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# JOURNAL ON EUROPEAN HISTORY OF LAW



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***Ihor Lohvynenko, Igor Nevzorov, Gennadii Dedurin: Formation of the Constitutional and Legal Status of National Minorities in the Second Polish Republic***

The study of the features formation of the constitutional legal status of national minorities in interwar Poland was identified as the scientific goal of the article. To achieve this goal the author team used a number of methods where the basic are historical, dialectical and comparative legal methods. The application of these methods was complex. This made it possible to fully reflect the formation peculiarities of the constitutional and legal status of national minorities in interwar Poland. The main law documents that influenced this process were also analyzed: the Little Treaty of Versailles, the relevant provisions of the Polish Constitutions of 1921 and 1935, as well as the Treaty of Riga. The main shortcomings and contradictions of these documents were identified as they did not allow creating an effective state-legal mechanism for protecting the rights of national minorities in Poland. In particular the authors came to the conclusion that since the late 1920 s authoritarian tendencies prevailed in the leadership of the Polish state and no one hid the unwillingness to respect the provisions of the Little Treaty of Versailles. It was found that in practice certain gaps in the formation of the constitutional legal status caused among the other things by the imperfection of international agreements in the field of protecting the rights of national minorities. This allowed both the central and local Polish authorities to ignore the democratic principles on which the Constitution of 1921 and other basic legislative acts of the country were based. Undoubtedly a study of the origins of the constitutional legal status of national minorities in interwar Poland is synthesizing for the development of Polish and Ukrainian legal cultures. It will objectively contribute to the rule of law in modern Ukraine which must learn from the mistakes and draw the right conclusions from the shortcomings of national policy in the Second Polish Republic.

**Keywords**

national minorities; Poland; the Little Treaty of Versailles; constitutional rights; the Treaty of Riga.