


EVOLUTION OF SELECTED ELEMENTS OF LITHUANIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM: PARTY, ELECTORAL, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DIMENSIONS IN A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE FIRST AND SECOND REPUBLICS IN THE LIGHT OF SELECTED DEMOCRACY QUALITY INDICATORS

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The purpose of the article is to analyse the development of the political system of Lithuania and the individual elements that influenced these changes in Lithuania. The research in this paper aims at a diachronic quantitative analysis of selected elements of the political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania.¹ It is therefore worth paying attention to the institutional arrangements in the political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania and their political effects. Accordingly, this paper attempts to answer the research question on the directions of change in the Lithuanian political system; differences and similarities in the legal design of the political system institutions in the First and Second Republic; the main differences in the political party systems, or areas where the greatest transformations took place. One of the objectives is to examine

1 In Lithuanian political science and historiography, there is general consensus that the terms “*First*” and “*Second Republic of Lithuania*” constitute an accepted and well-established terminological convention. The *First Republic of Lithuania* refers to the period following the First World War, when Lithuania declared independence in 1918 and functioned as a republic until its annexation by the Soviet Union in 1940. This stage in Lithuanian history is also commonly referred to as “*interwar Lithuania*”. In contrast, the *Second Republic of Lithuania* denotes the Lithuanian state after the restoration of independence in 1990, in the context of the collapse of the USSR and the re-establishment of national sovereignty. This designation appears in numerous Lithuanian academic publications in the fields of history and political science. The conceptual division between the First and Second Republics of Lithuania is confirmed, among others, by the works of scholars such as Norkus, Malužinas, Truska, Morkūnaitė-Lazauskienė, and Sireika: Sireika 2003; Truska 2004; Morkūnaitė-Lazauskienė 2010; Norkus 2012; Malužinas 2023.

the changes of individual elements (the office of head of state and electoral results in parliamentary elections) that had an impact on the changes of political system in both Lithuanian Republics. The analysis makes use of a comparative method and a systemic, institutional-legal, and historical analysis.

Keywords: Lithuania, political system, First Republic of Lithuania, Second Republic of Lithuania, Vanhanen index, electoral volatility

Introduction

The study of the political system of interwar and contemporary Lithuania is well established in the literature. On the other hand, the process of the political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania, in comparative terms, has so far not been synthetically and comprehensively described in the political science literature. For this reason, it is necessary to attempt to analyse this issue, to outline its characteristic properties, and to relate it to a broader theoretical framework based on in-depth analyses. So far, no attempts have been made to synthesise, in foreign literature, the specific nature of the systemic evolution and the functioning of the political regime in Lithuania in the perspective of theory of the evolution of the political system, or the political processes taking place between 1920–1926 and 1990–2020. The adopted time frame is linked to the adoption of the first provisional constitutions of Lithuania in 1918, 1919, and 1920 (starting point) and the holding of the first democratic parliamentary elections. The dates indicated as time caesuras relate to the functioning of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania.

The purpose of the article is to analyse the development of the political system of Lithuania and the individual elements that influenced these changes in Lithuania. The research in this paper aims at a diachronic quantitative analysis of selected elements of the political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania. This study differs from previous ones in that the political system has been analysed in the context of existing indexes from a quantitative perspective. Instead of relying solely on qualitative assessments or institutional analyses, a data-driven approach was applied, allowing for more objective and measurable comparisons and the identification of patterns and trends.

It should be noted that after the Lithuanian state regained its independence, it sought to emphasise its statehood through continuity with interwar independence, as through the influence of models from abroad, where democracy was the dominant political system. It is therefore worth paying attention to the institutional arrangements in the political systems of the First and Second

Republics of Lithuania and their political effects. Accordingly, this paper attempts to answer, *inter alia*, the following research questions:

1. What are the directions of change in the Lithuanian political system?
2. What differences and similarities in the legal design of the political system institutions can be identified in the First and Second Republics?
3. What are the main differences in the political party systems, electoral law, or the number of parties and patterns of competition?
4. What factors triggered the change in the various elements of the political systems in the First and Second Republics of Lithuania?
5. In which areas did the greatest transformations take place?

The temporal scope of the study covers the period of the parliamentary democracy in Lithuania starting from 1920–1926 and the beginning of Lithuanian independence in 1990 to the present day. The analysis presented below makes use both of a comparative method and a systemic, institutional-legal and historical analysis. One of the objectives is to examine the changes of individual elements (the office of head of state and electoral results in parliamentary elections) that had an impact on the changes of political system in both Lithuanian Republics.

To do this, the author, after analysing the constitutional positions of the president and parliament of Lithuania, tries to indicate the directions of the party system. The author then examines the effective number of parliamentary parties in both periods, using the Pedersen index. The analysis also uses Vanhanen's democratisation index, which differentiates between the two areas of rivalry and participation.

The comparison of the values of the various indices and indicators made it possible to show similarities and differences in the different periods of the Lithuanian state, which was extremely helpful in identifying the directions of the political systems and its institutions in the country.

Researchers of political systems in Lithuania and abroad focused more on the legal and constitutional aspects rather than on a systemic-comparative approach. Lithuanian researchers paid more attention to the study of the political system and the functioning of the political institutions of the First and Second Republics, analysing the most important regulations from the Lithuanian Basic Laws.² Much less attention has so far been paid to comparing the political position of the institution of the President and the Seimas in the parliamentary system of interwar Lithuania and in the semi-presidential system of contemporary Lithuania.³

2 Krupavičius 2008, 131–176; Maksimaitis 2005, 391; Römeris 1990, 507; Błażytytė-Baužienė, Tamošaitis, Truska 2004, 558; Lukošaitis 1998, 1–39; Varakauskaitė 2012, 1–27; Malužinas 2023.

3 Malužinas 2022c, 217–228; Kierończyk 2000, 243–260; Giżyńska 2019, 105–117.

Most studies of the Lithuanian political system adopt an institutional and historical perspective, basing their arguments on the doctrines of constitutional parliamentary democracy.⁴ There are numerous literature analyses concerning this topic in an attempt to explain it from the perspective of political culture.⁵ Several authors made attempts to discuss the political system in terms of a quantitative study, based on the indicators of the quality of democracy characterising Lithuanian democracy.⁶

As it is evident from the above, there have been many studies on the Lithuanian political system, as well as studies on the functioning of individual political system institutions. However, there are few attempts to compare the political systems of the First and Second Republics.

The intention, therefore, is to cover the years of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania, excluding the period of authoritarianism and communism. The aim is to identify the dependencies, differences, and similarities between the political systems in the First and Second Republics of Lithuania. By comparing these two phases, it will be possible to identify the differences and common features in the periods under study.

This comparison of the elements of the political systems of the two republics seems crucial, given the fact that Lithuania rebuilt its political system from the interwar period, which was reflected in the fact that the Second Republic of Lithuania was created through the restitution of the First Republic of Lithuania. As the common feature of the First and the Second Republics of Lithuania remained an element of democracy, which presents the same nature of modern democracy as a political regime of a nation-state. Such comparisons seem legitimate, as the effects of the formation of the political system prove to be similar. This phenomenon may be illustrated through the constitutional solutions in the drafts of the Basic Laws of 1922 and 1992, as well as the by the reconstruction of political parties from the period of the First Republic of Lithuania and the return to the previous version of the party system and its electoral law.⁷

4 Miller 1930, 48–60; Krupavičius, Lukošaitis 2004, 558; Lopata 1996, 59; Wisner 1999, 300; Morkūnaitė-Lazauskienė 2007, 284; Kasekamp 2013, 253; Ivanauskaitė-Pettinari 2016, 264; Vinogradnaitė 2012, 494; Rauch 1987, 265; Lukošaitis 1997, 92–128; Matakas 1999, 142; Zalyš, Eidintas 1999, 272; Gražiūnas 1994, 165.

5 Vardys 1997, 260; Kasparavičius 2006, 43–70; Palidaukaitė 1997, 131.

6 Norkus 2012, 3–60; Vanhanen 1992, 29; 2003, 318; Spurga 2011, 87–146; Jurkynas, Duvold 2013, 126–166; Ramonaitė 2020, 477–496; Malužinas 2021, 88–105.

7 In comparing the constitutional dimensions of the political system of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania, this analysis does not cover the periods 1920–1922 and 1990–1992, because in the later years Lithuanian political elites introduced legal changes to power structures and state institutions, which were reflected in permanent constitutions. Malužinas 2022a, 174.

However, this analysis omits the period of the Supreme Council (largely dominated by the *Sąjūdis* – 99 deputies in the 141-member Council) in 1990–1992, since the political changes introduced by this institution and their effects are visible only in the following years, which were subject to further evolution and development. On 11 March 1990, the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic took the most important action, adopting the Act of Proclamation “On the Restoration of the Independence of the Lithuanian State” and adopting a provisional constitution. On 6 November 1992, the current Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted, laying the foundation for the construction of the political system of the Republic of Lithuania. On 25 October 1992, elections were held in Lithuania, which significantly changed the previous balance of political forces in the parliament, including the fall of *Sąjūdis*. For this reason, from a research point of view, the analysis of the elements of the Lithuanian political system must focus on the later years of its development, which were perfected by successive political elites, thus justifying the time frame of the designated research methodology.⁸

Constitutional dimension of the political system in the First and Second Republics of Lithuania

When analysing the Lithuanian political system, it is essential to consider the determinants and the sequence of the most important systemic changes in the state. It is therefore worth noting the constitutional dimension of the Lithuanian political system. On 6 August 1922, the first permanent Lithuanian Constitution came into force. It laid the foundations of the parliamentary system of the First Republic of Lithuania. Under the Constitution, the Seimas was given a key position in the political system of Lithuania. The Executive then consisted of the institutions of the President and the Council of Ministers. One of the characteristic provisions of the 1922 Constitution was the regulation of the election of the President by the Seimas. In this respect, it is characteristic that the system of the First Republic of Lithuania is often referred to as parliamentary. In turn, the 1992 Constitution introduced the direct elections of the President, with the possibility of a second round of the elections (with the two candidates with the highest number of votes obtained in the first round). In this respect, it is symptomatic that the system of the Second Republic of Lithuania is often referred to as semi-presidential, which is largely

⁸ Gregorowicz 1992, 1.

due to the fact that, in comparison to the previously functioning solutions, the political position of the President in the Second Republic of Lithuania is strengthened by direct and general elections and a broader catalogue of constitutional powers. Such constitutional arrangements are different from those of the First Republic of Lithuania (when the election of the President was within the competence of the Seimas and their powers were more modest).⁹

Table 1. Constitutional position of the President in the parliamentary and semi-presidential systems in the light of the Lithuanian Constitutions of 1922 and 1992

1. tabula. Prezidenta konstitucionālā pozīcija parlamentārās un pusprezidentālās sistēmās, ņemot vērā 1922. un 1992. gada Lietuvas konstitūcijas

Constitution from 1922	Constitution from 1992
President of the First Republic of Lithuania	President of the Second Republic of Lithuania
<p>Term: 3 years, unlimited re-election</p> <p>Elections: elected by the Seimas by an absolute majority of votes</p> <p>Prerogatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • representing the Republic of Lithuania in international relations; • promulgation of laws (in case of doubts on the part of the President concerning the validity of the solutions introduced in a law or its compliance with the Basic Law – they held the right of suspensive veto); • the right to actively and passively receive and deploy diplomatic representatives; • appointment and dismissal of the State Controller and certain public officers; • in the event of an armed conflict, at the request of the Council of Ministers, acting as the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces; • designation of the Prime Minister and appointment of the remaining Cabinet members; • formation of bodies similar to the Polish Cabinet Council; the Head of State had, as a rule, the right to direct or take an active part in these; • the right to dissolve the Seimas without providing reasons thereof, although the important clause stating that the newly directly elected legislature would hold a secondary election of the President was limited. 	<p>Term: 5 years, can be re-elected</p> <p>Elections: general, equal, direct, majority</p> <p>Prerogatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • representing the Republic of Lithuania in international relations; • signing international agreements to be approved by the Seimas; • upon a proposal of the Council of Ministers, appointment and dismissal of diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Lithuania in other states and at international bodies; the President also accredits and receives diplomatic representatives of other states and confers diplomatic ranks; • appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister; • upon a proposal of the Prime Minister, designation and dismissal of the members of the Government; • responsibility to appoint and dismiss public officers; • ability to decide on the imposition of martial law and mobilisation, yet the said decisions are subject to the approval of the Seimas at its first sitting; • management of elections to the Seimas; • signing laws and ordering their promulgation, while having the possibility to refuse these actions and to send the laws back to the Seimas including the President's comments.

Source: Author's own study

⁹ Kasekamp 2013, 181.

Comparing the political position of the President in the 1922 and 1992 Constitutions, one may conclude that the role of the President in contemporary Lithuania is stronger than in the inter-war period. However, the difference is not significant as the President's powers were not dramatically extended in the 1992 Constitution. Probably, the most important change is the mode of electing the President, which strengthens their position. It is also worth noting that the limited presidential prerogatives in the First Republic of Lithuania were the result of drawing models from the Western democracies of the time. In the case of the Second Republic of Lithuania, the caution in extending presidential prerogatives was the result of the negative experience of Lithuanians with authoritarianism introduced in 1928.¹⁰

As can be seen from Table 1, the 1922 Constitution made the Head of State practically completely subordinate to the Seimas, making the President a passive participant in political life. This weakened the role of the executive in the political system of Lithuania.

The current Constitution of the Second Republic of Lithuania – in addition to introducing direct presidential elections – also strengthens the powers of this executive body. In order to prevent excessive domination of the Seimas, the legislator decided to link the institution of the President with the legislature in several areas (e.g., by granting the President the authority to order elections, convene the first session of the Seimas, etc.). This construction of the solutions adopted means that the Lithuanian Constitution provides for the institution of the President a role of a guarantor of the continuity and stability of the functioning of the state, as well as a mediator between different institutions. The main difference between the constitutional position of the President under the 1922 Constitution and the 1992 Constitution is that now the institution of the President has a broader catalogue of discretionary powers allowing them to actively participate in the political life of Lithuania.¹¹

10 Malužinas 2022a, 181.

11 *Ibidem*, 182.

Table 2. Political position of the Seimas in the parliamentary and semi-presidential systems in the light of the Lithuanian Constitutions of 1922 and 1992

2. tabula. Seima politiskā pozīcija parlamentārās un pusprezidentālās sistēmās, ņemot vērā 1922. un 1992. gada Lietuvas konstitūcijas

Constitution from 1922	Constitution from 1992
Seimas of the First Republic of Lithuania	Seimas of the Second Republic of Lithuania
<p>Term: 3 years, can be re-elected</p> <p>Elections: general, equal, direct, proportional</p> <p>Prerogatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulation of the political system, legislative function; • responsibilities related to the procedure for exercising control over the President and the Council of Ministers; • approval or rejection of the Prime Minister nominee presented by the President; • examination of the Government's programme submitted by the Prime Minister and making decisions concerning its adoption; • election of the President; • calling elections to local councils; • appointment of the General Elections Commission and changes to its composition; • ratification and termination of Lithuania's international agreements; • appointment and dismissal of the State Controller and the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania; • declaration of war and conclusion of peace, approval and abolishment of states of emergency. 	<p>Term: 5 years, can be re-elected</p> <p>Elections: general, equal, direct, majority and proportional</p> <p>Prerogatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulation of the political system legislative function; • calling the election of the President; • approval or rejection of a nominee for the Prime Minister presented by the President; • examination of the Government's programme submitted by the Prime Minister and making decisions concerning its adoption; • establishment and abolishment of the ministries of the Republic of Lithuania upon the proposal of the Government; • supervision over the Government, may express a vote of no confidence in relation to the Prime Minister or a Minister; • appointment and dismissal of the State Controller and the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania; • calling of elections to local councils; • appointment of the Chief Electoral Commission and making changes to its composition; • adoption of the state budget and supervision over its implementation; • ratification and termination of Lithuania's international agreements; • introduction of direct management, martial law and state of emergency, announcement of mobilisation and taking decisions as to the use of armed forces.

Source: Author's own study

The Constitution of 1992, just like the one of 1922, provided for the dominant position of the Seimas in the government system, making the Government and the institution of the President subordinate to it.

Nature of political parties and party systems in the First and Second Republics of Lithuania

The roots of the Lithuanian party system predate by several decades the establishment of the modern Lithuanian state in 1918. For more than a century before

gaining independence, Lithuania was a fully integrated part of the Russian Empire and enjoyed full representation in the State Duma.

As the franchise expanded in the late 19th century, from Catholic landowners and peasants to the class of lay Lithuanian intelligentsia with a patriotic, nationalist, national identity, forming the Lithuanian community, an early Lithuanian party system began to emerge. This manifested itself in a series of parliamentary parties and factions, which had most of the support of the Lithuanian Catholic and peasant electorate, and which were in fact single issue organisations, mainly dedicated to winning, to some extent at least, Lithuanian independence. During the first period of independence in 1918, these groupings participated in the proceedings of the *Taryba*. It is worth emphasising that *Taryba* was a popular name for the National Council of Lithuania, whose proceedings commenced in September 1917. In July 1918, *Taryba* adopted a new name: the Council of the State of Lithuania. It was dissolved in May 1920 after the formation of the Legislative Seimas. From the beginning of the First Republic of Lithuania, there were more than a dozen parties and social committees in the party system. However, only a few of them were of real significance. Christian Democracy in particular was a real power in Lithuanian conditions. The grouping officially appeared as three separate parties but was in fact a closely cooperating party federation. It was formed by the Lietuvos krikščionių demokratų partija (LKDP), the Lietuvos ūkininkų sąjunga (LŪS) and the Darbo federacija (DF). The LKDP was the most influential one, enjoying the official support of the Lithuanian Catholic Church. Many Catholic clergymen were active in the party. Concerning the party platform, the Christian Democratic bloc combined uncompromising, sometimes even populist nationalism with a moderate economic and social programme. Another significant political current included the democratic-popular parties, with references to an agrarian and social programme: the Lietuvos socialistų liaudies partija (LSLP) and the Valstiečių sąjunga (VS). The Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija (LSDP) acted separately. Influential nationalist activists, led by Antanas Smetona, acted in the Nacionalinės pažangos partija (NPP), commonly known as *Pažanga*. Considering the political parties of national minorities during the period analysed, their influence on the Lithuanian political system was rather limited.¹² Political conflicts in the country, in terms of left-right divisions, spanned in three dimensions: economic (state vs. market), culture (pro-church vs. anti-church), and heritage (the Great Duchy of Lithuania vs. anti-Polish).¹³

12 Eidintas 1997, 42, 51; Truska 2004, 4; Skipitis 1961, 388.

13 Malužinas 2022, 243–244.

Nature of the contemporary party system

When characterising the contemporary Lithuanian party system, it is to be stated that it corresponds to the category of moderate pluralism with centripetal competition,¹⁴ which means that the trend of multipartyism on the political scene from the period of the First Republic of Lithuania is maintained. The party system can be characterised as moderate pluralism with little polarisation: three centre-right and three centre-left factions represent the mainstream parties in Seimas. Voter preferences are stabilised, as electoral volatility has halved compared to the previous elections.

In the Lithuanian state, the post-communist transition and the consolidation of democracy after 1990 is also closely linked to the consolidation of political parties. The political parties from the period of the First Republic of Lithuania rebuilt their structures in independent Lithuania, while making references to these either by their names or programmes, and they are today's main political forces. Among them, the following need to be mentioned: the Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija (LSDP), the Lietuvos demokratų partija (LDP), Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai (LKD), the Lietuvių nacionalistų sąjunga (TPP/LTS) and the Lietuvos valstiečių sąjunga (LVS). In addition to these, new political parties were formed between 1990 and 1992, including those with a right-wing orientation: the Lietuvos centro judėjimas (LCJ) and Jaunoji Lietuva (JL). Those of a left-wing orientation include: the Lietuvos žaliųjų partija (LŽP) and the Lietuvos liberalų sąjunga (LLS).¹⁵ Therefore, the Lithuanian party system merged into a fairly stable left-right party system in the 1990s, before being fragmented in 2000.¹⁶ This resulted in a permanent organisational exchange (in the form of mergers and organisational transformations) of the main actors in the Lithuanian party system, affecting the modernisation process of the political system.

However, it should be noted that the first Seimas elections, which were held in 1992, resulted in a bipolar division of the Lithuanian political scene: the post-communists, led by the Democratic Labour Party of Lithuania, which won the largest number of seats in the Seimas (73 seats in the 141-seat body), and the democratic forces in the context of pro-European attitudes, originating from the anti-communist opposition and *Sąjūdis*, which constituted the second political force in the Seimas with 30 seats in the unicameral body.¹⁷

14 Sartori 1976.

15 Papla 2010, 195.

16 Duvold, Jurkynas 2013, 130.

17 Ramonaitė 2020, 18.

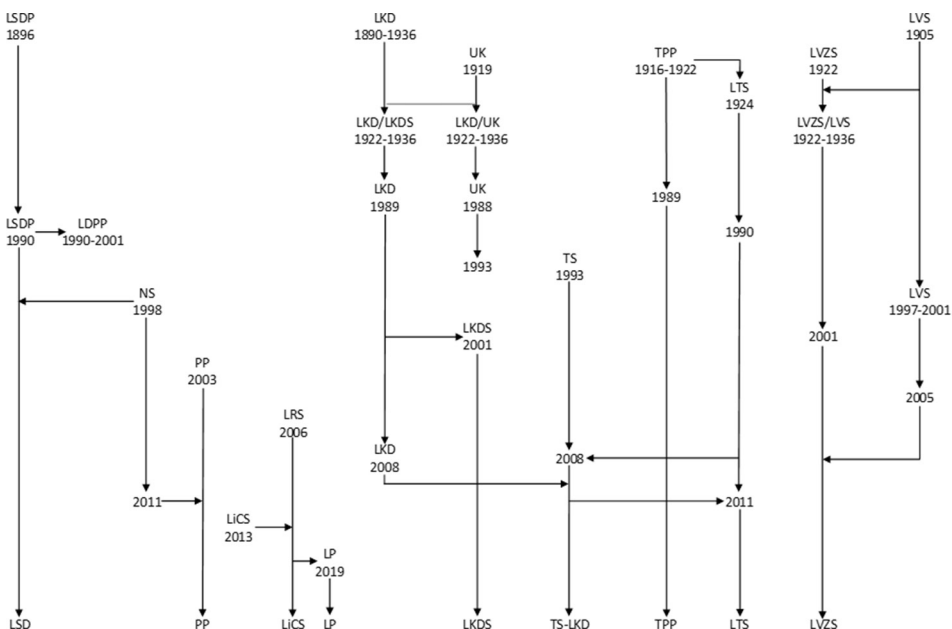


Fig. 1. Evolution of contemporary Lithuanian party system

1. att. Mūsdienų Lietuvos partijų sistėmas atitiktība

In this diagram, some parties that were founded in the 1990s and ceased their activities after 1990 or 2000 are omitted: Krikščionių konservatorių socialinė sąjunga (KKSS), Lietuvos komunistų partija (LKP), Lietuvos valstiečių partija (LVP), Lietuvos demokratų partija (LDP), Lietuvos nacionaldemokratų partija (LNDP), Lietuvos centro sąjunga (LCS), Lietuvos liberalų sąjunga (LLS), Lietuvos dešiniųjų sąjunga (LDS), Lietuvos politinių kalinių ir tremtinių sąjunga (LPKTS), Modernieji krikščionys demokratai (MKD), Tėvynės liaudies partija (TLP), Naujosios demokratijos partija (NDP), Lietuvos respublikos liberalų sąjūdis (LRLS), Tvarka ir teisingumas (TIT).

Source: Author’s own study

This division has become entrenched and has an impact on election results to this day. The main line of political division runs not only through attitudes to the economy, culture, or international politics, but also through affiliation either with post-communists or the heirs of *Sąjūdis* (a social movement that has never transformed into a political party). The last two decades of the dynamic development of the Lithuanian political scene have shown that a number of political parties have crystallised on the right and left wings, due to the specificity of the Lithuanian political system – such as the Homeland Union and the Lithuanian Christian Democrats: the Union of Homeland – the Lithuanian Christian Democrats which, over the years, considering the views on economy, has moved somewhat towards the centre-left but, considering culture, it has remained in the centre. The party’s supporters concentrate in the three largest cities and in those social groups that are better educated, better well-off,

pro-Western oriented, and anti-communist. The Lithuanian Social Democratic Party remains considering both economy and culture in a left-wing orientation, advocating investment in the public sector. The party competes for left-wing voters with the Green Farmers Union Party and the Labour Party. The Social Democrats are mostly supported by grey voters, the residents of rural areas and small towns, pensioners, and people with lower incomes below the national average. The Lithuanian Union of Farmers and the Greens – the Lithuanian People's Peasant Union, considering economy, is centre-left but considering culture belongs to the centre-right. The party's electorate tends to be among social benefit recipients, the elderly, public sector workers, and rural residents. Behind them, in the immediate vicinity of the political centre, a whole range of political parties has emerged that may enter into coalitions with any of the above parties to pursue their vested interests. This is for example, the Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania and the Freedom Party, with its right-wing views on economy and left-wing views regarding culture. Both liberal parties advocate investment in education, a free market economy, cultural liberalism, demand greater LGBTQ+ rights and appeal to younger electorate. Another grouping worth mentioning is the Labour Party, with left-wing views on economy and centre-wing views on the issues of culture. In 2012, Labour Party participated in centre-left governing coalitions.¹⁸

The whole is complemented by national minority groupings, the most numerous being the Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania. This party appeals to Polish and Russian speaking people with nostalgia for the Soviet era, while at the same time emulating the Polish Law and Justice party with its Catholic conservatism.¹⁹ Meanwhile, non-Seimas parties do not constitute any significant element in the party system. Political conflicts in the country, in terms of left-right divisions, span three dimensions: economic (state vs. market), culture (freedom vs. tradition) and heritage (post-Soviet vs. anti-Soviet).

18 See manobalsas.lt 2020.

19 LLRA-KŠS 2020.

Table 3. Distribution of seats and votes (%) in parliamentary elections in 1920–1926 and in 1990–2020**3. tabula.** Vietu un balsu sadalījums (%) parlamenta vēlēšanās 1920.–1926. gadā un 1990.–2020. gadā

Election year	Total No. of seats	LKD/TS-LKD	LVLS/LVŽS	Sąjūdis	LSDP	LDDP	Polish Committee/LL-RA-KŠS	TPP/LTS	LRLS	LP	Labour Party	TT	Others
First Republic of Lithuania													
1920	112	59 (46.5)	20 (22.8)	-	13 (12.8)	-	3	0 (1.7)	-	-	-	-	17
1922	78	38 (41.6)	14 (17.9)	-	11 (10.4)	-	2	0 (2.9)	-	-	-	-	32
1923	78	40 (43.8)	16 (17.9)	-	8 (11.3)	-	4	0 (2.0)	-	-	-	-	10
1926	85	30 (31.8)	22 (22.3)	-	15 (17.0)	-	1	3 (4.3)	-	-	-	-	14
Second Republic of Lithuania													
1992	141	-	-	30 (27.1)	8 (6.05)	73 (43.9)	4 (2.14)	4 (1.99)	-	-	-	-	22
1996	141	70 (29.8)	-	-	12 (6.6)	12 (9.52)	1 (2.98)	3 (2.09)	-	-	-	-	43
2000	141	9 (8.62)	-	-	51* (31.0)	-	2 (1.95)	0 (0.88)	-	-	-	-	62
2004	141	36 (14.7)	10 (6.6)	-	31 (20.6)	-	2 (3.79)	0 (0.21)	-	-	39 (28.4)	11 (11.36)	12
2008	141	45 (19.7)	3 (3.73)	-	25 (11.7)	-	3 (4.79)	-	11 (5.73)	-	10 (8.99)	13 (12.68)	31
2012	141	33 (15.0)	1 (2.31)	-	37 (18.3)	-	3 (5.83)	0 (0.94)	10 (8.57)	-	29 (19.8)	11 (7.31)	17
2016	141	31 (21.7)	54 (21.5)	-	17 (14.4)	-	3	1 (5.72)	14 (9.06)	-	2 (4.68)	8 (5.33)	11
2020	141	50 (24.8)	32 (17.3)	-	13 (9.25)	-	3	0 (2.8)	13 (6.79)	11 (9.02)	10 (9.43)	1 (2.0)	5

*Joint list of candidates with LDDP

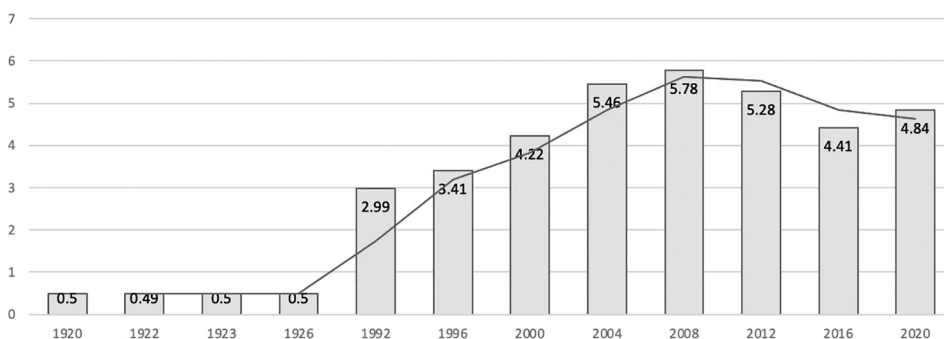
Source: Author's own compilation based on vrk.lt

When analysing the data presented above, it may be stated that the modernising nature of the Lithuanian party system is well illustrated by the increasing level of fragmentation. The table also shows that voting in Lithuania was most consolidated in the early 1990s, but then it began to fragment starting from election 4 (the 2000 parliamentary poll) and beyond, while there was a gradual consolidation starting from election 6 onwards. It shows that a much larger share of parliamentary seats goes to well-established parties, including parties from the period of the First Republic of Lithuania, which rebuilt their structures, consolidated their position as an important actor on the political scene of the Second Republic of Lithuania.

Table 4. Proportion of votes taken by more established parties**4. tabula.** Vadošo partiju iegūto balsu īpatsvars

Election 3 (%)	Election 4 (%)	Election 5 (%)	Election 6 (%)	Election 7 (%)	Election 8 (%)	Election 9 (%)	Mean average (%)
91	40	45	60	83	86	83	69.7

Source: Author's own study based on Auers (2018)

**Fig. 2.** Effective number of parliamentary parties between 1920–1926 and 1990–2020**2. att.** Faktiskais parlamentā pārstāvēto partiju skaits laikposmā no 1920. līdz 1926. gadam un no 1990. līdz 2020. gadam

Source: Author's own study

The institutional determinants with a direct impact on political parties and the party system also include the electoral system. Modern Lithuania, similarly, as during the parliamentary democracy period, adopted a proportional electoral system, while supplementing it with a majority system. 71 parliamentary seats (out of 141) are distributed according to a majority system, consisting of single-member constituencies with a second round. In each single-member constituency, one member is elected. The remaining 70 seats are distributed according to proportional representation in the nationwide multi-member constituency. From 1920 to 1926, the party system essentially consisted of three historical parties (i.e. Conservative, Agrarian, and Left parties). Following Lithuania's independence and thorough institutional and economic reforms in the 1990s, the effective number of parliamentary parties increased to four between 1992 and 2020. The current electoral system adopted (i.e. mixed equivalent), as intended by the Lithuanian legislator, was to slow down the process of the fragmentation and institutionalisation of new parties. Using electoral data provided by (2022), the effective number of parliamentary parties was calculated using the Laakso-Taagepera (1979) index of the effective

number of parties in Lithuanian parliamentary elections between 1920–1926 and 1990–2020.²⁰

As indicated by the data above, the average ENEP (effective number of electoral parties) between 1920 and 1926 is 0.5. It increased, however, between 1992 and 2012 to 5; then, in 2016–2020, it fell only 5 to 4. This trend can be explained by the reconstruction and emergence of new political parties in the 1990s, which gained significant shares on the political scene, and after 2012, some voters shifted from traditional parties to newer movements (including liberal ones). The higher number indicates a more fragmented party system in the Second Republic of Lithuania, which in turn implies a weaker institutionalisation of political parties.

Using the data provided by the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Lithuania (vrk.lt), electoral volatility was calculated based on the Pedersen index (1983) for the Lithuanian elections in 1920–1926 and 1990–2020.²¹ It's worth noting that scholars agree that volatility in party systems matters for democracy, and they use calculations of party vote shares as an indicator of a wide variety of phenomena and as an independent variable in studies about the condition of democracy. The index is used to measure the phenomenon of electoral volatility, defined as the net change within a party's electoral system resulting from individual vote transfers, but it also serves as an indicator of changes in party vote share, government alternation, institutionalisation of the party system, and regime stability.

In the First Republic of Lithuania parliamentary elections, electoral volatility was very low in the period between 1922 and 1926. After 1992, electoral volatility was at least three times higher and it peaked in the 1996 and 2000 parliamentary elections, with a downward trend since 2008. However, preliminary estimates suggest that Pedersen's index fell two-fold, i.e. from 37.1% to 18.8% after the 2020 general elections. Figures 5a and 5b illustrate the Index of Electoral Volatility for the Lithuanian parliamentary elections between 1920–1926 and 1990–2020. Both panels (referring to the First Republic of Lithuania and the Second Republic of Lithuania) show that the level of electoral volatility increased significantly in the Second Republic of Lithuania between 2000 and 2004, and then it dropped dramatically between 2004 and 2020.

20 Laakso, Taagepera 1979, 7–8.

21 Pedersen 1983, 2–3.

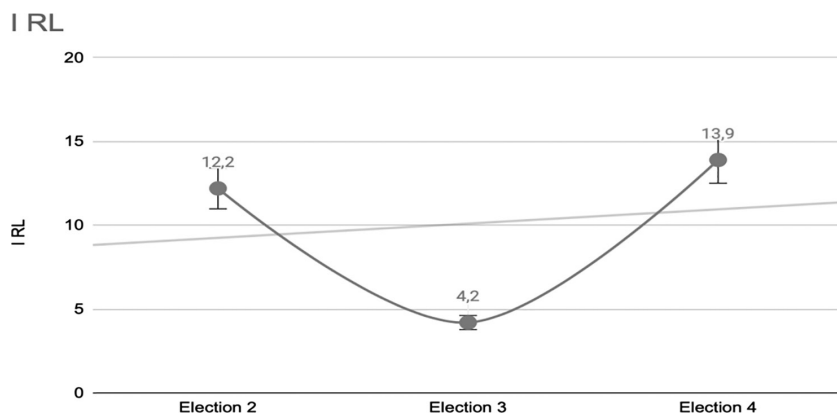


Fig. 3a. Electoral variability in the First Republic of Lithuania between 1922 and 1926 (Pedersen Index)

3a. att. Vēlēšanu mainīgums Lietuvas Pirmās Republikas laikā no 1922. līdz 1926. gadam (Pedersena indekss)

Source: Author's own study²²

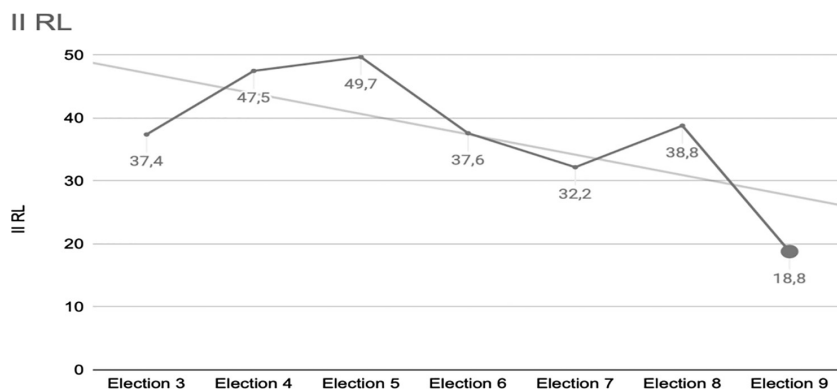


Fig. 3b. Electoral variability in the Second Republic of Lithuania from 1996 to 2020 (Pedersen Index)

3b. att. Vēlēšanu mainīgums Lietuvas Otrās Republikas laikā no 1996. līdz 2020. gadam (Pedersena indekss)

Volatility was calculated using the Pedersen Index (1979), which measures the cumulative (aggregate) electoral gains and losses of parties in a given election, divided by two. The first free parliamentary elections in the Baltic States were held in 1990 at the end of the Soviet era. The second series of parliamentary elections took place in 1992, yet this was under very different conditions compared to the 1990 elections and with very different competing parties. As a result, the Pedersen Index for the Second Republic of Lithuania was calculated starting from the third series of parliamentary elections.

Source: Author's own study

²² Due to the absence of data for extra-parliamentary parties, parties that did not enter the Seimas are covered together.

The lowest level of electoral volatility was recorded between 1922 and 1926. Studies using this measure demonstrate that although the level of vote change varies greatly between the two periods of Lithuania analysed, entering the political scene by new parties is much more pronounced in the Second Republic of Lithuania.

Political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania in Vanhanen's approach (comparative analysis)

In order to provide a diachronic quantitative comparison of the political systems of the First Republic of Lithuania (1920–1926) and the Second Republic of Lithuania (1990–2020), this paper implements the democracy index constructed by Tatu Vanhanen covering the period of 1810–2000 (hereafter referred to as the Vanhanen Index (VI)).²³

This index consists of two basic elements of democracy: competition and participation. Competition is calculated by subtracting from 100 per cent of the votes won by the largest political party. In the absence of data, competition can be calculated based on the number of seats in the parliament. Participation reflects data on voter involvement in elections and is calculated on the basis of the entire population.

Vanhanen's index – a continuous variable from zero to the highest score – combines *competition* and *participation* with equal weighting, multiplying, and dividing the product by 100, and it represents the range of political systems from highly autocratic to highly democratic ones, i.e. from the lowest to the highest democratisation.

It should be noted that VI lacks indicators measuring the dimension of civil rights, which many democratic theorists consider essential. There is extensive literature on the subject that distinguishes between civil rights (personal and property), political rights and social rights, and which discusses the importance of social rights for the level of democracy and makes a distinction between libertarian and social varieties of democracy. Vanhanen explains that, bearing this purpose in mind, it is simply difficult to find quantitative indicators that can be compared with other data used for subjective interpretations. Instead, Vanhanen suggests that it is better to use simple quantitative variables with some

23 Norkus 2012, 5–6.

disadvantages rather than more complex indicators that involve some consequences and judgements based on subjective solutions.²⁴

He also emphasises that legal competition between groups for power through elections (measured by his variable, i.e. *Competition*) and the legal participation of people in elections (his *Participation*) closely correlate with civil and political rights and freedoms. In fact, VI is strongly correlated with the Freedom House ratings of political rights and civil liberties (high scores indicate low liberty).²⁵

When calculating both indicators (i.e. competition and participation), the author adopted the methodology used by Zenonas Norkus.²⁶ It should be noted, however, that the Norkus analysis concerns the years of 1920–1939 and 1990–2009. The author made a decision to supplement the data contained in the table with the most recent data (up to 2020) in order to be able to compare the individual periods and years of Lithuanian governments and to try to capture the most important similarities and differences.

It also needs to be noted that in this study a decision was made to have the index of competition in parliamentary elections be calculated on the basis of the number and share of seats in the Seimas. Some modifications were made to this calculation, taking into account data for the coalitions forming the government (and not only for the party that won the largest number of seats). Thus, when calculating the competition index, the author assumed that since party coalitions were in government between 2009 and 2020, it is them that represent the most important centres of political power in society and it is in their context that the indicators should be calculated. The participation index is weighted multiplying by the factors of 0.25; 0.75 and 0.5. The weighted participation indices are summed and multiplied by the overall competition index obtained in the same manner, calculating the value of index VI. If the parliamentary and presidential elections are not held in the same year, the new weighted participation index value of the presidential elections is added to the weighted participation index value of the previous parliamentary elections (or vice versa).

24 Vanhanen 1992, 18–20.

25 Vanhanen 2003

26 Norkus 2012.

Table 5. Index VI values for the First and Second Republics of Lithuania**5. tabula.** VI indeksa vērtības par Lietuvas Pirmo un Otro Republiku

Year	Competition	Participation	Weighing formula	Vanhanen's index
First Republic of Lithuania				
1920	53.5 (47.3)	37.1 (35.0)	100–0	19.56 (16.56)
1921	53.5 (47.3)	37.1 (35.0)	100–0	19.56 (16.56)
1922	58.4 (51.3)	40.6 (35.0)	100–0	23.71 (17.95)
1923	56.2 (48.7)	44.4 (35.0)	100–0	24.95 (17.05)
1924	56.2 (48.7)	44.4 (35.0)	100–0	24.95 (17.05)
1925	56.2 (48.7)	44.4 (35.0)	100–0	24.95 (17.05)
1926	68.5 (0)	45.6 (0)	100–0	31.24 (0)
Second Republic of Lithuania				
1990	(32) ^[1]	50.1	100–0	16.03
1991	(32) (51.0)	50.1 (50.59)	100–0	16.03 (25.8)
1992	54.9 (54.9)	48.9 (48.44)	100–0 ^[2]	26.85 (26.6)
1993	47.4 ^[3] (54.9)	51.7 ^[4] (48.44)	50–50	24.51 (26.6)
1994	47.4 (54.9)	51.7 (48.44)	50–50	24.51 (26.6)
1995	47.4 (54.9)	51.7 (48.44)	50–50	24.51 (26.6)
1996	54.95 ^[5] (70.0)	46.25 ^[6] (35.23)	50–50	25.41 (24.66)
1997	70.0 ^[7] (70.0)	45.15 ^[8] (35.23)	50–50	31.6 (24.66)
1998	70.0 (70.0)	45.15 (35.23)	50–50	31.6 (24.66)
1999	70.0 (70.0)	45.15 (35.23)	50–50	31.6 (24.66)
2000	69.1 ^[9] (68.9)	48.05 ^[10] (40.87)	50–50	33.2 (28.16)
2001	69.1	48.05	50–50	33.2
2002	69.46 ^[11]	43.05 ^[12]	50–50	29.9
2003	69.46	43.05	50–50	29.9
2004	69.43 ^[13]	36.4 ^[14]	50–50	25.27
2005	69.43	36.4	50–50	25.27
2006	69.43	36.4	50–50	25.27
2007	69.43	36.4	50–50	25.27
2008	69.43 ^[15]	38.05 ^[16]	50–50	26.42
2009	50.45 ^[17]	40.2 ^[18]	50–50	20.28
2012	44.7	43.55 ^[19]	50–50	19.46
2014	42.1	43.35 ^[20]	50–50	18.2
2016	49.7	42.59 ^[21]	50–50	21.16
2019	34.14	45.84 ^[22]	50–50	15.6
2020	47.5	43.86 ^[23]	50–50	20.8

[1] The brackets indicate that the indicator was determined by estimation. It determines the percentage of seats in the Restoration Seimas of those candidates who are not supported by the *Sąjūdis*.

[2] Although the Constitution of the Second Republic of Lithuania, enacted in 1992, adopted a semi-presidential system, where a 50%–50% formula is used to comparatively weight the importance of the Seimas and presidential elections, the Head of State of the Republic of Lithuania had not yet been elected in 1992. For this reason, a 100%–0% weighting formula is used for that year.

- [3] The sum of one half of the competition index for the 1992 parliamentary elections and one half for the 1993 presidential elections was used to calculate the aforementioned (competition) index for 1993–1994.
 - [4] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 1992 Seimas election and one half for the 1993 presidential elections was used to calculate the participation rate for 1993–1994.
 - [5] The competition index for 1996 consists of the sum of one half of the competition index for the 1993 presidential elections and one half for the 1996 parliamentary elections.
 - [6] The participation rate for 1996 consists of the sum of one half of the participation rate for the 1993 presidential elections and one half for the 1996 parliamentary elections.
 - [7] The competition index for 1997–1999 consists of the sum of one half of the competition index for the 1997 presidential elections and one half for the 1996 parliamentary elections.
 - [8] The participation rate for 1997–1999 consists of the sum of one half of the participation rate for the 1997 presidential elections and one half for the 1996 parliamentary elections.
 - [9] The sum of one half of the competition index for the 2000–2001 parliamentary elections and one half for the 1997 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (competition) index for 2000–2001.
 - [10] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2000 parliamentary elections and one half for the 1997 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2000–2001.
 - [11] The sum of one half of the competition index for the 2000 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2002 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (competition) index for 2002–2003.
 - [12] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2000 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2002 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2002–2003.
 - [13] To calculate the above (competition) index for 2004–2007, the sum of one half of the competition index for the parliamentary elections was used including one half for the 2004 presidential elections.
 - [14] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2004 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2004 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2004–2007.
 - [15] The sum of one half of the competition index for the 2008 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2004 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (competition) index for 2008.
 - [16] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2008 parliamentary elections and one half that for the 2004 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2008.
 - [17] The sum of one half of the competition index for the 2008 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2009 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (competition) index for 2009.
 - [18] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2008 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2009 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2009.
 - [19] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2012 parliamentary elections and one half that for the 2009 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2012.
 - [20] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2012 parliamentary elections and one half for the 2014 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2014.
 - [21] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2016 general elections and one half for the 2014 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2016.
 - [22] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2016 general elections and one half for the 2019 presidential elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2019.
 - [23] The sum of one half of the participation rate for the 2019 presidential elections and one half for the 2020 parliamentary elections was used to calculate the above (participation) rate for 2020.
- Source: Author's own elaboration

Thus, the results of the correlation analysis indicate that the level of electoral democracy of the First Republic of Lithuania during the parliamentary democracy period did not differ significantly from that of the Second Republic of Lithuania and even surpassed it. In turn, taking into account the same criterion, the Second Republic of Lithuania surpassed the First Republic of Lithuania in terms of the level of liberal democracy. This was due to the weakness of

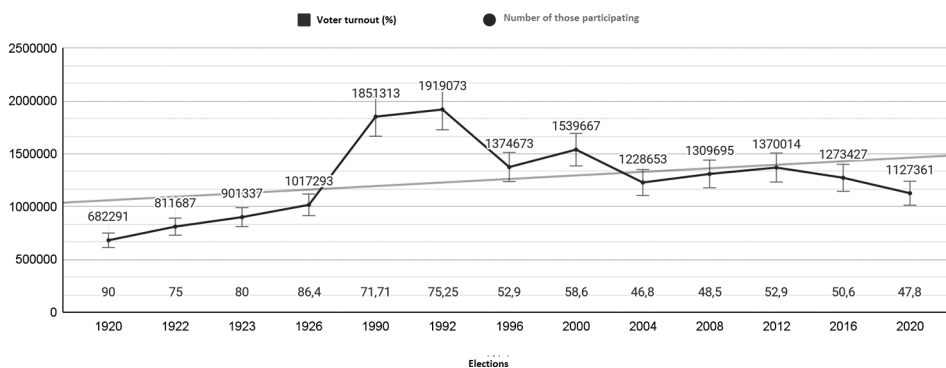


Fig. 4. Dynamics of voter turnout for the Seimas elections between 1920 and 2020

4. att. Vēlētāju aktivitātes dinamika Seima vēlēšanās no 1920. līdz 2020. gadam

Source: Author's own elaboration based on Akmenytė-Ruzgienė, Mačiukas 2020

the political system of the First Republic of Lithuania, which manifested itself in a stagnant civic political culture, persistent restrictions on civil rights, the martial law, two terms of the Seimas dominated by the Christian Democrats and the absence of a strong opposition.

The level of electoral democracy in the first two inter-war Lithuanian Seimas (1922–1926) was not lower than its level during the Restoration Seimas (1992–1996). This means that party competition was less intense and participation in the elections was even slightly more active. A confirmation of this thesis may also be seen in the dynamics of voter turnout for the Seimas elections between 1920 and 2020 (cf. Fig. 4).

The level of electoral democracy during the Third Seimas of the First Republic of Lithuania (index VI = 31.24) corresponds to the highest indices achieved by the Second Republic of Lithuania. From an arithmetic point of view, it is slightly behind the indices from the Second Republic of Lithuania in 1997–2001 (31.6–33.2), but the difference may partly be treated as a computational artefact. The higher indices of the Second Republic of Lithuania are determined by the fact that the competition in the 1997 presidential elections is calculated based on the votes collected by the final winner in the first round of the elections. In the 1997 presidential elections, Artūras Paulauskas, who won 45.28% of the votes in the 1st round, eventually lost to Valdas Adamkus, who received 27.90% of the votes in the 1st round. The same situation occurred in the 2002 presidential elections, when Adamkus, who won 35.53% of the votes in the first round, lost in the second round to Rolandas Paksas. This was also the case for the 2019 presidential elections, when Ingrida Šimonytė, who won 31.21% of the votes in

the first round, lost in the second round to Gitanas Nausėda, who won 30.9% of the votes in the first round.²⁷

In the elections to the Third Seimas of the First Republic of Lithuania, in 1926, the competition rate approached the maximum threshold of 70%. In the Second Republic of Lithuania, this threshold was also reached in the seventh year of democracy (1997), and it remained on a similar level until 2009, reflecting the increasing fragmentation of the Second Republic of Lithuania party system. It fell sharply in 2009 due to Grybauskaitė's phenomenal success in the 2009 elections for the President of the Republic of Lithuania, who won 69.09% of votes in the first round. As noted by Norkus, if Lithuania were a presidential republic, this would mean that the country would fall to one of those thresholds that separate democracy from authoritarianism. It should be recalled that Vanhanen did not recognise those political systems as democratic where losing political parties or candidates collectively receive less than 30% of the votes. The semi-presidential nature of the Second Republic of Lithuania and the high fragmentation of its party system ensured that Lithuania had a sufficiently high level of electoral democracy in 2009–2012 (index VI = 20.28), even in the absence of any real rivals for President Grybauskaitė who was then in office.

It should be noted that the Second Republic of Lithuania is characterised by a declining trend of voter turnout in parliamentary elections. Leaving aside the 2009 presidential elections, where there was no real competition, this is the main reason for the decline of index VI in the second post-communist decade. This trend did not emerge in the period of the parliamentary democracy of the First Republic of Lithuania, during which, however, Seimas elections were held four times: this is as many Seimas elections as were held in the Second Republic of Lithuania in 2000. The slightly higher (counted in the manner indicated by the Finnish political scientist) turnout rates in the elections in the first decade of the Second Republic of Lithuania are explained by differences in the demographic structure (a relatively higher proportion of young people not yet eligible to vote) and the higher voting age (21 versus 18) in the First Republic of Lithuania. However, it should be noted that as early as in the second decade of the Second Republic of Lithuania, the turnout rates were lower than those from the First Republic of Lithuania parliamentary democracy period.

The balanced or even rapidly increasing voter turnout rates in the parliamentary elections of the First Republic of Lithuania negate the validity of the statements by some experts that Lithuania in 1920–1926 was poorly prepared for the construction and consolidation of democratic structures.

27 Malužinas 2022b, 286.

Conclusions

As in the interwar period, the Lithuanian state adopted the same political system: by restoring its pre-war institutions (including the restoration of the office of the President and the Seimas). As in the period of the first independence, Lithuania used constitutional solutions chiefly from the 1922 Constitution.

The practice of using the Constitution as an instrument to shape pluralism and a multiparty system demonstrates that in the Lithuanian state, it mainly served to establish a variety of political parties, providing these with an opportunity to influence political life. Their multiplicity was the result not only of the existing divisions in society but also of the formal and legal solutions adopted. Many of the newly formed political groups referred – either by their names or programmes – to those political organisations that existed in Lithuania during the First Republic of Lithuania. Ca. 50 per cent of voters are their staunch supporters, and this is a characteristic element of the Lithuanian party system. This is evidenced by the data presented in the diagrams (i.e. 2, 3a, and 3b), which show two clear trends: firstly, since the beginning of the Second Republic of Lithuania, the ENEP has been increasing significantly, and it was stable between 1992 and 2020, which means that electoral fragmentation has remained stable. Secondly, at the beginning of the Second Republic of Lithuania, electoral volatility significantly increased compared to that in the First Republic of Lithuania, while it decreased dramatically in 2020.

This frequent use of the systemic solutions of the First Republic of Lithuania model of parliamentary democracy should partly be attributed to the Soviet past and newly regained sovereignty, which involved the need to make these institutions democratic. What seems to link the First Republic of Lithuania with the Second Republic of Lithuania is the level of the quality of democracy.

Conducting the analysis based on Vanhanen indices, it was proven that the level of electoral democracy in the First Republic of Lithuania during the parliamentary democracy period did not differ significantly from that of the Second Republic of Lithuania and even surpassed it. Notwithstanding it, considering the same criterion, the Second Republic of Lithuania surpassed the First Republic of Lithuania in terms of the level of liberal democracy.

The level of electoral democracy measured using quantitative tools for measuring political systems (in this case VI), showed the values being higher in the First Republic of Lithuania (1920–1926) than those shown in 1990–2020. The level of electoral democracy in the interwar years of the two Seimas was higher than in the post-independence years (1990–2020). This means that party rivalry was not weaker and the participation in parliamentary elections was even

higher. Therefore, the Second Republic of Lithuania is characterised by a trend of declining participation in parliamentary elections. On the other hand, the level of liberal democracy in the 1990–2020 period is higher than in the 1920–1926 period, when the martial law imposed restricted political rights and freedoms. At the same time, this is the main difference between parliamentarism in the First Republic of Lithuania and contemporary Lithuania, where real liberal democracy is certainly in place. The analysis conducted of the political system of the Lithuanian state made it possible to compare the following characteristics:

Table 6. Comparison of selected elements of political systems of the First and Second Republics of Lithuania

6. tabula. Lietuvas Pirmās un Otrās Republikas politisko sistēmu atsevišķu elementu salīdzinājums

Period	First Republic of Lithuania	Second Republic of Lithuania
	1920–1926	Starting from 1990
Characteristics of the system	Constitution of 1922	Constitution of 1992
Political system	democracy	democracy
Form of government	parliamentary system	semi-presidential system
Position of head of state	subordinate to parliament	subordinate to parliament
Party system	multi-party	multi-party
Electoral system	proportional electoral system	mixed electoral system: 71 deputies elected in single-member constituencies, majority system, 70 deputies elected in a proportional system

Source: Author's own study

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LIETUVAS POLITISKĀS SISTĒMAS ATSEVIŠĶU ELEMENTU ATTĪSTĪBA: PARTIJU, VĒLĒŠANU UN KONSTITUCIONĀLIE ASPEKTI SALĪDZINOŠĀ PĒTĪJUMĀ PAR PIRMO UN OTRO REPUBLIKU, ŅEMOT VĒRĀ ATSEVIŠĶUS DEMOKRĀTIJAS KVALITĀTES RĀDĪTĀJUS

Martinas Malužinas

Šī raksta mērķis ir analizēt Lietuvas politiskās sistēmas attīstību un atsevišķus tās elementus, kas ietekmēja pārmaiņas valstī. Veiktā pētījuma fokuss ir vērsts uz diahronisku kvantitatīvu analīzi par atsevišķiem Lietuvas Pirmās un Otrās Republikas politisko sistēmu elementiem. Tāpēc ir vērts pievērst uzmanību Lietuvas Pirmās un Otrās Republikas politisko sistēmu institucionālajai struktūrai un tās politiskajai ietekmei. Tādējādi šajā rakstā mēģināts atbildēt uz pētījuma jautājumu par Lietuvas politiskās sistēmas pārmaiņu virzieniem, atšķirībām un līdzībām Pirmās un Otrās Republikas politiskās sistēmas institūciju tiesiskajā izveidē, galvenajām atšķirībām politisko partiju sistēmās vai jomās, kurās notika vislielākās pārmaiņas. Viens no mērķiem ir izpētīt atsevišķu elementu (valsts galvas amats un parlamenta vēlēšanu rezultāti) izmaiņas, kas ietekmēja politiskās sistēmas pārmaiņas abos aplūkotajos periodos. Analīzē izmantota salīdzinošā metode un sistēmiskā, institucionāli juridiskā un vēsturiskā analīze.

Atslēgas vārdi: Lietuva, politiskā sistēma, Pirmā Lietuvas Republika, Otrā Lietuvas Republika, Vanhanena indekss, vēlēšanu nestabilitāte

Kopsavilkums

Pētījuma temats ir Lietuvas politiskā sistēma 1920.–1926. gadā (Pirmās Lietuvas Republikas periods) un 1990.–2020. gadā (Otrās Lietuvas Republikas periods), analizējot to atlasītu demokrātijas kvalitātes rādītāju kontekstā. Šī raksta mērķis ir iepazīstināt ar Lietuvas politiskās sistēmas attīstību un identificēt faktorus, kas ietekmēja tās transformāciju, izmantojot kvantitatīvo analīzi, tostarp Vanhanena koncepcijas (salīdzinošās analīzes) ietvaros.

Šajā rakstā prezentētais pētījums ir diahroniska kvantitatīva analīze par atsevišķiem Pirmās un Otrās Republikas politiskās sistēmas elementiem. Uzmanība pievērsta aspektiem, kas aizpilda esošo pētījumu plaisu, jo īpaši abu Lietuvas valstiskuma periodu demokrātiskās sistēmas konstitucionālajiem pamatiem, partiju un vēlēšanu sistēmai, kas analizētas, izmantojot Lākso–Tāgepera indeksu un Pedersena indeksu.

Lietuvas politiskās sistēmas analīze par 1920.–1926. gadu (Pirmā Republika) un 1990.–2020. gadu (Otrā Republika) ir ļoti svarīga, lai izprastu Lietuvas valstiskuma attīstību Centrāleiropas un Austrumeiropas politisko pārmaiņu kontekstā. Salīdzinot

šos divus attīstības posmus, ir iespējams aptvert gan institucionālo nepārtrauktību un pārmaiņas, gan konstitucionālās, vēlēšanu un partiju sistēmu attīstību. Tas ļauj arī izprast mazas valsts adaptācijas mehānismus mainīgajos starptautiskajos un iekšzemes apstākļos. Šis pētījums parāda, kā Lietuva, neskatoties uz ierobežotajiem resursiem, bet ar spēcīgu nacionālo identitāti, izveidoja savu funkcionējošas demokrātiskas politiskās sistēmas modeli, kas atšķiras no citu reģiona valstu pieņemtajiem risinājumiem.

Analīzē izmantotas salīdzinošās, sistēmiskās, institucionāli juridiskās, vēsturiskās un kvantitatīvās metodes. Rezultāti rāda, ka abos aplūkotajos periodos Lietuvas valsts pieņēma līdzīgu konstitucionālo modeli, kas ietvēra: pirmskara institūciju atjaunošanu (tostarp prezidenta un Seima amatus), politiskā plurālisma un daudzpartiju sistēmas veidošanu, proporcionālās vēlēšanu sistēmas ieviešanu, kas 20. gadsimta 90. gados tika daļēji modificēta ar vairākuma sistēmas elementiem.

Vanhanena indeksa analīze liecina, ka liberālās demokrātijas līmenis laikposmā no 1990. līdz 2020. gadam bija nedaudz augstāks nekā periodā no 1920. līdz 1926. gadam, kas norāda uz demokrātisko institūciju pakāpenisku konsolidāciju Otrās Lietuvas Republikas laikā. Šis raksts turpina pētījumu sēriju un zinātniskajā monogrāfijā, kas veltīta Lietuvas politiskās sistēmas attīstībai laika posmā no 1920. līdz 1926. gadam un no 1990. līdz 2020. gadam, iesākto.

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