***Polina Levina, BA***

**Polish jacobins in Kościuszko uprising: a struggle against intervention or an attempt to reform?**

Polish jacobins is a group of Polish reformers of the late 18th century who took more radical positions during the Kościuszko uprising (1794). On the one hand, those who considered themselves to this group supported Tadeusz Kościuszko and ranked themselves among   
the rebels, whose main goal was to liberate the country from the Russian and Prussian intervention. On the other hand, Polish jacobins expressed very new revolutionary ideas based on French achievements and at the same time on the realities of Polish political, social and economic life.

This group finally took shape at the beginning of the Kościuszko uprising and played an important role until its defeat. One of the Polish jacobins – Józef Zajączek, even acted as the leader of the rebels after the capture of Kościuszko in September 1794. A bright figure of the insurrection was certainly Hugo Kołłątaj, the leader of Polish jacobins and one of the most famous Polish philosophers of the Enlightenment. At last, several members of this group organized the public executions of the «traitors» to the uprising that took place   
in Warsaw on 9 May and 28 June 1794.

In my report I would like to reflect on the question: was the uprising led by Kościuszko only an attempt to stop the intervention and save the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, or there was some political process (or even the political struggle) the main purpose of which was to carry out fundamental reforms? I also try to understand the impact of external factor, and particularly Russia’s interference in Polish affairs, to ideas and actions of the most progressive and radical group of Polish society at the end of the 18th century.