The 2011 Parliamentary elections. Continuation and change

The main objective of the article is a discussion of the results of the latest Parliamentary elections, held in 2011. The Polish political system is analysed using a traditional approach, in a diachronic comparative perspective. The official results are described in detail and the changes to the main parameters of the Polish electoral and party system (juxtaposed with the data from the previous elections) which have occurred in the last twenty years, are traced. On the basis of the empirical data gathered and appropriately analysed, the authors appraise the condition of Polish democracy, the direction of its development, the advancement of the process of democratic consolidation, and so forth. The study was also interested in the spaces of political rivalry and the relations between the parties and the electors. The analyses convincingly suggest that the party system, evolving since 2005, is undergoing stabilisation and solidifying. It is too early yet to talk of a complete consolidation, bearing in mind the significant shifts and transformations it is experiencing.