

Abstract

The Process of Constituting National Lithuanian Historiography in the 19th Century

Until the 19th century, Lithuanian historiography was understood as provincial, the national identity of Lithuanians had not been defined yet, and the formation of the modern Lithuanian nation had practically not begun yet. Lithuanian national culture, influenced by the dominant Polish culture, had to gradually develop in the 19th century. The first Lithuanian-written national history was written by Simonas Daukantas. The main work “Būdas senovės lietuvių, kalnėnų ir žemaičių” was published under a pseudonym in St. Petersburg only in 1845. Daukantas can be considered the founder of modern Lithuanian historiography in the national sense. As Vilnius University was closed after the defeat of the uprising in 1832, the center of higher education of Lithuanians moved to Russian universities. One of this next generation of intellectuals was the main thinker of the Lithuanian national revival, Jonas Basanavičius, who in 1883 became the founder of the first Lithuanian enlightenment magazine *Aušra*. The debate on the meaning of Lithuanian history and its exclusion from Polish historiography took place at the end of the 19th century more on a journalistic level.

In my dissertation, I focused on determining the point at which Lithuanian historiography makes a conceptual break with Polish historiography, which was already in a more advanced stage of development. Furthermore, through it, I develop the investigation of the process of its constitution in modern Lithuanian historiography. Based on a detailed study of the works of historians of the Romantic period who worked at Vilnius University in the first half of the 19th century, I will try to outline their individual conceptions of Lithuanian history. In the second half of the 19th century, when we can more clearly observe a departure from the Polish view of common history, the thesis focuses on the interpretation of individual works of Lithuanian historiography, which were already written in Lithuanian. The study of historiographical journalistic activity in Lithuania, which developed strongly from the 1880s onwards, I consider to be quite crucial. Within the framework of the already independently developing Lithuanian historiography in the last third of the 19th century, I focus on the context of academic historiography and historical journalism, which played a key role in the application of the new concepts of Lithuanian historiography in the process of forming a modern nation. Journalistic activity was (especially in the Lithuanian case) decisive for the formation of a modern nation. Four key questions to be answered were defined: *When and how did the value changes that set in motion in the course of the 19th century take place in Lithuanian historiography, and what*

was their mechanism? Why was Lithuanian historiography separated from Polish and what is the proof of this on the Lithuanian side? When does Lithuanian historiography make a definitive break with the Polish concept? Was national Lithuanian historiography fully established already at the beginning of the 20th century?