

**The phenomenon of cartelization in the economy and politics of state  
authorities of the Second Polish Republic on the example of coal mining the  
years 1918 – 1939**

The problem of cartelization is one of the basic economic, political and social issues of the Second Polish Republic. The cartelization was the next stage of concentration processes in industry and trade taking place in the capitalist economy. The activities of monopolistic organizations up to the present day arouse considerable controversy, which results in numerous publications or press articles presenting extreme positions. On the one hand, as a negative aspect of cartels' activity, their detrimental impact on limiting the economic development of individual industries was pointed out. On the other hand, as positive, the beneficial effects of raising the level of production or sales organization were seen. In practice, however, the assessment of the phenomenon of cartelization in the period of the Second Polish Republic depends on the degree of concentration and the policy pursued by state authorities towards a given branch of industry. Carbon mining in the period of the Second Polish Republic is one such example, which is one of the five most important economic sectors in terms of exports and public levies.