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An extended abstract of the paper on the subject of:

THE GENESIS OF SCIENTIFIC IDEAS
TO LIMIT PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

**Problem statement.** The way, which Ukraine has chosen to build a modern European democratic legal state, actualizes the problem of imposing restrictions on public power, since despotism and authoritarianism are totally unacceptable forms of administration in all the developed and civilized countries of the world, including the EU member states. The interest in this problem range has acquired a special significance under the present globalization conditions, when the concept of “limits and boundaries” got a new meaning and importance.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** Over the recent years, scientific interest in the public power phenomenon has been rather strong in Ukraine. Thus, a theoretical basis for functioning and reforming public power in the current context has been studied by A. Bereza, M. Bratkovskyi, V. Dziundziuk, V. Korzhenko, I. Lazar, O. Lazor, N. Nyzhnyk, S. Popov, L. Prykhodchenko, P. Trachuk; the mechanisms of control within the system of public power, by A. Bukhaneyvych, V. Latysheva, S. Seriohyn, O. Sushynskyi. However, the problem of public power restrictions still remains understudied in the domestic public administrative literature.

**The paper objective** is to conduct analysis of scientific ideas evolution, systematizing the theoretical approaches and defining the major public power restrictions.

**The paper main body.** At various times, the issues of public power restrictions have been studied by numerous renowned scientists. The works
relevant to the said topic were written by J. Bentham, J. Bodin, H. Hegel, T. Hobbes, W. Humboldt, E. Laboulaye, J. Mill, J. Locke, N. Machiavelli, J.-J. Rousseau, H. Spencer, A. Tocqueville, F. Hayek, H. Hardt and others. The idea of restricting public authorities’ activity has passed a long evolutionary way – beginning from the Ancient Greece and Aristotle’s works.

While studying the state and its problems, Aristotle emphasized its natural origin, its social, organizational, and spatial features determined by the specific historical factors of time and space: the number of citizens, size of territory, and availability of people who rule it. Besides, the thinker discerned economic, military, geographic and other conditions being the determinant factors of state formation.

Conceptualization of the state came to the foreground in the age of Reformation; it intensified at the time of Enlightenment, and got an impetus in the New Age. An active elaboration of issues related to areas and limits of the state authorities’ activity, the scope of state functions was stipulated by the historical context of social forces’ strive for establishing a fair rule of law as well as by scientists’ substantiation of its theoretical basis and operating principles.

In the New Age, the ideas of restricting state power were represented in the most concentrated form as a result of an accumulated intermingling plurality of ideas, formulated in the frameworks of different politico-legal theories, inter alia: natural law, social contract, sovereignty, division of powers, liberalism, and rule of law. All of them are based on the premise that a major restriction of the state is natural unalienated human rights: freedom, justice, property, community, association etc.

Conclusions of the research and prospects for further surveys. Therefore, despite varying approaches (natural, religious, moral, legal, social, property, organizational and political, geographic and other restrictions), the concept of restricted power as an edifice has its specific methodological basis underlain by the universal principles, such as: priority of human interests, rule of law, freedom and democracy, separation of power, accountability and
responsibility of public power. However, the principles in question were formulated over a hundred years ago and need to be re-conceptualized under globalization conditions, an active advance of information society and new methods of developing and forming the public administrative space. The above-mentioned problem range will form the subject of the author’s further scientific research.