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Summary of the doctoral dissertation:

**POMIĘDZY REGIONALIZMEM A FEDERALIZMEM.  
FUNKCJONOWANIE WŁOSKICH REGIONÓW TRYDENT-GÓRNA  
ADYGA, FRIULI WENECJA JULIJSKA I DOLINA AOSTY  
W LATACH 1972-2023**

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The Italian Republic is known as a regionalized unitary state. The current structure of the country's internal division was developed after World War II and is based on a system of 20 regions. Fifteen of these are regular regions, and five are so-called "special regions": Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Aosta Valley, Sicily, and Sardinia. These regions operate under special statutes of autonomy, adopted by Parliament and having the rank of constitutional law. These guarantee the regions unique legal and economic position, adapted to the internal characteristics and conditions of each.

The main objective of this dissertation was a comprehensive scientific research of the special autonomies of the three northern special regions: Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and the Aosta Valley. This allowed for an analysis of the actual boundaries of regionalism, while simultaneously examining the limits of the federalist path. In this sense, the Italian special regions detailed in the dissertation's title served as exemplifications of the specificity of Italian regionalism and the subjects of detailed case studies. Furthermore, given the general state of research, additional objectives were identified. The first was a comparative study conducted within the titular regions. Their complex internal analysis allowed for the comparison of three analogous territorial entities with similar foundations of granted special autonomy, but different ways of its evolution. The dissertation, by aligning itself with comparative studies of Italian special regions and regionalist thought, addressed noticeable research gaps in this specific area.

The research, based on a triangulation of research methods: comparative, legal-dogmatic, and statistical, allowed for the formulation of three key conclusions: 1) Special regions possess a different and, in some respects, more extensive scope of competences than regular regions, but they do not exceed the framework of the regional system; 2) The special autonomy of the regions examined in this work, although constitutionally identical, differs at the level of detailed analysis and is the result of specific legal and political processes in each. 3) The possession of special autonomy by a given region does not lead to the creation of correspondingly specific party systems based on regional parties.

Bearing the above in mind, it must be emphasized that room for further research remains evident, both in the context of comparative studies of Italian regionalisms in the sphere of special regions and of Italian regionalism in general. This was confirmed, for example, by events that occurred after the completion of the above dissertation, which concerned successful efforts to reform certain special statutes of autonomy (in the regions of Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli Venezia Giulia).

**key words:** Italian Republic, regionalism, federalism, Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Aosta Valley

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