

State- And Nation-Building in Poland



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STATE- AND NATION-BUILDING IN POLAND



GRIN Verlag GmbH. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 20 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.1in. Essay from the year 2013 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Region: Eastern Europe, grade: 9, Maastricht University, language: English, abstract: Saisonstaat (seasonal state) - this was the pejorative name Prussian historians labelled Poland with in the 18th century (Davies, 2005, pp. 24, 324). They did so in the face of the partitions of Poland, which resulted in Poland completely vanishing off the map (Davies, 2005, p. 386). But why was Poland seen merely as an instrument for Prussia and Russia in striving for hegemony (Biskupski, 2000, p. 22) This question is difficult to answer and already gives a hint to the complexity of the process of state- and nation-building in Poland, which deviates in many aspects from the Western European countries. To provide a foundation for the concepts that this paper is based on, one needs to define the terms of both nation and state. According to Smith, a nation is more than only an ethnic group but a cultural- political community, living in an area of settlement and sharing a common heritage, culture and law (Smith, 1995, p. 57). The concept of a state applied derives from Roberts. To him, a state is characterized by the presence of supreme authority, ruling over a defined territory, who is recognized as having power to make decisions in matters of government . . . (Roberts, 1979, p. 32). Taking these definitions into consideration, this paper is divided into four sections, relating each of the different stages in the state- and nation-building process to one season of the year. This paper firstly examines the economic spring of Poland, the Piast dynasty, thereafter attention is laid on the Jagiellonian period, Polands summer, which is linked to...

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