

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	5
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	7
I. INTRODUCTION	9
1. Social Movements in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic	9
2. Relevance of the Subject	11
3. Purpose of the Study	13
4. Methodology	14
5. Delimitation	15
6. Structure	16
II. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	19
1. The Origins of the Virus	19
2. International Reactions to the Outbreak of the Virus	20
3. Social and Economic Impact	23
4. Anti-Lockdown Protests	30
5. Vaccine Controversies and Anti-Vaccine Movements	33
6. Conclusions	38
III. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE USA – THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT AND THE CAPITOL RIOTS	40
Timeline	40
1. Historical Background of the Black Lives Matter Movement	41
2. The Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA	45
3. Legal Perspective on the COVID-19 Pandemic	47
4. The Black Lives Matter Movement	54
5. Presidential Campaign	62
6. Conclusions	66
IV. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN BELARUS – THE PROTESTS AGAINST ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO	68
Timeline	68
1. Introduction	69
2. Historical Background	73
3. The Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Belarus	79
4. Legal Perspective on COVID-19 Regulations	83
5. The Origins of the Protests	90
6. Presidential Campaign and Election Results	96
7. Conclusions	101

V. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN POLAND – THE WOMEN’S STRIKE . . .	103
Timeline	103
1. Historical Background	104
2. The Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Poland	112
3. The Judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal (K 1/20)	126
4. Organization of the Women’s Strike	132
5. Conclusions	142
VI. FINAL REMARKS	145
BIBLIOGRAPHY	149