



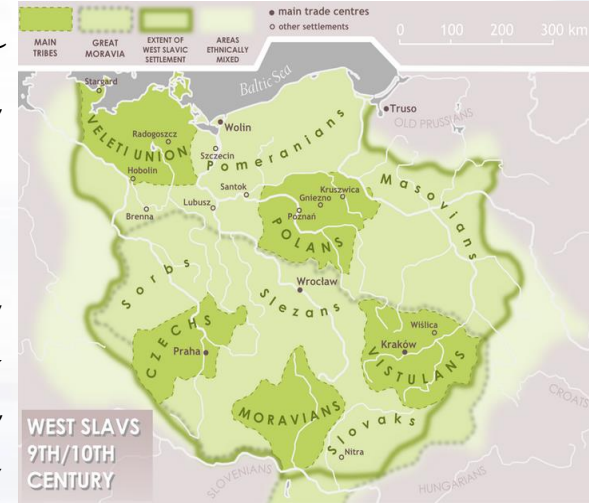
History of Poland

The very beginnings... - Polish tribes and their headquarters

The ancestors of modern Poles were the Polish tribes. It is difficult to accurately determine the number of tribes, their names and the area they inhabited. The two most important were Vistulans and Polans. Both were established in the second half of the 9th century.

*The state of the Vistulans soon collapsed as a result of the invasion of the Moravians, and then the Czechs. The strong state of the Polans survived, which, unexposed to external attacks, began conquering the neighbouring, weaker tribes. The founders of the Polish state are considered to be the ancestors of *Mieszko I*: Siemowit, Leszek and Siemomyst, who probably already took over the entire territory of the Polans state.*

Gniezno was the central point of the state of Polan.



The name Polan is derived from the word “pole” - “fields”. From the name Polan comes the name of our country - Poland, which generally means “The Land of Fields”

Kings and rulers

The Polish throne was occupied by the rulers of seven dynasties:

*the Piasts
the Přemyslids
the Angevins
the Jagiellons
the Vasas
the Wettins
the Valois*



The map of Poland ruled by Mieszko I



Mieszko I - the first historical ruler of Poland
from the Piast dynasty.

- *completed the work initiated by his ancestors to unite the tribes into one Polish state*
- *made Gniezno the capital of the state*
- *in 966, together with the entire court and team members, he was baptized by the Czechs*
- *married Dobrawa, daughter of Bolesław I, Duke of the Czechs*

960-992

year 1000

Bolestaw Chrobry met Otton III the emperor, who came to Gniezno in order to pay respects to the late St. Wojciech who used to be his friend.



The Congress in

Bolestaw Chrobry **Gniezno**

- *son of Mieszko I*
- *the first king of Poland from the Piast dynasty*
- *usually presented with his sword*

This event contributed to strengthening our position and gaining imperial favor. It gave us the opportunity to develop relations with the much stronger countries of the international arena at the time.

year 1138



Division of Poland into districts

It was the source of many internal problems. The district breakup led to divisions, conflicts, and also contributed to the strong weakening of our country. Also associated with it is the bringing of the Teutonic Knights to Poland in 1226, which is one of the most significant events of those years. No one knew that history could move to the warpath with such a significant order in future years.

The map of Poland divided into districts

year 1364

***Establishment of the
Jagiellonian University
in Kraków***

King Kazimierz Wielki is remembered as one of the greatest rulers on the throne of Poland. His reforms led not only to the strengthening of our country's infrastructure, but also to the creation of a university that has been a force of Polish science for years. So far, it is a university that actively participates in the development of our country.



***The facade of the
University's building***

***The University's official
coat of arms***



year 1410

Battle of Grunwald



“Battle of Grunwald” by Jan Matejko, one of the most famous Polish artist

- *One of the greatest battles in the history of medieval Europe*
- *Polish King Władysław Jagiełło and Grand Duke Witold of Lithuania against Ulrich von Jungingen, Grand Master of the Teutonic Order*
- *King Władysław Jagiełło's negative response to the Teutonic demands to stop Lithuanian aid for the uprising in Samogitia sparked a war with the Order in August 1409*
- *The Teutonic Knights gathered about 15-20 thousand army, Jagiełło and Witold had about 30 thousand knights and warriors. The advantage was on the Polish-Lithuanian side*

year 1569

Union of Lublin with Lithuania

It was an agreement linking the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as a result of which the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was established with one common monarch, a common parliament and a common currency.



“Union of Lublin” by Jan Matejko, 1869



The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was one of the strongest countries in the international arena of its time. The strength of Poland was enormous, and the union of nations from Lithuania and Poland changed the image of Europe in those years.

year 1772
year 1793
year 1795

Three Partitions of Poland

The period in the history of Poland and Lithuania in the years 1772-1795, when the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, thanks to neighboring Russia, Prussia and Austria, ceded part of its territory to them as a result of a lost war or under the threat of force.



Consequences:

- > Poland ceased to exist for 123 years*
- > economic and political crisis*
- > lack of civil liberty*
- > change of law*
- > meaningless constitution*

year 1791

May 3rd Constitution

- *Government Act of May 3 - passed on May 3, 1791, an act regulating the legal system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*
- *first such document in Europe*
- *second such document in the world*
- *lost its power in 1793 with the third partition of Poland*
- *May 3rd is a public holiday celebrated in Poland - it is a day off*




"May 3rd Constitution" by Jan Matejko, 1891

Regaining independence on November 11th, 1918



After 123 years, Poland finally managed to regain independence. For Polish people, 1918 is the most important date in the history of the 20th century. We could finally have control over our homeland and try to rebuild it quickly after WW1.

Unfortunately, the victory did not last long.



***Józef Piłsudski** (1867-1935) is one of the most famous Polish national heroes. He was a social and independence activist, a soldier, a politician and a statesman. After WW1, as one of six fathers of independence together with Roman Dmowski, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Wincenty Witos, Wojciech Korfanty and Ignacy Daszyński jointly took advantage of favorable conditions and led to the birth of the 11 Polish Republic.*

November 11th is a public holiday in Poland - it is a day off

year 1920

The Battle of Warsaw

The battle is commonly known as the Miracle on the Vistula - a military operation fought on August 13-25, 1920 between the Red Army heading to Warsaw and northwest of it and the Polish Army, grouped on the Vistula and Wieprz Rivers, the decisive battle of the Polish-Bolshevik war.

Why did the Polish army win?

Excellent radio intelligence and breaking Russian codes gave Poland a huge information advantage, which enabled the victory in the Battle of Warsaw over the overwhelming forces of Bolshevik Russia.



"The Miracle on the Vistula" by Jerzy Kossak, 1930

year 1939

The outbreak of World War II

- *The first and fundamental cause of the outbreak of WWII was undoubtedly the expansion of Nazi ideology in Germany*
- *September 1st, 1939, 4:45 is said to be the beginning of WWII*
- *It all started with the German attack on Polish positions in Danzig, a Polish seaside city*
- *WWII is known to be the largest armed conflict in the history of mankind*



years 1939-1945

World War II



Shocking facts:

- *about 5 million Polish people were killed during the war*
 - *hundreds of villages, towns and cities were destroyed, including the capital city, Warsaw*
- *lots of cultural possessions were stolen by the German army, such as works of art, valuable possessions of our ancestors, savings, etc.*
- *Poland suffered the greatest, in relation to the total population and national wealth, personal and material losses of all European countries.*

year 1989



Lech Wałęsa (in the middle) - Polish politician and trade union activist, dissident. Leader and hero of the democratic opposition in the communist period, co-founder and first chairman of a party called NSZZ "Solidarity". Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983. President of the Republic of Poland in 1990-1995.

Roundtable talks

This is the beginning of a real displacement of Eastern influences in our politics. This is a period that has a very strong impact on what our country looks like at the moment.



Other important dates...

➤ *On March 12th, 1999, Poland was admitted to the North Atlantic Alliance*



➤ *On May 1st, 2004, Poland became a member of the EU*



Polish national symbols...



Polish flag

The white symbolized the "goodness and purity of the Polish nation's aspirations" and the red "the dignity and majesty of Polish rulers"

National emblem -
white eagle on a red
background



Dąbrowski's
Mazurka - a Polish
patriotic song from 1797,
since February 26, 1927,
the official national
anthem of the Republic of
Poland.



Thank you for your attention!

Adrianna Suska, 4a

“Proud to be Polish...”