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Introduction

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Introduction

In accordance with the practice of publishing thematic fascicles, accepted by the Editorial Board of „Dzieje Najnowsze”, no. 1/2001 is conceived as a presentation of a widely comprehended „Anglo-Saxon world”. Our selection is justified by the fact that just as at the turn of the nineteenth century the leading power was Great Britain, so at the turn of the twentieth century its position was assumed by another power originating from the Anglo-Saxon world, namely, the United States. The political, economic and military domination of those two states in twentieth-century world politics led to far-reaching transformations also outside the above mentioned spheres. Suffice to recall that the Anglo-Saxon experiences in the approach towards civic liberties and the relations between the citizen and the state became — thanks to their attractiveness, forceful impact and the possibilities stemming from the might of Great Britain and the United States — a standard for defining the comprehension of democracy and the state of law at the end of the twentieth century. The vastness of the British colonial empire at the threshold of the twentieth century and, subsequently, the rapid development of mass communication media in the United States helped turning the English language into the *lingua franca* of the world in the second part of twentieth century. The culture of Anglo-Saxon countries became the carrier of values shaping the concept of mass culture, in this way contributing to the development of globalisation at the end of the twentieth century.

The editors wish to thank all the authors of the publications presented in this volume for their cooperation. Their studies help to explain the reason why world history of the past century confirmed the opinion formulated at the beginning of the twentieth century, claiming that despite past differences, current conditions, and future political problems it is impossible for England and the U.S.A. to act on the international arena in any other way than as a single whole (William S. Howe, *Potential World Groupings*, „Asia” July 1918, vol. 18, p. 579).

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