting process of state establishment has not been finished. At any moment we may expect further consitutional news in our region.

*Artur Olechno*