
Preface

The volume presented here is entitled *Enlightenment Traditions and the Legal and Political System of the United States of America*. It is already the twenty-second volume in the Adam Mickiewicz University Law Books series. In this series, scholars affiliated with Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan present the results of their research, independently or in cooperation with other institutions. Often, they address topics that go beyond the framework of the Polish legal system. This is also the spirit of the present volume, which, reaching back to the American experience, is a continuation of the inquiries of volume sixteenth (*American Law and American Jurisprudence: Interpretations, Challenges, Procedures*) and volume nineteenth (*Fight Against Discrimination. Human Dignity in American Legal Tradition*). There is no particular need to justify an inquiry into the legal system of the most powerful country in the world. Each article addressing this topic enriches the Polish scientific debate with new perspectives. It is all the more satisfying to state that the present volume, by referring to a number of problems, significantly enhances the Polish scientific discussion space. In addition to the obvious scientific value, these efforts also have a popularizing aspect, which allows us to look at the United States of America from a different perspective.

In this volume, the authors have decided to analyze the legal and constitutional issues by referring to the origins of American constitutionalism, which in its basic form is a child of the Age of Enlightenment. The conviction that it is possible to describe and order reality by means of reason lies at the heart of rationalism. This belief was reflected in the progressive solutions adopted by the Founding Fathers, leading to the separation of powers or the Bill of Rights of the United States. These, and other solutions, provide our authors with a source of inspiration for both historical and contemporary analysis. Although characterized by varying degrees of detail, they draw from the same Enlightenment source, frequently raising questions about its relevance.

The editors of the volume would also like to thank the Polish Rationalist Association, which subsidized the creation of the volume. This organization has been

working for years on behalf of individual rights and freedoms and the promotion of science. It affirms rationalism and thus refers in a particularly affirmative way to the Age of Enlightenment and its intellectual effects, such as the Constitution of the United States of America.

M.U., K.G., and E.M.