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## **HANS KELSEN ABOUT THE LEGAL POSITIVISM**

The article presents the main periods of the evolution of Hans Kelsen's (1881–1973) understanding of the legal positivism. The features of his interpretation of the critical legal positivism in his main early work „Hauptprobleme der Staatsrechtslehre entwickelt aus der Lehre vom Rechtssatze“ (Tuebingen 1911) are given in the beginning, e.g. his critical analysis of the positions of his teachers at the Heidelberg University (Georg Jellinek and Gerhard Anschuetz).

Further analyses consider Hans Kelsen's understanding of the legal positivism in his early German works „Reichsgesetz und Landesgesetz nach österreichischer Verfassung“ (1914), „Rechtswissenschaft als Norm– oder als Kulturwissenschaft. Eine metho-

denkritische Untersuchung“ (1916) and „Allgemeine Staatslehre“ (1925).

The features of Hans Kelsen's interpretation of the philosophical positivism and the legal positivism in his works „Die philosophischen Grundlagen der Naturrechtslehre und des Rechtspositivismus“ (1928) and „Reine Rechtslehre. Einleitung in die rechtswissenschaftliche Problematik“ (1934) are pointed out further.

In conclusion, Hans Kelsen's understanding of the legal positivism in his later German article „Was ist juristischer Positivismus?“ (1965) is analyzed, e.g. his critics on the positions of such famous philosophers of law and jurists as John Austin, Adolf Merkel, Gustav Radbruch, Wolfgang Friedmann.