

## Summary

The Popular National Union (ZLN) was a right-wing political party of the Polish national movement that operated between 1919 and 1928. Its activists exerted significant influence on both foreign and domestic policy during the early years of the Second Polish Republic. After Józef Piłsudski's coup in May 1926, the party's political role gradually diminished. Following the 1928 parliamentary elections, it was transformed into the National Party. The aim of the dissertation was to describe and analyze the structures, activities, and political influence of the ZLN in the Kielce Voivodeship.

The party had a nationwide character and operated on the basis of a political program adopted in October 1919. Nationalism constituted the core of its ideology. The interests of the Polish nation were regarded as paramount, and the establishment of a Polish nation-state was seen as the primary political objective. Consequently, proposals advocating autonomy for national minorities, as well as radical socioeconomic reforms promoted by left-wing groups, were met with opposition. After 1926, the party increasingly emphasized a stronger bond between the Polish nation and the Catholic Church and became more critical of certain aspects of parliamentary democracy. The research shows that ZLN activists in the Kielce Voivodeship expressed full support for the party's political program. They engaged extensively in polemics with left-wing parties and sought to counteract the economic and political influence of the Jewish minority.

The party's central authorities consisted of the Main Board and the Supreme Council, both based in Warsaw. The Main Secretariat coordinated current organizational activities. At the local level, the ZLN's structures were organized into local branches subordinated to District Boards and Councils, which in turn reported to Voivodeship Boards and Councils. The results of the source analysis indicate that nationalist activists in the Kielce Voivodeship conducted an intensive effort to build organizational structures in the years 1919–1926, which resulted in partial success. After 1926, membership began to decline as a result of the party's political defeat.

The Popular National Union functioned as an elite yet internally democratic party, which explains the importance it attached to parliamentary and local government election campaigns. It also established several auxiliary organizations that enabled it to extend its influence among various socio-professional groups. The conducted research showed that in the Kielce Voivodeship members and supporters of the Popular National Union took part in electoral campaigns, were involved in the activities of auxiliary organizations, and carried out intensive publishing activity. In this way, they promoted the most important ideas of the National movement.