

“Knowing the history of deeds achieved in the country and abroad is considered by wise people to be the mother and teacher of life. “

Jan

Dlugosz

The history of Poland

The history of Poland is full of extraordinary events, interesting facts, great battles and great rulers.



The most important events in Polish history.

1. Polanie

The slavic tribe living in today's Poland. The name "Polanie" comes from the word "field" and means people who live in the fields, that is farmers. In the 10th century, the rulers of Polans from the Piast dynasty conquered the neighboring tribes and created a strong country. The name "Poland" comes from the name of this tribe.



2. Baptism of Poland

The baptism of Mieszko I, the Duke of Poland, in 966 is a crucial event in the history of Poland and the whole nation. It is considered as the symbolic beginning of Polish statehood. Thanks to this event, Poland became a Christian state. It enabled the cultural development of the country and strengthened its position in Europe.



3. Gniezno Congress.

In 1000, there was a meeting between the Duke Bolesław the Brave and the German Emperor Otto III. An archbishopric was created in Gniezno - the first church metropolis in Poland subordinated to the pope.



4. Coronation of Bolesław the Brave.

In 1025, Bolesław the Brave was crowned the king in Gniezno. Poland became a kingdom.

This event confirmed the independence of our country.



5. Battle of Grunwald.

On July 15th, 1410, the Polish-Lithuanian army defeated the Teutonic Knights in the Battle of Grunwald.

The victory of Poland and Lithuania broke the power of the Teutonic Order.



6. Discovery of Nicolaus Copernicus.

Nicolaus Copernicus is the most outstanding Polish astronomer. He discovered that the Earth goes around the Sun, not vice versa.

He described his observations in the work entitled “Of the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres”, which was published in 1543.

This scientific discovery changed people’s views on the structure of the universe.



7.Union of Lublin with Lithuania.

The Union of Lublin is an agreement from 1569, connecting the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as a result the Polish- Lithuanian Commonwealth was established with one common monarch, a common parliament and a common currency.

It was the only deal of its kind in the world. The union of nations from Lithuania and Poland changed the image of Europe in those years.



8. Warsaw Confederation.

The Warsaw Confederation was adopted by the Sejm on January 28, 1573, during the interregnum after the death of Zygmunt August.

It contained guarantees of freedom of religion in the country and ensured equal rights for Catholics and religious dissenters among the nobility.



9. Constitution of May 3rd , 1791.

It was the second in the world and the first in Europe the law regulating the organization of state authorities, the rights and obligations of citizens. It was the last attempt to save the Republic.

It gave hope to strengthen the Polish country, where for centuries the dominated principle was “liberum veto”.



11. World War I.

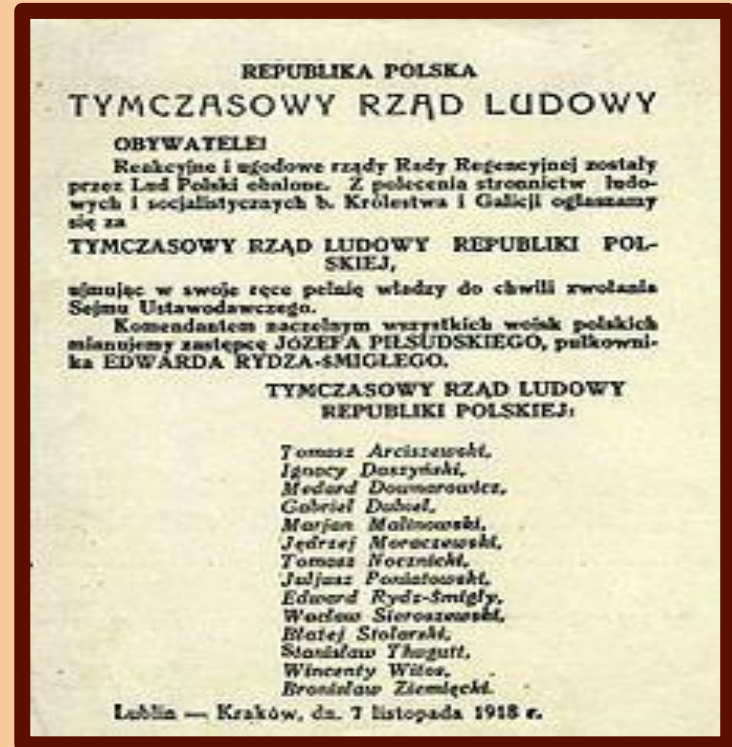
In 1914 - 1918, the First World War was fought. As a result, the partitioning countries lost their strong position.

In World War I, the Polish Legions were fighting on the side of Austria-Hungary. One of their leaders was Jozef Pilsudski.



12. Regaining the independence.

On November 11th, 1918, after 123 years of absence from the political maps of Europe, Poland regained its independence. This was mainly due to the persistence and self-sacrifice of the active part of Polish society. They taught younger generations that their language and culture are the most crucial things. This is the most important date in the history of the 20th century in Polish realities. We could finally control our homeland and try to rebuild it quickly after World War I. Unfortunately, the victory did not last long.



13. Battle of Warsaw.

The Battle of Warsaw took place in August 1920. The so-called “Miracle on the Vistula River” was very significant from a historical perspective. Until now, it is considered to be the moment of stopping the communist revolution, which could have caused a lot of confusion in tired, post-war Europe. Repelling the attack of the Bolshevik troops on the capital of Poland was of crucial importance for the consolidation of independent Poland and other newly established nation states in Central Europe.



14. The Second World War.

On September 1 st , 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland. At that time, the German and Soviet occupation of Polish lands began. Poles formed underground organizations that fought against the occupier. These included the Home Army and the Gray Ranks.



15. The end of World War II.

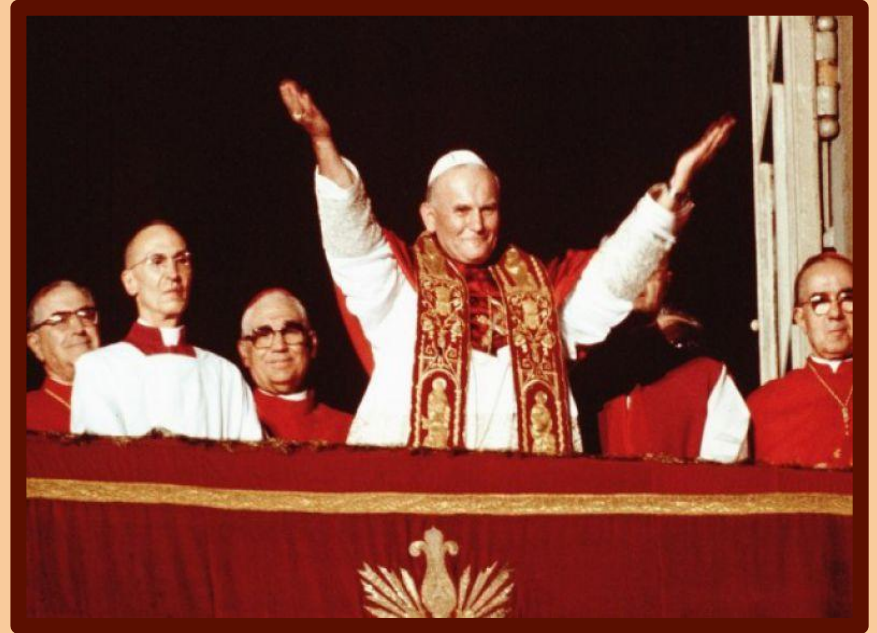
World War II ended in 1945 with the defeat of Germany. Peace was declared in Europe, but the Poles did not fully regain their freedom. Our country became dependent on the Soviet Union. Communists controlled power in Poland.



16. Saint John Paul II.

On October 16, 1978, a Polish cardinal, Karol Wojtyła, was elected pope. He took the name John Paul II.

His pontificate largely contributed to the overthrow of communism in Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the return of freedom and democracy in this region of the world.



17. The birth of “Solidarity” and martial law.

The communist authorities in post-war Poland restricted the freedom of citizens. Polish nation struggled with the lack of goods in stores and rising food prices. This led to strikes and demonstrations. In 1980, as a result of agreements between the government and the opposition, the Solidarity trade union was established. The leader was Lech Wałęsa. In order to stop the activities of “Solidarity”, the communists introduced martial law on December 13 th , 1981.



18. Round Table Talks.

In 1989, as a result of the Round Table talks, an agreement was reached between the government and the Solidarity.

The event of 1989 is considered a turning point in the history of Poland - the end of communism and the beginning of the formation of a new, free and democratic Poland.



19. Poland's entry into NATO.

On March 12 th , 1999, Poland became a member of the most powerful military pact in the world.

The North Atlantic Alliance guaranteed Poland's security and increased the position and significance of our country in the international arena.



20. Poland's accession to the European Union.

On May 1 st , 2004, Poland joined the European Union. Poland's membership in the European Union has brought many political benefits to the Republic of Poland.

It increased stability, both internally and in the region, and to level of security of the Republic of Poland and the entire European continent.



21. Smolensk disaster.

On April 10 th 2010, 96 people died in a plane crash in Smolensk.

Among them, the President of the Republic of Poland Lech Kaczyński and his wife.



22.Humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, Polish people showed great mobilization towards our eastern neighbors.

They helped Ukrainians spontaneously and selflessly who ran away from the war. Apart from humanitarian help our country is one of the largest suppliers of arms to Ukraine.



The end

Michał Szymański