



WAJSZCZUK FAMILY

Poland - Piast Dynasty

"PODLASIE" BRANCH



Poland

Lithuania



Union of Both Nations



Mazovia



Małopolska



Podlasie (provinces)



Siedlce



Łuków Land → TRZEBIESZÓW



Łosice (towns)



Union of The Three Nations –
1658 Treaty of Hadiach; (also 1863 Uprising)



ZAMOŚĆ branch (Sitaniec/Wysokie)
of the Wajszcuk Family



(www.wajszcuk.pl)

Historical background for the Family Tree

MY MOTHER WAS TELLING ME ... about the Family in Siedlce (Sept. 8, 2017)

INTRODUCTION – the region, people, about Siedlce and Trzebieszów

HISTORY: Land & country

SLAVS – VII-IX c.

POLSKA/Poland – last 1,000 years. Map: year ~1000

MAZOWSZE/Mazovia Province

PODLASIE/Podlachia Province

ZIEMIA ŁUKOWSKA/Łuków Lands, maps: 1619, 1764, 1772-1795

SIEDLCE – Neighborhood, friends and Family “nests”

Landed gentry

Patków

Łysów

Niemojki

Łosice

Polinów – Royal Tracts and Post Stations

EARLY SETTLERS (of this region)

Eastern and Western Slavs

Jagiellonian Trail/Szlak Jagielloński

PEOPLE: STANY/Estates of the Realm of Poland

Szlachta/Nobility

Magnaci/Magnates

Arystokracja/Aristocracy

Zaścianek/Petty nobility settlement

Szlachta zaściankowa/Petty nobility

Mieszczanstwo/Burghers/Bugeoisie

Chłopi/Peasantry

Smerds/free → feudal-dependent peasants

Wieś ziemiańska/Landed Gentry settlement

Królewszczyzna/Royal domaine/demesne

Wieś królewska/Crown land -

Poland and Lithuania

Executionist movement

Polskie Ziemiaństwo/Polish landed gentry

WAJSZCZUK FAMILY

A. Podlasie branch – Siedlce, Trzebieszów

Short history of the Family and name

Early settlers and major wars ...

11th – 14th centuries

Piast Poland

Jagiellon Poland

16th and 17th centuries; THE DELUGE

Partitioning of Poland

Kościuszko uprising

Napoleonic wars, Duchy of Warsaw

Congress Kingdom of Poland

Duchy of Posen (Poznań)

Masuria/Ducal Prussia

1830 – November Uprising

1863 – January Uprising

World War I (1914 – 1918)

(Russian) Great Retreat (1915)

Polish-Bolshevik (Soviet) war, 1919 - 1920

World War II (in Europe), 1939 – 1945

After the war

WJW – MY FINAL THOUGHTS

1,000 years of history/changing borders

B. Zamość branch – Wysokie, Sitaniec, Sułów

Ethnic cleansing and Zamość Uprising

Wajszczuk Family involvement in WW II

C. Other Wajszczuk Family settlement areas

Poland, USA, Argentyna

D. Migrations

Glorious Past - pictures

My mother was telling me ... (ENG) – INTRODUCTION

My mother, (who was a smart and keen observer, active and living a busy and involved social life, especially for many years after the death of my father, was frequently telling me, and also sharing this opinion with her many friends and acquaintances, that our home town **Siedlce** and many local people, living in town (called “Siedlczanie”) and in the vicinity - were “special”. Her friends sometimes looked at her with a smile of indulgence, but.... really, did not deny.

For years, I did not pay much attention to this statement, but with the time passing, and while acquiring new and more detailed knowledge and getting familiar with the history, local events and historical facts - in the course of my studies on the history of the family (for the Genealogical Tree of the Wajszczuk Family) - and of the places and region, where they lived and functioned , a thought started recurring – perhaps she was right – at least in some aspects? Let’s see!



School year **1930-31** – Siedlce, Gymnasium of Queen Jadwiga, Class VIb, from right, 2nd – **Wanda Herman** (later married dr. Lucjusz Wajszczuk), 1st - **Emilia “Milka” Heltman**, (Wanda’s friend – from the landed gentry family, her parents owned an estate in Patków Ruski, her future husband, Wojciech Skibinski was the owner of Patków-Józefów and administrator(?) of an estate in Łysów – **see below**).

Several pertinent topics are summarized in the following short introduction and below - a more detailed descriptions and explanations follow. =====

The region (borderlands between the provinces of Podlasie (**Podlaskie Voivodeship** or **Podlasie Province**) and Mazowsze (**Mazovia**) was populated during the past millennium by a mixture of invaders and/or settlers

from be Baltic Sea region (**Jaćwingowie** - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yotvingians> - **Yotvingians** or **Sudovians**, also called **Suduvians**, **Jatvians**, or **Jatvingians** in English), from Lithuania, from ancient Rus’, invaded by Tatars, Mongols, Teutonic knights, Swedes, Moldovans, Russians, Austrians, Germans and others ...



The people - With time, the area became densely settled by the nobility (szlachta), landed nobility and later by landed gentry (ziemiaństwo) - some became impoverished with time passing, especially in the XIX c., (while under the Russian occupation), and by peasantry, free or attached in servitude.

About Siedlce – the place of origin of a local sub-branch of our family since the second half of the 19th century. It is a principal town in this region, on the border between Mazowsze and Podlasie provinces – its territorial assignments varied through the centuries. It was founded probably before the 15th c.

In the middle of the 18th c., it became a property of the Princely Family of **Czartoryski** and **Ogiński** (their primary residence was in **Słonim**, now – Belarus). Siedlce underwent important development (ducal palace, new church, theater, opera, public

buildings, City Hall “Jacek”) – it became the cultural center. Later, it was frequently called “a distant suburb of Warsaw”.

It had a large military garrison during the interwar period. It experienced severe battles in 1939 – earlier, strong resistance movements developed during the Uprisings in 1830 and 1863, during First World War and the Polish Bolshevik war of 1919 – 1921. During the WW-II – a strong partisan movement and activity developed in the area forests.

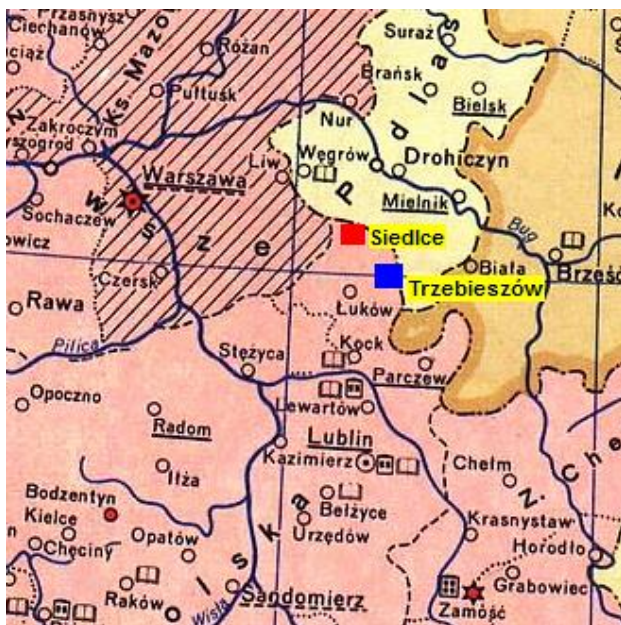
It had, and it has now many cultural institutions, including a university. Many famous people – actors, writers, professionals and politicians etc., were born and lived here. Many, who left in the course of the war turmoil, reached prominence nationally or were successful abroad.

WW-I – Siedlce was occupied by the Germans, **12.VIII.1915 – 11. XI.1918**, liberated by the **POW Polish-Bolshevik War** (1919-1920) – Bolsheviks in town **10/11.VIII.1920 – 16/17.VIII.1920**

WW-II – Germans arrived **11.IX.1939**, Soviets arrived **29.IX.1939**, Germans returned **9-10?. X. 1939**. Liberated by the AK and the Red Army – **31.VII. 1944**, (fighting in town from 24.VII.1944, 47th Army was fighting at Siedlce - Kochanski, The Eagle Unbowed, p. 417).

I remember from my early childhood – my parents, dressed formally, getting ready, either for some official gatherings, or carnival balls, visiting friends in the nearby estates (through the deep snow, in horse-drawn sleighs accompanied by the horseback riders with flaming torches - to illuminate the roads and repel the wolves. Another memory – parents’ friend from a nearby estate, came to town to buy batteries for his giant flashlight – I and my little friend, were hiding under the table covered by a long overhanging table cover, we were playing, the parents and guest were talking. By the time they were finished – it was a late Saturday evening, shops were already closed ..., and the batteries were dead! I wonder, how did he explain and how much apologizing he had to do, to his wife, my mother’s friend from the high school (in a picture, above)?

Trzebieszów (Family nest) – situated in the **Łuków Lands** - is one of the two primary - (northern) nest of the **Wajszczuk** Family. The other - (southern) was in **Sitaniec** and **Wysokie n/Zamość**.



What was it, exactly, that she was talking about?

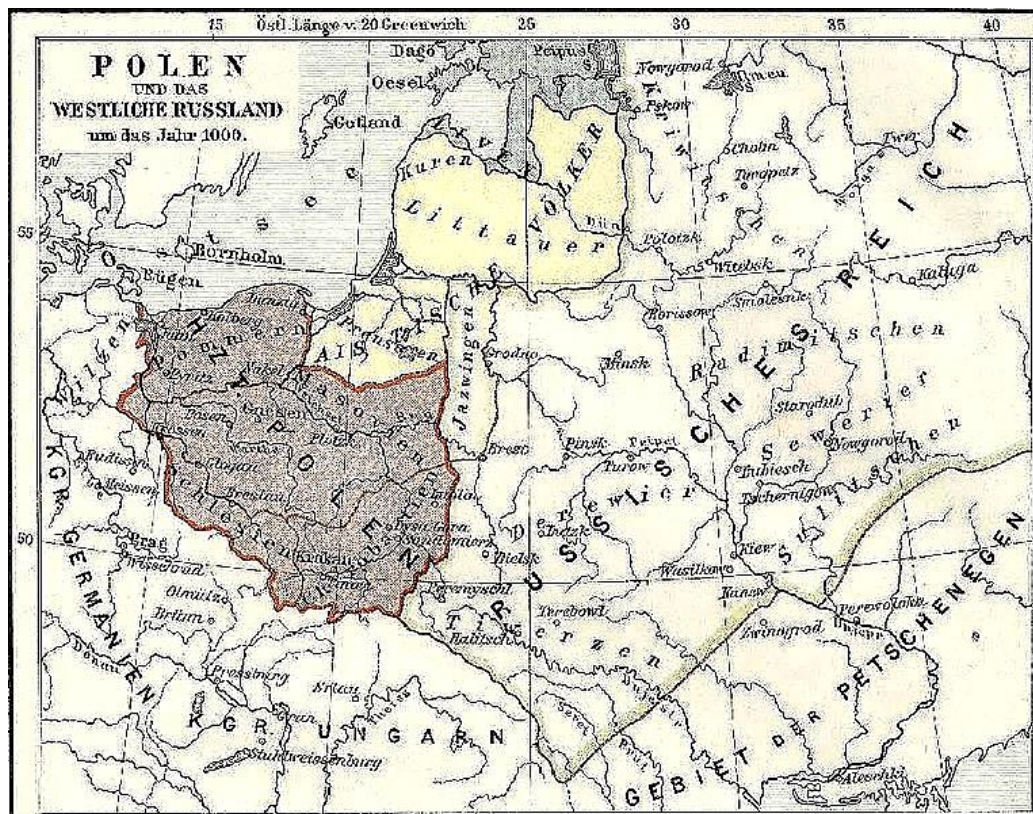
More details - below.

HISTORY: Land & Country - SLAVS – VII - IX c.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavs#/media/File:Slavic tribes in the 7th to 9th century.jpg>

POLSKA/POLAND – last 1,000 years



Poland around year 1000

Hel peninsula



Fragmentation of Poland in 1138: Duchy of Masovia of [Bolesław IV](#)
 (Under the Duke [Bolesław III](#) from the **Piast Dynasty**, Poland was [divided among his sons](#).)



Provinces of Poland 1275 – 1300 – see Mazowsze



Upon the death of Duke Boleslaus II in **1313**, **Masovia/Mazowsze** was divided among his sons.
1313 partition of Mazowsze: Duchy of Płock under [Wenceslaus](#); Duchy of Rawa under [Siemowit II](#); Duchy of Czersk under [Trojden I](#)



Grand Duchy of Lithuania – (Lithuania and Rus' - in union with Poland since the end of 14th c.)



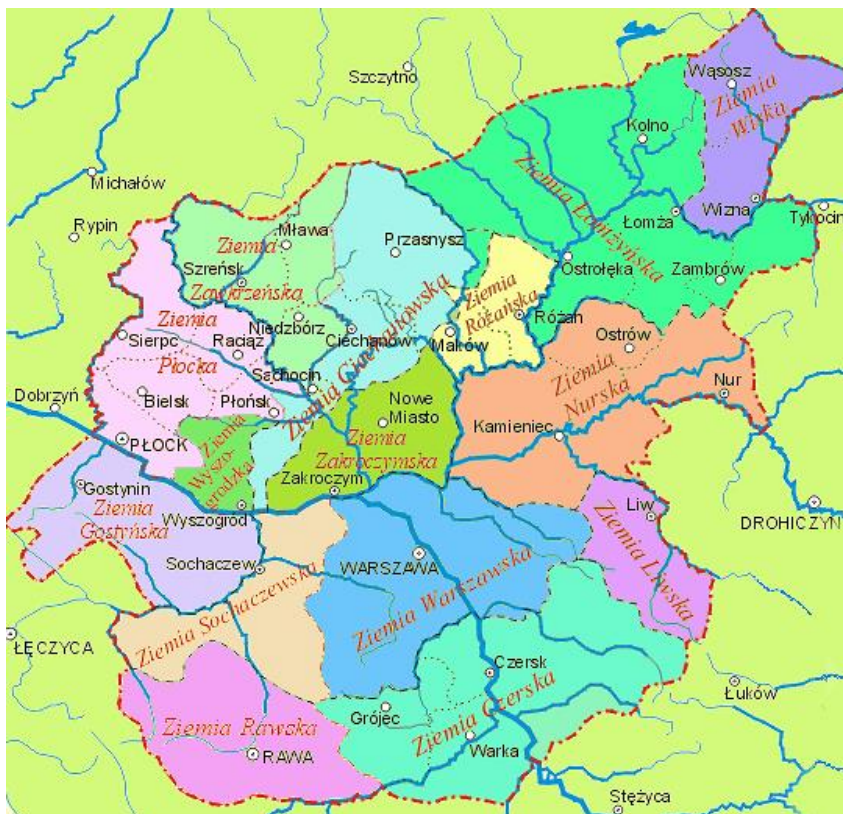
Provinces of: Mazowsze/Mazovia



Podlasie/Podlachia

(Siedlce shown on **green** rectangles)

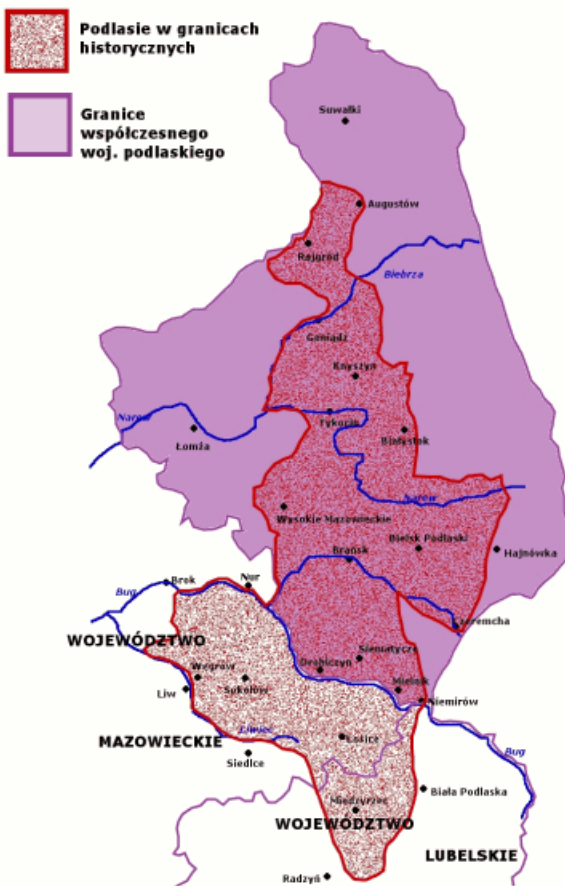
MAZOWSZE/Mazovia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazovia>



“Lands” (ziemia) in Mazowsze (named after principal towns) – ethnic Kingdom of Poland

Mazovia ([Polish](#): *Mazowsze*) is a historical region (*dzielnica*) in mid-north-eastern [Poland](#). Borders of the [Mazovian Voivodeship](#), which was created in 1999, do not reflect exactly its original shape (they do not include historically Mazovian [Łomża](#) and [Łowicz](#), meanwhile [include Lesser Polish Radom and Siedlce](#)), but are roughly similar. Historical Mazovia existed since the [Middle Ages](#) until the [partitions of Poland](#) and consisted of three [voivodeships](#) with the capitals in [Warszawa](#), [Płock](#) and [Rawa Mazowiecka](#). In a narrower sense, the Mazovian Voivodeship was only the first of them (which however encompassed most of the region, only without the western lands). Between 1816 and 1844 another Mazovian Voivodeship (from 1837 Governorate) existed, encompassing the south of the region (along with [Łeczyca Land](#) and south-eastern [Kujawy](#)). In the Middle Ages the main city of the region was [Płock](#),^[1] but in the [Early Modern Times](#) it lost importance in favour of [Warsaw](#). Since **1138** Mazovia had a separate branch of the [Piast dynasty](#) and was incorporated to the [Polish Crown](#) as late as in the 15th and 16th centuries. As much as over 20% of Mazovian population was the [yeomanry](#) (*drobna szlachta*). Inhabitants of Mazovia are [Mazurzy](#) (in the singular: *Mazur*) – hence the region of [Masuria](#), settled by them.

PODLASIE/Podlachia, <http://www.dialektologia.uw.edu.pl/index.php?l1=mapa-serwisu&l2=&l3=&l4=podlasie-historia-regionu-mwr>. Monika Kresa - **Podlasie – pogranicze kultur, religii i narodów (Podlasie - where the cultures, religions and nations meet)**



Podlachia – (contemporary – solid color) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podlachia>. **Podlachia**^[1] or **Podlasie**,^[2] ([Polish](#): *Podlasie*, [Belarusian](#): *Падляшша* *Padliašša*) is a historical region in the eastern part of [Poland](#). Between 1513 and 1795 it was a [voivodeship](#) with the capital in [Drohiczyn](#). Now the part north of [Bug River](#) is included in the modern [Podlaskie Voivodeship](#) with the capital in [Białystok](#). (...) There are two opinions regarding the origin of the name of the region. Commonly people derive it from the [Slavic](#) word *les* or *las* meaning "forest", i.e., it is an "by the wood(s)" or "area of forests", making *Podlachia* close in meaning to adjacent [Polesia](#). (...) The second opinion holds that the term comes from the expression *pod Lachem*, which may be translated literally as "under the Poles" (see: [Lechia](#)). Some claim it to mean "under Polish rule", though in the [Middle Ages](#) Podlachia was only partially under Polish rule, and since 1446 until 1569 the area belonged to the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#).

(...) Podlachia is divided along the [Bug River](#), at which the traditional capital [Drohiczyn](#) lies, into northern and southern parts. The former is included in the modern-day [Podlaskie Voivodeship](#) with its capital at [Białystok](#) (the historical boundary goes exactly through the city). Sometimes, [Siedlce](#) has been considered the capital of the region.

History - Throughout its early history, Podlachia was inhabited by various tribes of different ethnic roots. In the 9th and 10th centuries, the area was likely inhabited by [Lechitic tribes](#) in the south, [Baltic \(Yotvingian\)](#) tribes in the north, and [Ruthenian](#) tribes in the east. Between the 10th and 14th centuries, the area was part of the [Ruthenian](#) principalities and Polish and [Mazovian Piast](#) states. The area became perhaps a part of the Medieval Slavic territory of [Cherven Cities](#). In the 14th century the area was annexed by the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#), though later on it still briefly fell under Mazovian Piast rule. In 1446, Podlachia became part of the Grand Duchy, but since 1496 southwestern parts of Podlachia ([Drohiczyn Land](#) and [Mielnik Land](#)) and since 1501 the northern part ([Bielsk Land](#)) used Polish law instead of Lithuanian. In 1513 King [Sigismund I the Old](#) formed the [Podlaskie Voivodeship](#) (adjective of *Podlasie*). In 1566, the southeastern part of Podlachia became part of the newly formed [Brest Litovsk Voivodeship](#) as the Brest Litovsk County. In 1569, after the [Union of Lublin](#), Podlasie was ceded to the [Kingdom of Poland](#). It was the northernmost part of the [Lesser Poland Province of the Polish Crown](#). The voivodeship was divided in three lands: the Drohiczyn, Mielnik and [Bielsk Land](#). In the 18th and 19th century the [private town](#) of [Białystok](#) became the main center of the region, thanks to the [patronage](#) of the [Branicki family](#) and the [textile industry](#) development. After the [Third Partition of Poland](#) in 1795, Podlachia was divided between the [Kingdom of Prussia](#), the [Habsburg Monarchy](#) and the [Russian Empire](#). In 1807, the western part

of Podlachia became part of the [Duchy of Warsaw](#), a semi-independent Polish entity, while the eastern part including [Białystok](#) fell under Russian rule. In the 19th century the region was a stronghold of Polish resistance against Russian rule. The last partisan of the [January Uprising](#) [Stanisław Brzóska](#) operated here until 1865. He was hanged publicly by the Russians in [Sokołów Podlaski](#) in May 1865. Poland regained Podlachia after restoring independence in 1918.

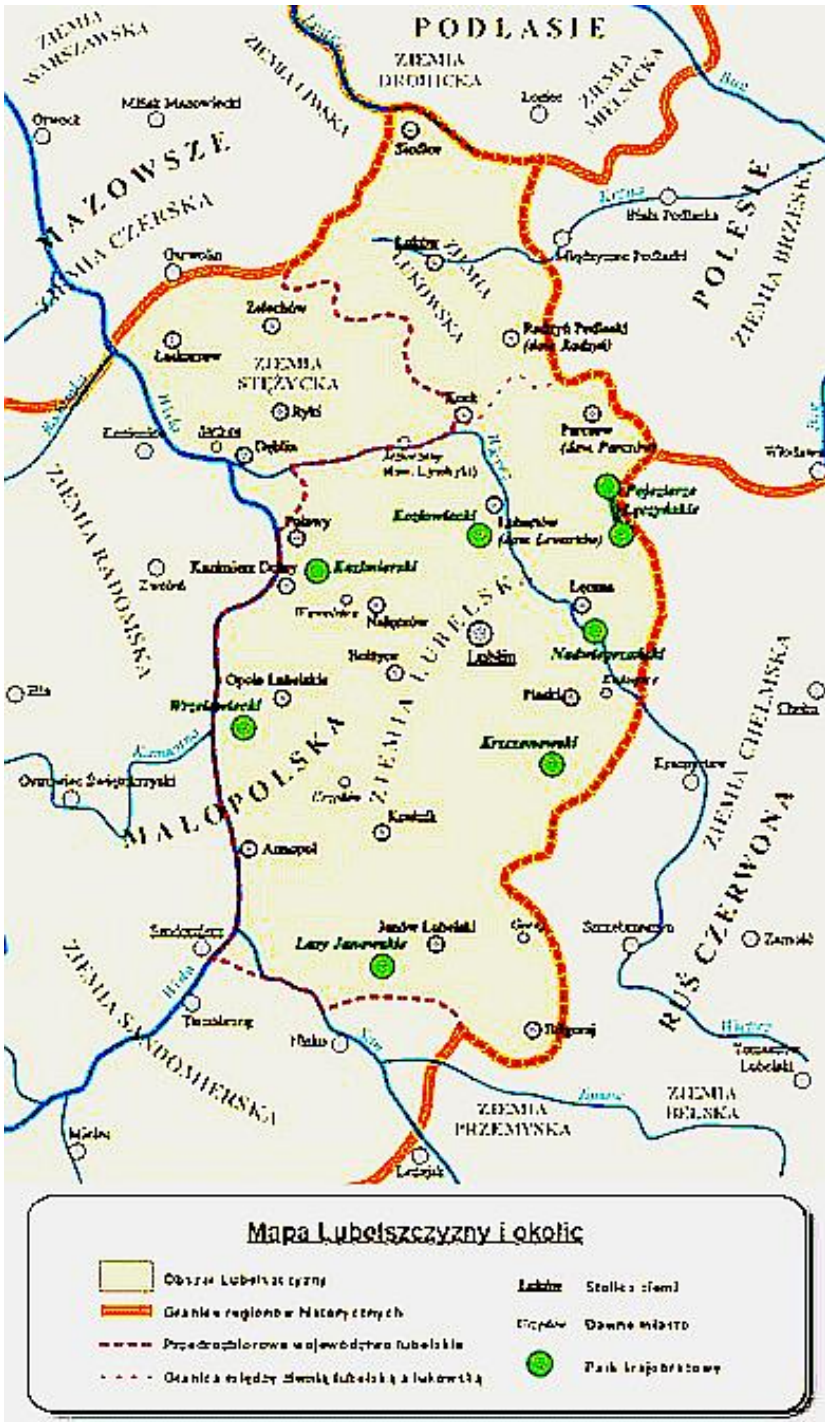


The [Podlaskie Voivodeship](#) in the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) in 1635



Podlachia Proper – **contemporary** map

ZIEMIA ŁUKOWSKA/Łuków Lands – https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ziemia_%C5%82ukowska,_lat. *Terra Lucoviensis* – a small historical territorial unit with a capital in Łuków, (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%81uk%C3%B3w>; in the north-east of the Małopolska region (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser_Poland). At the **Piast** times belonged to the Sandomierz Lands ([ziemi sandomierskiej](#)), and in the 1st republic of Poland - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_division_of_the_Polish%E2%80%93Lithuanian Commonwealth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_division_of_the_Polish%E2%80%93Lithuanian_Commonwealth)) was part of [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lublin_Voivodeship_\(1474%E2%80%931795\)_województwa_lubelskiego](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lublin_Voivodeship_(1474%E2%80%931795)_województwa_lubelskiego).

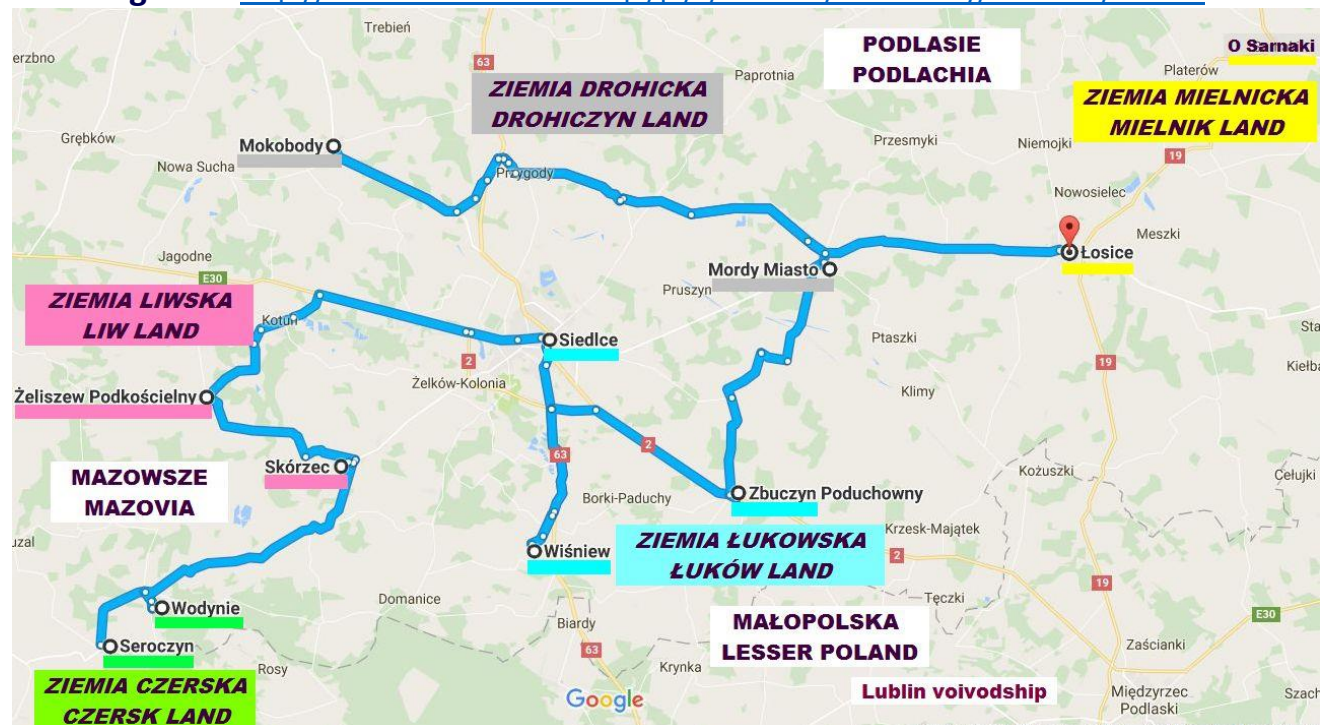


Siedlce – near top of the map **Łuków Lands** had their beginnings initially in the Duchy of Kraków (Cracow) and then of Sandomierz, then was in the territory of [województwa sandomierskiego](#), and next, since **1474**, of [województwa lubelskiego](#), where it existed as a separate county. **Łuków**, along with Lublin, were the seats of a *Starosta Grodowy* (a county - [powiat](#)) level official responsible for fiscal duties, police and courts, and also the one responsible for the execution of judicial verdicts). **Łuków** was (since the **11th/12th c.**?), the center of development of parishes and temporarily (**1254-1257**), the site of a bishopric. Somewhat later (before **1327**), the **Kock** parish was erected. Before the end of the 18th c. Krakow bishops have erected a total of 12 independant parishes. In addition to the oldest ones, they were parishes in: [Tuchowicz](#) (before 1350-1351), [Zbuczyn](#) (1418), [Pruszyń](#) (1430), [Trzebieszów](#) (1430), [Ulan](#) (ok. 1440), [Serokomla](#) (1444–1445), Kozirynek ([Radzyń](#), 1456), [Siedlce](#) (**1532**), [Radoryż](#) (1588 i [Stanin](#) (1599).



Łuków and Drohiczyn Lands

Siedlce and vicinity – a meeting region and melting pot of lands, peoples, cultures and religions - <http://www.wrotamazowska.pl/pl/c/MOBILE/samorzady/siedlecki/siedlce>



The territory of the town of Siedlce and of the Siedlce County was changing several times with the passing years. After the 3rd Partitioning of Poland (1795), lands contained between the rivers Bug and Wisła (Vistula) fell under the rule of **Austria**. One of the first decision of the Austrians on our territories was the division of the occupied territory into the new county units. The **Siedlce County**, which was created at that time, was composed of five territorial units of the former Polish Republic, which previously were parts of three voivodships.

Before the partitioning, **Wodynie and Seroczyn** belonged to the **Czersk Lands**, **Żeliszew and Skórzec** – to the **Liw Lands**, both of these lands constituted the eastern part of the **Mazowieckie Voivodship**, **Siedlce, Zbuczyn and Wiśniew** belonged to the **Łuków Land**, which was the northern-most part of the **Lublin Voivodship**; **Mordy and Mokobody** belonged to the **Drohiczyn Lands**. In the initial design, to the Siedlce County belonged also **Łosice i Sarnaki** – a part of the **Mielnik Land**. The **Mielnik** and **Drohiczyn** Lands constituted the south-western part of the **Podlaskie Voivodship**.

The facts described above determined that Siedlce County was, and is a very interesting and richly intertwined region, as far as cultural and social aspects are concerned and is characterized by unique local culture and traditions, which are cultivated by its inhabitants.

While visiting the Siedlce lands, it is worthwhile to visit their monuments. The most interesting are: church in Mokobody (turn of 18th and 19th cc.), church in Żeliszew Podkościelny (2nd half of 18th c.), wooden church in Paprotnia (1750), the Palace and Park in Korczew (1734), Palace in Mordy (1st half of 18th c.), Palace and Park in Stok Lacki (1875). Particularly interesting is a small manor house in Chlewiska (mid-19th c.), hosting now “An Artists Retreat - Reymontówka”. It functions now as a county center for cultural, historical and ecological education. Inside this historic mansion and in the surrounding park are held conferences, concerts, painting and sculpture exhibits, „meetings” with literature, opera and operetta, recitation competitions, performances of choirs and brass orchestras, international “open air exhibits” and plastic and theater workshops.



Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at its maximum extent, after the [Truce of Deulino](#) in 1619, superimposed on a current political map.



Jan Matejko - *The Republic at the Zenith of Its Power*. [Golden Liberty](#). The [Royal Election](#) of 1573.



Poland and Lithuania - 1764



Some social strata in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's society – 1655. From left: [Jew](#), [Barber surgeon](#), [Painter](#), [Butcher](#), [Musician](#), [Tailor](#), [Barmid](#), [Pharmacist](#), [Shoemaker](#), [Goldsmith](#), [Merchant](#) and [Armenian](#).



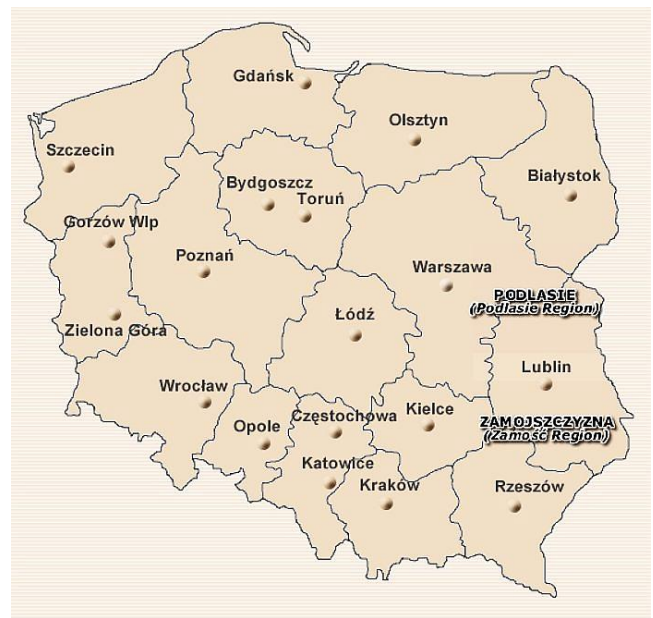
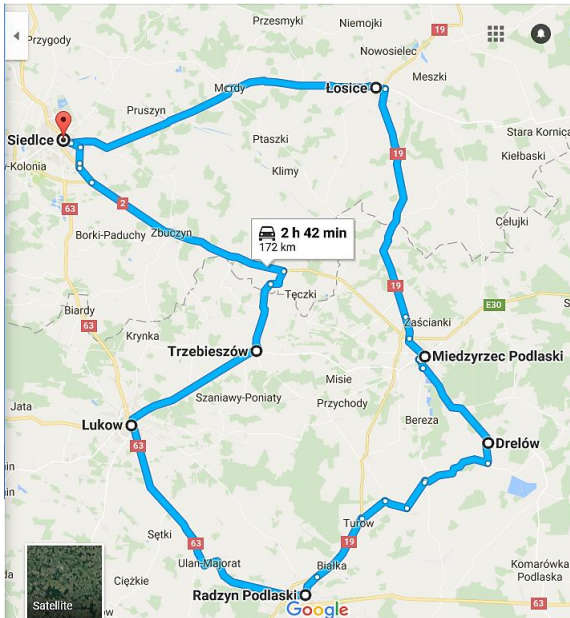
Jan Matejko - Adoption of the [Constitution of May 3, 1791](#) by the [Four-Year Sejm](#) and Senate



Partitions of Poland – 1772, 1793 and 1795

SIEDLCE – and our “near neighborhood” – family and friends;

Family “nests”

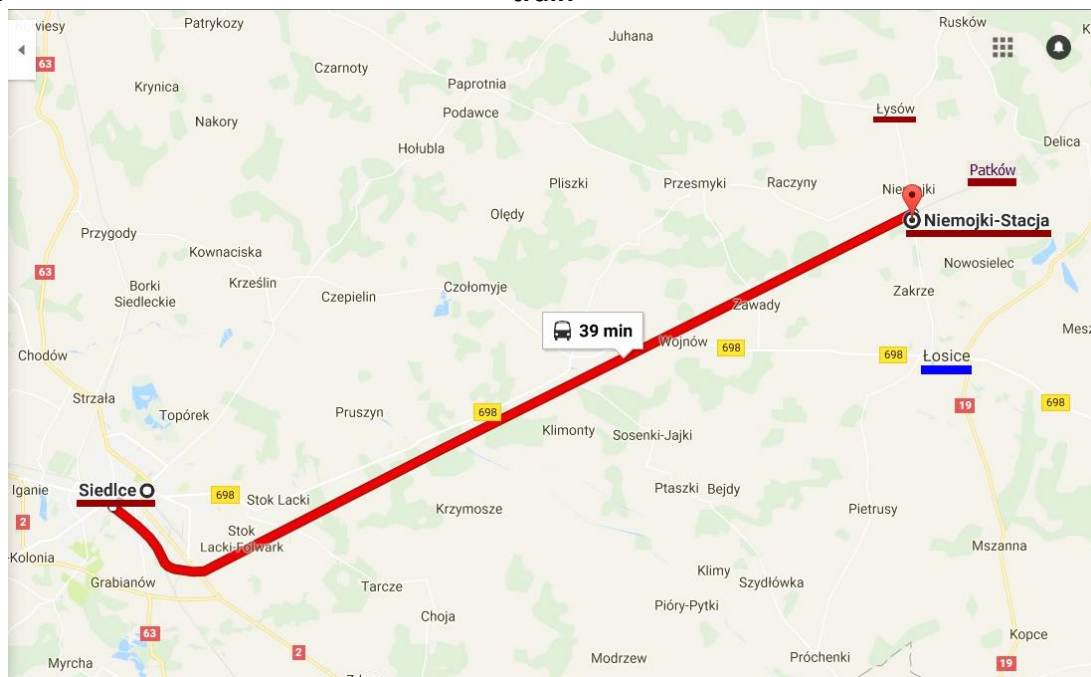


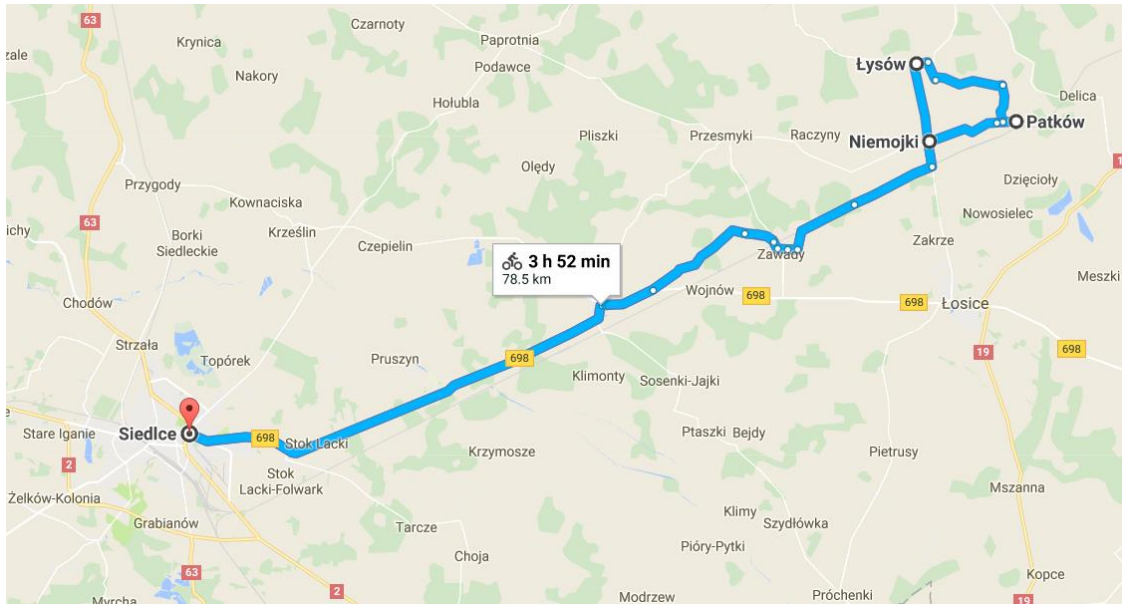
(Left) “Near neighborhood” – (GOOGLE map) in the center – **Trzebieszów**, main northern “Family Nest”; clockwise – **Siedlce**, home of our family branch since 2nd half of the 19th c.; **Łosice** – friends’ estates area; **Międzyrzec** – many friends; **Drelów** – uncle Karol was there a parish priest for many years; **Radzyń** – uncle Karol was there a vicar, also many friends; **Łuków** – former principal city in the Łuków Lands, before Siedlce became more prominent. **(Right)** Contemporary map of Poland: main Family branches, in: “Podlasie region” – upper, “Zamosc region” - lower

Landed Gentry, places and friendly visits – Niemojki, Patków, Łysów, (Polinów-Łosice)

These were the places visited by my parents and occasionally by me. The first picture below shows the railroad connection (line Siedlce-Wołkowysk, built in 1906) – the trip at that time lasted probably much longer (steam engine and a few stops) than what is indicated on the contemporary map, since there was also a need for a horse carriage connection between the station and the manors.

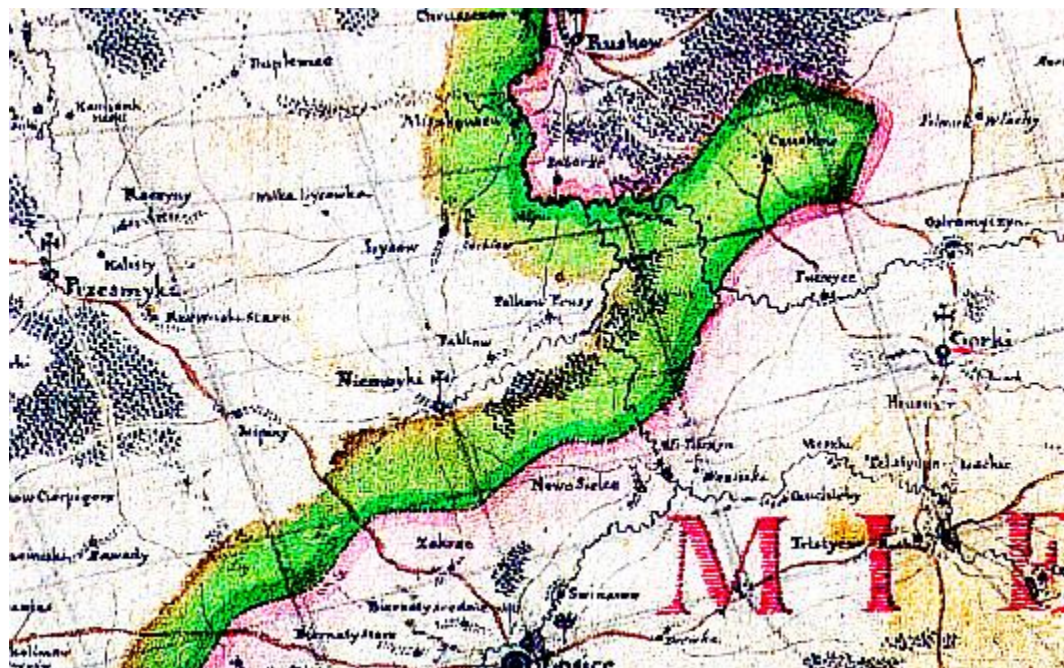
train





Nowadays, the round-trip by car would take about 4 hours, except that ..., there is nothing left there to visit and to see, except - still standing, one chimney and some foundations!

Patków - property records date back to the 15th c. - <https://patkow.com/historia-patkowa/>. They include a mention that severe fighting with Jaćwings took place in this region in the 13th c. - they were finally overcome in 1282 at Drohiczyn by the army of a Mazovian Prince Leszek, the Black. Severe battles took also place near Patków at the time of the Uprisings of 1830 and 1863, then in 1915, 1920, and also during the Second World War. A railroad line (Warsaw-Siedlce-Białystok-Wołkowysk and Moscow (via Patków) was open in 1906. Only a chimney with a stork's nest was left after the manor in Patków Prusy and a granary dating back to the 1930-ties, from the Józefów estate.



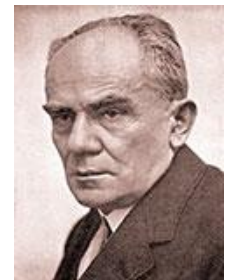


The original estate was later subdivided and owners (and names) were changing several times:
Patków (1427) → Patków Ruski (before 1497) → **Patków Ruski A** (1920 – **Józef Heltman** → **Emilia**),
 → Patków Ruski B (1920 – parceled out) → in 1946,
 both were taken over by the communist government.
 → **Patków Józefów/Francuski** (1869), (~1920 – **Jozef Skibinski**)
 Patkowiec Prusy (1540) – in 1946, taken over by the government.

Another manor was located at **Łysów**:

Łysów – owner?/admin.? - **Wojciech Skibiński** - http://www.polinow.pl/losice_i_okolice-lysow

Village in southern Podlasie. On the hill are now remnants of a manor built for the Kuczyński or Humnicki families at the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century.



Original manor and its contemporary remnants. A frequent resident in **Łysów** and visitor in **Patkow Ruski** was famous writer **Stefan Żeromski** – a four times nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature



Remnants of a building, of a large park and one of the old fish ponds.

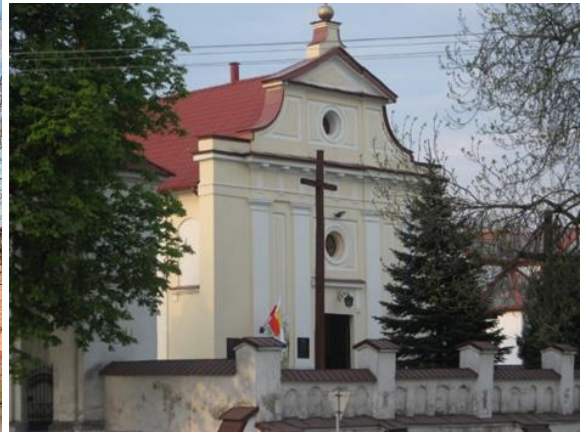


Church of the “Mother-of-God of the Rosary” was erected here in 1755.

Patków – [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patk%C3%B3w_\(powiat_%C5%82osicki\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patk%C3%B3w_(powiat_%C5%82osicki)) – a village in Poland located in [województwie mazowieckim](#), in [powiecie łosickim](#), in [gminie Łosice](#). There is a railroad stop - [przystanek kolejowy Patków](#). It belongs to a Roman-Catholic parish in Niemojki - [św. Apostołów Piotra i Pawła w Niemojkach](#).



Patków



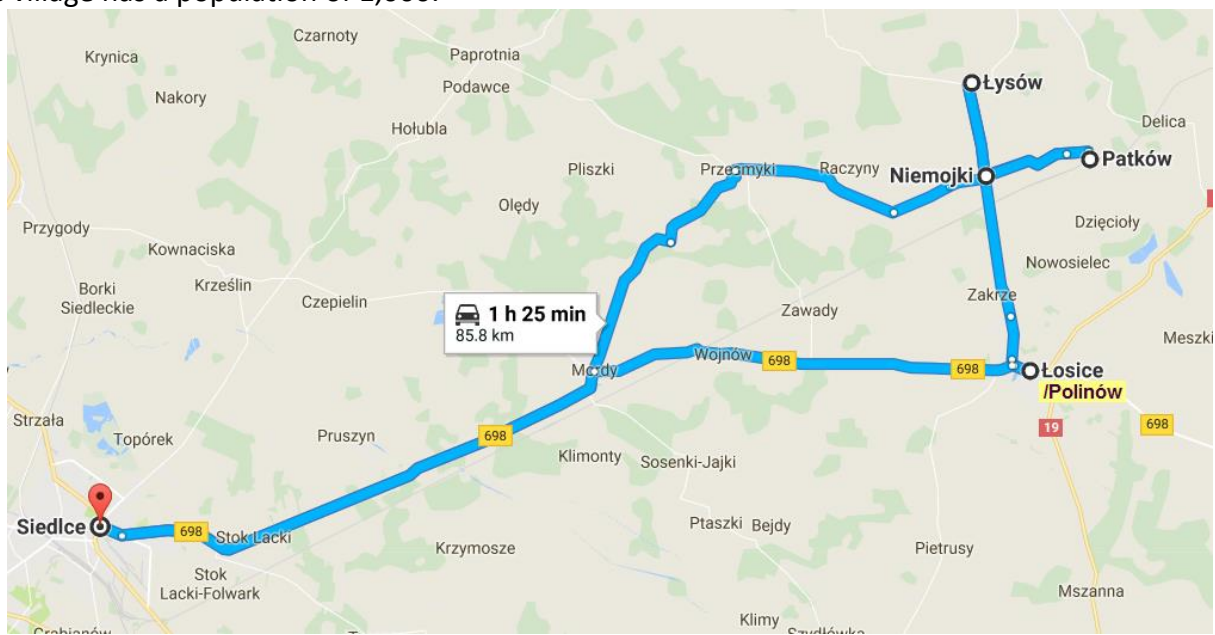
Niemojki - St. Apostles Piotr and Paweł Parish

Niemojki – RR station and large village -- http://www.polinow.pl/losice_i_okolice-niemojki.

In the moraine glacial hills, 7 km north of the town of **Łosice**, located by the ancient tract **Łosice – Drohiczyn**. Niemojki is mentioned in the document from the **15 c.** – (Lithuanian) Duke Witold gifted Niemojki to one Mikołaj Nasuta, future voivode of the Podlasie province. Original church was built by the Drohiczyn starost **Piotr Kiszka** in **1448**.

Niemojki - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niemojki> - **Niemojki** [ne'mojki] is a [village](#) in the administrative district of [Gmina Łosice](#), within [Łosice County](#), [Masovian Voivodeship](#), in east-central Poland.^[1] It lies approximately 6 kilometres (4 mi) north of [Łosice](#) and 117 km (73 mi) east of [Warsaw](#).

The village has a population of 1,000.



Łosice - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%81osice>

Łosice was first mentioned in **1264** as a medieval settlement from around the 11th – 13th centuries; situated near the village of Dzięcioły. However, the location prevented the town's further

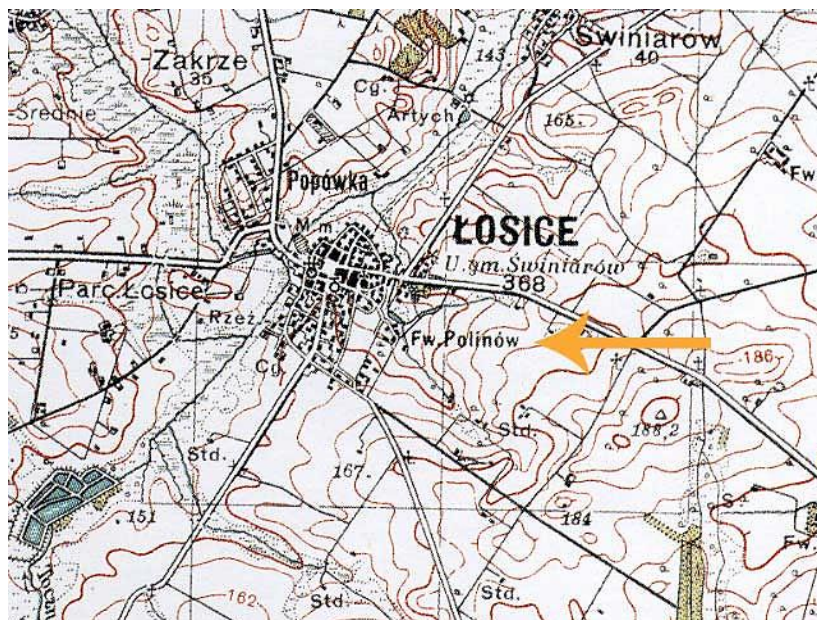
development and in the late 15th and early 16th century, the community was moved to Łosice's present location.^[1] The first documented history of the town is preserved in the [Privileges](#) issued by King [Aleksander Jagiellończyk](#) in [Radom](#) on May 10, **1505**; thus releasing Łosice from under the Ruthenian and Lithuanian city laws, and giving it more progressive [Magdeburg rights](#). Private judiciary was revoked enabling the inhabitants to form a municipal government with mayor and city council. The Privileges allowed also for weekly markets and four fairs a year at a more convenient location; and, proposed the establishment of a town hall.^[1]

By **1551**, there were two [Orthodox churches](#), and two [Roman Catholic churches](#) in Łosice, founded and endowed by King [Sigismund I](#). Throughout the 16th century the town enjoyed a period of economic development, with most inhabitants living off trade in leather, furs, and salt; as well as crafts, and a variety of services. According to a 1580 registry, there were 47 carpenters, 32 tailors, 20 bakers, 10 butchers, 7 stove fitters, and 4 blacksmiths in the town, not to mention millers, a locksmith, a goldsmith and a weaver. **A near complete destruction** of Łosice came about during the [Swedish Deluge in 1655-1660](#). Only in the second half of the 18th century, the town began to gradually recover.^[1]

After the [Third partition of Poland](#) Łosice fell under **Austrian rule**. Later, as a result of the [Treaty of Vienna](#) in 1815, it came under the rule of the Tsar of Russia. During the [November Uprising](#) a Polish battalion under Colonel Raczyński formed in the town with many local residents. Before and during the [January Uprising](#) against the Russian rulership, local doctor Władysław Czarkowski led a unit of several hundred conspirators in an attack against the garrisons. After the Uprising's defeat, the invader brought reprisals against the Polish population. Łosice had been deprived of its Roman Catholic parish, and in 1867 lost its civic rights. The process of Russification intensified right until the liberation of Poland.^[1]

Polinów (Łosice) - http://www.polinow.pl/historia_losic-sredniowiecze

(Summary) Interesting information is contained in a website of an old landed nobility family, which owned a large property near the town of Łosice, called Polinów.



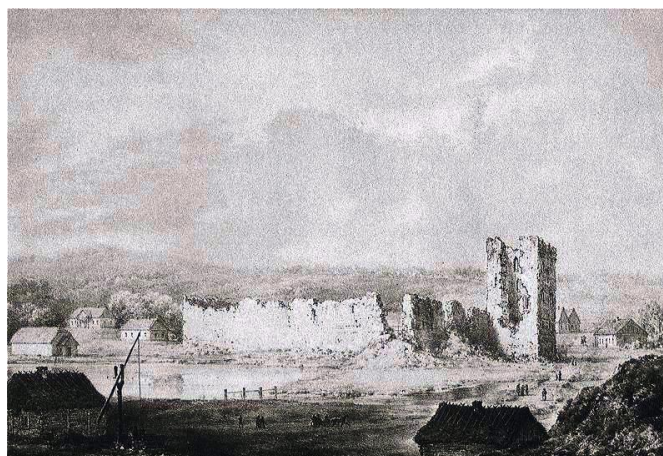
(Summary) Originally, the region contained impenetrable forests and swamps separating the Baltic tribes of **Lithuanians** and **Jatvingians** from the Slavic tribes. First settlers started arriving in the 12th century – **Rusins** were coming to the Podlasie forests from the south and east and Mazovians from

the west (**Mazowsze/Mazovia** was at that time an independent Polish principality). Unfortunately, in **1241**, the **Mongols** invaded Central Europe, (they were also called Tatars at that time). The invasion open the way to the subsequent incursion by the savage tribes from the north, i.e. Jatvingians and Lithuanians. They were followed by the Teutonic Knights, who arrived in their footsteps. This event led to an almost total depopulation of this region. Old chroniclers, at the end of the **13 c.** mention that “those regions were changing into a desert”. The situation started quieting down after repulsion of the Jatvingians from Podlasie by the Masovian princes. Around **1320** these territories fell under the rule of the Lithuanian prince Gediminas (the grandfather of the future Polish king **Jagiello**).

After the introduction of Christianity and establishment of the first **Polish-Lithuanian Personal Union** in **1385** (in **Krewo** – now in Belarus), peaceful settlers started arriving also from the East and North.



Map 1386 – 1434. Krewo – in right upper corner, blue – Teutonic Knights territories, light pink – Mazovia/Mazowsze province (Poland), medium pink – Lithuania, dark pink – Lesser Poland/Malopolska province



14 c. Castle in Krewo – 19 c. drawing

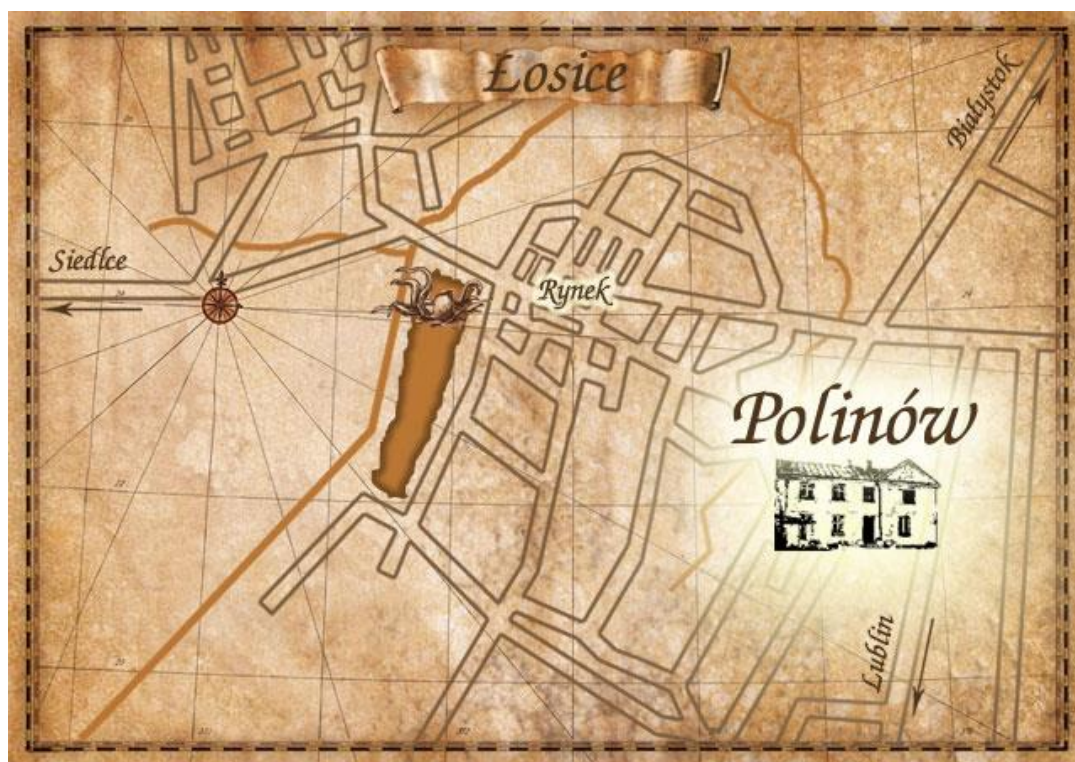
First historical mentions about **Polinów** describe it as a part of an estate of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania (...) The necessity of continuing travels between the two countries and their capitals, Krakow and Wilno, forced the establishment of rest stops and post stations, where the king and his court or other travelling officials could stay overnight, changes horses etc., Polinów became such

royal “stancja”. (other similar stations in this region were established – to the south, in **Trzebieszów** and **Łuków** and to the north, in Drohiczyn, Mielnik? and Wizna? – **see below**). Polinów and the nearby town of Łosice remained under a direct supervision of the royal starost (administrator) in Drohiczyn.

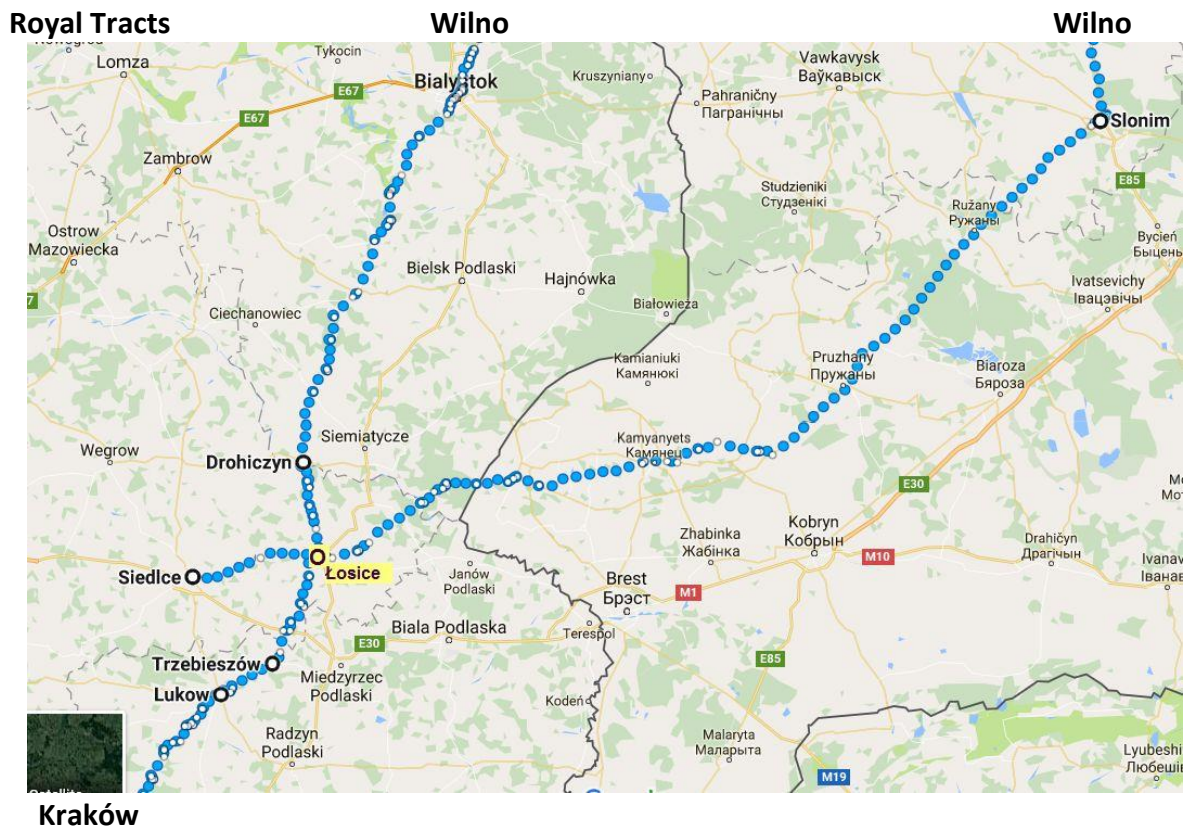
Barbara Radziwiłł, a new wife of the King Zygmunt August stayed in **Polinów** in September **1548** on her way from Wilno to Kraków. She was officially met there by a royal court procession and next day she was officially welcomed on the Polish territory, in **Łuków** (it means that **the official border between Lithuania and Poland run at that time between these two towns!**) (...) Unfortunately, 3 years later, in May 1551, the queen died because of an incurable illness and her body was returning to Lithuania along the same route - the funeral cortege reached Polinów on June 8, **1551**.

(...) Polinów was a moderately large property (at that time) - about **18 włók** (voloks - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volok_\(unit\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volok_(unit))) = more than 300 hectares; 1 hectare = 10,000 m²; 300 ha = 741 acres).

Polinów served as “a Royal Post Station”. The Royal Court travelling processions stopped there frequently and replenished their supplies for further travel.



Main **travelling tracts** (*see below*) from the west to east (merchants) and from the south to north (royal courts and envoys) were crossing in this region, (probably also affecting the selection of settlers in this area, with the appearance of “**royal towns**”, “**royal villages**”, permanent “**royal rest stations**” at intervals along the “**Jagiellonian Royal Tract**” From the Polish capital of Krakow Cracow and Lituanian capital of Wilno (Vilnius) at that time.



The map shows the south-north royal travel tract from **Kraków** to **Wilno** and another one, from **Siedlce** (Czartoryski and Ogiński estates) to **Slonim** (Sapieha and Ogiński estates), via **Prużany** (Queen Bona Sforza estate) and **Rożana** (Sapieha estate). They cross in the Łosice area (Polinów?)

EARLY SETTLERS

As the majority of borderland territories, Podlasie was the territory of **rivalry and skirmishes** among: **Mazovia, Rus', Lithuania** and the **Jadvingians**. The **Rusins** were arriving from the south and east. From the west, since the 12th c. started arriving in great number the **Mazovians**. In the 12th century, the political border between Mazovia and Rus' run near Drohiczyń. Its closest regions, as well as those of Mielnik and Brześć (and therefore, also the region of Łosice), were already colonized by a Rusin tribe of **Dregovitzs**. Gradually, the increasing portions of southern Podlasie were falling under the Rus' domination.

When the Polish State, after partitioning by Boleslaw-the-Wrymouth into smaller duchies, lost the strength to defend itself and the people in its borderlands, Jadvingian incursions from the north started. Advancing through the Podlasie wilderness, between Rus' and Mazowsze, they invaded and ravaged the fertile Małopolska region. A horrific invasion by the **Tatars** of Rus' and Poland in **1241** also contributed to the depopulation.

Colonization, in particular by Mazovians, practically stopped. Contemporary chroniclers recorded that these lands were transforming into deserts. In the second half of the 13th c., after expulsion of the Jadvingians from Podlasie (by Bolesław Wstydlivy and Leszek Czarny) and their defeats by Teutonic Knights (1278-1283), the Lithuanians became the most troublesome neighbors. Sequential incursions from Lithuania, as well as Teutonic invasions made colonization impossible. This situation changed drastically after the establishment of the Polish-Lithuanian Union.

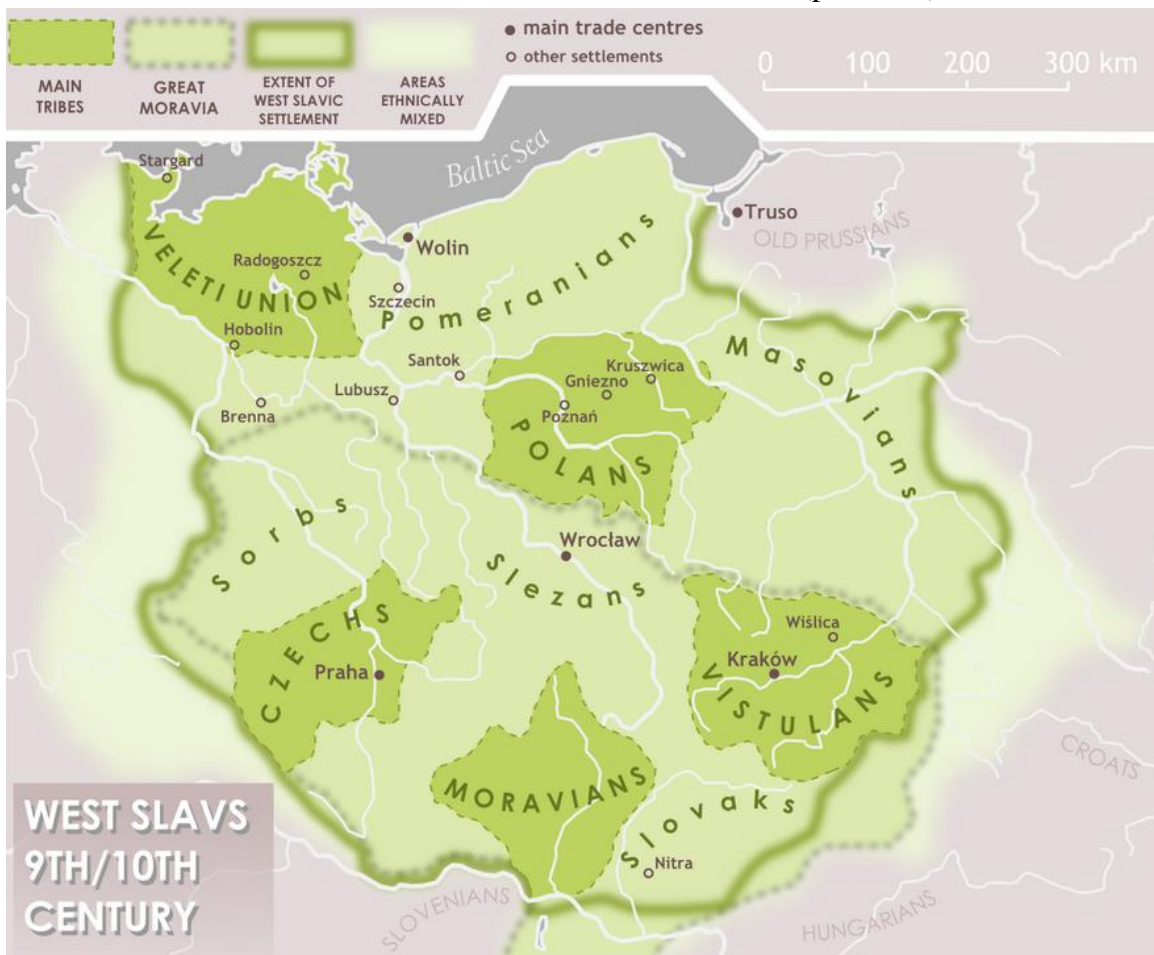
(...) **The Łosice region was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania until 1569**, when the **Sejm** in Lublin **incorporated the Podlasie** Voivodship (composed of the Drohiczyń, Mielnik and Bielsko Lands) – forever into **The Crown** territory.

EASTERN AND WESTERN SLAVS – a border, where the West meets [or fights] the East, and Latin Rome faces Orthodox Byzantium



European territory inhabited by East Slavic tribes (700-850)

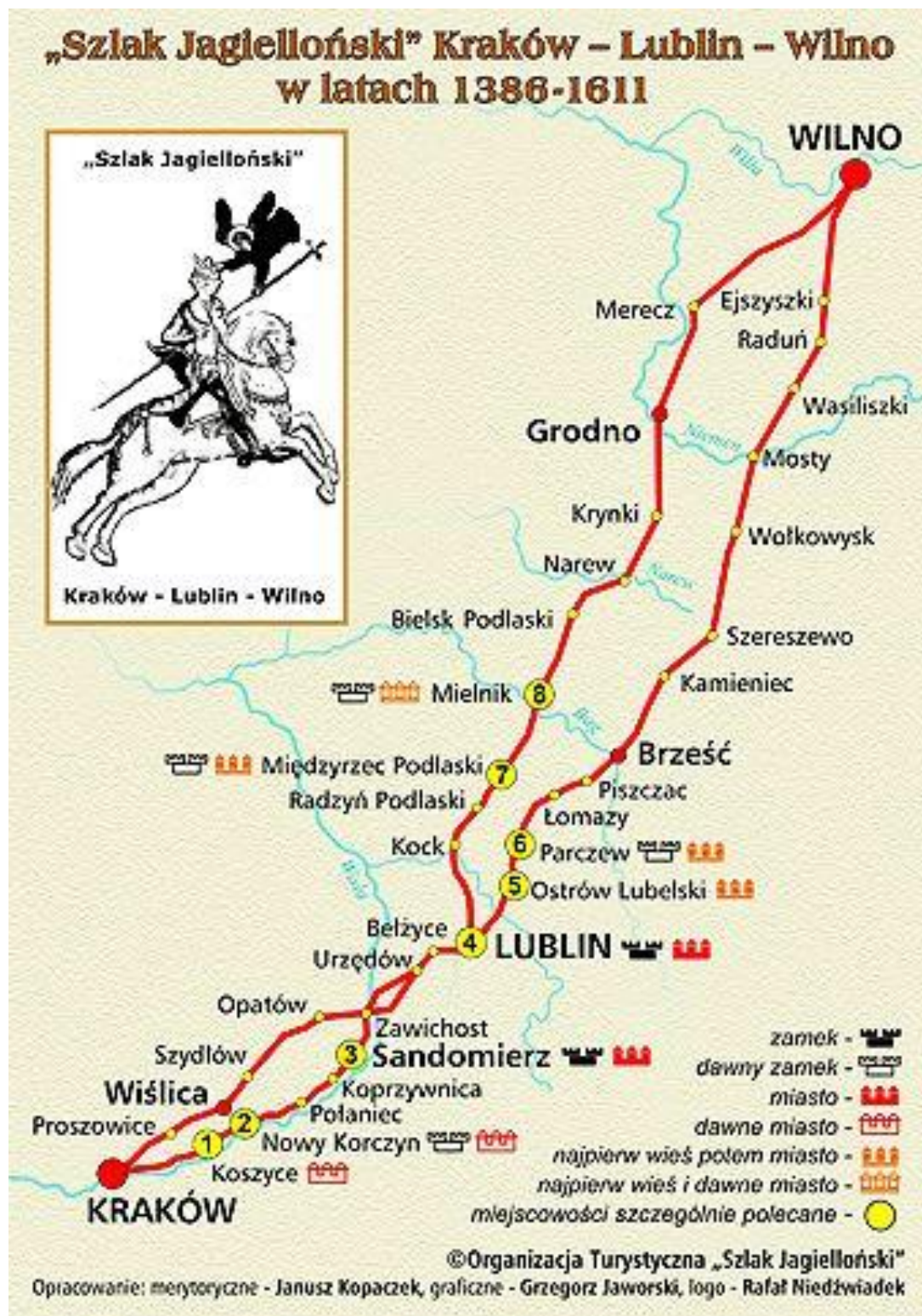
- west Slavs on the left (pale blue) and below



WEST SLAVS
9TH/10TH
CENTURY

Jagiellonian Trail/Szlak Jagielloński, lat. Via Jagellonica –

ancient tract connecting the capitals of The **Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth**, formally the **Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania**, after 1791 the **Commonwealth of Poland** - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Lithuanian_Commonwealth.



Via Jagellonica is one of the branches of [Via Regia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Regia). A part of this tract covers the reconstructed old St. James's Way https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camino_de_Santiago (via Malopolska or Lublin - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser_Polish_Way).



Via Regia and Via Imperii -

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_Regia#/media/File:Via_Imperii_und_Via_Regia.png



← from Crimea

Main tracts leading to Lublin, where the Polish-Lithuanian Union pact was signed in 1569 during the special Sejm (Polish Parliament) Session

Contemporary tourist routes - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szlak_Jagiello%C5%84ski – which follow the ancient tracts. Jagiellonian tract - <http://www.zachod-wschod.pl/szlakjagiellonski/>



Merchant tract (east – west) - <http://www.zachod-wschod.pl/szlakkupiecki/>

PEOPLE -

Stany/Estates of the realm in Poland - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estates_of_the_realm

The **estates of the realm**, or **three estates**, were the broad orders of social hierarchy used in [Christendom](#) (Christian Europe) from the [medieval period](#) to [early modern Europe](#). (...)

The best known system is the French *Ancien Régime* (Old Regime), a **three-estate system** used until the [French Revolution](#) (1789–1799). Monarchy was for the king and the queen and this system was made up of [clergy](#) (the First Estate), [nobles](#) (the Second Estate), and [peasants](#) and [bourgeoisie](#) (the Third Estate). In some [regions](#), notably [Scandinavia](#) and Russia, [burghers](#) (the urban merchant class) and **rural commoners** were split into separate estates, creating a four-estate system with rural commoners ranking the lowest as the Fourth Estate. Furthermore, the non-landowning poor could be left outside the estates, leaving them without political rights. (...) Historically, in Northern and Eastern Europe, the Fourth Estate meant rural commoners.

Szlachta/Nobility - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szlachta> (*The szlachta was a legally privileged noble class in the Kingdom of Poland, Grand Duchy of ... hereditary szlachta are referred to as "nobilitas" and are indeed the equivalent in legal status of the English nobility. According to Polish estimates from the 1930s, 300,000 members of szlachta zagrodowa inhabited the ...*)

The **szlachta** (*Nobility*) was a [legally privileged noble class](#) in the [Kingdom of Poland](#), [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#), [Ruthenia](#), [Samogitia](#) (both after [Union of Lublin](#) became a single state, the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#)) and the [Zaporozhian Host](#).^{[1][2]} It originated and gained considerable institutional privileges between 1333 and 1370 in [Kingdom of Poland](#) during the reign of King [Casimir III the Great](#).^{[3]:211} In 1413, following a series of tentative [personal unions](#) between the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#) and the Crown Kingdom of Poland, the existing [Lithuanian–Ruthenian nobility](#) formally joined this class.^{[3]:211} As the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) (1569–1795) evolved and expanded in territory, its membership grew to include the leaders of [Ducal Prussia](#) and [Livonia](#).

The origins of the szlachta are shrouded in obscurity and mystery and have been the subject of a variety of theories.^{[3]:207} Traditionally, its members were owners of [landed property](#), often in the form of "manor farms" or so-called [folwarks](#). The nobility negotiated substantial and increasing political and legal [privileges](#) for itself throughout its entire history until the decline of the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) in the late 18th century. During the [Partitions of Poland](#) from 1772 to 1795, its members began to lose these legal privileges and social status. From that point until 1918, the legal status of the nobility was essentially dependent upon the policies of the three partitioning powers: the [Russian Empire](#), the [Kingdom of Prussia](#), and the [Habsburg Monarchy](#). The legal privileges of the szlachta were legally abolished in the [Second Polish Republic](#) by the [March Constitution](#) of 1921. (...)

In theory all szlachta were social equal. Also in theory, they were legal peers. Those who held 'real power' dignities were more privileged but these [dignities were not hereditary](#). Those who held honorary dignities were higher in 'ritual' hierarchy but these dignities were also granted for a lifetime. Some tenancies became hereditary and went with both privilege and titles. Nobles who were not direct barons of the Crown but held land from other lords were only peers "de iure". The [poorest enjoyed the same rights as the wealthiest magnate](#). The **exceptions** were a few symbolically privileged families such as the [Radziwiłł](#), [Lubomirski](#) and [Czartoryski](#), who sported honorary aristocratic titles recognized in Poland or received from foreign courts, such as "Prince" or "[Count](#)". (see also [The Princely Houses of Poland](#)). All other szlachta simply addressed each other by their given name or as "Sir Brother" (*Panie bracie*) or the feminine equivalent. The other forms of address would be "Illustrious and Magnificent Lord", "Magnificent Lord", "Generous Lord" or "Noble Lord" (in decreasing order) or simply "His/Her Grace Lord/Lady".

According to their financial standing, the nobility were in common speech divided into:

- **magnates**: the wealthiest class; owners of vast lands, towns, many villages, thousands of peasants
- middle nobility (*średnia szlachta*): owners of one or more villages, often having some official titles or Envoys from the local Land Assemblies to the General Assembly,
- **petty nobility** (*drobna szlachta*), owners of a part of a village or owning no land at all, often referred to by a variety of colourful Polish terms: (...) including: **zaściankowa** – from *zaścianek*, a name for plural nobility settlement, *neighbourhood nobility*. Just like *hreczkosiej*, zaściankowa nobility would have no peasants; **zagrodowa** – from *zagroda*, a farm, often little different from a peasant's dwelling, also called - zaściankową, okoliczną czy or drobną. Impoverished, but their guaranteed birth rights included also freedom from paying personal taxes or obligatory military draft. They formed their own (universal) voluntary military units. They worked the land with their own hands. The right to vote, hold higher church and public offices, own a crest and elect the king separated them from the ordinary peasants.

Magnates – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnates_of_Poland_and_Lithuania

The **magnates of Poland and Lithuania** were an **aristocracy** of nobility (*szlachta*) that existed in the **Crown of the Kingdom of Poland**, in the **Grand Duchy of Lithuania** and, from the 1569 **Union of Lublin**, in the **Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth**, until the **Third Partition of Poland** in 1795.^[1]

The **magnate** social class arose around the 16th century and, over time, gained more and more control over Commonwealth politics. The most powerful magnates were known as "little kings" due to the extent of their power and independence. Their influence diminished with the **Third Partition of Poland** (1795), which ended the Commonwealth's independent existence, and came to an end with the **Second World War** and the **communist**-ruled **People's Republic of Poland**

Famous magnate families in the **Crown of Poland** territories included the **Czartoryski**, **Kalinowski**, **Koniecpolski**, **Ostrogski**, **Potocki**, **Tarnowski**, **Wiśniowiecki**, **Zasławski** and **Zamoyski families**; and in the **Grand Duchy of Lithuania**, the **Kieźgajłow**, **Olelkowicz**, **Radziwiłł**, **Pac** and **Sapieha families**.

Jan Matejko - <http://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=6531&dirids=1>



Polish magnates 1697-1795: Stanisław Leszczyński (1677-1766) w stroju magnackim, kobieta, Katarzyna z Opalińskich Leszczyńska (1680-1747), Antoni Michał Potocki? (?-1765), Karol Stanisław Radziwiłł zw."Panie Kochanku" (1734-1790), Wacław Rzewuski (1706-1779), Józef Michał Mniszech (1748-1806) i Michał Potocki? (?-1749).

Aristocracy - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy> - The aristocracy was a [social class](#) that a particular society considered its highest order. In many states, the aristocracy included the [upper class](#) of people (*aristocrats*) with hereditary rank and titles. In some—such as ancient Greece, Rome and India—aristocratic status came from belonging to a military [caste](#), although it has also been common, notably in African societies, for aristocrats to belong to priestly dynasties. Aristocratic status can involve feudal or legal privileges.^[1] They are usually below only the monarch of a [country](#) or [nation](#) in its [social hierarchy](#). In modern European societies, the aristocracy has often coincided with the [nobility](#), a specific class that arose in the [Middle Ages](#), but the term "aristocracy" is sometimes also applied to other [elites](#), and is used as a more generic term when describing earlier and non-European societies.

Zaścianek - settlement of freeholders. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Za%C5%9Bcianek> - In Poland, zaścianek (literally: *behind the wall*) is a village, often where [yeomanry](#) (petty nobility, *drobna szlachta*) lives, especially in [Mazovia](#) and [Podlachia](#).

Szlachta zaściankowa - [petty nobility](#) (*drobna szlachta*), owners of a part of a village or owning no land at all, often referred to by a variety of colourful Polish terms: (...) including: *zaściankowa* – from *zaścianek*, a name for plural nobility settlement, *neighbourhood nobility*. Just like *hreczkosiej*, *zaściankowa nobility would have no peasants*.

„*Kilka wiadomości o szlachcie zagonowej mazowieckiej i podlaskiej*” (*polish*) – A few facts about the petty nobility in Mazovia and in Podlachia -

<http://www.kpbc.ukw.edu.pl/dlibra/plain-content?id=81025>

Wsie szlacheckie/Nobility settlements -

http://mazowsze.hist.pl/17/Rocznik_Mazowiecki/386/1969/12828/, pp. 400-408

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wie%C5%9B_folwarczna

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wie%C5%9B_ziemia%C5%84ska

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Za%C5%9Bcianek_szlachecki

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szlachta_za%C5%9Bciankowa

Mieszczanstwo/burghers (the urban merchant class) -

<https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mieszczan%C5%84stwo> – the burghers estate, composed of citizens of cities/towns (lat. *cives*), or free persons, ruled by town laws, originated in the middle ages. After the fall of the state countries, this class was called (*fr.*) *bourgeoisie*. (...) It had its origin in the 13th century, following the establishment of medieval towns, which were run under their own laws. The burghers were granted by the feudal rulers self-rule/autonomy laws and other privileges. (...) Since the end of the 16th century, in Poland, one of the conditions for receiving (being granted town privileges) the burghers rights, was an adherence to the roman-catholic religion by the person requesting these rights. The (class of) burghers were situated between the higher estate of „knights” (*szlachta*) and lower estate of peasantry.

Chłopi/Peasants - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasant> - A **peasant** is a pre-industrial agricultural laborer or [farmer](#), especially one living in the [Middle Ages](#) under [feudalism](#) and paying rent, tax, fees or services to a landlord.^{[1][2]} In Europe, peasants were divided into three classes according to their personal status: [slave](#), [serf](#), and free tenant. Peasants either hold title to land in [fee simple](#), or hold land by any of several forms of [land tenure](#), among them [socage](#), [quit-rent](#), [leasehold](#), and [copyhold](#).^[3] (...) The word **peasantry** is also commonly used in a non-pejorative sense as a [collective noun](#) for the rural population in the poor and under-developed countries of the world.

Smerd/Smerd – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smerd> - A **smerd** ([Old East Slavic](#): *смердъ*) is a free and later [feudal](#)-dependent [peasant](#) in the medieval Slavic states of [East Europe](#). Sources from the 11th and 12th centuries mention smerds' presence in [Kievan Rus'](#) (e.g. *Russkaya Pravda*) and [Poland](#) as the *smerdones*. In Kievan Rus', the *smerds* were peasants who had been gradually losing their

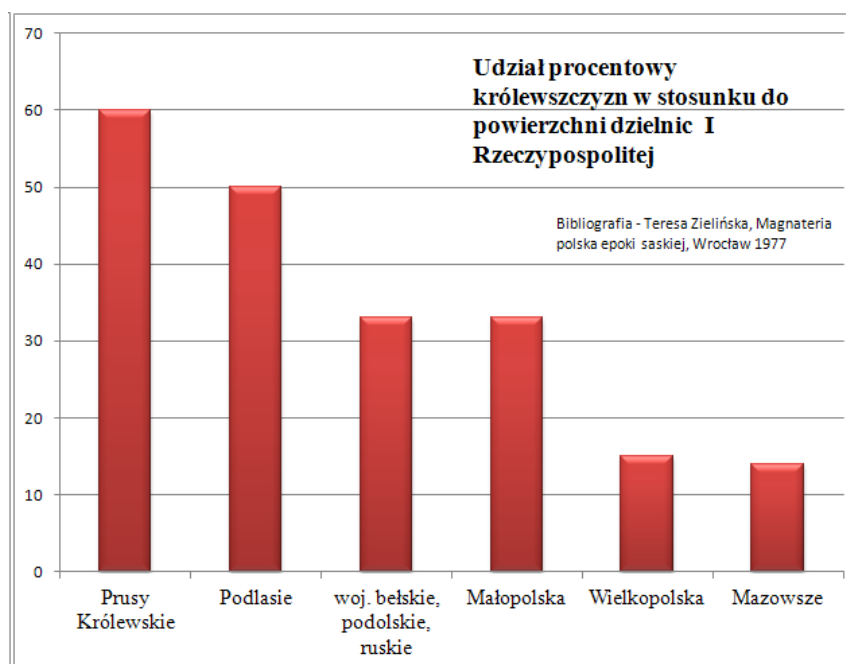
freedom (partially or completely) and whose [legal](#) status had differed from group to group. Unlike the [slaves](#), they had their own [property](#) and had to pay [fines](#) for their delinquencies. Legally, the *smerds* never possessed full [rights](#); (...).

Wieś ziemiańska/Landed gentry settlement –

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wie%C5%9B_ziemia%C5%84ska – a village settled by „free settlers” ([wolnych](#)^[1] - in the territory of [Prus](#) i [Warmii](#)) or petty nobility (northern [Mazowsze](#)). Free settlers (ziemiańscy) owned larger lots of land than the peasants and frequently settled whole villages, which were obligated to participate in the military service. Also, nobility members, who settled in the territory of Prussia, as a rule, were receiving only a status of “free” citizens.

Królewszczyzna - <https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kr%C3%B3lewszczyzna> (polish)

Wieś królewska/Crown land - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_land#Poland_and_Lithuania – **Crown land**, also known as **royal domain** or **demesne**, is a territorial area belonging to the monarch, who personifies [the Crown](#). It is the equivalent of an [entailed estate](#) and passes with the monarchy, being inseparable from it. Today, in [Commonwealth realms](#) such as Canada and Australia, crown land is considered [public land](#) and is apart from the monarch's private estate.



Royal properties area as a % of the total land area in different regions

Poland and Lithuania - The Crown lands were known there as *królewszczyzny* (sing. *królewszczyzna*) which translates to *regality* or *royal land*. (...) In the [Kingdom of Poland](#) under the rules of Piast, then Jagiellonian dynasties the institution of crown lands was similar to those in Great Britain or [Austria-Hungary](#), the lands were the property of the monarch or dynasty.

Since 15th century the properties have often been leased, gifted or [hocked](#) to the members of [nobility](#). Those nobles who had received the privilege of administering the Crown lands (and thus keeping most of its profits) had the title of [Starosta](#). Once given a Crown land, one had the right to keep it 'for life'. **Families of Starostas often wanted to unlawfully keep the royal properties**, and that led to common abuses of law (see following sections).

After the end of Kingdom in Poland the era of new political system called "Republic of [szlachta](#) (nobility)" started in late 16th century already in [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#). In the late 16th century, because of reform and the introduction of the [royal election](#) of Polish kings, the *royal lands* became [public property](#) or [state property](#).

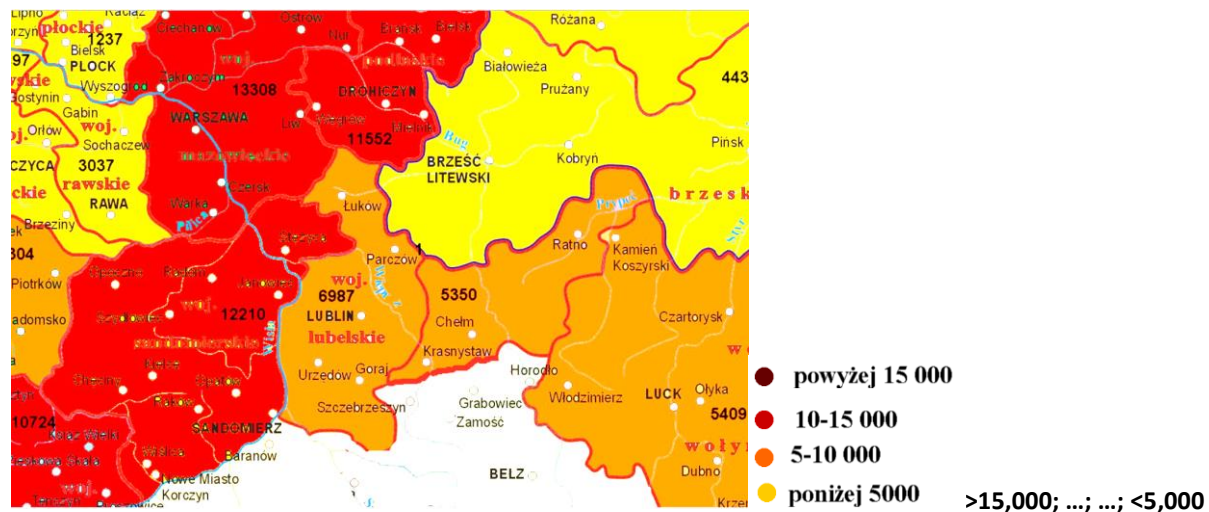
Formally (compare with the following sections) "royal lands" could form about **15–20%** of Poland (later, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth), and were divided into two parts:

- the [table lands](#) (*dobra stołowe* or *ekonomie*), which were providing money for the king's personal treasure and expenses, among them the support of the army ([wojsko kwarciane](#))
- the rest, which the king was obliged to lease to the outstanding members of the [nobility](#).

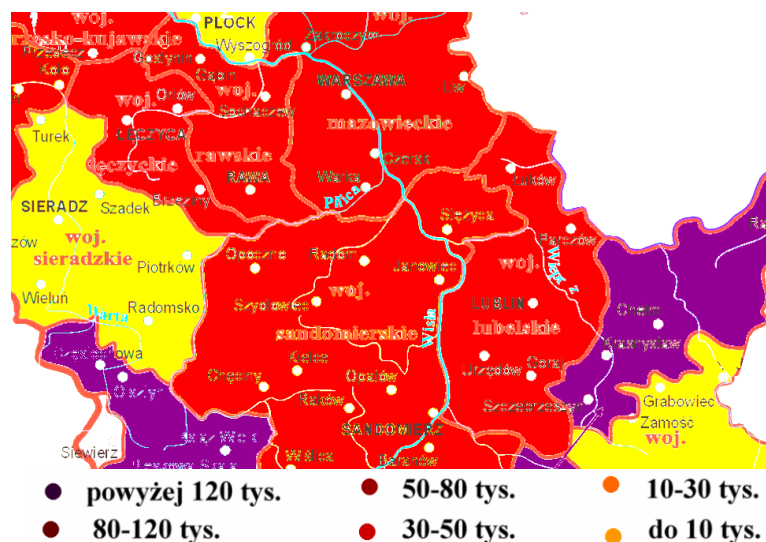
(...) The legal conditions of [peasants](#) were better in the Crown lands than on the hereditary estates of the [nobility](#), as there were fewer [serfdom](#) obligations.

(...) Eventually the [nobility](#) controlled most of the Crown lands. People without a formal title of nobility inherited or granted were not allowed to be infeudated with regalities.

After the [First Partition of Poland](#), which was a tremendous experience for most Polish nobility, crown lands were reformed in 1775, lessening the abuses of the [nobility](#), and the [Great Sejm](#) of 1788–1792 decided to put them on sale, to raise funds for reforms and modernising the army. After the next [partitions of Poland](#) in 1795 the "royal lands" were annexed by the partitioning powers.



Number of households in Crown lands per Voivodeships of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1789



The sum pledged (debt owed) at the royal estates in Crown of the Polish Kingdom by province in 1569 (in thousands – "tys." of red zlotys).

Executionist movement - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executionist_movement - a **16th-century political movement** in the **Kingdom of Poland** and, later, the **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**. It was popular among lesser, middle and even some higher nobility, (...) enjoyed the support of the Polish **king**. (...). (It) sought the revindication of **public** and **state lands** which were illegally held by various **magnates**. (Its) followers were known as *popularyści* ("popularists"), or *zamoyszczycy* ("Zamoyskites", after the main movement supporter **Jan Zamoyski**). The movement opposed the abuse of the existing laws by the higher nobility (**magnates**),

Polish landed gentry - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_landed_gentry

Polish landed gentry (**Polish**: *ziemiaństwo*, *ziemianie*, from *ziemia*, "land") was a **social group** or **class** of hereditary **landowners** who held **manorial** estates. Historically, *ziemianie* consisted of hereditary **nobles** (*szlachta*) and landed commoners. The **Statutes of Piotrków** (1496) restricted the right to hold manorial lordships to hereditary nobility. The non-nobles thus had to either sell their estates to the lords or seek a formal **ennoblement** for themselves (not an easy task), or had their property taken away. A rare exception was the **burgesses** of certain specially privileged "ennobled" royal cities who were titled "nobilis" and were allowed to buy and inherit manorial estates and exercise their privileges (such as jurisdiction over their subjects) and monopolies (over distilleries, hunting grounds, etc.). Therefore, in the *szlachta*-dominated **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** there was almost no landed-gentry in the **English** meaning of the term, i.e. commoners who owned landed estates. With the **Partitions** these restrictions were loosened and finally any commoner could buy or inherit land. This made the 20th century Polish landed gentry consist mostly of hereditary nobles, but also of others.

Ziemianie ... Siedlce and vicinity - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_landed_gentry (polish)



Note that the **Polish landed gentry** (*ziemianie* or *ziemiaństwo*) was composed of any nobility that owned lands: thus of course the magnates, the middle nobility and that lesser nobility that had at least part of the village. As manorial lordships were also opened to burgesses of certain privileged royal cities, not all landed gentry had a hereditary title of nobility.

<https://www.google.com/#q=Podlascy+Ziemianie&spf=1500585251780>

<http://www.tygodnikpodlaski.pl/wydarzenia/podlascy-ziemianie-pnews-5438.html>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=->

<https://books.google.com/books?id=-MRWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=Podlascy+Ziemianie&source=bl&ots=6QQh820Wv3&sig=J4p05pdnuZ-Rr6a3QbCsGTXEGxo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiAxLLO5JjVAhVs6YMKHe7dB-8Q6AEIRjAl#v=onepage&q=Podlascy%20Ziemianie&f=false>

<https://www.google.com/#q=Ziemianie+w+powiecie+siedleckim&spf=1500586357666>

<http://www.rdc.pl/podcast/losiowisko-przesiedlenia/>

<http://www.nzb3e3cgda8.az.pl/arch/wydawnictwo.html>

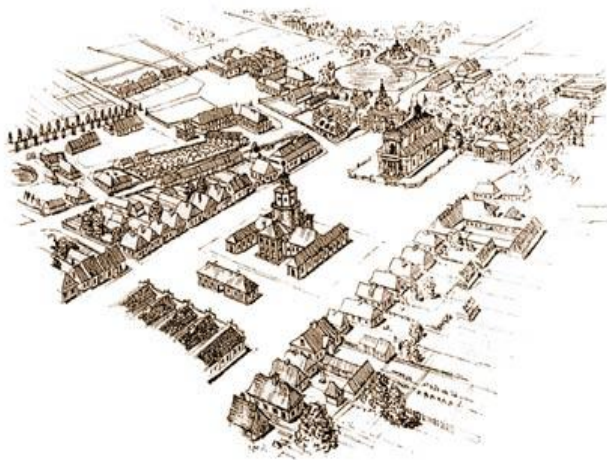
<http://www.nzb3e3cgda8.az.pl/arch/wydawnictwo.html>

THE WAJSZCZUK FAMILY

Siedlce – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siedlce> (...) (Town of) Siedlce lies between two small rivers, the **Muchawka** and the **Helenka**, along [European route E30](#). It is the fourth largest city of the Voivodeship, and the seat of the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Siedlce](#). Siedlce is a local educational, cultural and business center. (...)



History - The city, which is a part of the historical province of [Lesser Poland](#), was most probably founded some time before the 15th century, and was first mentioned as *Siedlecz* in a document issued in **1448**. In **1503**, local [nobleman](#) Daniel Siedlecki erected a new village of the same name nearby, together with a church. In **1547** the town, which until the [Partitions of Poland](#) belonged to Lesser Poland's [Lublin Voivodeship](#), was granted [Magdeburg rights](#) by King [Sigismund the Old](#). Siedlce as an urban center was created after a merger of the two neighboring villages. In the 16th century, and until the mid-17th century, Siedlce prospered, with its population quickly growing and a number of artisans opening their shops here. (**Initially, SIEDLCE was in PRUSZYN PARISH – see below**)



The period of prosperity ended during the [Swedish invasion of Poland \(1655 - 1660\)](#), when Siedlce, together with most Lesser Poland's towns and cities, was burned by the [Cossacks](#), [Tatars](#), [Muscovities](#), [Swedes](#) and the [Transylvanians](#). After these conflicts, the town belonged to the [Czartoryski family](#), as a dowry of Joanna Ołędzka, who married Prince Michał Jerzy Czartoryski. In **1692** Siedlce burned again, and the destruction was used by [Kazimierz Czartoryski](#), the son of Michał Jerzy, to plan a new, modern market square, together with adjacent streets. <http://www.siedlce.pl/>;

http://www.siedlce.pl/index.php?option=18&action=articles_show&art_id=4&menu_id=74&page=6

In the first half of the 18th century, a new parish church was built. In **1775**, after Aleksandra Czartoryska married [Hetman Michał Kazimierz Ogiński](#), the town passed over to the [Ogiński family](#).

At that time Siedlce emerged as one of the most important cultural centers of the nation. The *Ogiński Palace* was visited by several notable artists and writers, such as [Franciszek Karpiński](#), and [Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz](#). King [Stanisław August Poniatowski](#) visited the palace twice, in 1783 and 1793. Due to efforts of Aleksandra Ogińska, several improvements took place in Siedlce. Among them, a new town hall was built, which now is one of the symbols of the city.¹¹

Other benefactors – interesting information was found on a Jewish website!

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/Siedlce3/sie014.html#1r> - ***“The parish of Siedlce, almost from the moment of its founding acquired many patrons and benefactors, among whom there were also Jews from Łuków who, wanting to secure peace for themselves, offered a thousand Polish florens to the Siedlce church in 1675.”***

The oldest signs of Jewish settlement in Siedlce come from the seventeenth century. This information is based on research performed in Jewish cemeteries (...), it contained a gravestone, a *matzevah*, from 1630. (...) On 22 March 1798, Duchess Aleksandra Ogińska issued an order in which she confirmed the grant of land for the cemetery (...)

Partitions of Poland - Siedlce remained a private property until the military [Partitions of Poland](#), when it changed hands several times. During the [third partition of Poland \(1795\)](#), Siedlce was annexed by the [Habsburg Empire](#), and became the seat of *Kreisamt* (1795-1809) in the [Austrian Partition](#) before it was confiscated by the Russian authorities.¹¹

In **1807** Siedlce became part of the [Duchy of Warsaw](#) established by [Napoleon](#). Following his defeat, during the creation of the Russian-controlled [Congress Poland \(1815\)](#), Siedlce became the seat of a province in the [Russian Partition](#) (see [Podlasie Governorate](#)). During the [November Uprising](#) against Russian domination, the [Battle of Iganie](#) (April 10, **1831**) took place near the town. In the [January Uprising of 1863](#), Siedlce was again an important center of the anti-Tsarist rebellion. (*Successful attacks at Stok Lacki, Kodeń, Łosice and Łuków provided several hundred pieces of weapons and supply of ammunition. It was, however, not possible to gain control over Siedlce, Międzyrzec and Biała.*) In **1867** the [Siedlce Governorate](#) was created. Siedlce continued to develop with new administration buildings, a post office complex, a courthouse, and a new prison. In the late 19th century, Siedlce became an important railroad junction, with connections to [Warsaw](#) (completed 1866), [Brest Litovsk](#) (1867), [Małkinia Górna](#) (1884), and [Czeremcha](#) (1906). At the beginning of the 20th century, local students launched a protest against the ruthless [Russification](#) policies. Subsequently, in **1906** the Russian secret police organized the [Siedlce pogrom](#) in order to terrorize the locals. At that time, Siedlce was an important center of Jewish culture, with Jews making up 50% of the population.¹¹

Poland in the 20th century - In the [Second Polish Republic](#), since the return to independence in **1918**, Siedlce belonged to the [Lublin Voivodeship \(1919–39\)](#) in the central part of the country (unlike today) with the provincial capital in [Lublin](#). The city remained an important rail junction and was the location of a military garrison, where the [9th Infantry Division](#) was stationed before the Nazi-Soviet [invasion of Poland](#). During [World War II](#), the area of Siedlce was home to a large partisan force of the [Home Army](#) and other underground organizations, such as [Armia Ludowa](#). Due to [German](#) terror, the town lost one-third of its population, including its entire Jewish community deported to [extermination camps](#) during [the Holocaust](#). In late **July 1944** (see [Operation Tempest](#)), Home Army units freed the town, together with the [Red Army](#). After the war, 50% of Siedlce was in ruins, including the town hall.

Military Garrison in Siedlce prior to 1939 – <http://siedlce.wku.wp.mil.pl/pl/198.html>

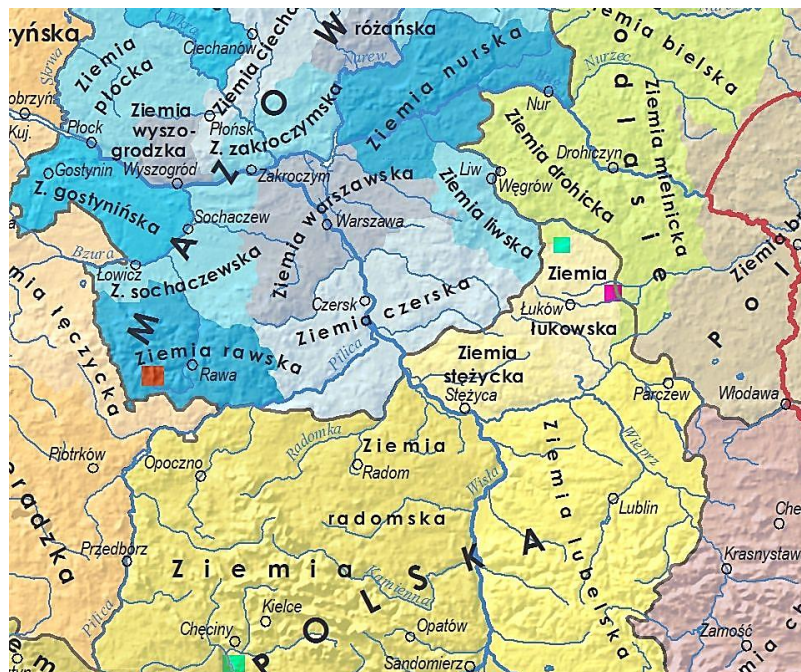
Siedlce hosted a rather large military contingent after the end of the Polish-Bolshevik war in 1920. It included the Command and Staff of the 9th (Podlaska) Infantry Division, 22 Infantry

Regiment, 9th Light Artillery Regiment, 9th Heavy Artillery Regiment (until November 1933), District Inspectorate of Horses, District Military Court and other sub-units(...)

In 1941 Germans opened Stalag 366 in the former military barracks at Roskosz (a Siedlce suburb), where they kept initially the Russian prisoners-of-war and later, also French and Italian. More than 25,000 of them died - a military cemetery exists south of the barrack compound.

(Possible early) Origins of Siedlce -

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/Siedlce3/sie014.html#1r> (...) Stanisław Wąsowski put forth a bold hypothesis - ⁽⁵⁾ S. Wąsowski, „Koniec Podlasia,” in *Gazeta Podlaska*, no. 2 (1932). „There are three villages close together in the vicinity of Chęciny (*site of an old royal castle*): **Siedlce (est. - 1424)**, **Sokołów (1448)**, and **Łuków (est. ~1233)**. It was this that justified the supposition that Siedlce, as well as the nearby cities of Łuków and Sokołów, were founded by colonists from those villages, who arrived here starting in the **thirteenth century** and settled on terrain that was at that time uninhabited. ⁽⁵⁾ (...) The oldest signs of Jewish settlement in Siedlce come from the seventeenth century. This information is based on research performed in Jewish cemeteries, (...) a *matzevah*, from 1630.



Possible directions of migrations of the early (13th – 15th c.?) settlers: to **Siedlce** (and north of it, in “old” Podlasie?) – from **Ziemia Sandomierska**, (Sandomierz Lands) in Małopolska (**green**) and later (16th c.?) to **Trzebieszów**, in Ziemia łukowska (Łuków Lands) - from **Ziemia Rawska**, (Rawa Lands) - in the Mazowsze regions (**cyan**) – also see below.

Chęciny Royal Castle https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ch%C4%99ciny_Castle, was built in the late 13th century in [Chęciny, Poland](#). It fell into ruin in the 18th century and remains in that state to this day.



13th century villages in Małopolska, near Chęciny – they still exist at present



21st century town locations – founded as early as 13th – 15th centuries (see below)

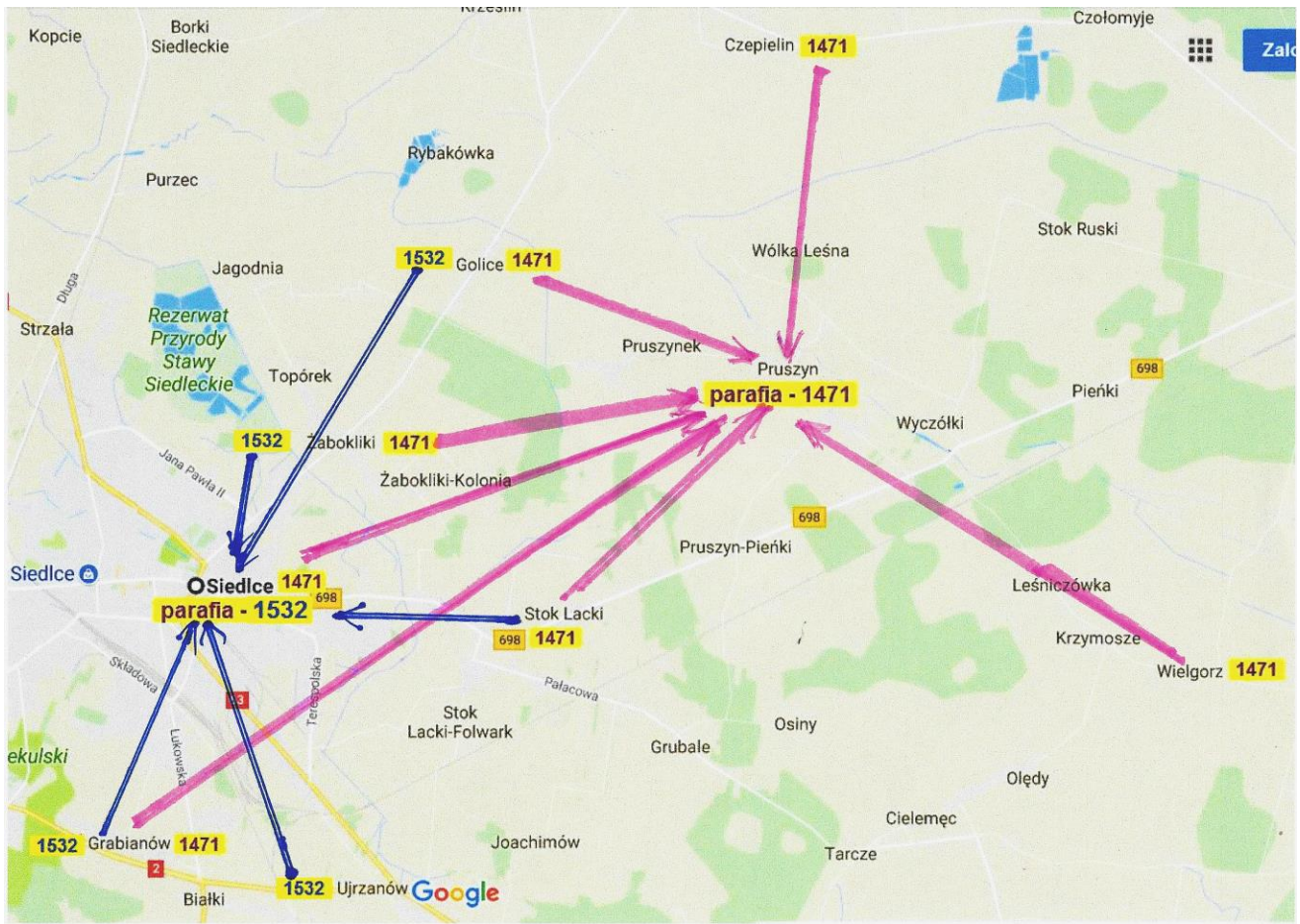


Sokolów – early settlements already in 6th and 7th c., city rights from the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Witold in **1424**

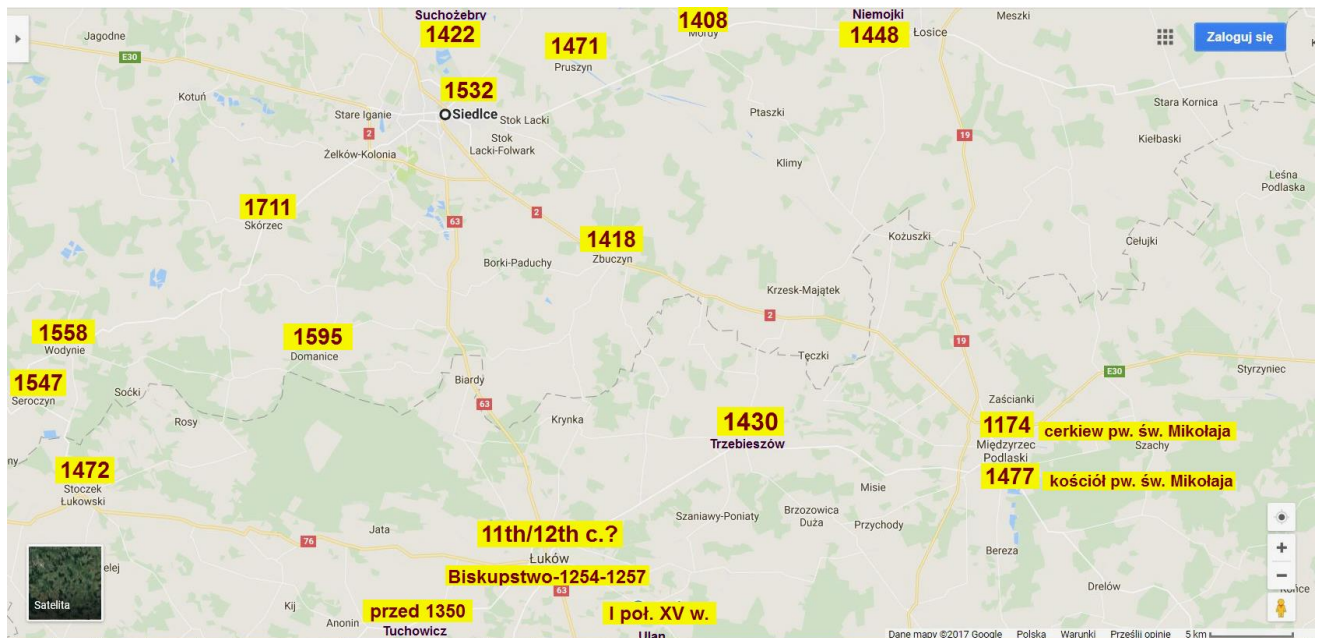
Łuków - The name of the town first appeared in documents in **1233** (*Castelani nostri de Lucow*). Łuków comes from Old Slavic word *luk*, which means "a place located in a wetland". For 500 years Łuków, together with neighboring towns [Siedlce](#) and [Radzyń Podlaski](#), was part of [Lesser Poland](#), and was located in the extreme northeastern corner of the province.

Siedlce - first mentioned as *Siedlec* in a document issued in **1448**, was probably founded earlier?

Siedlce – it belonged initially to a parish (*parafia*) in **Pruszyń** (which was founded in **1471**) and then, in **1532**, became a site of its own parish. Some of the settlements/villages were reassigned from Pruszyń to Siedlce (see below).



Settlements/villages belonging initially, (1471) to the **Pruszyń** parish, later to **Siedlce** (1532)



Dates (year) of erection of parishes in the northern part of the Lukow Land

Information for the GOGGLE maps was obtained from - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ziemia_%C5%82ukowska

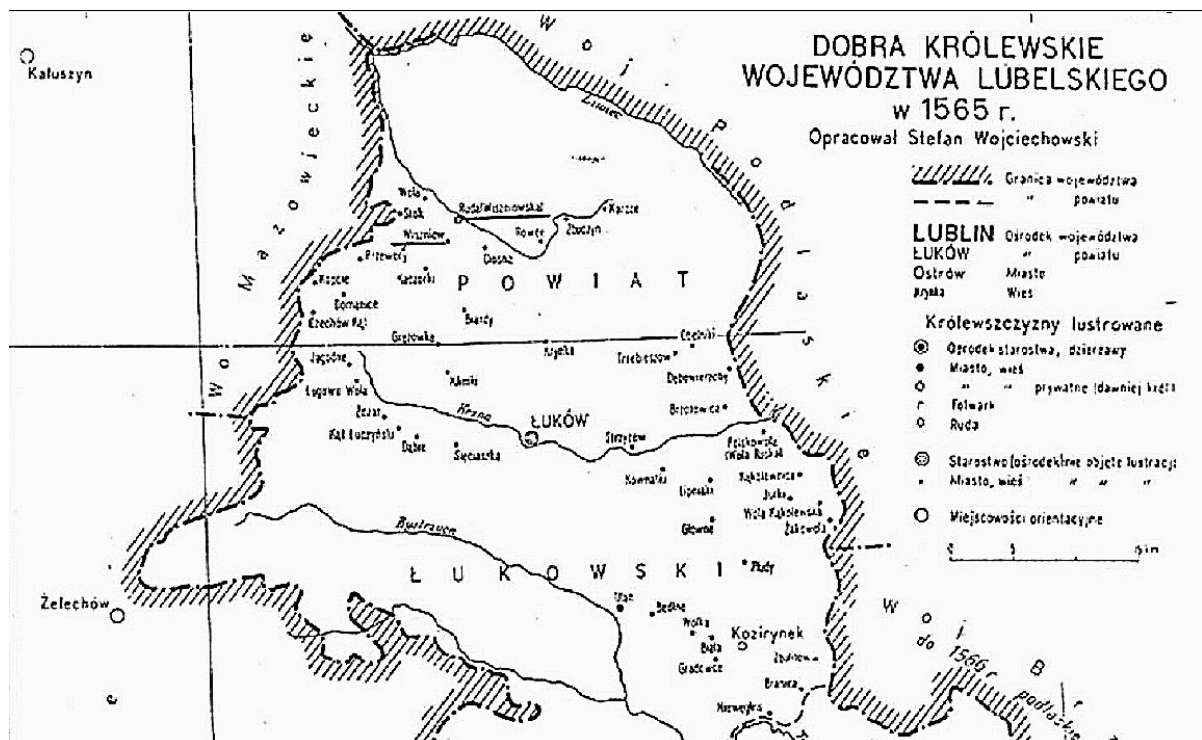
WAJSZCZUK FAMILY TREE – “Podlasie” branch

A. TRZEBIESZÓW – a known “northern nest” of the WAJSZCZUK family -

<https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trzebiesz%C3%B3w> – Earliest mention about a settlement of Trzebieszów was found in **1418** in the documents of a bishop and former chancellor of Queen Jadwiga, and subsequently a Primate of Poland - Wojciech Jastrzębiec. It states that at that time, in 1418, there was still no parish in Trzebieszów, and that Trzebieszów and the neighboring villages belonged to a parish in Łuków.

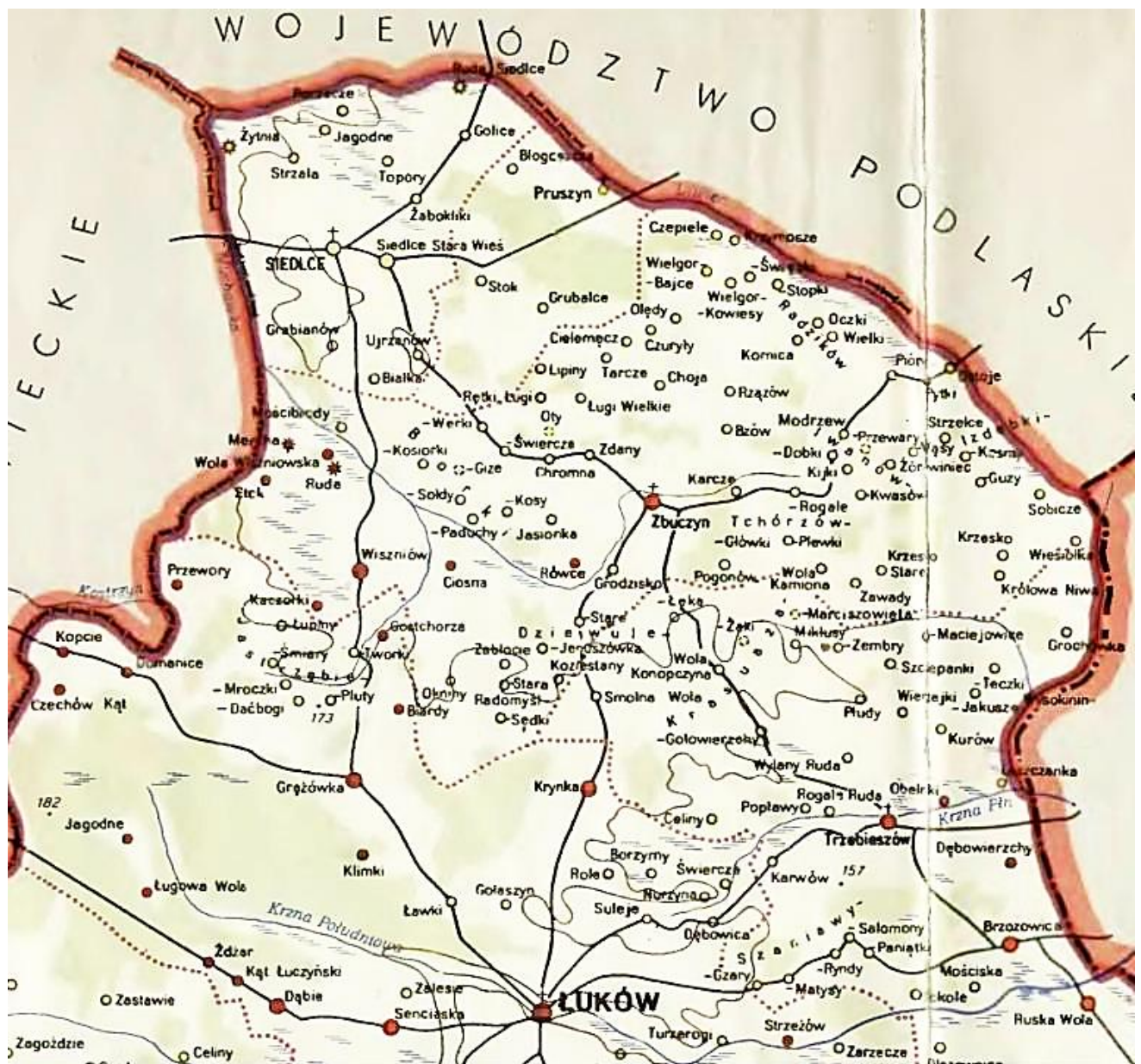


Poland – 2nd half of the 15th c.



Royal properties in Łuków County in the Lublin Voivodeship in 1565 –

<http://www.parafiakolewnica.pl/pliki/historiaparafii.pdf>



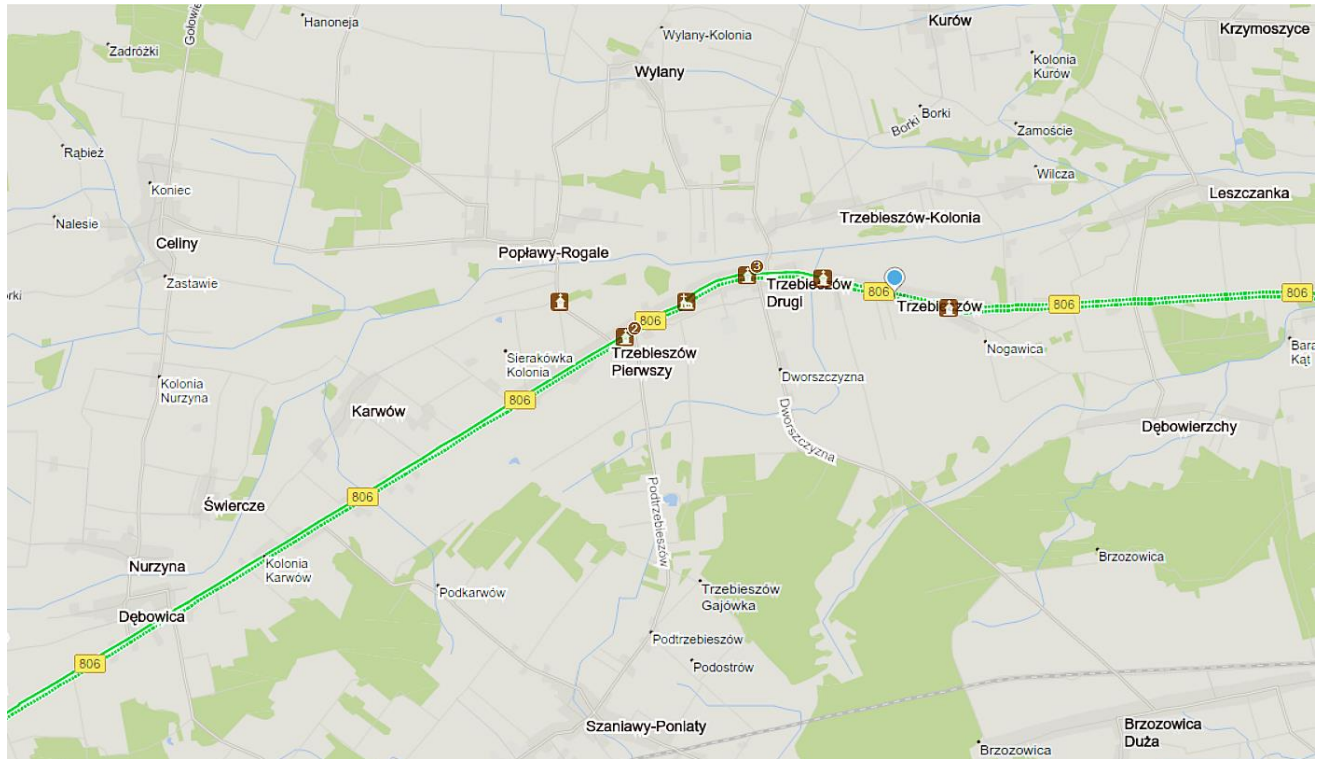
PÓŁNOCNA CZĘŚĆ ZIEMI ŁUKOWSKIEJ W DRUGIEJ POŁOWIE XVI WIEKU
 (Stefan Wojciechowski "Województwo lubelskie w drugiej połowie XVI wieku", Warszawa 1966)

- WŁASNOŚĆ SZLACHECKA
- WŁASNOŚĆ KRÓLEWSKA
- WAŻNIEJSZE DRÓGI

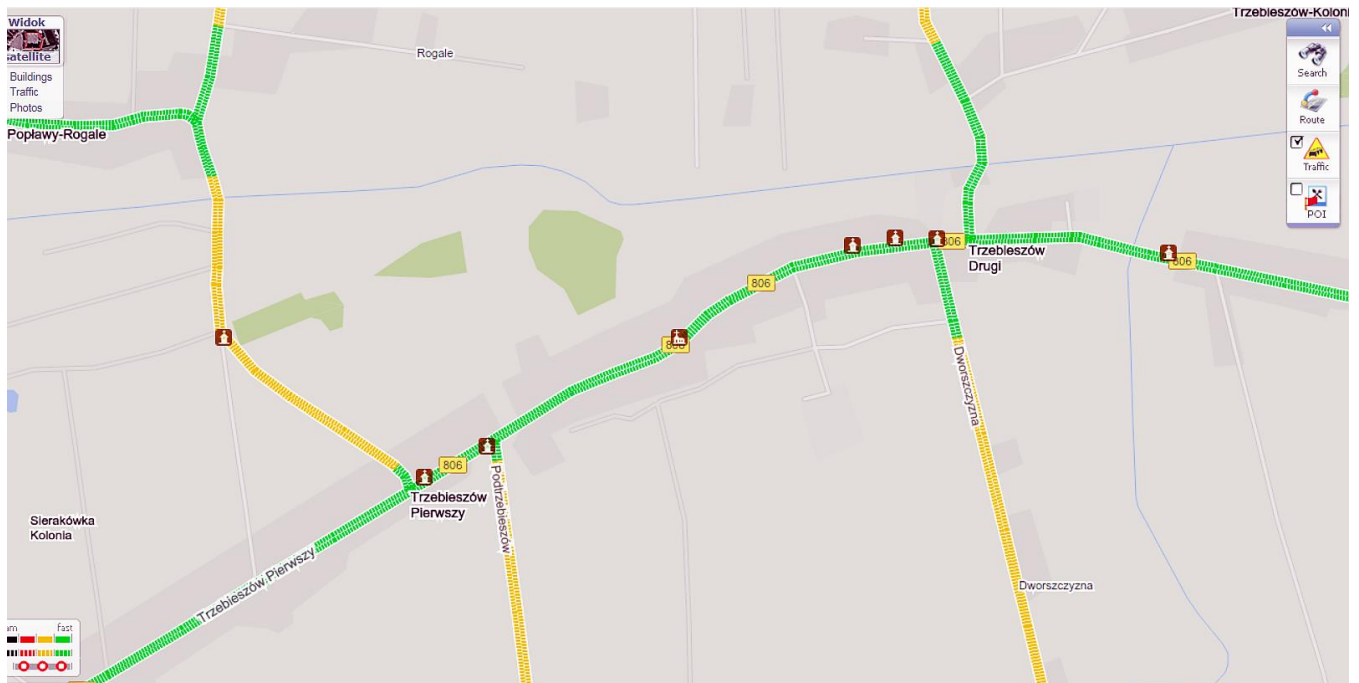
Northern part of the Łuków Land in the 2nd half of the 16th c.

Another document regarding the Trzebieszów Parish was issued by the Polish king Władysław Jagiełło in Sandomierz on 14 of March **1430**. This documents contains already a mention about the existence of a church, which was financed by the king Władysław Jagiełło. At that time, a royal tract was traversing Trzebieszów, on the way from Kraków to Wilno (Vilnius), which was frequently used by the polish kings, especially those belonging to the Jagiellonian dynasty. Trzebieszów was a royal rest stop, which meant that the inhabitants were obliged to receive the ruler along with his court, as well as his officials and representatives. (...) **The ancestors of the village of Trzebieszów were (probably) descendants of „petty” (zagrodowa) nobility (...)**

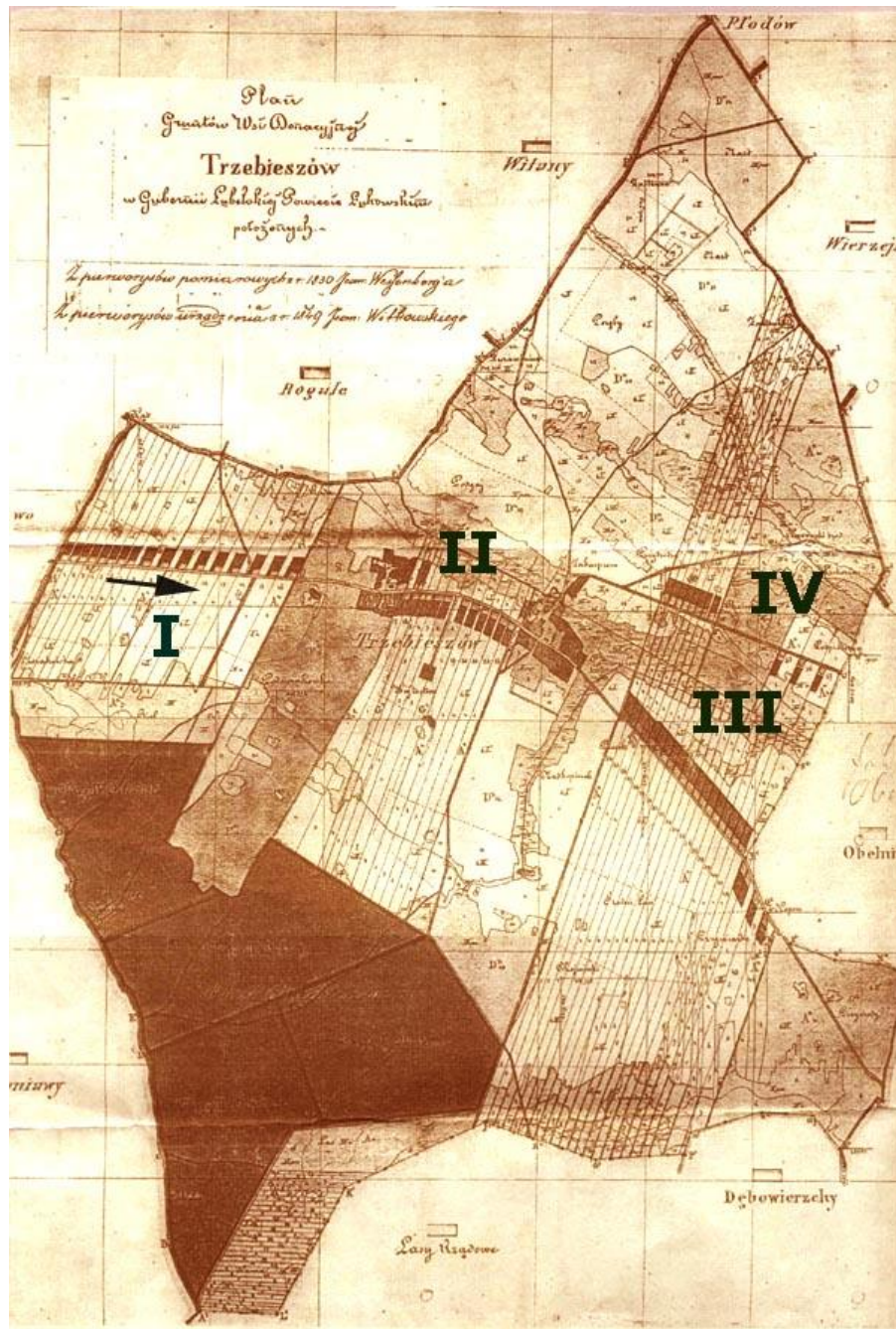
Names of many settlements in the community (gmina) of Trzebieszów derive from the names of local nobility. The name Trzebieszów derives from an old slavic word „trzebież”, which derives from the verb „trzebić” (meaning – to cut trees, cutting out the forest).



Trzebieszów and vicinity



Trzebieszów I and II – parish church is shown in the middle



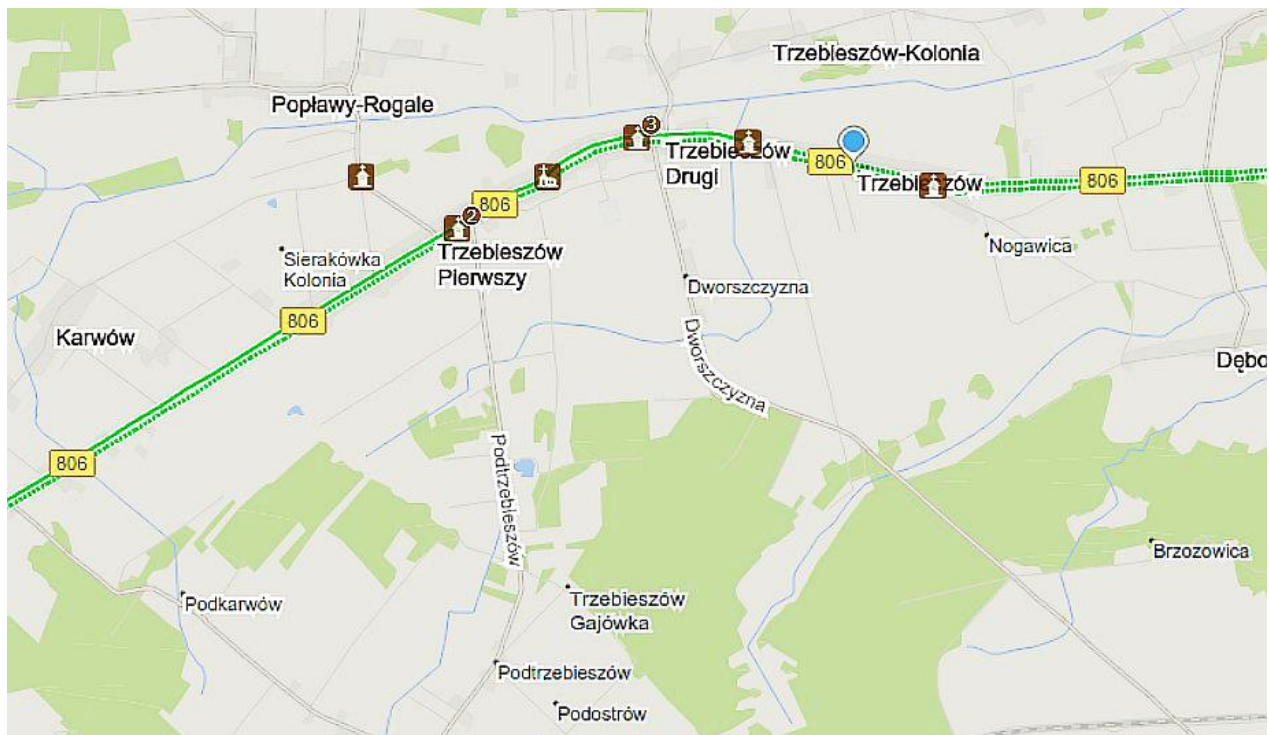
Old map of Trzebieszow - 1830, 1849

http://bazhum.muzhp.pl/media//files/Radzynski_Rocznik_Humanistyczny/Radzynski_Rocznik_Humanistyczny-r2001-t1/Radzynski_Rocznik_Humanistyczny-r2001-t1-s171-188/Radzynski_Rocznik_Humanistyczny-r2001-t1-s171-188.pdf - p. 184

Registry – 2 Febr. 1846, Łuków county – owner of the Trzebieszów estate at that time (he was awarded this estate by the occupant, the Russian Tsar - for his services).

80.	Trzebieszów	Burmejster Otto	nieustal.
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Barbara Miszta – 2/10/2017: Poswiewtne to obszar wokół kościoła i w większości stanowił też jego własność . Część była dzierżawiona przez zaufanych proboszczów . W połowie 19 wieku mieszkał tam **Maciej Wajszczuk (#44)** .Po otrzymaniu kolonii na Trzebieszowie Pierwszym zostawił tam córkę Paulinę /wysłała za mąż za Kameckiego ./Obok mieszkał też Tomasz Wajszczuk .Poproszę koleżankę ,ona jest z Kolonków,razem siedziałyśmy w kancelarii ,ma to Poswiewtne rozpracowane to mi przyśle .



Trzebieszów I, II, Trzebieszów-Kolonia, Dworszyczyna, Trzebieszów-Gajówka and Podtrzebieszów



Barb. Miszta – 4.X.2017: Wajszczuki mieszkańcy Trzebieszowa obecnie to moi sąsiedzi -

a/ zamieszkali na podzielonej kolonii **Franciszka Wajszczuka (0108?)**, a są to potomkowie **Stefana Rocha Wajszczuka - Janusz Wajszczuk** i jego trzech synowie - Łukasz, Piotr, Jakub. Łukasz ma żonę Magdalenę i dwie córki Alicję i Natalię .

W tym samym domu mieszka **Danuta Wajszczuk**, żona zmarłego Eugeniusza z córką Dorotą .

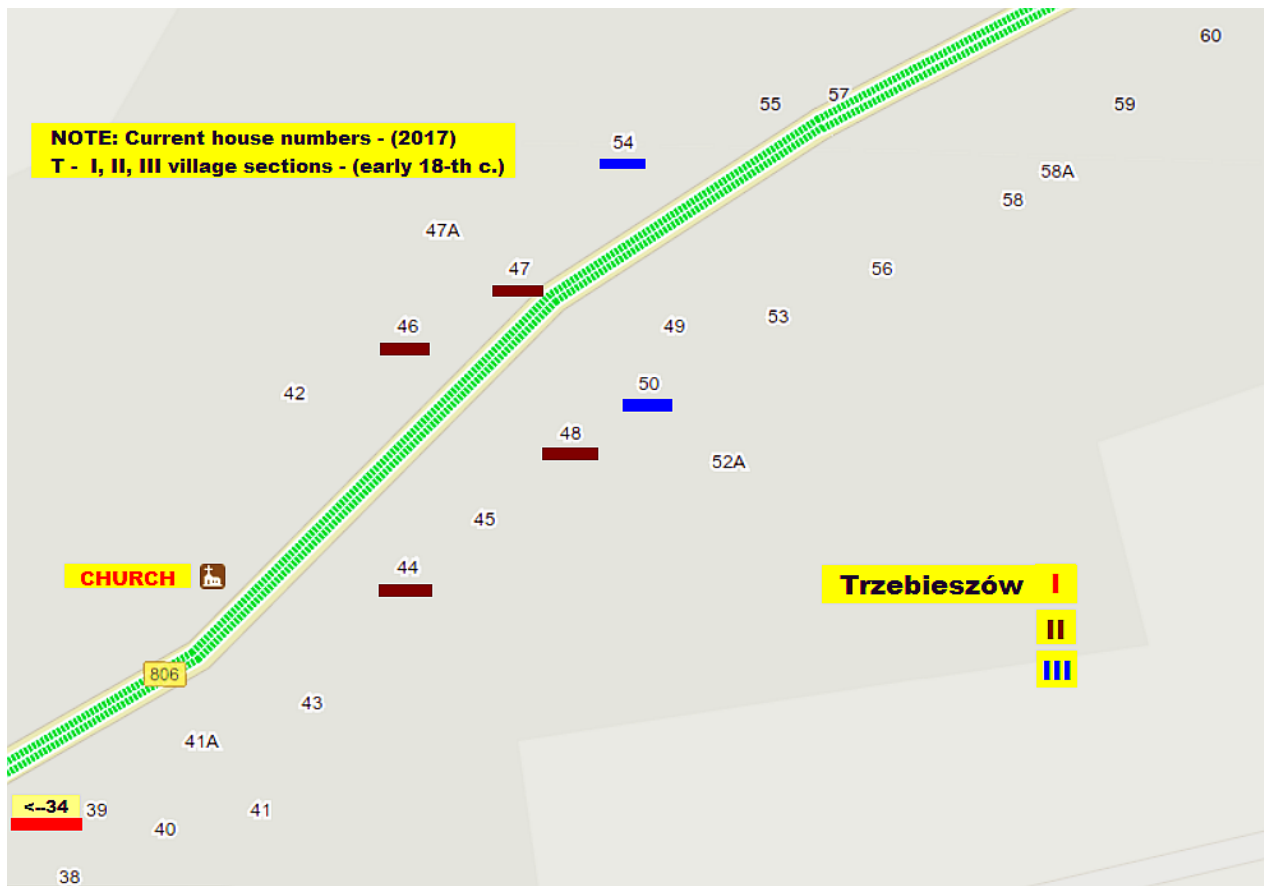
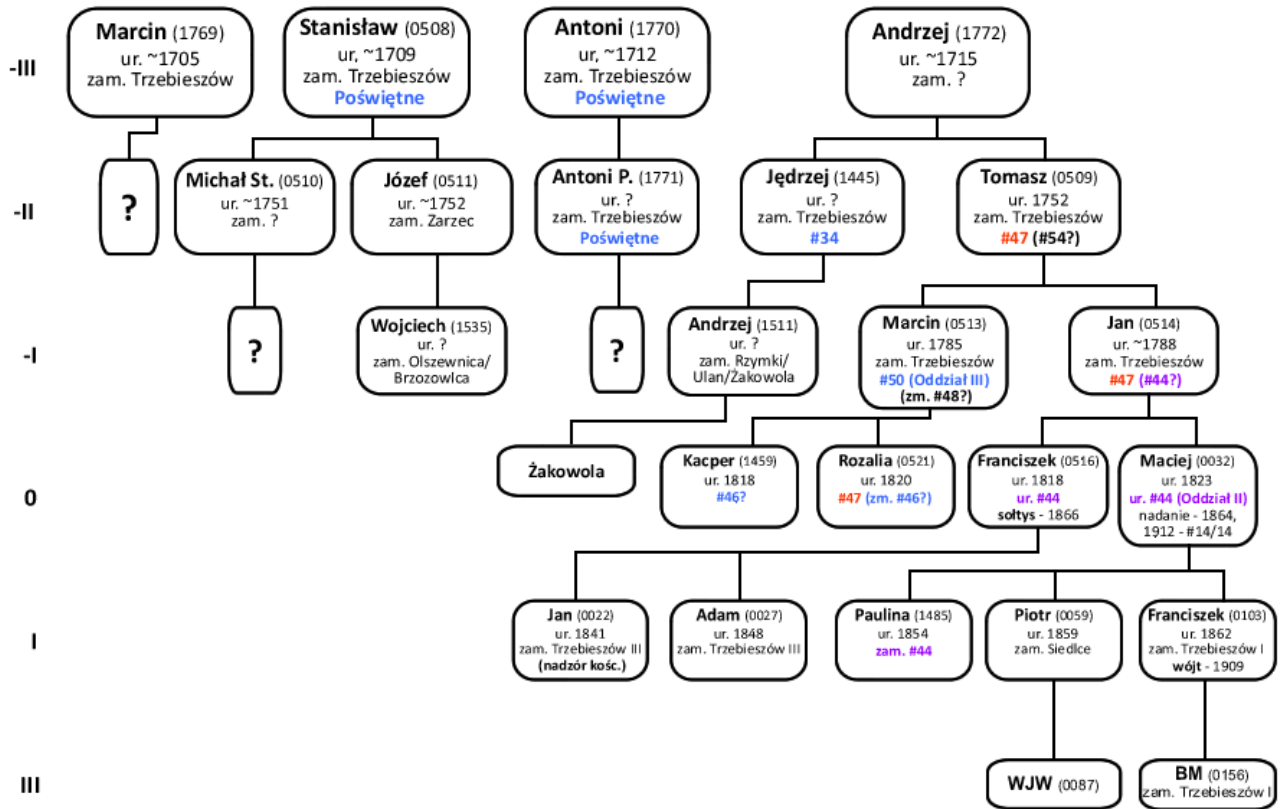
b/ Po sąsiedzku mieszka **Tadeusz Marek Wajszczuk**, z dwiema córkami Izabelą, Sandrą i synem Igorem. Jest w trakcie rozwodu z żoną Marzeną . Często przebywa u niego syn z pierwszego małżeństwa - Bartłomiej. Tyle Wajszczuków!

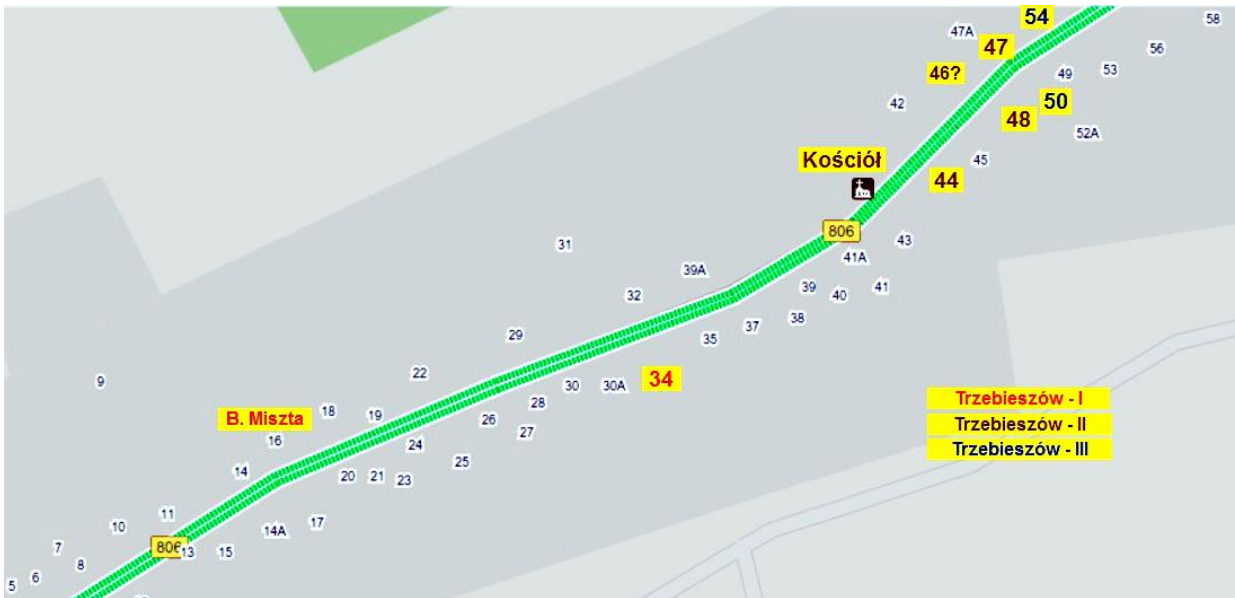
c/ Linia mojego ojca też się skończy bo Blaziej w Warszawie ma dwie córki Aleksandrę i Paulinę .

W niedzielę 15. 10 odbędzie się uroczysta promocja książki organisty Jana Rzewuskiego . Pisałam o tym w poprzednim liście . Będzie też sprzedaż książek , jeszcze nie wiem ceny .

Known addresses of Wajszczuks in Trzebieszów - (church records 1705-current)

pokolenia
generations





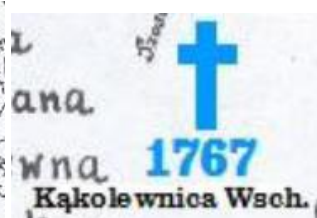
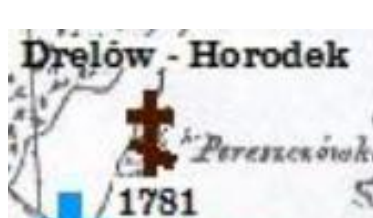
Cousin Barbara Miszta – Trzebieszów I-16, 21-404 Trzebieszów, Poland

Trzebieszów Parish - <http://parafiatrzebieszow.pl/rys-historyczny/> - Erected by the King Władysław Jagiełło, since Trzebieszów belonged to the royal properties. The parish erection time is determined by its foundation document dated March 24, **1430** in Sandomierz. ...The **Trzebieszów Parish** was created from a part of the Łuków Parish, which belonged at that time to the Kraków Bishopric. ... It was named after its church - Dziesięciu Tysięcy Rycerzy Męczenników.



Neighborhood Parishes - Roman-Catholic and Uniate

<http://www.parafiakakolewnica.pl/pliki/historiaparafii.pdf>



Short History of the Family and Name "WAJSZCZUK" (in Trzebieszów) – <http://www.wajszczuk.pl/polski/historia.htm>

Barbara Miszta – commentaries; <http://www.wajszczuk.pl/polski/historia.htm#28-10-2008>
(excerpts translated from the polish text)

28 October 2008 Commentaries by BARBARA MISZTA (0156) based on the continuation of a review of the record books of the TRZEBIESZÓW Parish

(...) In many birth or baptism records, **Trzebieszów-Poświętne** is mentioned as the place of residence of the Wajszczuks /Waszczuks/. Poświętne is an area around, and the land belonging to the church – this name was preserved until now! The parish priest's "folwark" (farm/grange) was located there, along with a hospital, school, an inn and a brewery.

Next to this folwark, were the „colonies” (properties) of the village elders, members of the military (“piechota wybraniecka”), and their successors: Stawski, Kolonek, Nowik, Konik, Karczowski (Karczewski?), Rzemienik and **Jan Wieszczak** – (I will have to check again carefully spelling of this name)! (...)

I was also paying attention to the changes in spelling of the last name. They took place most frequently along with the change of the person keeping the records, of the vicar or of the parish priest, for instance: **Wańczuk (ß)*, Waszczuk, Wajszczuk, Wajszczuk, Waściuk**. The same Tomasz was written Waszczek, Wańczuk, Wajszczuk, Wasiuk, Wajszczak.

(* Some times a German **ß** was used instead polish **sz**.)
(http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfabet_niemiecki)

Resulting from the review of these records is a following hypothesis:

Because the first record was dated **1603 (Zofia Wayńczukowa** – a Godmother), it can be postulated that the earliest ancestor of the Wajszczuks could have arrived in Trzebieszów during the time period **1576-1617**, together with **Fr. Krzysztof Olędzki** from **Czuryły**, as a craftsman („rzemieślnik”), since the last name is accompanied in the records by a latin postscript, ** – **honestus** („uczciwy” – a term describing a farmer [“rolnik”] from a small town or a village craftsman); other were - **famatus** („sławetny” – a town inhabitant), **laboris** („laboriosus” – hardworking, - a description of a peasants in court and parish records), (**generosus** or **nobilis** – referring to a member of nobility.)

<http://corvinus.republika.pl/metryka.htm>.

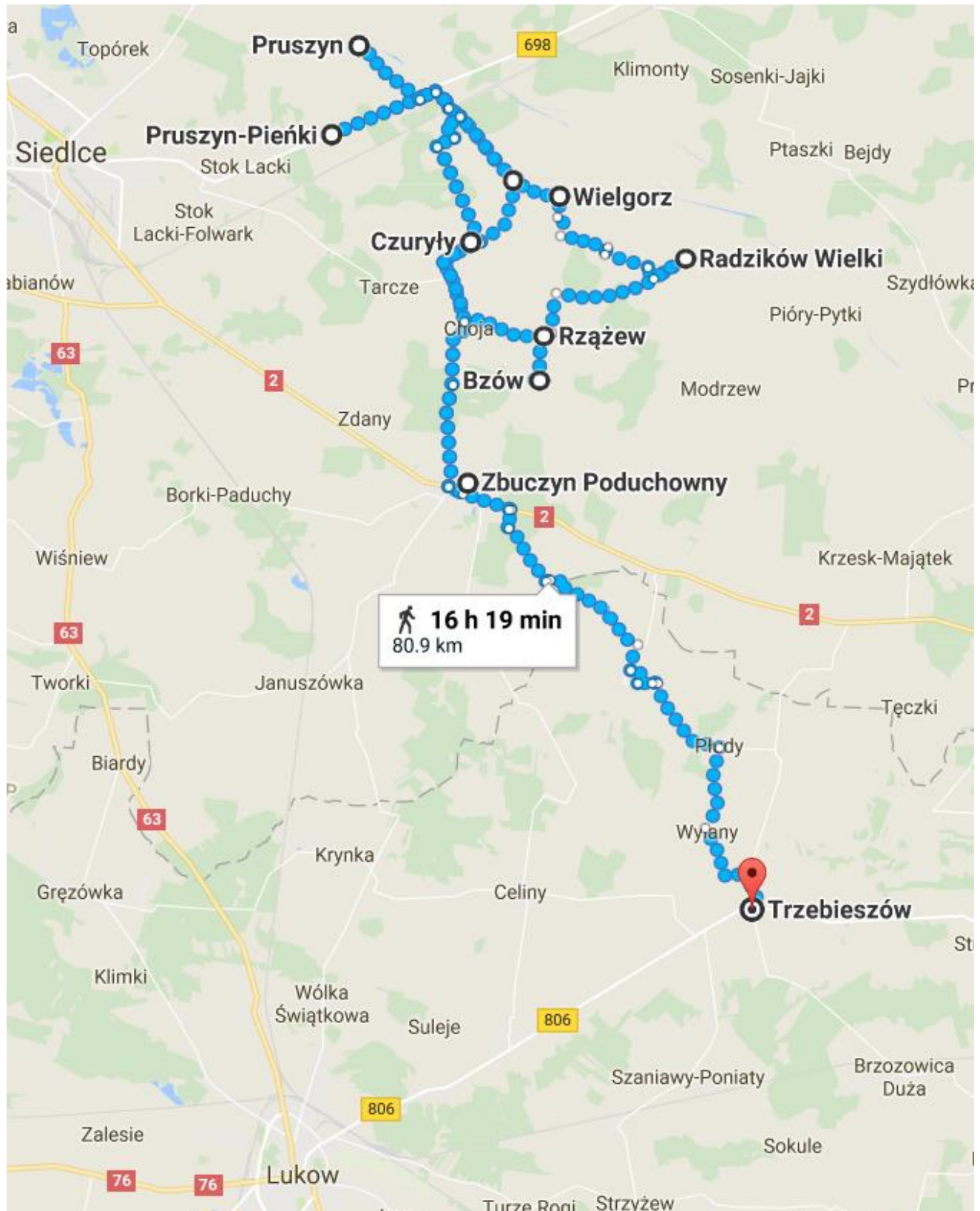
We should examine next – **Czuryły***, a settlement in Eastern Mazovia, most likely in the **Zbuczyn parish**, and also the neighboring villages: **Krzymosze, Pruszyn, Pieńki, Wielgorz, Radzików, Krynka?, Kornica?, Rzążew, Bzów** – to check them out for the Wajszczuk (Waszczuk) name. (see map below)

----- (Krynka - <http://zastawie-netau.net/category/krynka/>)

(* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krynki> - **Krynki** pronounced [ˈkrɨŋkʲi] (*Belarusian*: Крынкi Крынкi) is a **town** in northeastern *Poland*, located in *Podlaskie Voivodeship* along the border with *Belarus*.

Krynki is famous for its history and its old buildings. (...); (pl) In **1429** a ducal manor was built there along the road from *Krakow* to *Grodna*. In 1434 roku, in this manor, a meeting was organized between (the Polish king) *Władysław Jagiełło* and Grand Duke of Lithuania *Zygmunt Kiejstutowicz*.)

How did this contacts and familiarity develop? At that time a distance of ca. 40 km. was fairly big and far to travel.



Czuryły - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czury%C5%82y> - **Czuryły** [tʂu'riwɨ] is a **village** in the administrative district of **Gmina Zbuczyn**, within **Siedlce County**, **Masovian Voivodeship**, in east-central Poland.^[u] It lies approximately 8 kilometres (5 mi) north of **Zbuczyn**, 12 km (7 mi) east of **Siedlce**, and 99 km (62 mi) east of **Warsaw**. (Parafia – Pruszyń)

Did they know already earlier somebody there? Who were the Wajszczuks at that time, since the Godparents of their children were for instance: CCLL* Ignacy Bojerski, Bulimowski, Gołębiowska, Przychodzki, podkomorzy (camerling, subcamerarius) ** Antoni Jezierski from Popławy, and Dydzińska – urodzona szlachcianka (born noble), Paszkowski; one Marianna Wajszczukowa was a Godmother (chrzestną matką) at Feliks and Barbara de Osiński Chruścicki, urodzonych szlachciców (born noble)?

*(titles - <http://corvinus.republika.pl/metryka.htm>;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_and_noble_ranks;
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szlachta>)

** land office titles - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urz%C4%99dy_ziemskie

(...) Now we should decide, what to do next, since there is a large gap – **the books from the years 1608-1646, 1669-1683, 1708-1728 are missing.**

2 May 2009 BARBARA MISZTA, TRZEBIESZÓW
Newest discoveries

Several additional Wajszczuk name entries (with various name spellings) were found during examining the 18th c. parish records. Some were also describing the community functions (such as a village elder) or participation in the religious life (baptisms) of different members of the Wajszczuk family. In some entries, the last name was followed by a postscript “honestus/honesta” (free man, but not a noble).

EARLY SETTLERS AND MAJOR WARS IN THE ŁUKÓW AND SIEDLCE LANDS/REGIONS

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_Poland

11th – 14th centuries – fighting with the Yotvingians, Prussians, Lithuanians, Ruthenians/Rusins, Teutonic Knights. Early settlers from Masovia, Lithuania, Little Poland, Rus’

Piast Poland - During the Middle Ages, Poland sought to incorporate other Slavic peoples under the rule of the Polan dukes, such as Mieszko I, Bolesław I Chrobry and their descendants, and then defend the lands acquired in the west from the Holy Roman Empire. In the east and south it struggled with Ruthenia, Bohemia and Hungary, and Tatar raiders. In the north-east, it encountered intermittent Lithuanian and Prussian raids.

Jagiellon Poland - For much of its early history as a Christian state, Poland had to contend with Pomeranians, Prussians, Lithuanians and other Baltic peoples in continuous border wars without clear results or end in sight. After the Teutonic Order conquered and assimilated the Prussians, it began incursions into both Polish and Lithuanian territories. This represented a far greater threat to both Poland and Lithuania, and the two countries united in a defensive alliance by the crowning of the Lithuanian Duke Jogaila as King of Poland (as Władysław II) which led to a major confrontation at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410 and subsequent wars until 1525, when the Order became a vassal to the Polish Crown.

Siedlce and Trzebieszow (Ziemia Łukowska) – new settlers arrived to Ziemia Łukowska?

1440–1444 - Lithuanian-Masovian War for Podlasie.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania%E2%80%93Poland_relations - Polish–Lithuanian relations date from the 13th century, after the Grand Duchy of Lithuania under Mindaugas acquired some of

the territory of [Rus'](#) and thus established a border with the [then-fragmented Kingdom of Poland](#). Polish-Lithuanian relations subsequently improved, ultimately leading to a [personal union](#) between the two states. From the mid-16th to the late-18th century Poland and Lithuania merged to form the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#), a state that was dissolved following their [partition](#) by Austria, Prussia and Russia.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bb/Polska_1386_-_1434.png

Władysław II Jagiello (Jogaila) died in **1434** and his son, also Władysław III “Warnenczyk” ascended the Polish throne. He died in 1444 in the battle with Turks at Varna and his younger brother Kazimierz (Casimir) was chosen to follow him elected. In the meantime, the Lithuanian Grand Duke was assassinated and temporary unrest in Lithuania followed. It was complicated by some Polish-Lithuanian quarrels about the Podlasie territories, in particular, the **Drohiczyn borderlands**. (*North of Ziemia Lukowska*.) These were adjusted in **1444**

Casimir IV KG (Knight of the Garter) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_IV_Jagiellon ([Polish: Kazimierz IV Andrzej Jagiellończyk](#) [[ka'zimjɛz jaɟjɛl'ɔɲtʃɨk](#)] (listen[ⓘ]); Lithuanian: *Kazimieras Jogailaitis*; 30 November 1427 – 7 June 1492^[1]) of the [Jagiellonian dynasty](#) was [Grand Duke of Lithuania](#) from **1440** and [King of Poland](#) from **1447**, until his death. He was one of the most active Polish rulers, under whom Poland, by defeating the [Teutonic Knights](#) in the [Thirteen Years' War](#) recovered [Pomerania](#), and the Jagiellonian dynasty became one of the leading royal houses in Europe. He was a strong opponent of aristocracy, and helped to strengthen the importance of Parliament and the Senate.^[2]

The great triumph of his reign was bringing [Prussia](#) under Polish rule.^[3] The long and brilliant rule of Casimir corresponded to the age of “new monarchies” in Western Europe. By the [15th century](#) [Poland](#) had narrowed the distance separating it from [Western Europe](#) and become a significant factor in international relations.

Siedlce and Trzebieszow (Ziemia Lukowska) – no details are available?

16th and 17th c. –

DIALEKTOLOGIA POLSKA - <http://www.dialektologia.uw.edu.pl/index.php?l1=podlasie-historia-regionu> - Monika Kresa – **Historia: region – Podlasie**. In **1648**, through **Podlasie** passed the armies of **Chmielnicki, Chowański, Rakoczy**, and later the **Swedish and Tatar armies**. To the depopulated territories of Podlasie started arriving mostly peasantry from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the participation of settlers from Mazovia was rather small.

<http://turystyka.siedlce.pl/artykul/295/siedlce-historia-i-terazniejszosc>. Further general and territorial development of **Siedlce** was greatly influenced by the location documents of the town in **1547** by the King Zygmunt I Stary and inclusion in its administrative borders of the neighboring villages. Many fires in the **16th and 17th centuries**, **Tatar invasion in 1650** and the „**Swedish Deluge**” were destroying the new town, which became in the meantime a small trade center along the road to Brześć. (...)

https://repozytorium.uph.edu.pl/bitstream/handle/11331/297/DMOWSKI.R.Ochrona_przeciwpozarowa_%20w_Siedlcach_przed_I_wojna_swiatowa.pdf?sequence=1; 12 M. Plewczyński, *W Rzeczypospolitej obojga narodów*, [in:] **Siedlce 1448-1995**, Siedlce 1996, s. 29-36 – „According to the discoveries by Marek Plewczyński, **the town was burned down by the Tatars** (under Chmielnicki) in **1650**, and a few years later by **the Swedes**.”¹² “

The DELUGE - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_\(history\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_(history)) - was the climax of a series of wars that took place in Poland - Lithuania in the mid-17th century. (...) In a stricter sense, the term refers to the **Swedish** invasion and occupation of the Commonwealth as a theatre of the Second Northern War (**1655–1660**) only; In Poland and Lithuania this period is called the **Swedish Deluge** (**Polish: potop szwedzki**),^[6] (...) The Commonwealth was first affected by the **Khmelnysky Uprising**, which began in 1648, and affected southeastern provinces of the country. In the final stages of the uprising, the **Russians** invaded Poland–Lithuania in **1654**, reaching as far west as the **Vistula river near Puławy**. The Commonwealth also fought forces from **Transylvania** and **Brandenburg-Prussia**, but the **Duchy of Prussia** gained formal Polish recognition of its independence outside of the Polish state (**Treaty of Wehlau, 1657**).

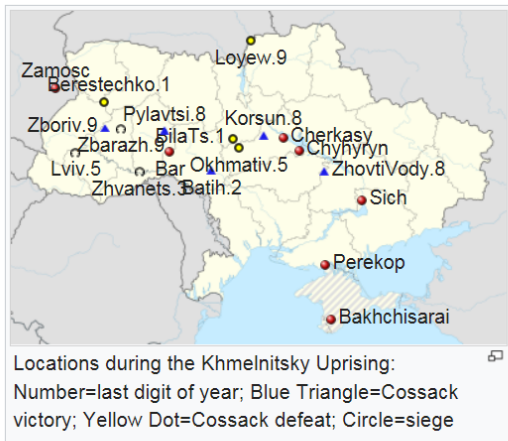
Details:

1648 – 1652, Chmielnicki Rebellion - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmelnysky_Uprising -

The **Khmelnysky Uprising** (...) was a **Cossack rebellion** within the **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** in 1648–1657, which led to the creation of a **Cossack Hetmanate** in Ukrainian lands. Under the command of **Hetman Bohdan Khmelnysky**, the **Zaporozhian Cossacks**, allied with the **Crimean Tatars** and local **peasantry**, fought against the armies and **paramilitary** forces of the **Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth**. The insurgency was accompanied by mass atrocities committed by Cossacks against the civilian population, especially against the **Roman Catholic** clergy and the Jews.^[3] (...) The uprising has a symbolic meaning in the history of **Ukraine's** relationship with Poland and **Russia**. It ended the Polish Catholic **Szlachta's** domination over the **Orthodox Christian** population; at the same time it led to the eventual **incorporation of eastern Ukraine into the Tsardom of Russia** initiated by the **1654 Pereyaslav Agreement**, (...) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmelnysky_Uprising

Battle of Batih - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Batih - The **Battle of Batih (Batoh)** was a battle in **1652** in which Polish-Lithuanian forces under hetman **Marcin Kalinowski** were defeated by a united army of **Crimean Tatars** and **Zaporozhian Cossacks**. A day after the battle the Cossacks bought the Polish captives from the Tatars.^[4] In the following two days **all the prisoners were slain**.^[4] In which Polish-Lithuanian forces under hetman **Marcin Kalinowski** were defeated by a united army

of [Crimean Tatars](#) and [Zaporozhian Cossacks](#). A day after the battle the Cossacks bought the Polish captives from the Tatars.^[4] In the following two days [all the prisoners were slain](#).^[4]



Khmelnytsky was persuaded not to lay siege to Lviv, in exchange for 200,000 red guildens, according to some sources, but Hrushevsky stated that Khmelnytsky indeed lay siege to the town, for about two weeks. After obtaining the ransom, he moved to besiege Zamość, when he finally heard about the election of the new Polish King, John Casimir II, whom Khmelnytsky favored. According to Hrushevski John Casimir II sent him a letter in which he informed the Cossack leader about his election and assured him that he would grant Cossacks and all of the Orthodox faith various privileges. He requested for Khmelnytsky to stop his campaign and await the royal delegation. Khmelnytsky answered that he would comply with his monarch's request and then turned back. He made a triumphant entry into Kiev on Christmas Day in 1648, and he was hailed as "the Moses, savior, redeemer, and liberator of the people from Polish captivity... the illustrious ruler of Rus".

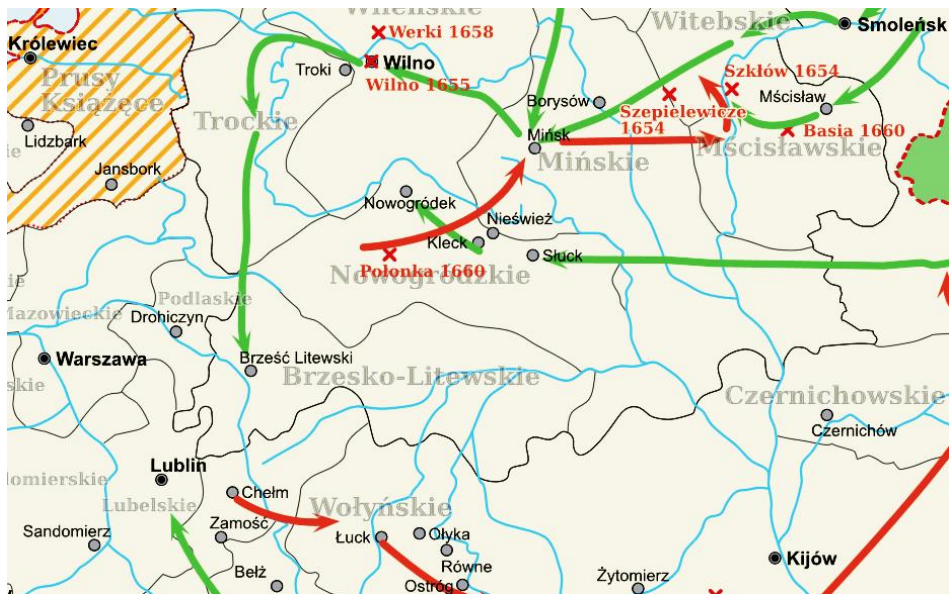
In February 1649, during negotiations with a Polish delegation headed by Sen. Adam Kysil in Pereiaslav, Khmelnytsky declared that he was "the sole autocrat of Rus" and that he had "enough power in Ukraine, Podolia, and Volhynia... in his land and principality stretching as far as Lviv, Chełm, and Halych".^[9] It became clear to the Polish envoys that Khmelnytsky had positioned himself no longer as simply a leader of the Zaporozhian Cossacks but as that of an independent state and stated

Siedlce and Trzebieszow – although most of the hostile activities seem to have been taking place to the north and east, Siedlce - the town was burned down by the Tatars (under Chmielnicki) in 1650, (and a few years later again by the Swedes).

Russo-Polish War (1654–1667) – Tsar Alexis of Russia



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Polish_War_\(1654%E2%80%931667\)#/media/File:Wojna_polsko-rosyjska_1654-1667.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Polish_War_(1654%E2%80%931667)#/media/File:Wojna_polsko-rosyjska_1654-1667.svg)



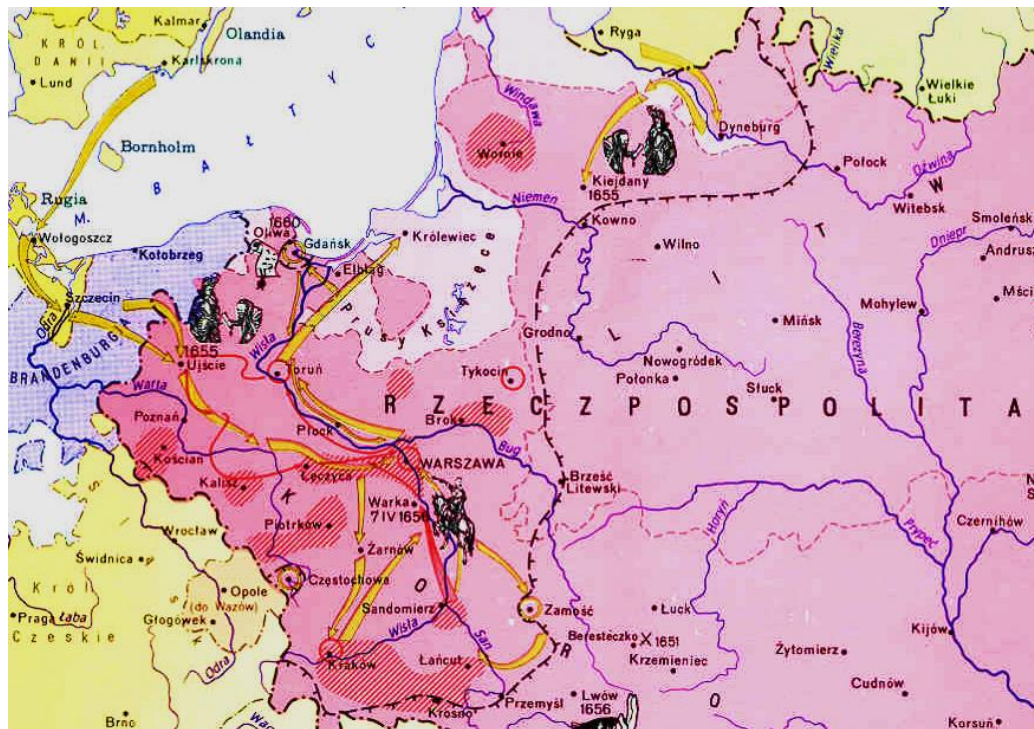
Polish-Russian War 1654 – 1667; → polish, → russian, x – battles;

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Polish_War_\(1654%E2%80%931667\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Polish_War_(1654%E2%80%931667)) - In the summer of 1654, the Russians managed to capture most important cities and strongholds of today's [Belarus](#). [Smoleńsk](#) was captured after a siege on October 3, 1654.

Siedlce and Trzebieszów – no apparent Russian hostile military activities in that area?

“Deluge” - Swedish Invasion (1655 – 1660) -

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_\(history\)#1655](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_(history)#1655)



Movements of the armies: Swedish - Yellow arrows (from the North and West), Polish - Red arrows; Siege of the armies: Swedish – Yellow circles, Polish - Red circles. Broken line (black) – territory partially controlled by the Swedes; Hatched red fields – territories controlled by the partisans...
http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Poland/Deluge_files/image014.jpg

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_\(history\)#Swedish_invasion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deluge_(history)#Swedish_invasion) – Following the [Thirty Years' War](#), the [Swedish Empire](#) emerged as one of the strongest nations on the continent. It had a large army but little money to pay its soldiers. The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, weakened by wars with the Cossacks and [Tsardom of Russia](#), seemed like easy prey, also because its best soldiers had been massacred in the 1652 [Battle of Batih](#). Furthermore, Swedes remembered claims to their throne by Polish kings [Sigismund III Vasa](#) and his sons [Władysław IV Vasa](#) and [John II Casimir](#), who themselves belonged to the [House of Vasa](#). An earlier conflict, the [Polish–Swedish War \(1626–29\)](#) had ended with the [Treaty of Stuhmsdorf](#).



Legend: Areas occupied by Sweden Russia The Crown, battles – in red

The Republic during [The Deluge](#) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_K%C4%97dainiai

The Polish–Lithuanian **King John II Casimir Vasa** (reigned 1648–68) lacked support among the Commonwealth nobility (*szlachta*) due to his sympathies with absolutist [Austria](#) and his open contempt for the "[Sarmatist](#)" culture of the nobility. Earlier, in 1643, John Casimir had become a member of the [Jesuits](#) and had received the title of [Cardinal](#). Nevertheless, in December 1646, he returned to Poland and, in October 1647, resigned his position as Cardinal to stand for election to the Polish throne, after the death of his brother [Władysław IV Vasa](#). He became King in 1648. However, some of the nobility supported [Charles X Gustav](#) (King of Sweden from 1654 to 1660 and John Casimir's cousin) for the Polish–Lithuanian throne. Many members of the Polish nobility, including [Deputy Chancellor of the Crown \[Hieronim Radziejowski\]\(#\)](#) and [Grand Treasurer of the Crown \[Bogusław Leszczyński\]\(#\)](#), regarded John Casimir as a weak king or as a "Jesuit-King"; for this or for

personal reasons (i.e. [Leszczyński](#) was Protestant and [Radziejowski](#) was an old enemy of the Polish King who had banished him from Poland to exile in Sweden), they encouraged Charles Gustav to claim the [Polish crown](#). Two Lithuanian noble princes, [Janusz Radziwiłł](#) and [Bogusław Radziwiłł](#), subsequently introduced internal dissension into the Commonwealth's troubles and began [negotiations](#) with the [Swedish king Charles X Gustav of Sweden](#) aimed at breaking up the Commonwealth and the [Polish–Lithuanian union](#).^[1] They signed the [Treaty of Kėdainiai \(1655\)](#), which envisaged the Radziwiłł princes ruling over two duchies carved out from the lands of the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#) under Swedish [vassalage](#) (the [Union of Kėdainiai](#)).

Extent of the occupied territories - <http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Poland/Deluge.htm>



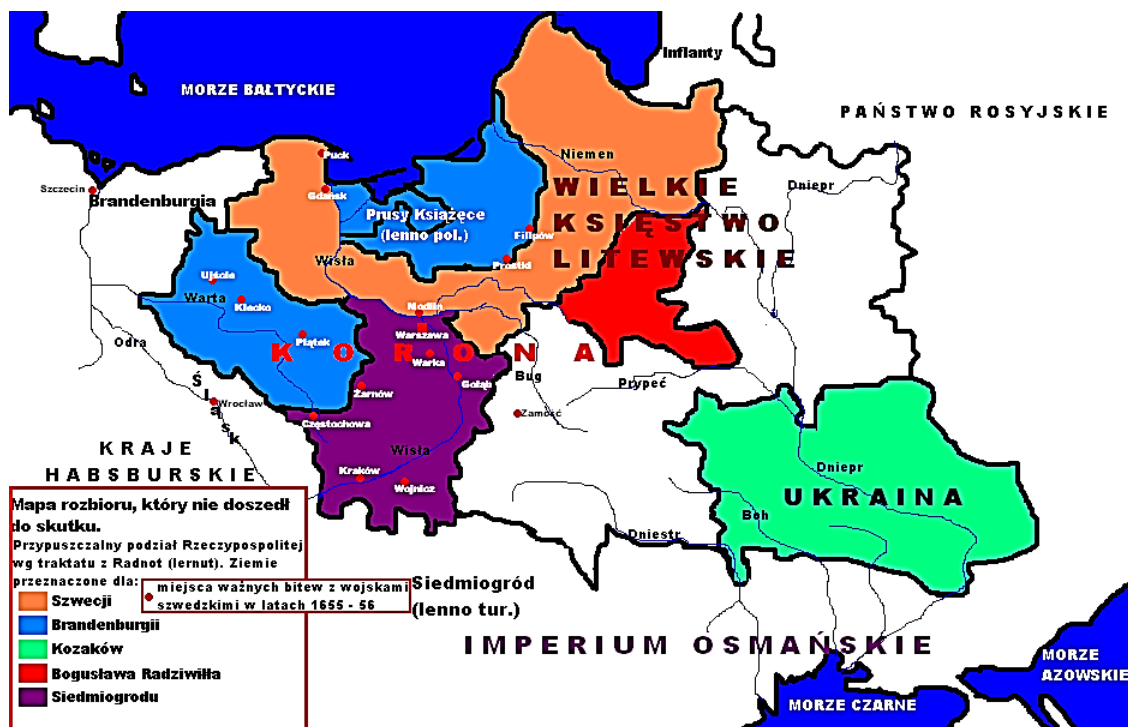
<http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Poland/Deluge.htm>

1655 - In July 1655 **two Swedish armies**, (1) operating from [Swedish Pomerania](#) and the [Province of Pomerania](#), entered [Greater Poland](#), one of the richest and most developed provinces of the Commonwealth, which had for centuries been unaffected by any military conflicts, and whose [Levée en masse](#) had not been used to fighting. The Greater Poland's nobility camp, located in the valley of the [Noteć](#) river, near the town of [Ujście](#), looked more like a large party, as the [szlachta](#), gathered there to face the Swedish Army, was more interested in drinking. To make matters worse, two powerful magnates, the [Voivode](#) of [Poznań Krzysztof Opaliński](#), and the Voivode of [Kalisz](#) Andrzej Karol Grudziński, argued with each other whether to fight or to give up to the enemy.

After an easy Swedish victory at the [Battle of Ujście](#), [Krzysztof Opaliński](#) surrendered Greater Poland to [Charles Gustav](#). On **July 31, 1655**, the army commanded by [Arvid Wittenberg](#) captured [Poznań](#), (...) (on **September 8**) the Swedish army entered the Polish capital, becoming the first foreign army in Polish history to capture Warsaw.^[13] King Charles Gustav left a garrison in Warsaw, under [Bengt Gabrielsson Oxenstierna](#), and headed southwards, in pursuit of John Casimir. (...) Kraków, the ancient capital of Poland was captured [after a siege](#), on **October 13, 1655**. With the three most populated and best developed Polish provinces in his hands (Greater Poland, [Lesser Poland](#) and [Mazovia](#)), Charles Gustav decided to head back **northwards** to [Royal Prussia](#), which was defended by the [Voivode of Malbork, Jakub Wejher](#). (...)

Meanwhile, in the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#), whose eastern part had been occupied by **(2) another Swedish army (arriving at Inflanty)** under [Magnus Gabriel De la Gardie](#) since **August 1655**, [Janusz Radziwiłł](#) and his cousin [Bogusław Radziwiłł](#) signed the [Union of Kėdainiai](#) (October 20, 1655), which ended Lithuania's union with Poland. The decision of the Radziwiłłs was the result of the 1654 Russian invasion, as Janusz Radziwiłł accused the Poles of not helping the Lithuanians with the defence of the Grand Duchy. The Russian capture of [Vilnius](#) (**August 9, 1655**), and the subsequent slaughter of its residents convinced the Lithuanian nobility that Swedish protection was the best solution.^[12] The situation of the Commonwealth was desperate, but hope appeared with the [Truce of Vilna](#) (November 3), in which Poland and the Tsardom of Russia formed an anti-Swedish alliance. (...) On November 18, **1655**, the Swedes besieged the monastery at [Jasna Góra](#), located in Lesser Poland, near the border. (...) The siege was lifted on December 27, 1655. (...) *At the end of December King John Casimir returned to Poland from Silesia.*

1656 - Early plans for Partitioning of Poland (1656) - not carried-out, and now forgotten!
http://cristeros1.w.interiowo.pl/crist/rekonkwista/najazd_rakoczego.htm - this was the first partition treaty in the history of Poland. (...) **Czech or Bohemian Brethren**, a [Protestant Christian denomination](#) group were announcing a prophecy about the fall of Papacy (whom they called an apocalyptic beast – “roman antichrist”) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unity_of_the_Brethren - it will be annihilated on a Polish territory by a “Lion” from the North (...) The Prince from [Transylwania](#) [Jerzy II Rakoczy](#) was lending his eager ear to the emissaries of the Brethren. (See the map below).



On December 6, **1656** a secret treaty was signed at RADNOT. The following was proposed:

Sweden would get - Prusy Królewskie, Kujawy, Podlasie, Żmudź and Kurlandia,

Bohdan Chmielnicki – Ukraina,

Fryderyk Wilhelm, a Brandenburg Elector - Wielkopolska and Warmia,

Bogusław Radziwiłł, **the traitor** – Nowogródek Voivodship, as a new Duchy,

(+**Janusz Radziwiłł**, **(he did later surrender to the Swedes**, would retain his properties?)

George Rákóczi II, Prince of Transylvania - Małopolska, Mazowsze, Wołyń and part of Lithuania, along with the title of the King of Poland.

Defenders: King Jan Kazimierz, Hetm. Paweł Sapieha, Krzysztof Sapieha, Stanisław Potocki, Stefan Czarniecki and others.

Transylvanian invasion – 1657, Jerzy II Rakoczy - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerzy_II_Rakoczy

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_II_R%C3%A1k%C3%B3czi – Jerzy II Rakoczy,

George II Rákóczi (30 January 1621 – 7 June 1660), was a [Hungarian](#) nobleman, [Prince of Transylvania](#) (1648-1660), (...) On 3 February 1643, he married [Sophia Báthory](#), who was required by his mother to convert from [Roman Catholic](#) to [Calvinism](#). (...) On 6 December 1656, by the [Treaty of Radnot](#), he also allied with King [Charles X Gustav of Sweden](#) against King [John II Casimir of Poland](#). (...) Rákóczi was to seize the provinces of [Lesser Poland](#) and [Mazovia](#), together with rich salt deposits in [Wieliczka](#) and [Bochnia](#). (...) In late **January 1657**, Rákóczi's army of some 25,000 crossed the [Carpathians](#) near [Krosno](#). (...) it headed westwards, to [Kraków](#). (...) captured Lublin (...) besieged Brest (...), burned [Biała Podlaska](#) and [Brańsk](#). (...) The army then marched towards [Warsaw](#), burning the towns of [Mielnik](#), [Drohiczyn](#), [Nur](#), [Brok](#), and [Pniewo](#). (...) On **17 June**, after a three-day siege, Rákóczi and Stenbock captured Warsaw (for a few days), then the Swedes moved toward Szczecin and Rakoczy was heading south-east followed by Stefan Czarniecki forces. Rakoczy's army was defeated on July 20 1657 at Czarny Ostrow. On July 1 some 11.000 of his soldiers were captured near [Trembowla](#) by the Crimean Tatars allied with the Polish Army – Rakoczy escaped. with a handful of men. (...) On August 30, the Swedish garrison left Kraków, and throughout August and September 1657, all Swedish troops in Poland moved northwards, to [Royal Prussia](#). (...)

[Ducal Prussia](#), which had previously allied itself with Sweden and attacked Poland, changed sides and guaranteed military support of the Commonwealth, in return for sovereignty (it had been a [fief](#) of Poland since 1466). **This treaty is regarded as one of the worst mistakes in Polish history. (It left for centuries a Prussian/German enclave north of Poland – it was taken over by Russia after WW-II.)**

1658 – 1660 – Czarniecki in Denmark and Hamburg – In the spring of 1658, the Polish army, together with its Austrian allies under [Raimondo Montecuccoli](#), began a campaign in Royal Prussia, where several key towns and cities were still in Swedish hands. On July 1, the siege of Toruń began. (...)The Polish troops included the divisions of [Krzysztof Grodzicki](#), Jan Sapieha and Stefan Czarniecki. Furthermore, they were provided support by the Brandenburgian-Prussian army of **[Bogusław Radziwiłł](#), which after the Treaty of Bromberg changed sides.** (...) on December 30 Toruń capitulated. Meanwhile, Stefan Czarniecki's division headed to [Denmark–Norway](#), to help the Danes in the [Dano-Swedish War](#). In October 1658, the Polish army of 4500 reached [Hamburg](#), and in December 1658, with the help of Polish troops, the fortress of [Kolding](#) was captured (see [Battle of Kolding](#)). On July 1, 1658, the [Sejm](#) ordered the expulsion of the [Polish Brethren](#), who were accused of collaborating with the Swedish invaders.

in late **1658**, the **Polish–Russian truce ended** when Russian forces under [Ivan Andreyevich Khovansky](#) ([Taratui](#)) and Jurij Aleksiejewicz Dołgorukow again attacked the Polish - Lithuanian units (see [Russo-Polish War \(1654–67\)](#)). The reason for the attack was the [Treaty of Hadiach](#), which created the [Polish–Lithuanian–Ruthenian Commonwealth](#). Muscovy was opposed to this newly established state, and decided to wage another war. The Russians managed to capture large parts of the Commonwealth, but were later defeated in the [Battle of Konotop](#) and the [Battle of Polonka](#). On May 3, **1660**, the [Treaty of Oliva](#) was signed, which ended the Polish - Swedish war. After the conclusion of the conflict, **Poland - Lithuania initiated a large offensive against the Russians**, who were beaten in the [Battle of Chudnov](#). In 1661, [Vilnius](#) was recaptured (December 2), and in **1663 - 64**, Polish forces invaded [Left-bank Ukraine](#). The war with Russia ended with the [Truce of Andrusovo](#) (January 30, **1667**). (...)

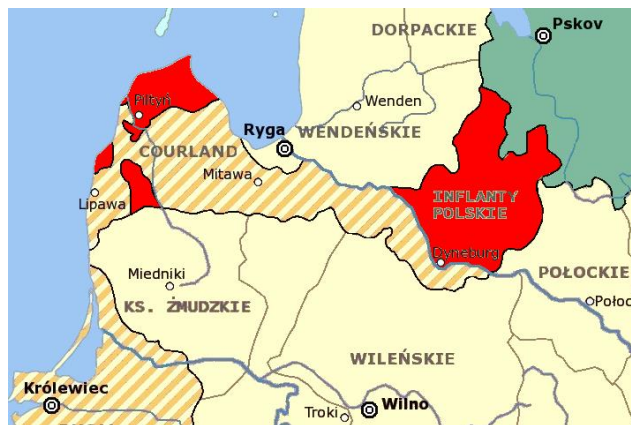
During the wars the Commonwealth lost approximately one third of its population as well as its status as a [great power](#).^[7] According to Professor Andrzej Rottermund, manager of the [Royal Castle](#) in [Warsaw](#), the destruction of Poland in the deluge was more extensive than the destruction of the country in [World War II](#). Rottermund claims that Swedish invaders robbed the Commonwealth of its most important riches, and most of the stolen items never returned to Poland.^[8] Warsaw, the capital of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, was completely destroyed by the Swedes, and out of a pre-war population of 20,000, only 2,000 remained in the city after the war.^[9] According to the 2012 Polish estimates, financial losses of Poland are estimated at 4 billion [zlotys](#). Swedish invaders completely destroyed **188** cities and towns, **81** castles, and **136** churches in Poland.^[10]

Summary (WJW) of the “POTOP” military activities:

Entry points in Pomerania (Szczecin) and in Inflanty



Details of Riga, Inflanty region



1655 - In July, two Swedish armies entered Poland-Lithuania: **1/** from [Swedish Pomerania](#) and the [Province of Pomerania](#), entered [Greater Poland](#), captured Warsaw, Kraków and laid (unsuccessful) siege of Częstochowa, then Charles Gustav decided to head back northwards to [Royal Prussia](#); **2/** another Swedish army under [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#) at Inflanty, in the region of the Bay of Riga - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflanty_Voivodeship. Military activities took place mainly west of the Vistula river and north of the Bug river. Russians captured Vilnius (August 9, 1655). **Janusz Radziwiłł and his cousin Bogusław Radziwiłł ended Lithuania's union with Poland.** On November 3, Poland and the Tsardom of Russia formed an anti-Swedish alliance, with Russian forces attacking Sweden in [Livonia](#). In November and December 1655 the Swedish army under [Gustaf Otto Stenbock](#) captured all the towns of Royal Prussia except for Gdańsk, [Puck](#) and [Malbork](#).

1656 – **Janusz Radziwiłł** died in January. King John Kazimir in Lwow, organizing the army. The Swedes reaching the [Zamość Fortress](#) on February 25, harassed by Polish guerilla forces, decided to retreat.^[17] (...) guerilla warfare also broke out in Mazovia and Greater Poland, and Lithuanian units under the Grand Hetman of Lithuania [Paweł Jan Sapieha](#) began moving towards Red Ruthenia. (...) In March, the Swedes were retreating toward Warsaw. (...) On April 21, the Lithuanians under Sapieha freed Lublin, and on April 23, the Lithuanian army reached [Praga](#) (suburb in Warsaw). Polish – Lithuanian siege of Warsaw, April 24 - July 1, Arvid Wittenberg capitulated.

The Swedish king decided to find allies. On June 29, 1656, he signed the [Treaty of Marienburg](#), in which he offered [Frederick William, Elector of Brandenburg](#) a reward - four voivodeships - Poznań, Kalisz, Łęczyca, and Sieradz. After the [Battle of Warsaw \(1656\)](#) (July 28–30), Warsaw was recaptured. (...) Finally, Charles Gustav decided to abandon Warsaw, and retreat to Royal Prussia. In early October 1656, to punish Brandenburg-Prussia, Commonwealth forces decided to invade the [Duchy of Prussia](#). ...

On December 1, 1656, the first [Treaty of Vienna](#) was signed, which was followed by a second [Treaty of Vienna](#), in which Emperor [Leopold I](#) promised to aid John Casimir with 12,000 troops against the Swedish-Brandenburgian alliance. By late 1656, Swedish troops had been pushed out of most of the Commonwealth. They only held the right-bank half of Royal Prussia, northern Mazovia, Łowicz, Kraków, and [Tykocin](#).

1657 - In 1653, the Transylvanian Hungarian ruler [George II Rákóczi](#) signed an alliance with Poland, and the relations between the Commonwealth and Transylvania were friendly. George had even been offered the Polish crown, on condition that he convert to Catholicism.^[20] Stunning Swedish successes, however, made Rákóczi change his mind. On May 18, 1656, Charles X Gustav, in a letter sent from Malbork, offered the Hungarian prince Red Ruthenia, in exchange for military support against the Commonwealth. Meanwhile, Rákóczi had already been negotiating with Bohdan Khmelnytsky, (...) - [Treaty of Radnot](#). (now [Iernut](#) in [Romania](#)). In late January 1657, the Transylvanian army of 25,000 crossed the [Carpathians](#) (...) 10,000 Cossack allies awaited them (...) the army of hetman Stanisław Rewera Potocki rushed southwards. (...) On March 21, Rákóczi captured [Tarnów](#), and on March 28, he reached Kraków. Along the way to the ancient Polish capital, the Transylvanian-Cossack army burned and looted towns and villages, murdering thousands. (...)

On **April 12, 1657**, the Transylvanian-Cossack army met with Swedish forces under Charles X Gustav, at [Cmielów](#). The joined forces began to follow the Polish Crown army under Stanisław Potocki, and the Lithuanian army under Paweł Sapieha, to force a decisive battle. On **April 29**, the Polish and Lithuanian armies joined forces at [Łosice](#), (see the edited **GOOGLE** maps below) (...) On May 13, Rákóczi and Charles X Gustav seized the fortress of [Brześć Litewski](#), and on May 17, after a three-day siege, the Swedes, Cossacks, and Transylvanians captured Warsaw. Soon afterwards, however, the [Dano-Swedish War](#) began, and Charles X Gustav left Poland with most of his troops. The remaining Swedish army was commanded by [Gustaf Otto Stenbock](#). The Swedish withdrawal made Rákóczi uneasy, as he was well aware of poor quality of his soldiers. On July 7–8, 1656, at Łańcut Castle, King John Casimir and his hetmans agreed that Stefan Czarniecki would follow Rákóczi and the Cossacks, while Lubomirski's and Potocki's divisions together with Crimean Tatars would guard the border, preventing the Transylvanian-Cossack army from leaving the Commonwealth. (...) On June 20, 1657, Stenbock was ordered by Charles X Gustav to abandon Rákóczi and head with his army to [Stettin](#). To save his skin, the ruler of Transylvania began a quick retreat southwards, towards the Carpathians. On July 11, Stefan Czarniecki's division defeated Rákóczi at Magierów near Lwów, and on July 20, the Transylvanian-Cossack army was completely destroyed in the [Battle of Czarny Ostrów](#) in [Podolia](#). Three days later, Rákóczi signed a peace treaty with the Commonwealth (...) On August 30, the Swedish garrison left Kraków, and throughout August and September 1657, all Swedish troops in Poland moved northwards, to [Royal Prussia](#). (...)

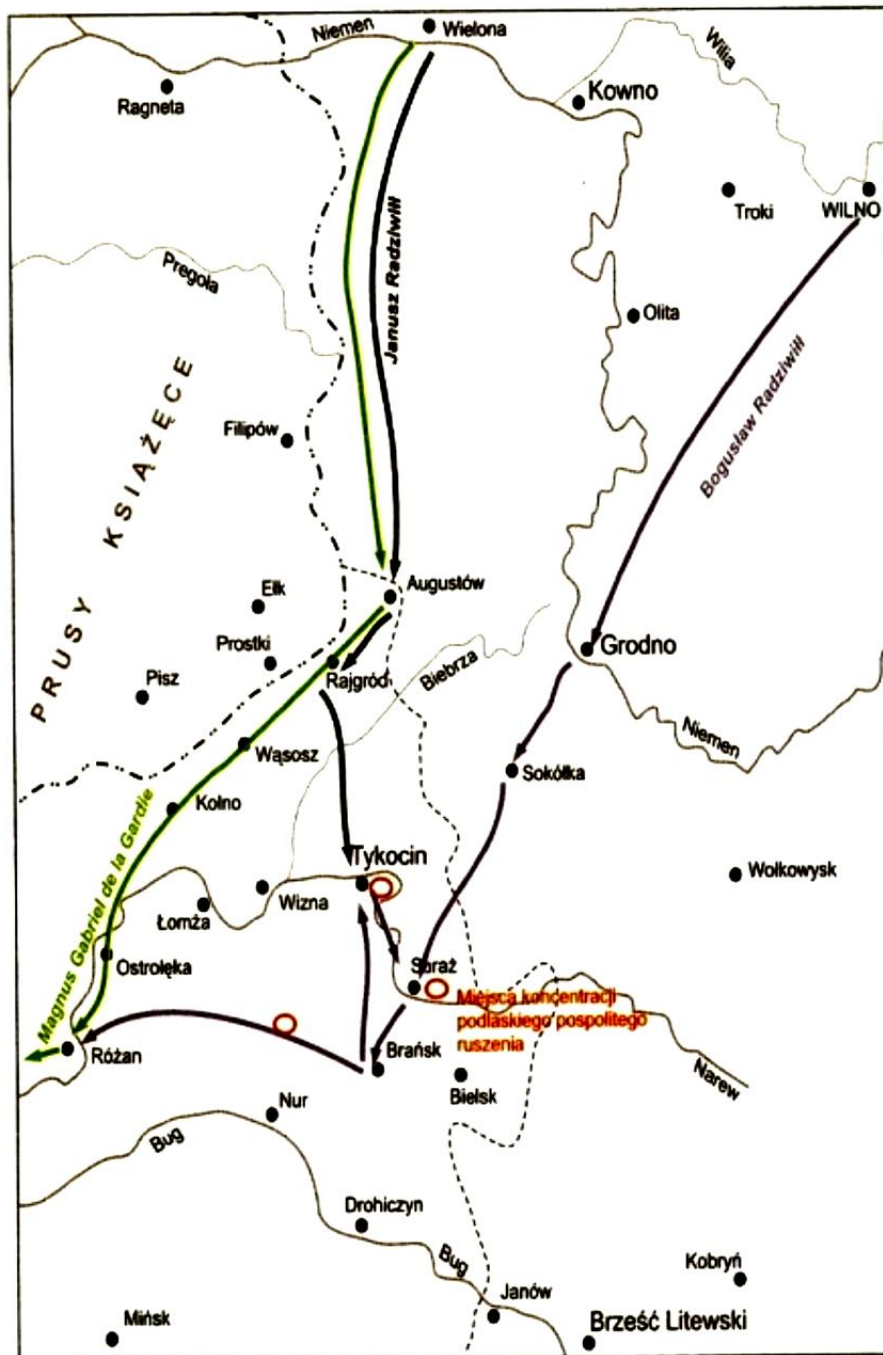
There were **two important major fortresses** in the eastern Polish ethnic territories and the fight for them continued throughout the whole duration of this war. They are also of particular interest to us, since they were located in the southern part of Podlasie – [Tykocin](#), to the north and [Brześć](#) (Brest Litovsk, on the Bug river) to the east, both bordering the region of **Ziemia Łukowska/Łuków Lands**, (and **Siedlce** and **Trzebieszów**), from the north and east respectively. How did our ancestors do in Trzebieszów during the “Deluge” – were they already there at that time? How did do the town of Siedlce and its contemporary inhabitants? (The Wajszczuks arrived there much later, shortly after the middle of the **19th** century). **Most of the military activities (and destruction) happened in that region - south and west of the Bug river - probably in 1657?**

Below are shown some **maps** illustrating the movements of various armies over the Polish territory, with particular emphasis on the **Łuków Lands**, north-eastern **Mazovia** and southern **Podlachia** and the vicinity of **Trzebieszów** and **Siedlce**. (The map sources are identified).

Płosiński Jacek - Potop szwedzki na Podlasiu 1655-1657 (pdf)

POTOP – Płosiński – (Swedish Deluge in Podlasie 1655 – 1657)

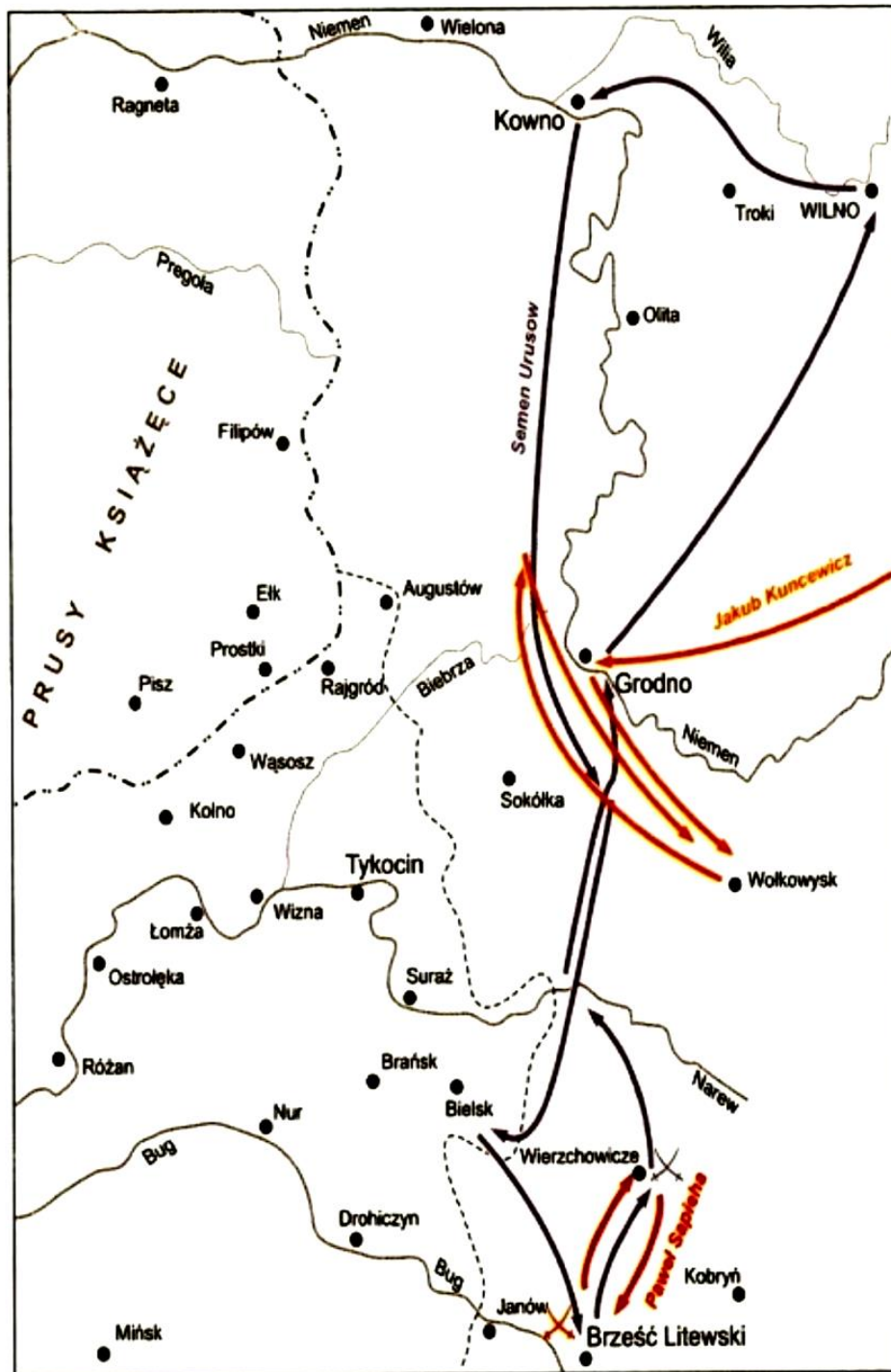
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwEWOFPkBN6CaVVJWEdCVXRIR2M/view>



1. Działania wojenne na Podlasiu koronnym w okresie od sierpnia do grudnia 1655 r.

p. 20

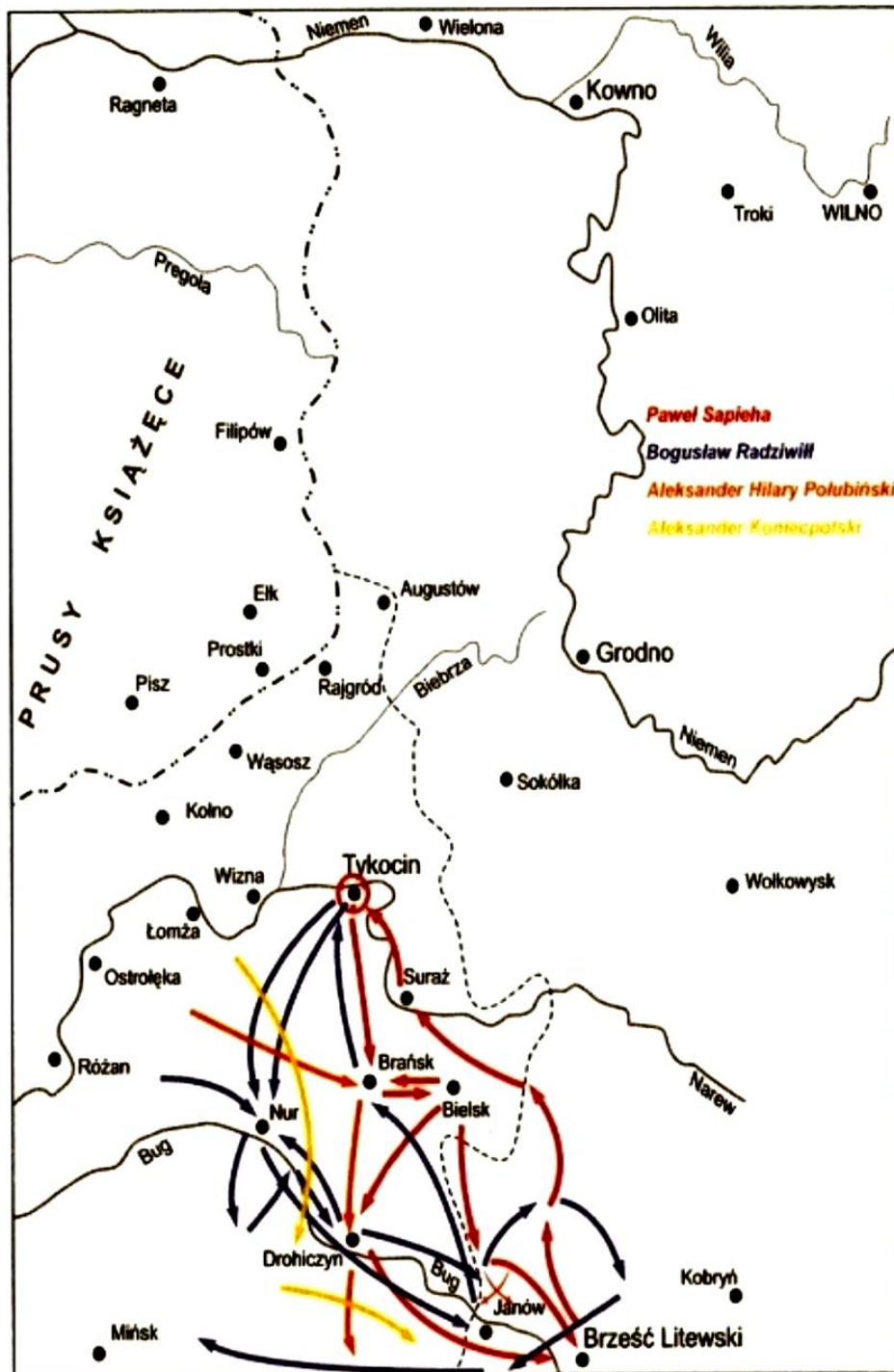
Fig. 1 - Military activities on Royal Podlasie (August - December 1655)
Chapter II – Royal Podlasie at the beginning of Swedish Deluge – p. 21



2. Wyprawa kniazia Semena Urusowa na Brześć Litewski

p.42

Fig. 2 - Excursion of Prince Semen Urusow on Lithuanian Brest
 Chapter III - Excursion of Prince Semen Urusow on Lithuanian Brest (October –
 December 1655), p. 43

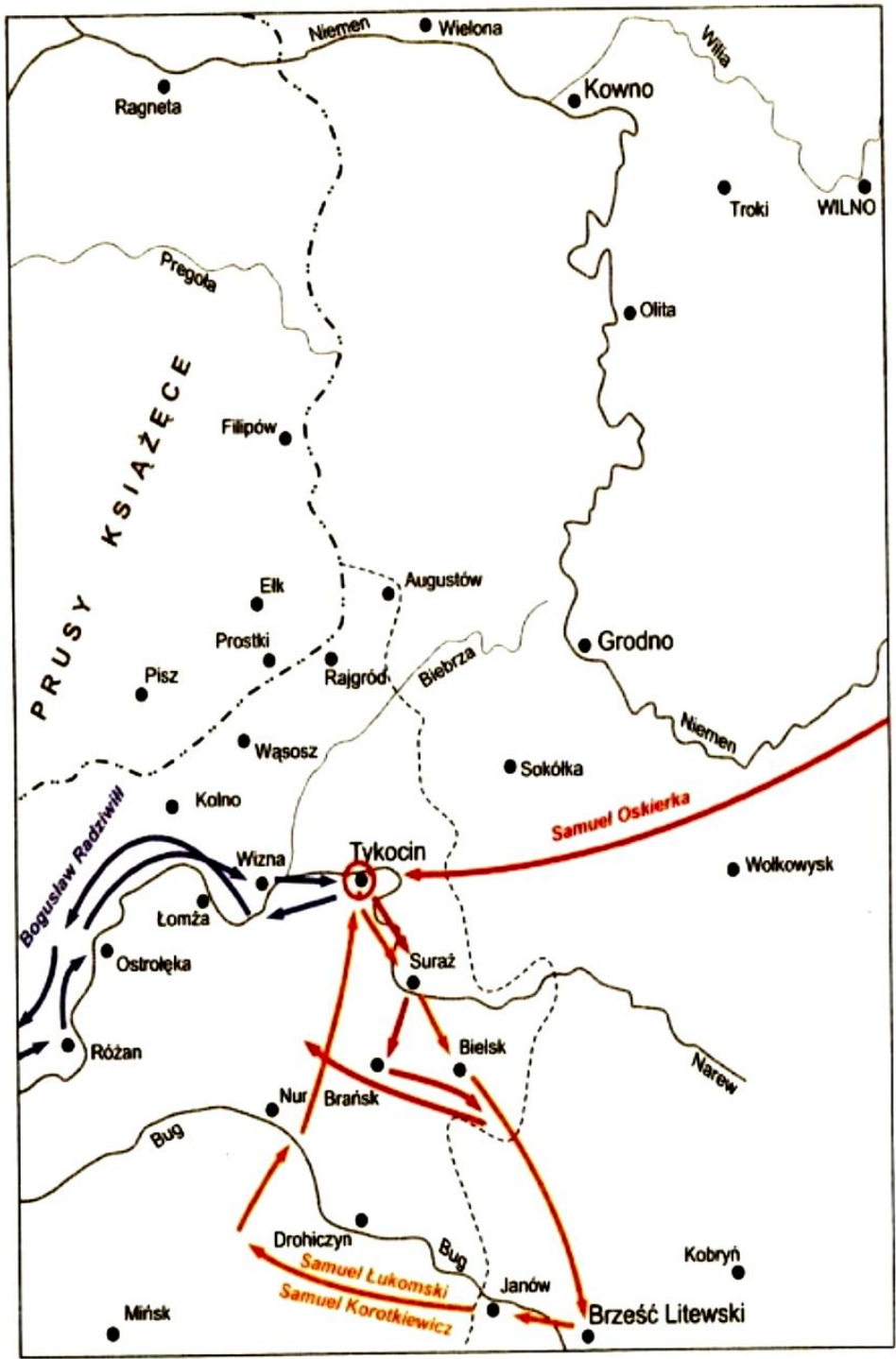


6. Działania wojenne na Podlasiu od lutego do kwietnia 1656 r.

p.70

Yellow arrow – Aleksander Koniecpolski Army

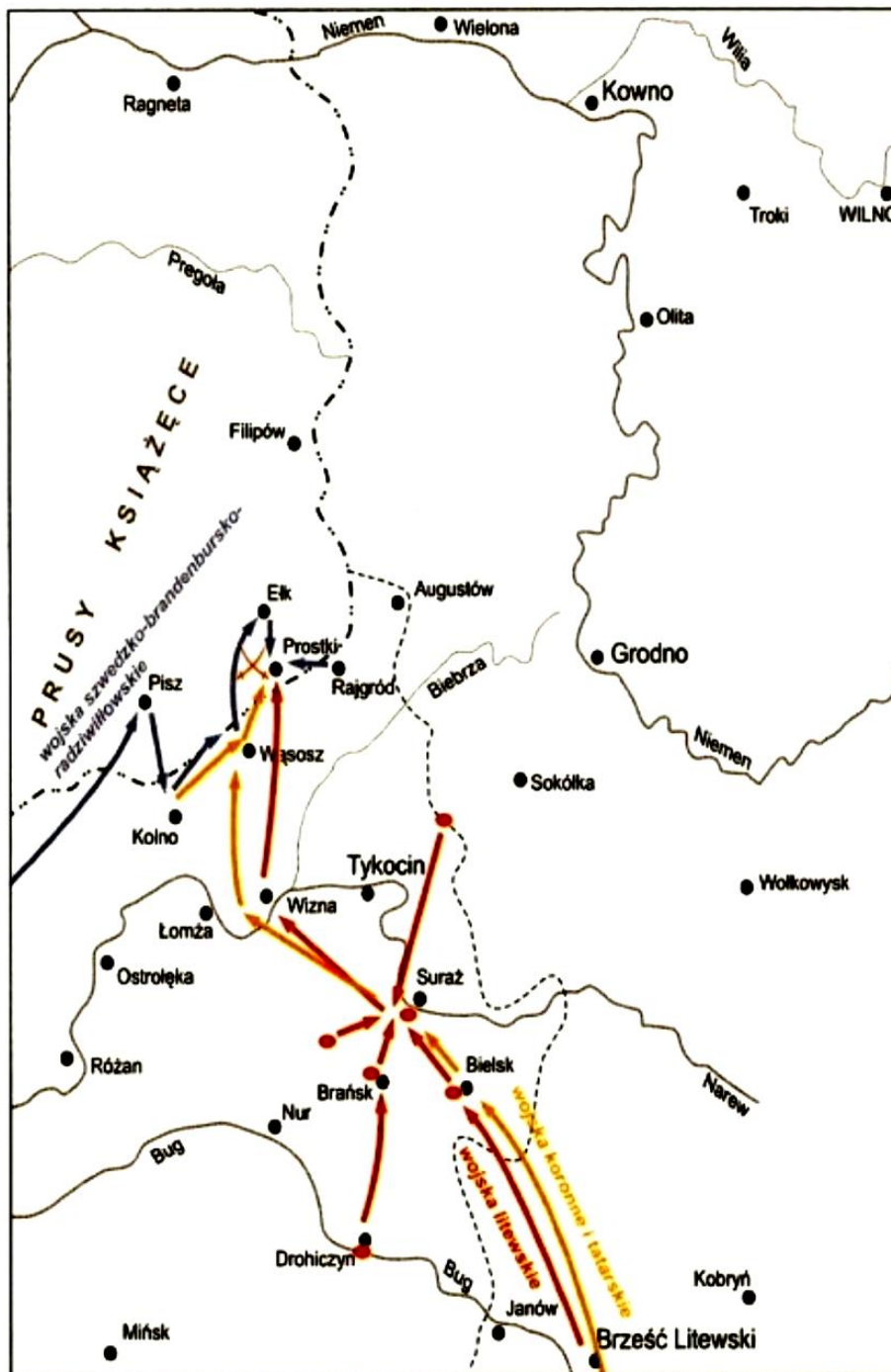
Fig. 6 – Military activities in Podlasie from February to April 1656
Chapter IV – Bogusław Radziwiłł offensive (February – April 1656), p. 71



7. Działania wojenne na Podlasiu od kwietnia do lipca 1656 r.

p.90

Fig. 7 – Military activities in Podlasie from April to June 1656
Chapter V – Siege of Tykocin, April – July 1656, p. 91

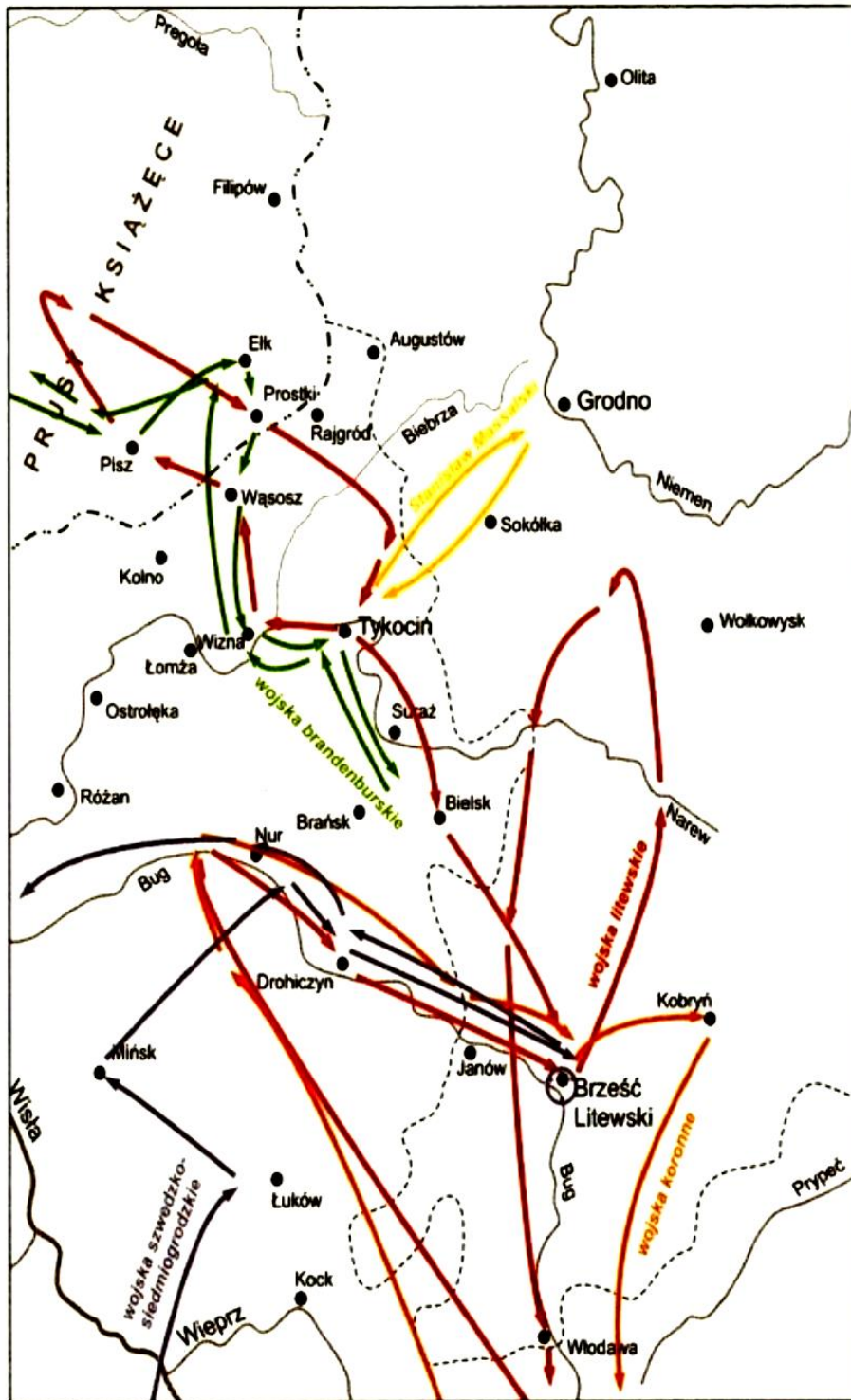


8. Działania wojenne na Podlasiu od sierpnia do października 1656 r.

p.108

Fig. 8, Military activities in Podlasie from August to October 1656
 Chapter VI – Excursion of Wincenty Gosiewski to the Ducal Prussia,
 (August – October 1656), p. 109

[Chapter VII – Siege and conquest of Tykocin (November 1656 – January 1657), p. 124]



11. Działania wojenne na Podlasiu od stycznia do lipca 1657 r.

p.136

Military activities in Podlasie from January to July 1657

Yellow arrow - Stanisław Massalski Army

Chapter VIII - Invasion by Rakoczy (February – August 1657), p. 137

Reconstruction of the movements on GOOGLE map - based on written information



Brown – Swedes and collaborators, Red – Crown, Green – Lithuanian armies

← Tykocin

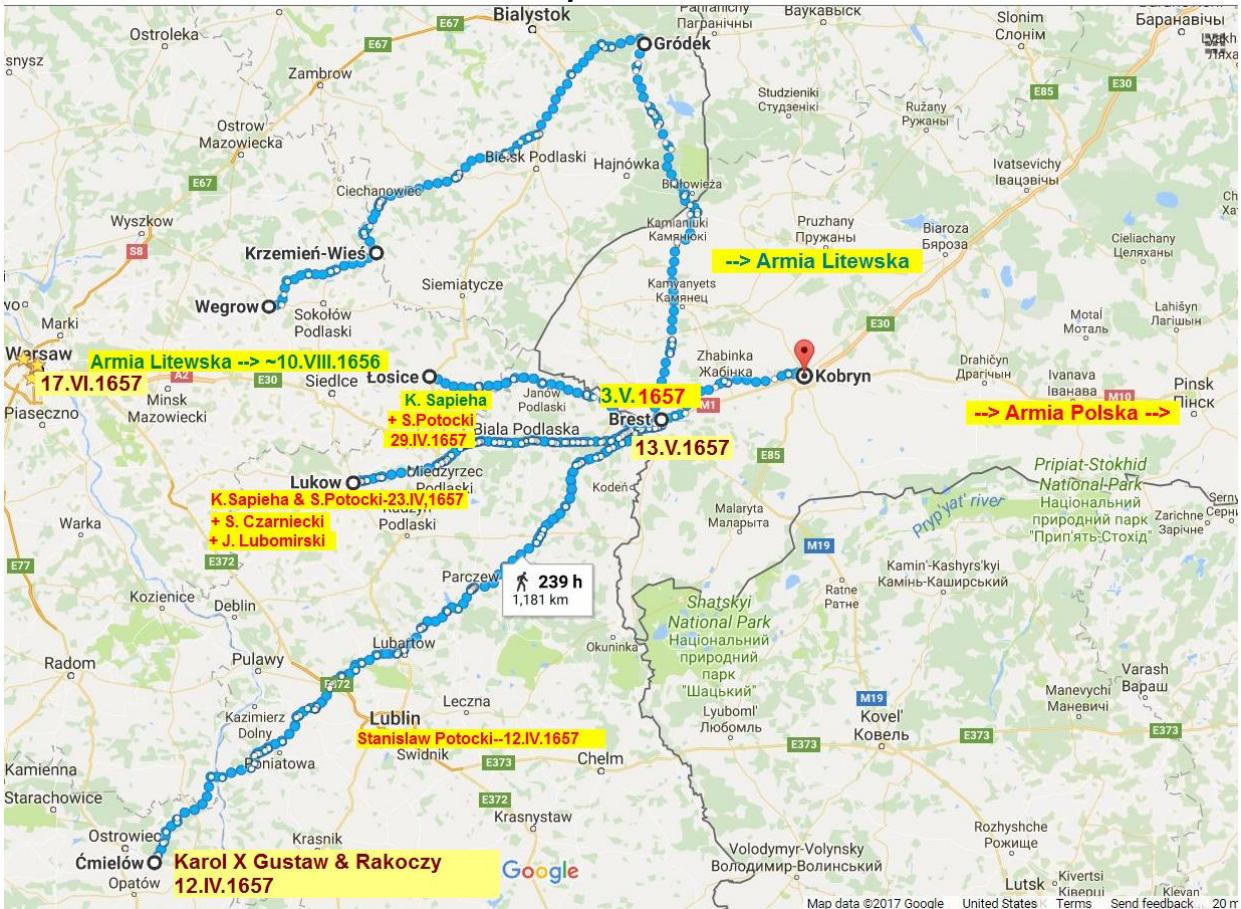




Fig. #4 and Fig. #5

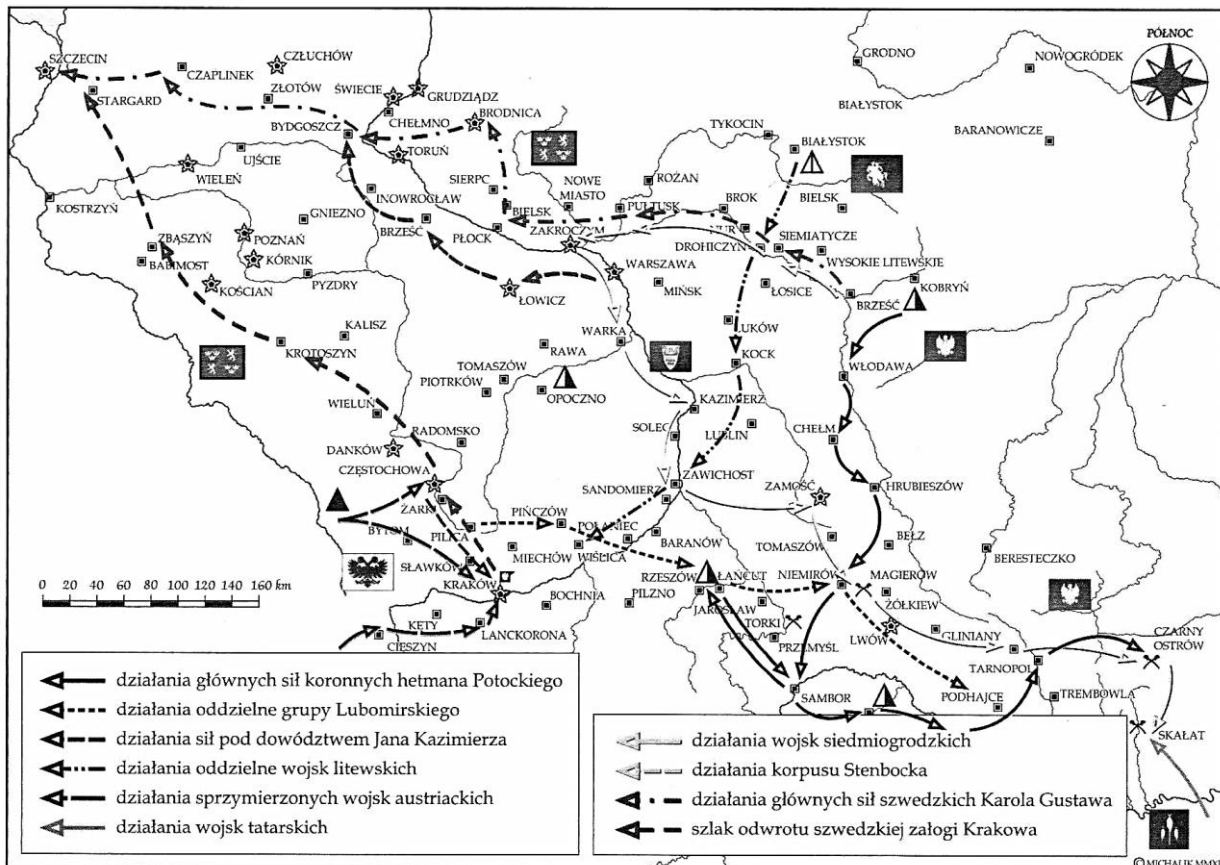
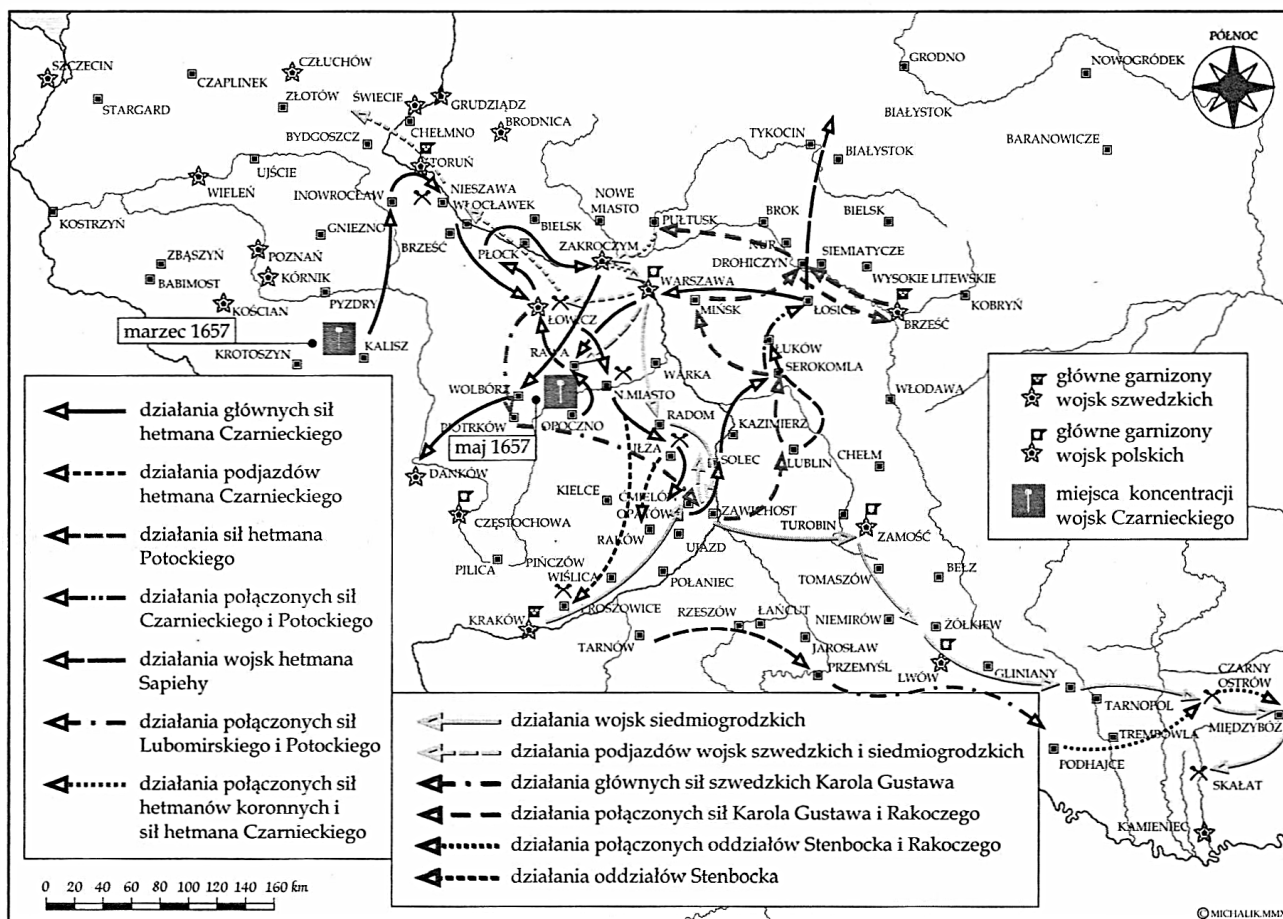
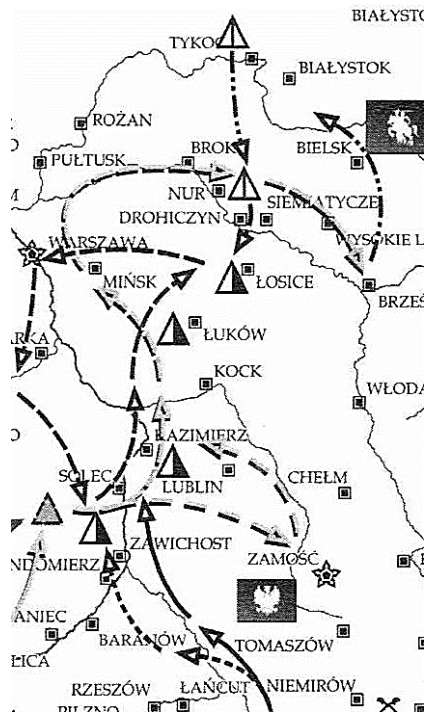


Fig. #6



4



28.III. – 16.V.1657

5



20.V. – 26.VII.1657

6



Czarniecki's military activity

More information about Trzebieszów, Siedlce and vicinity and “The DELUGE” - collected from the Internet:

1/ **Siedlce** - <http://turystyka.siedlce.pl/artykul/295/siedlce-historia-i-terazniejszosc>. „Several fires in the 16th and 17th centuries, **Tartar** invasion in **1650** and “**Swedish Deluge**” destroyed the developing new town, which at that time was a rather small trading post along the road to Brześć.”

2/ **Siedlce** -

https://repozytorium.uph.edu.pl/bitstream/handle/11331/297/DMOWSKI.R.Ochrona_przeciwpozarowa_%20w_Siedlcach_przed_I_wojna_swiatowa.pdf?sequence=1; ⁽¹²⁾ M. Plewczyński, „*W Rzeczypospolitej obojga narodów*, [in:] *Siedlce 1448-1995*, Siedlce 1996, s. 29-36 – „According to the discoveries by Marek Plewczyński, the town was burned down by the **Tatars** (under *Chmielnicki*) in **1650**, and a few years later by the **Swedes**.¹²”.

3/ **Trzebieszów** - Verbal info from Jan Rzewuski, e-mail - 9/X/2017 – “Lustracja województwa lubelskiego z 1661 r. podaje, że wieś Trzebieszów oraz dwór w połowie XVII w. zostały spalone przez Szwedów w czasie tw. potopu.” (Inspection of the Lublin Voivodship in 1661 states that the village of Trzebieszów and the manor were burned down in the mid-17th century during the so-called “**Swedish Deluge**”

4/ (...) On **April 29, 1657** the Polish and Lithuanian armies joined forces at **Łosice**, (see the **GOOGLE maps below**) (...) On **May 13**, Rákóczi and Charles X Gustav seized the fortress of **Brześć Litewski**, and on **May 17**, after a three-day siege, the Swedes, Cossacks, and Transylvanians captured **Warsaw**. (...)

5/ **Dminin** (Lukow community) – history: <http://lukow.ug.gov.pl/index.php?id=106&id2=101>
Swedish “footprints”: (A quote of an entry in *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego...*) “One can include among the archeological monuments in the Gołąbki community, a mound in the forest belonging to the Dminin estate, which is called by local people the “**Swedish Burial Places**”. It should be assumed that this mound is connected with the Swedish invasion of Poland, so-called “Swedish Deluge, during the years 1655-1660”. (...) It also happened in the 1890-ties that the peasants taking sand and gravel from this mound were encountering human bones (...). The local authorities were not interested in conducting archeological examinations.

6/ **Henryk Sienkiewicz** - „**POTOP**” - Heroes in this book: Skrzetuski and Zagłoba were born in the village **BURZEC** in the Łuków Lands.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=iCRNAGAAQBAJ&pg=PT294&lpg=PT294&dq=potop+szwedzki+na+ziemi+lukowskiej&source=bl&ots=fl-JEYm3qR&sig=N1YO1DIWPD9V7ofsTpja8f2UBuk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZhObRhczWAhVlh1QKHZYyBgEQ6AEIQjAC#v=onepage&q=potop%20szwedzki%20na%20ziemi%20lukowskiej&f=false>

7/ **RENATA NIEWIATOWSKA - OŁĘDZCY HERBU RAWICZ, WŁAŚCICIELE SIEDLEC W XVII WIEKU**¹ - http://mazowsze.hist.pl/33/Szkice_Podlaskie/698/2000/24729/, p.18

(The **Ołędzki family** were the third owners of the town of **Siedlce**). (...) Tomasz had to spend much of his time in the Mazowsze (province). Perhaps, he was there also in **1655**, when the Swedes were entering Podlasie and Łuków Lands. During the years of “Swedish Deluge”, **armies of both sides were operating there**. The Ołędzki estates were also the grounds of military activities⁹⁶. We do not know about his losses, but probably they were not big, according to **Jan Pasek** memoirs (...).

Pasek arrived in Podlasie with the Stefan Czarniecki divisions in **1660**, when the Republic started the counterattack against Russia. For the winter, Polish military settled in the local nobility estates. **Pasek’s was stationed in Siedlce (Strzała)**, other detachments were in three neighboring villages (...)

8/ **Sądownictwo Siedleckie** -

http://images.nexto.pl/upload/virtualo/wolters_kluwer/f99a74a08f2d1cdd7fba42cfb7a4038dabd4e540/free/f99a74a08f2d1cdd7fba42cfb7a4038dabd4e540.pdf... - p. 16 – “**During the last years of existence of the Nobles’ Republic, Siedlce became a frequent crossing grounds for the fighting armies**, what reflected itself in the economy of the town, which found itself in the Habsburg Monarchy, after the 3rd partitioning.¹⁶



The **Polish–Russian War of 1792** (also, **War of the Second Partition**,^[3] and in Polish sources, **War in Defence of the Constitution** (**Polish**: *wojna w obronie Konstytucji 3 maja*)^[4]) was fought between the **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** on one side, and the **Targowica Confederation** (conservative nobility of the Commonwealth opposed to the new **Constitution of 3 May 1791**) and the **Russian Empire** under **Catherine the Great** on the other.^[5]

The war took place in two theaters: northern in **Lithuania** and southern in **Ukraine**. In both, the Polish forces retreated before the numerically superior Russian forces, though they offered significantly more resistance in the south, thanks to the effective leadership of Polish commanders Prince **Józef Poniatowski** and **Tadeusz Kościuszko**. During the three-month-long struggle several battles were fought, but no side scored a decisive victory.^[5] The largest success of the Polish forces was the defeat of one of the Russian formations at the **Battle of Zieleńce** on 18 June; in the aftermath of the battle the Polish highest military award, **Virtuti Militari**, was established. The war ended when the Polish King **Stanisław August Poniatowski** decided to seek a diplomatic solution, asked for a **ceasefire** with the Russians and joined the Targowica Confederation, as demanded by the Russian Empire.^[6]

Southern theater - First Russian forces crossed the border in Ukraine on the night of **18/19 May 1792**. (...) Kościuszko's units fought the **Battle of Dubienka** on 18 July to a draw.

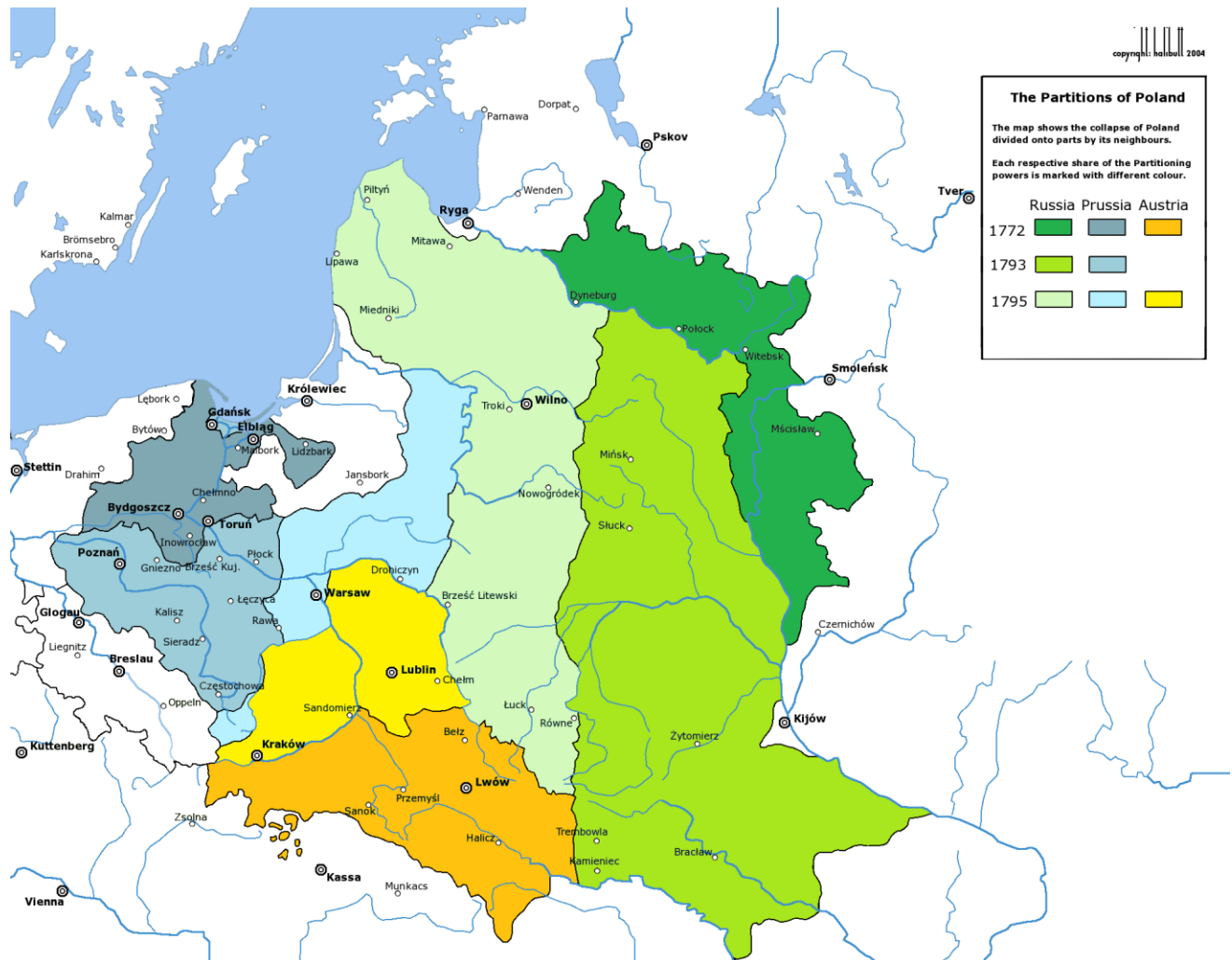
Northern theater - In the **Grand Duchy of Lithuania** the Russians crossed the Commonwealth border four days later than in the south, on **22 May 1792**. (...) Polish army withdrew in relative order towards Warsaw, (...) eventually taking defensive positions along **the Bug river near Brest** (...) While Prince Poniatowski and Kościuszko considered the outcome of the war still open (...), the King decided on a ceasefire.

Aftermath - Most Polish historians agree that the Polish capitulation was a mistake both from the military perspective, and the political one.^[66] In the realm of military, the Poles had reasonable chances to defend the [Vistula](#) river line, and exhaust the Russian invading forces.^{[66][67]} From the political one, showing willingness to fight could have persuaded the partitioning powers that their plan was too costly.^[66]

King Poniatowski's hopes that the capitulation will allow an acceptable diplomatic solution to be worked out were soon dashed. With new deputies bribed or intimidated by the Russian troops, a new session of parliament, known as the [Grodno Sejm](#), took place, in fall 1793.^{[19][68]} On 23 November 1793, it concluded its deliberations under duress, annulling the constitution and acceding to the [Second Partition](#).^{[69][70]} Russia took 250,000 square kilometres (97,000 sq mi), while Prussia took 58,000 square kilometres (22,000 sq mi) of the Commonwealth's territory.^[68] This event reduced Poland's population to only one-third of what it was before the First Partition. The rump state was garrisoned by Russian troops and its independence was strongly curtailed.^{[19][26][68]}

This outcome came also as a surprise to most of the Targowica Confederates, who had wished only to restore the [status quo ante bellum](#) ([Commonwealth magnate](#)-favoring Golden Freedoms) and had expected that the overthrow of the 3 May Constitution would achieve that end, and nothing more.^[71] The last bid to restore the reformed Commonwealth came with the [Kościuszko Uprising in 1794](#). The uprising failed and resulted in the [Third Partition in 1795](#), in which the country lost all its remaining territories and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ceased to exist.^{[67][68][72]}

1772, 1793, 1795 – Partitioning of Poland



1794 – Kosciuszko Uprising – trying to save Poland



The **Kościuszko Uprising** was an [uprising](#) against [Imperial Russia](#) and the [Kingdom of Prussia](#)^[4] led by [Tadeusz Kościuszko](#) in the [Commonwealth of Poland](#) and the [Prussian partition](#) in 1794. It was a failed attempt to liberate the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) from [Russian](#) influence after the [Second Partition of Poland](#) (1793) and the creation of the [Targowica Confederation](#). (...) After a defeat at Brest (Terespol), **Kościuszko rushed to Siedlce to rally his troops and prevent the spread of panic.** ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Brest_\(1794\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Brest_(1794))) On 4 November the joint Russian forces started the [Battle of Praga](#), the right-bank suburb of Warsaw. After 4 hours of long hand-to-hand struggle, the 22,000 men strong Russian forces broke through the Polish defences and Suvorov allowed his Cossacks to loot and burn Warsaw.^{[35]:210} Approximately 20,000 were murdered in the Praga massacre. (...) the following year the [third partition of Poland](#) happened, after which [Austria](#), [Russia](#) and [Prussia](#) annexed the remainder of the country.

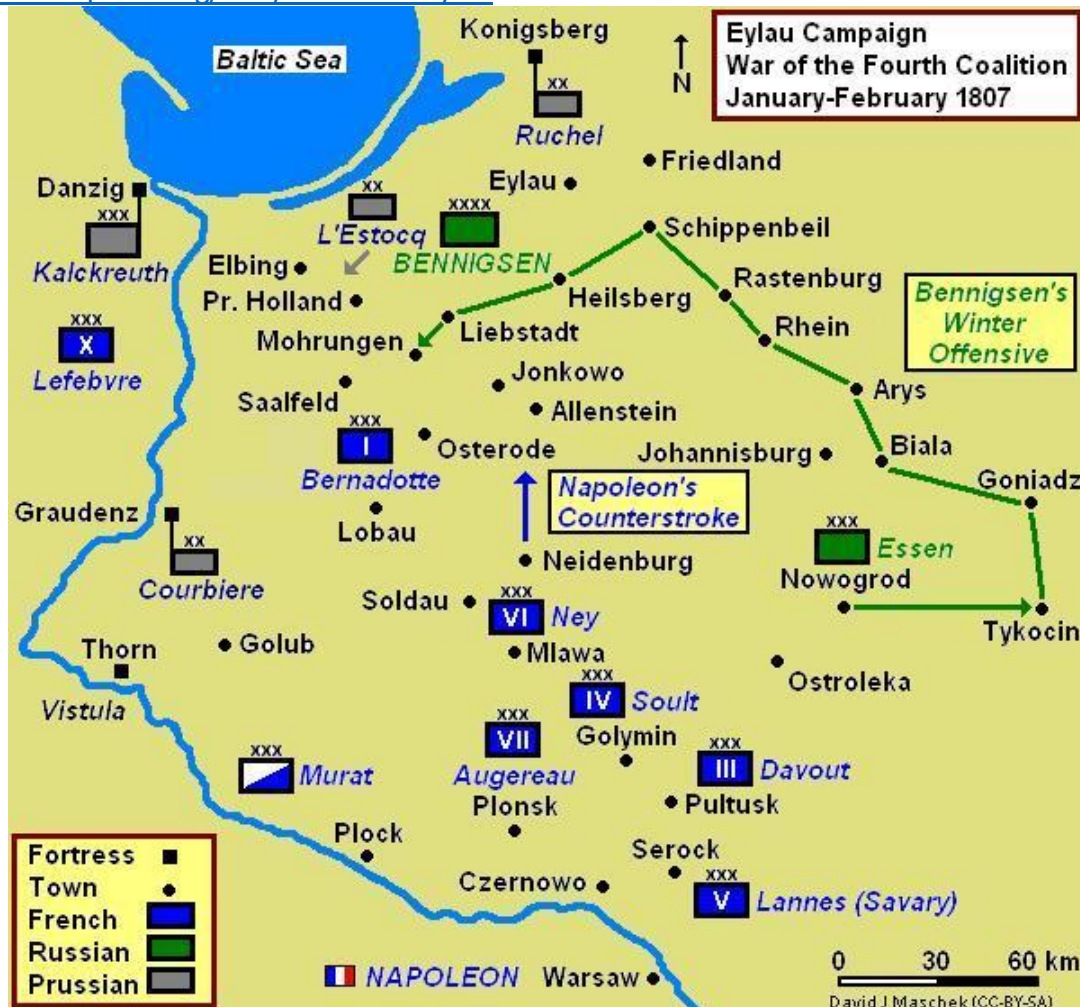
Aftermath - After the failure of the Kościuszko Uprising, **the country ceased to exist for 123 years**,^[38] and all of its institutions were gradually banned by the partitioning powers. However, the uprising also marked the start of modern political thought in Poland and [Central Europe](#).

Siedlce i Trzebiezow (Ziemia Lukowska) – no more details were found? Russian Army was marching from Brześć towards Warsaw in October/November 1794 through these area.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Fourth_Coalition - The **Fourth Coalition**, which fought against Napoleon's French Empire was defeated in a war spanning 1806–1807. Coalition partners included Prussia, Russia, Saxony, Sweden, and Great Britain. (...)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Friedland - By **November 18 (1806)**. French forces under Louis Nicolas Davout had covered half the distance to Warsaw, Augereau's men had neared Bromberg (Bydgoszcz), and Jérôme Bonaparte's troops had reached the approaches of Kalisz.^[21] (...) When the French arrived in Poland, the local people hailed them as liberators.^[22] The Russian general Bennigsen worried that French forces might cut him off from Buxhoevden's army, so he **abandoned Warsaw** and retreated to the right bank of the Vistula. **On November 28, 1806, French troops under Murat entered Warsaw**. The French pursued the fleeing Russians and a significant battle developed around Pultusk on December 26. (...)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Eylau



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/47/Eylau_Campaign_Map_1807.JPG

Russian forces were finally crushed by the French at the Battle of Friedland on 14 June 1807 (...) On June 19, (1807) (Russian) Emperor Alexander sent an envoy to seek an armistice with the French. Napoleon assured the envoy that the Vistula River represented the natural borders between French and Russian influence in Europe. On that basis, the two emperors began peace negotiations at the town of Tilsit after meeting on an iconic raft on the River Niemen. (...) (This treaty) **established the Duchy of Warsaw** ruled by [Napoleon's] new ally - Frederick Augustus I of Saxony.

Duchy of Warsaw, 1809 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/Strategic Situation of Europe 1809.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/Strategic_Situation_of_Europe_1809.jpg)

The **Duchy of Warsaw** (*Księstwo Warszawskie*, - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Warsaw) was a [Polish](#) state established by [Napoleon I](#) in **1807** from the Polish lands ceded by the [Kingdom of Prussia](#) under the terms of the [Treaties of Tilsit](#). (...)



Map of the Duchy of Warsaw. 1807–1809; pink, on top – Free City of Gdansk (Danzig)

In 1807 Siedlce became part of the [Duchy of Warsaw](#) established by [Napoleon](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Fifth_Coalition - The **War of the Fifth Coalition** was fought in **1809** by a coalition of the [Austrian Empire](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) against [Napoleon's French Empire](#) and [Bavaria](#). Major engagements between France and Austria, the main participants, unfolded over much of Central Europe from April to July, with very high casualty rates for both sides. (...) (*Austria lost and*) while most of the hereditary lands remained part of Habsburg territories, France received [Carinthia](#), [Carniola](#), and the [Adriatic](#) ports, while [Galicia](#) was given to the [Poles](#) and the [Salzburg](#) area of the [Tyrol](#) went to the [Bavarians](#).^[4] (...) There was peace in central and eastern Europe until [Napoleon's invasion of Russia](#) in 1812, which led to the formation of the [Sixth Coalition](#) in 1813.



Map of the Duchy of Warsaw 1809–1815, its area was increased by including Galicia.

Following [Napoleon's failed invasion of Russia](#), the duchy was occupied by Prussian and [Russian](#) troops until 1815, when it was formally partitioned between the two countries at the [Congress of Vienna](#). It covered the central and eastern part of present Poland and minor parts of present [Lithuania](#) and [Belarus](#).

French invasion of Russia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_invasion_of_Russia

The **French invasion of Russia**, known in Russia as the **Patriotic War of 1812** ([Russian](#): Отечественная война 1812 года, *Otechestvennaya Voyna 1812 Goda*) and in France as the **Russian Campaign** (French: *Campagne de Russie*), began on 24 June 1812 when [Napoleon's Grande Armée](#) crossed the [Neman River](#) in an attempt to engage and defeat the Russian army.^[9] (...) Through a series of long marches Napoleon pushed the army rapidly through [Western Russia](#) in an attempt to



Napoleon and Prince [Poniatowski](#) before the burning city of [Smolensk](#)



Napoleon and his staff at Borodino

bring the Russian army to battle, winning a number of minor engagements and a [major battle](#) at [Smolensk](#) in August. (...)

The official political aim of the campaign was to liberate [Poland](#) from the threat of Russia. Napoleon named the campaign the Second Polish War to gain favor with the Poles and provide a political pretext for his actions.^[11] (...)

These [scorched-earth](#) tactics (*of Russian retreat*) greatly surprised and disturbed the French, as the willingness of the Russians to destroy their own territory and harm their own people was difficult for the French to comprehend.^[14] (...) On 7 September, the French caught up with the Russian army which had dug itself in on hillsides before a small town called [Borodino](#), seventy miles west of [Moscow](#). The [battle that followed](#) was the bloodiest single-day action of the Napoleonic Wars until that point, (...) Napoleon entered Moscow a week later. In another turn of events the French found puzzling, there was no delegation to meet the Emperor. The Russians had evacuated the city, and the city's governor, Count [Fyodor Rostopchin](#), ordered several strategic points in Moscow [set ablaze](#).^[16] (...) His troops exhausted, with few rations, no winter clothing, and his remaining horses in poor condition, Napoleon was forced to retreat. He hoped to reach supplies at [Smolensk](#) and later at [Vilnius](#). In the weeks that followed the Grande Armée starved and suffered from the onset of the [Russian Winter](#). (...)

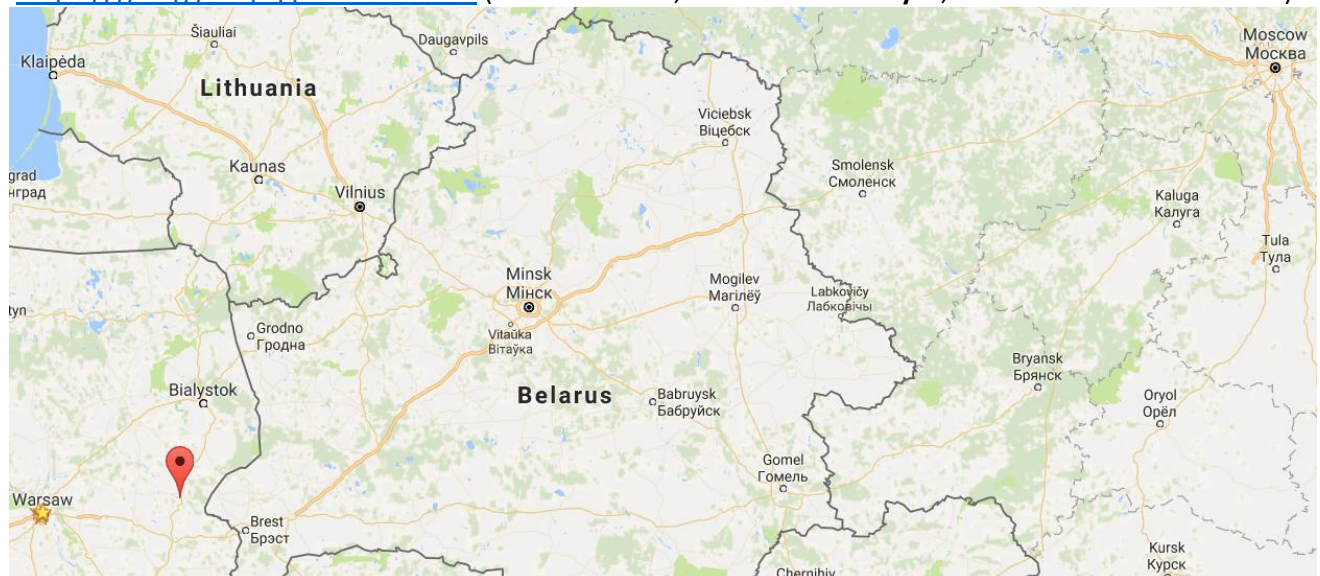
The campaign effectively ended on 14 December 1812, not quite six months from its outset, with the last French troops leaving Russian soil. The campaign was a turning point in the [Napoleonic Wars](#).^[1]

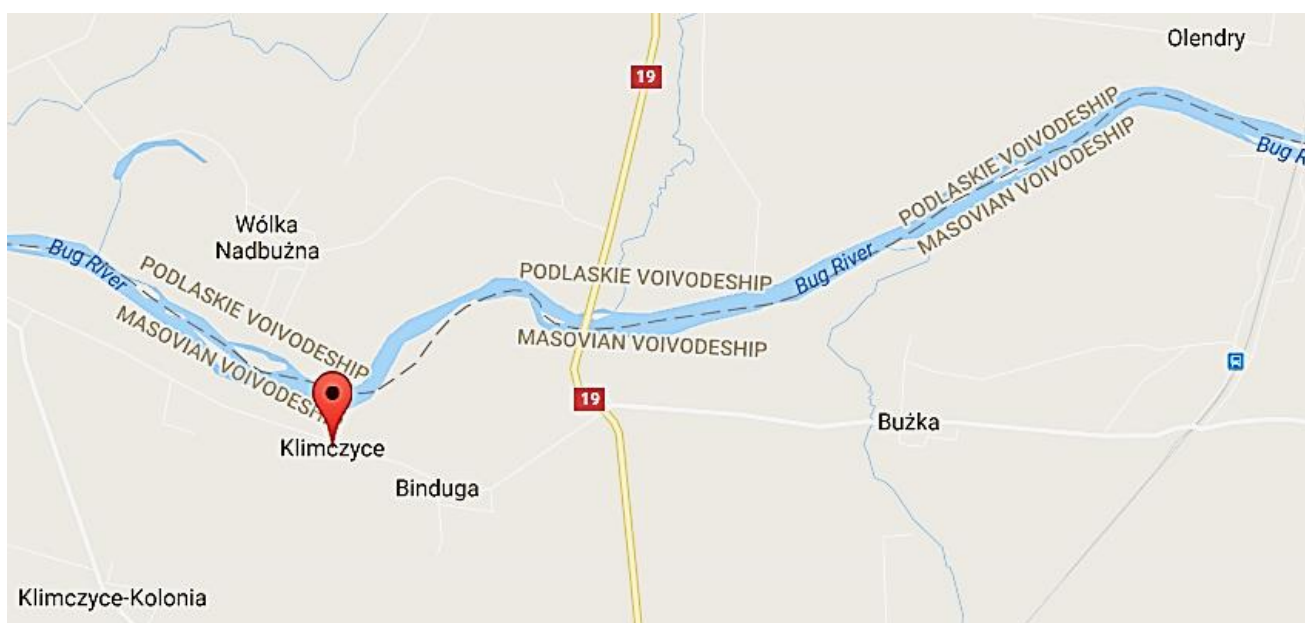
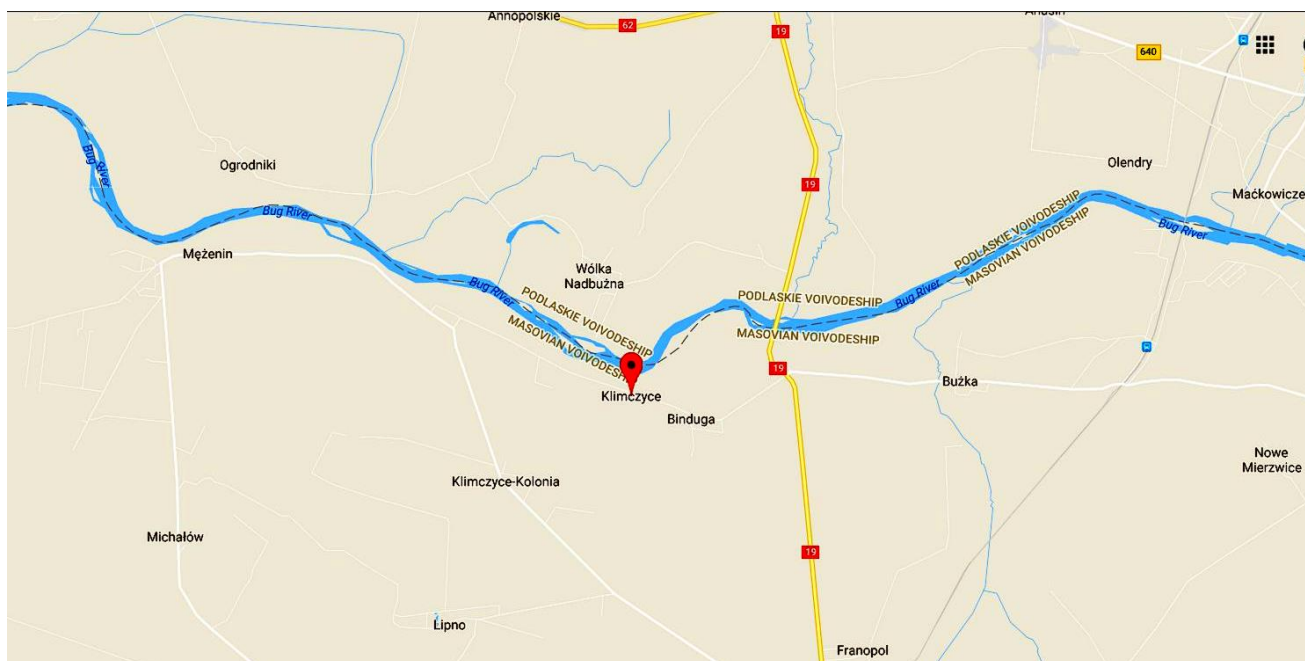
October 1812 - Bug river crossing by Napoleon's army returning from Russia near the village of Klimczyce -

https://books.google.com/books?id=MyeBdYTVxBOC&pg=PA51&lpg=PA51&dq=Siedlce+podczas+Wojen+Napoleonskich&source=bl&ots=FicGk5u6Uu&sig=4H4rHRQwP2q_f8WfX5xcSBcgggQ&hl=en&a=X&ved=0ahUKewjToeKijMfWAhVJs1QKHatYCXoQ6AEITAE#v=onepage&q=Siedlce%20podczas%20Wojen%20Napoleonskich&f=false -

p.51 – During WW-II, in this location the AK found and disassembled an unexploded **German V-2 rocket** and forwarded some parts and fuel sample to England for further examination.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/08-220+Klimczyce,+Poland/@52.3344402,22.8619241,11z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x4721da63c93092b5:0x9f58832a8d02cffa!8m2!3d52.3556675!4d22.8477795>; (Warsaw–left lower, Moscow-right upper corner)
<https://goo.gl/maps/ps7dTrkuKa82> (below - marker, location of **Klimczyce**, between Warsaw and Brest)





SIEDLCE - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historia_Siedlec#Pod_w.C5.82adz.C4.85_zaborc.C3.B3w – (pol.) After the fall of the Kosciuszko Uprising (1794) and the 3rd partitioning of Poland (1795), Siedlce became a site of the circular government in the Austrian partition. During the period of the Duchy of Warsaw, (1807 – 1815), Siedlce was a departmental capital and when the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland was created (1815 – 1918), Siedlce became the capital of a voivodship and of a county.

In 1807 A. Czartoryski exchanges Siedlce (as a private property), with the Austrian government, for a property in the Lublin region. After the war between Napoleon and Austria (1809), Siedlce is included in the Duchy of Warsaw. The town is advanced to the rank of a departmental capital. In 1815, after the Vienna Congress, Siedlce is incorporated into the Kingdom of Poland and becomes the capital of Podlasie Voivodship ([województwa podlaskiego](#)).

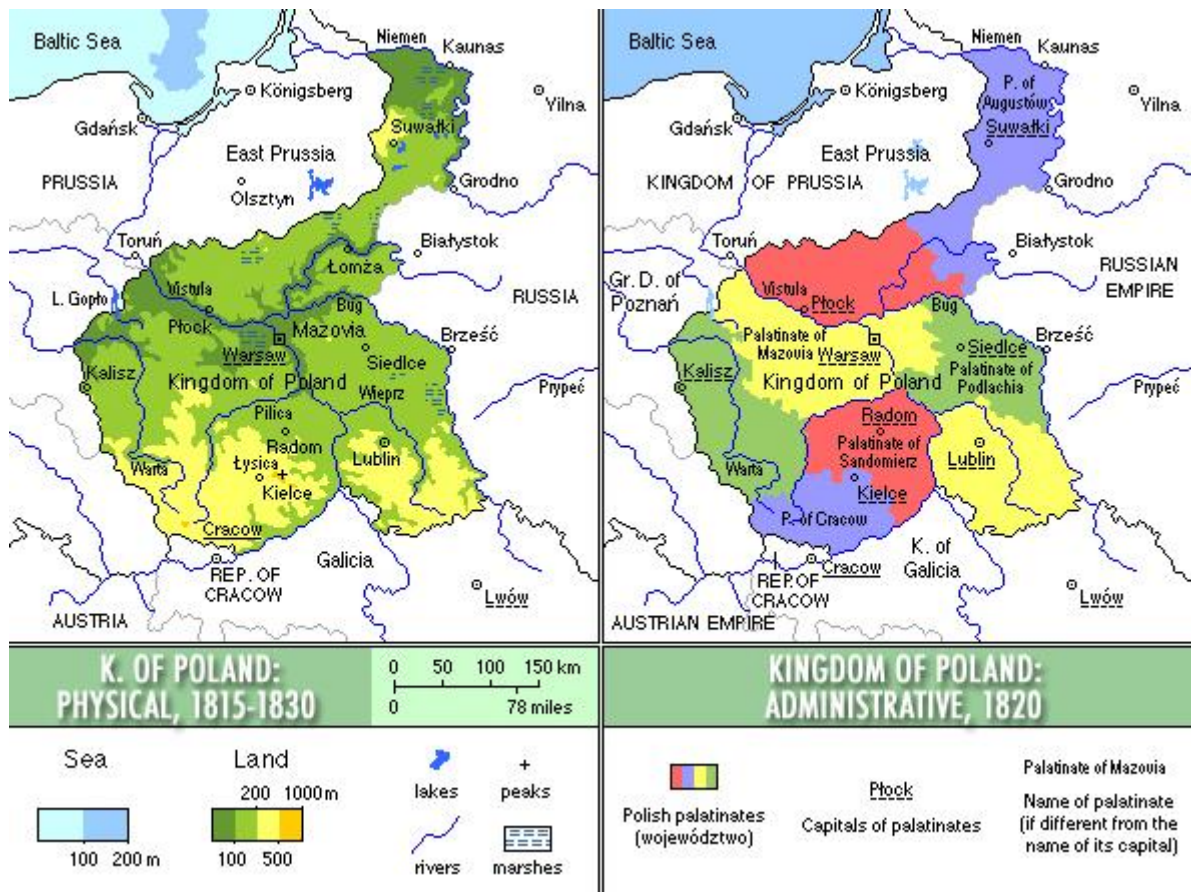
Trzebieszów – no information is available

Congress Kingdom (of Poland) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_Poland

The **Kingdom of Poland**,^[1] informally known as **Congress Poland**^[2] or **Russian Poland**, was created in 1815 by the [Congress of Vienna](#) as a [sovereign state](#) of the [Russian part](#) of [Poland](#) connected by [personal union](#) with the [Russian Empire](#) under the [Constitution of the Kingdom of Poland](#) until 1832. Then, it was gradually politically integrated into Russia over the course of the 19th century, made an official part of the Russian Empire in 1867, and finally replaced during the [Great War](#) by the [Central Powers](#) in 1915 with the nominal [Regency Kingdom of Poland](#).^[4]

Though officially the Kingdom of Poland was a state with considerable political autonomy guaranteed by [a liberal constitution](#), its [rulers](#), the [Russian Emperors](#), generally disregarded any restrictions on their power. Thus effectively it was little more than a [puppet state](#) of the Russian Empire.^{[3][4]} The autonomy was severely curtailed following [uprisings](#) in [1830–31](#) and [1863](#), as the country became governed by [namiestniks](#), and later divided into [guberniya](#) (provinces).^{[3][4]} Thus from the start, Polish autonomy remained little more than fiction.^[5]

The territory of the Kingdom of Poland roughly corresponds to the [Kalisz Region](#) and the [Lublin](#), [Łódź](#), [Masovian](#), [Podlaskie](#) and [Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships of Poland](#), southwestern [Lithuania](#) and part of [Grodno District](#) of Belarus.



Although the official name of the state was the *Kingdom of Poland*, in order to distinguish it from other [Kingdoms of Poland](#), it was sometimes referred to as "Congress Poland". The *Kingdom of Poland* was created out of the [Duchy of Warsaw](#), a French client state, at the [Congress of Vienna](#) in 1815 when the [great powers](#) reorganized Europe following the [Napoleonic wars](#). The creation of the Kingdom created a partition of Polish lands in which the state was divided among [Russia](#), [Austria](#) and [Prussia](#).^[6] (...) The Kingdom lost its status as a [sovereign](#) state in 1831(...)

It was sufficiently distinct that its name remained in official Russian use, although in the later years of Russian rule it was replaced ^[9] with the [Privislinsky Krai](#) (Russian: Привислинский Край).

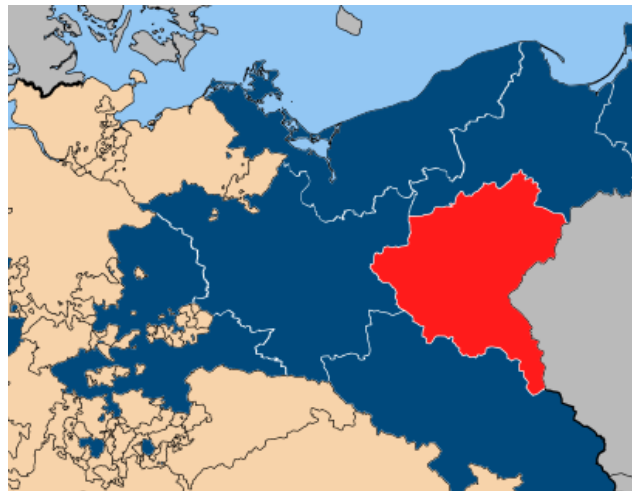
Duchy of Posen - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Posen

The **Grand Duchy of Posen** (German: Großherzogtum Posen; **Polish**: *Wielkie Księstwo Poznańskie*) was part of the **Kingdom of Prussia**, created from territories annexed by Prussia after the **Partitions of Poland**, and formally established following the **Napoleonic Wars** in 1815. Per agreements derived at the **Congress of Vienna** it was to have some autonomy. However in reality it was subordinated to Prussia and the proclaimed rights for Polish subjects were not fully implemented. The name was unofficially used afterward for denoting the territory, especially by Poles, and today is used by modern historians to refer to different political entities until 1918. Its capital was **Posen** (**Polish**: *Poznań*).

1815



1848



Grand Duchy of Posen (light blue) after its creation, in 1815; The Grand Duchy of Posen in 1848.

After the local Uprisings (of the “Spring of Nations”) in 1846 and 1848, the **Grand Duchy** was formally replaced by the **Province of Posen** in the **Prussian constitution** of December 5, 1848 and increased and brutal germanizations was initiated.

Masuria/Ducal Prussia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masuria#Kingdom_of_Prussia

Map of historical lands and regions in **Prussia**



(...) In 1656, during the **Battle of Prostki**, the forces of **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**, including 2,000 **Tatar raiders**, beat the allied **Swedish** and **Brandenburg** army capturing **Bogusław Radziwiłł**. (...) The region became part of the **Kingdom of Prussia** with the coronation of King **Frederick I of Prussia** in 1701. Masuria became part of the newly created administrative province of **East Prussia** upon its creation in 1773. The name *Masuria* began to be used officially after new administrative reforms in the Kingdom after 1818. Masurians referred to themselves during that period as "Polish

Prussians" or as "Staroprusaki" (Old Prussians)^[10] Masurians showed considerable support for the Polish uprising in 1831, and maintained many contacts with Russian-held areas of Poland beyond the border of Prussia, the areas being connected by common culture and language; before the uprising people visited each other's country fairs and much trade took place, with smuggling also widespread^[10]

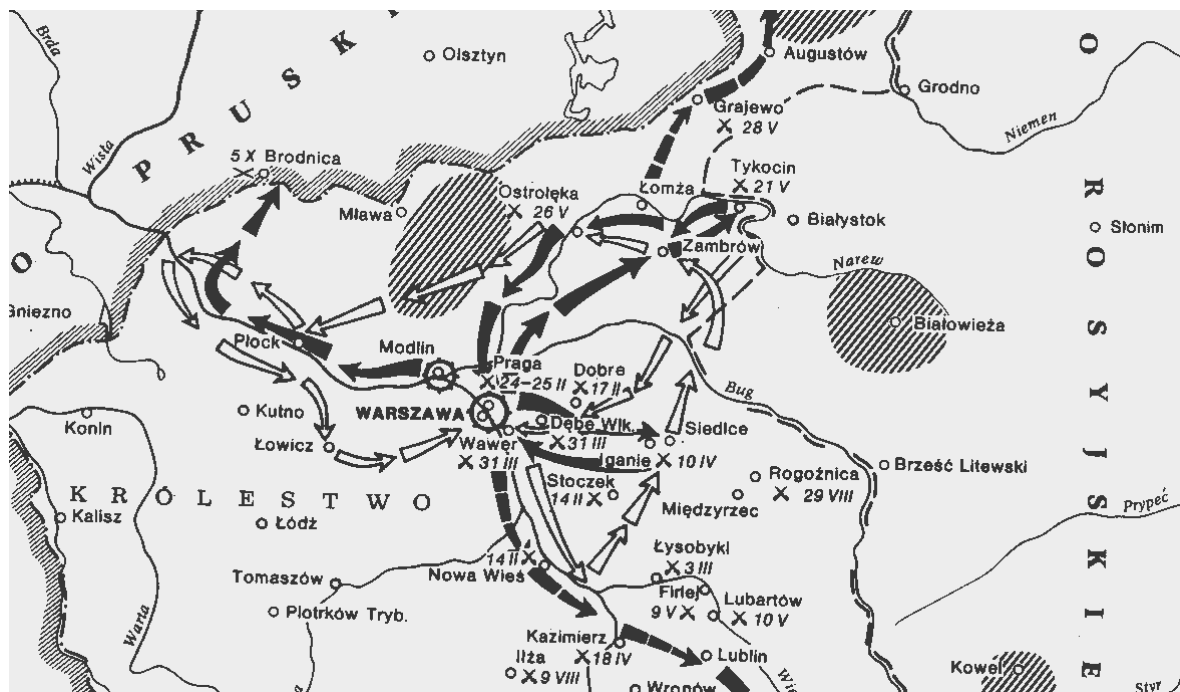
1830 – November Uprising - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_Uprising

The **November Uprising** (1830–31), also known as the **Polish–Russian War 1830–31**^[3] or the **Cadet Revolution**, was an armed rebellion in [the heartland](#) of [partitioned Poland](#) against the [Russian Empire](#). The uprising began on 29 November 1830 in [Warsaw](#) when the young Polish officers from the local [Army of the Congress Poland's military academy](#) revolted, led by lieutenant [Piotr Wysocki](#). They were soon joined by large segments of societies of [Lithuania](#), [Belarus](#), and the [Right-bank Ukraine](#). Despite local successes, the uprising was eventually crushed by a numerically superior [Imperial Russian Army](#) under [Ivan Paskevich](#).^{[4][5][6]} [Tsar Nicholas I](#) decreed that henceforth Poland was an integral part of Russia, with Warsaw little more than a military garrison, its university closed.^[7]

Siedlce - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historia_Siedlec#Powstanie_listopadowe - A first skirmish between the Polish and Russian military units took place on **February 7, 1831** – a day after the enemy forces entered the undefended Siedlce, one platoon of the Uhlans (cavalry), outraged that it was ordered to evacuate the town without even firing a shot, in spite of the reports about the enemy approaching – descended upon the town and chased away the advance guard of a Russian unit^[1]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siedlce> - During the [November Uprising](#) against Russian domination, the [Battle of Iganie](#) (**April 10, 1831**) took place near the town. **(It was a Polish victory).**

Patków (near Łosice) <https://patkow.com/historia-patkowa/> - ("The inhabitants of our region participated in all national uprisings")



Empty arrows – Russian army, black arrows - Polish forces

<http://zajeczaki.pl/historia-old/mapy/powstlistop.gif>

1863 – January Uprising - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_Uprising

The **January Uprising** (**Polish**: *powstanie styczniowe*) was an uprising in the former **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** (present-day Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia, parts of Ukraine, and western Russia) against the **Russian Empire**. It began on 22 January 1863 and lasted until the last **insurgents** were captured in 1864.

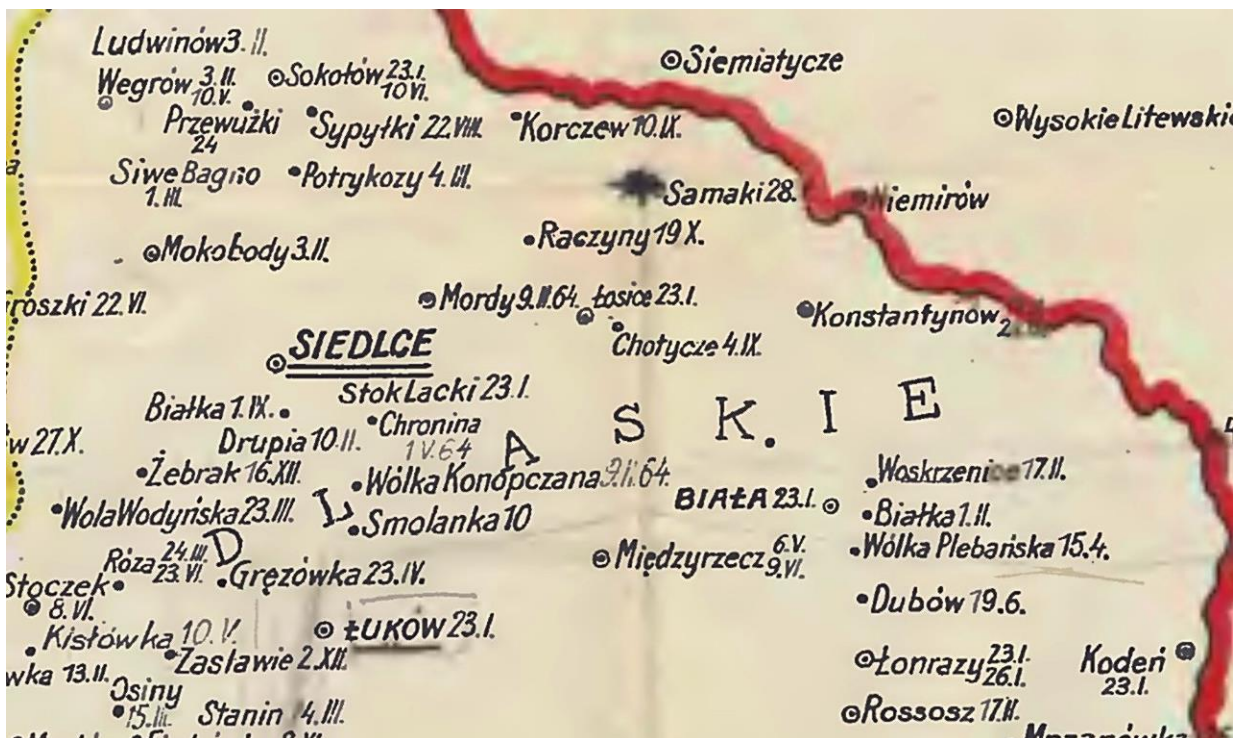
The uprising began as a spontaneous protest by young Poles against **conscription** into the **Imperial Russian Army**. It was soon joined by high-ranking Polish-Lithuanian officers and various politicians. The insurrectionists, severely outnumbered and lacking serious outside support, were forced to resort to **guerrilla warfare** tactics.

Public executions and **deportations** to **Siberia** led many Poles to abandon armed struggle and turn instead to the idea of "**organic work**": economic and cultural self-improvement.

Siedlce - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siedlce> - In the **January Uprising** of **1863**, Siedlce was again an important center of the anti-Tsarist rebellion. (*Successful attacks at Stok Lacki, Kodeń, Łosice and Luków provided several hundred pieces of weapons and supply of ammunition. It was, however, not possible to gain control over Siedlce, Międzyrzec and Biała.*)

Trzebieszow - <http://www.trzebieszow.gmina.pl/przykladowa-strona/> - During the years 1863 - 1864, many inhabitants of Trzebieszow and vicinity participated in the January Uprising. In view of the fates of the participants of the uprising the name given to the church reconstructed in Trzebieszow in 1863 assumes a special symbolic rank – of “Ten Thousands of the Warriors-Martyrs”

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/50/Battles_of_January_Uprising_in_Congress_Poland_1863-1864.JPG



Fragment of a map – address above

World War I - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

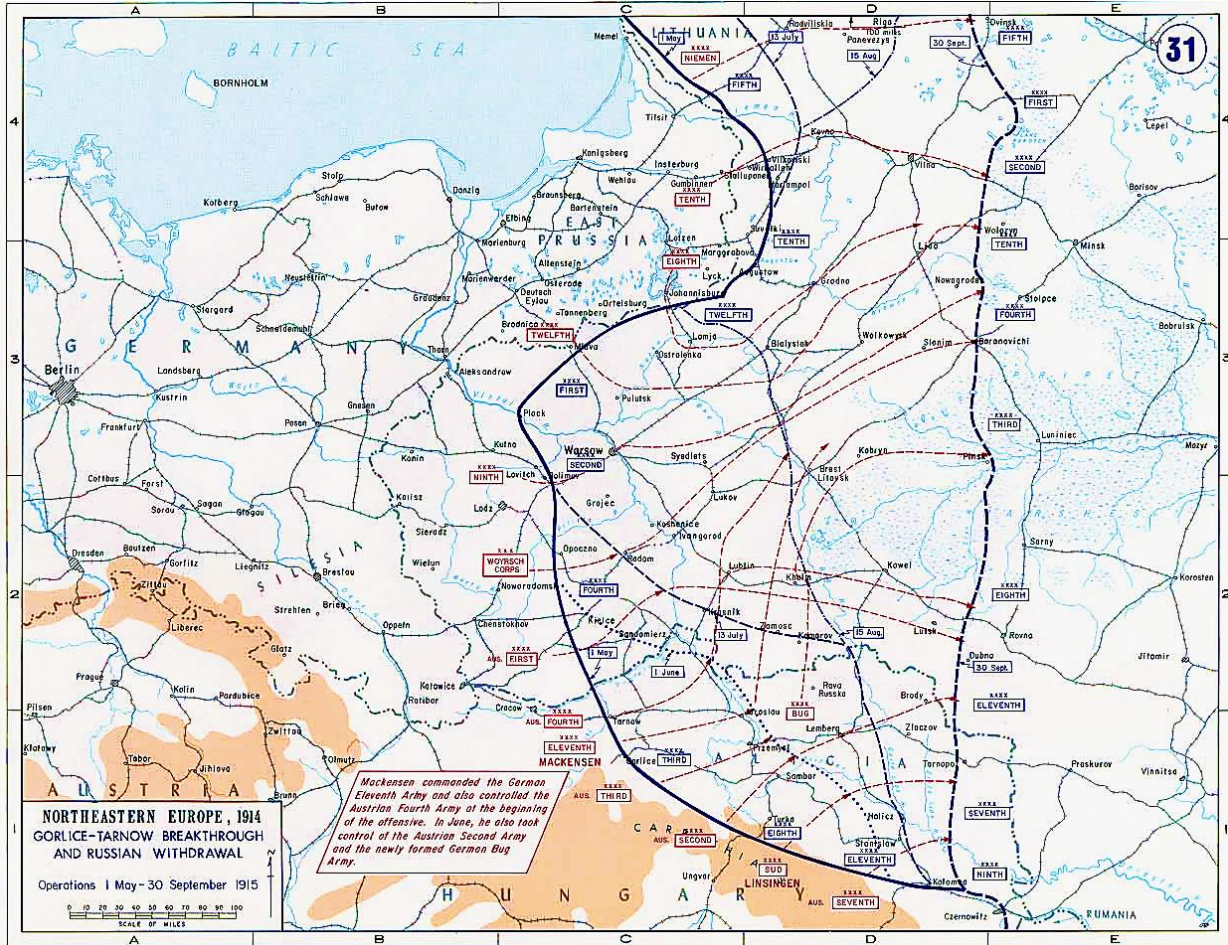


World War I was a [global war](#) originating in [Europe](#) that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million [military personnel](#), including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history.^{[6][7]} Over nine million [combatants](#) and seven million [civilians died as a result of the war](#) (including the victims of a [number of genocides](#)), a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' [technological and industrial sophistication](#), and the tactical stalemate caused by gruelling [trench warfare](#). It was [one of the deadliest conflicts in history](#), and paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved. Unresolved rivalries still extant at the end of the conflict contributed to the start of the [Second World War](#) only twenty-one years later.^[8]

The war drew in all the world's economic [great powers](#),^[9] assembled in two opposing alliances: the [Allies](#) (based on the [Triple Entente](#) of the [Russian Empire](#), the [French Third Republic](#), and the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](#)) versus the [Central Powers](#) of [Germany](#) and [Austria-Hungary](#). Although [Italy](#) was a member of the [Triple Alliance](#) alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive against the terms of the alliance.^[10] These alliances were reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, [Japan](#) and the [United States](#) joined the Allies, while the [Ottoman Empire](#) and [Bulgaria](#) joined the Central Powers. (...) The trigger... was the [assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria](#) (...) Germany presented an ultimatum to Russia to demobilize, and when this was refused, declared war on Russia on 1 August. Being outnumbered on the [Eastern Front](#), Russia urged its Triple Entente ally France to open up a second front in the west. (...)

Great Retreat (Russian) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Retreat_\(Russian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Retreat_(Russian))

The **Great Retreat** was a strategic **withdrawal** from the **Galicia-Poland** salient conducted by the Imperial Russian Army during September **1915** in **World War I**. The Russians' critically under-equipped and (at the points of engagement) outnumbered forces suffered great losses in the Central Powers' July–September summer offensive operations, this leading to Stavka (*Central Command*) ordering a withdrawal to shorten the front lines and avoid the potential encirclement of large Russian forces in the salient. While the withdrawal itself was relatively well conducted, it was a severe blow to Russian morale.



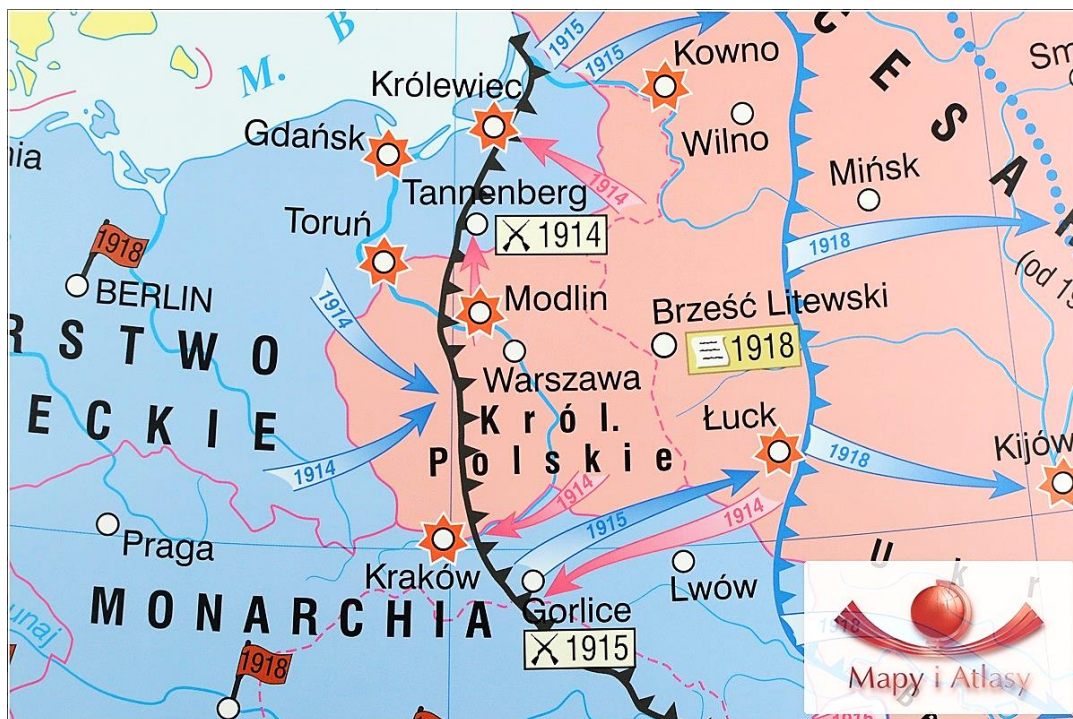
Part of the **Eastern Front of World War I** - Russian withdrawal in 1915.

Siedlce - <http://www.siedlce.ap.gov.pl/art,43,siedlce-w-czasach-i-wojny-swiatowej-katalog-wystawy-archiwalnej>; SIEDLCE - under **Russian** occupation – **1814-15**, (...) Russians left Siedlce in August 1915 and town was occupied by the Germans; - under **German** occupation – **1915-18**. (...)

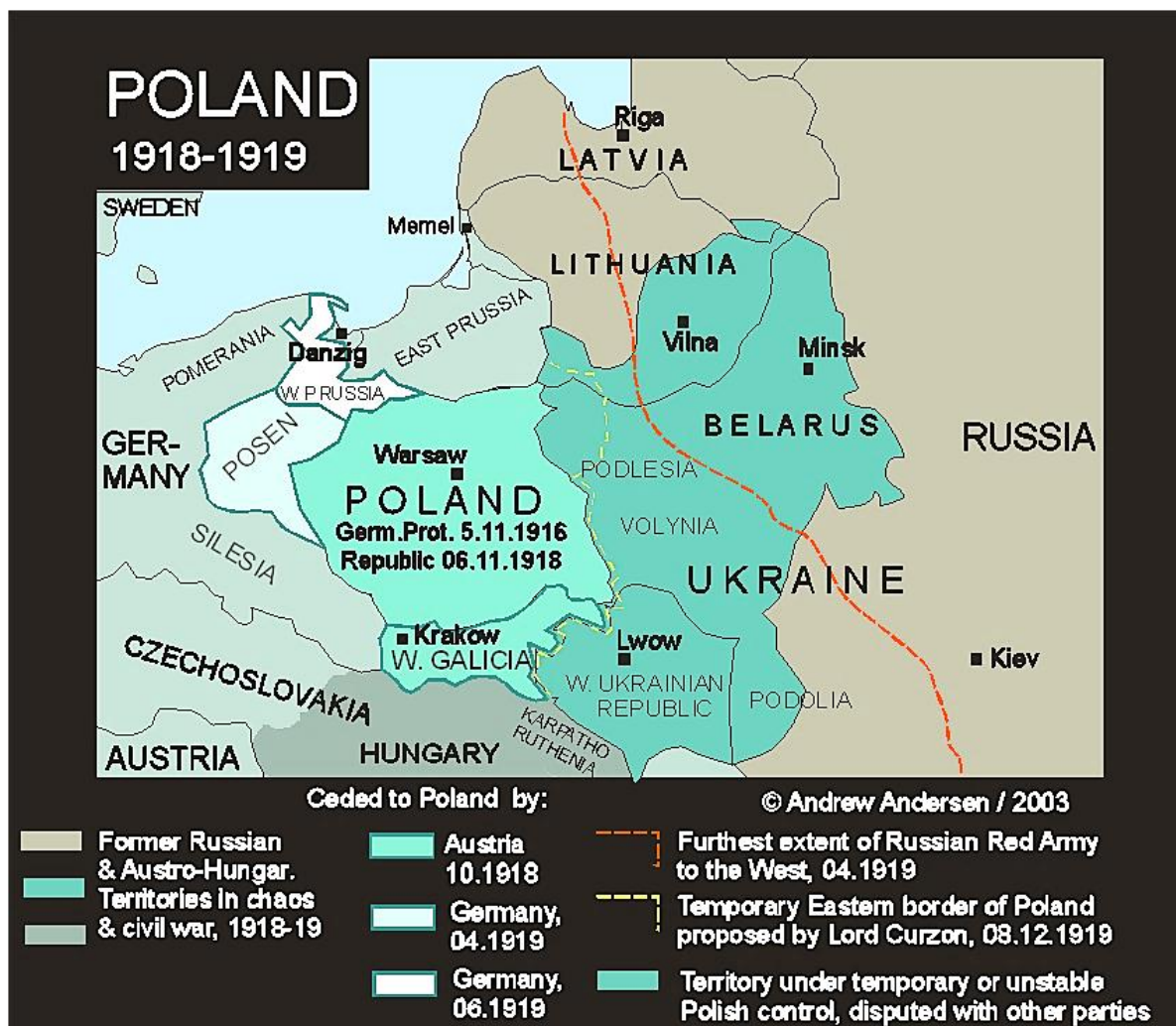
https://repozytorium.uph.edu.pl/bitstream/handle/11331/262/Dmowski.R.Dzialalnosc_samorzadu_terytorialnego_w_Siedlcach_podczas_I_wojny_swiatowej.pdf?sequence=1

(...) during the night of **August 5/6, 1915** German Zeppelin dropped 1,600 kg of bombs on the railroad station, market hall and vicinity. In August 1915, 14 private properties were damaged in fighting. Russian soldiers leaving during the night of **August 11/12** set afire **military warehouses, railroad station, and stored supplies of grain and hay.**

On July 30, 1915 the Austrian Army occupied Lublin. At the end of July **German Army** was in Minsk Mazowiecki, on August 5, it was already in Warsaw, on **August 12, in Siedlce** and on August 26 in Brześć. Several precious metal objects, such as church bells, were requisitioned and various taxes and fees paid in silver or gold coins were introduced, for instance entry permits to Siedlce cost 5 golden rubles each time and from each person. Ration stamp system was introduced for limited amounts of food or other daily living necessities, for instance bread and flour.



1914 – 1918



http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Poland/polsov_war_files/image006.gif

Polish-Soviet (Bolshevik) War, 1919 - 1920

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Polish-Soviet_War - (...) Soviet revolutionary and communist theorist Nikolai Bukharin, writing in the newspaper *Pravda*, wished for the resources to carry the campaign beyond Warsaw "right up to London and Paris."^[52] General's Tukhachevsky order of the day, July 2, 1920 read: "**To the West! Over the corpse of White Poland lies the road to world-wide conflagration. March on Vilno, Minsk, Warsaw!**"^[47] and "onward to Berlin over the corpse of Poland!"^[12]

By order of the Soviet Communist Party, a Polish puppet government, the **Provisional Polish Revolutionary Committee** (Polish: *Tymczasowy Komitet Rewolucyjny Polski*, TKRP), had been formed on 28 July in Białystok to organise administration of the Polish territories captured by the Red Army.^[12] The TKRP had very little support from the ethnic Polish population and **recruited its supporters mostly from the ranks of Jews.**^[16] In addition, political intrigues between Soviet commanders grew in the face of their increasingly certain victory. Eventually the lack of cooperation between the top commanders would cost them dearly in the decisive [battle of Warsaw](#).



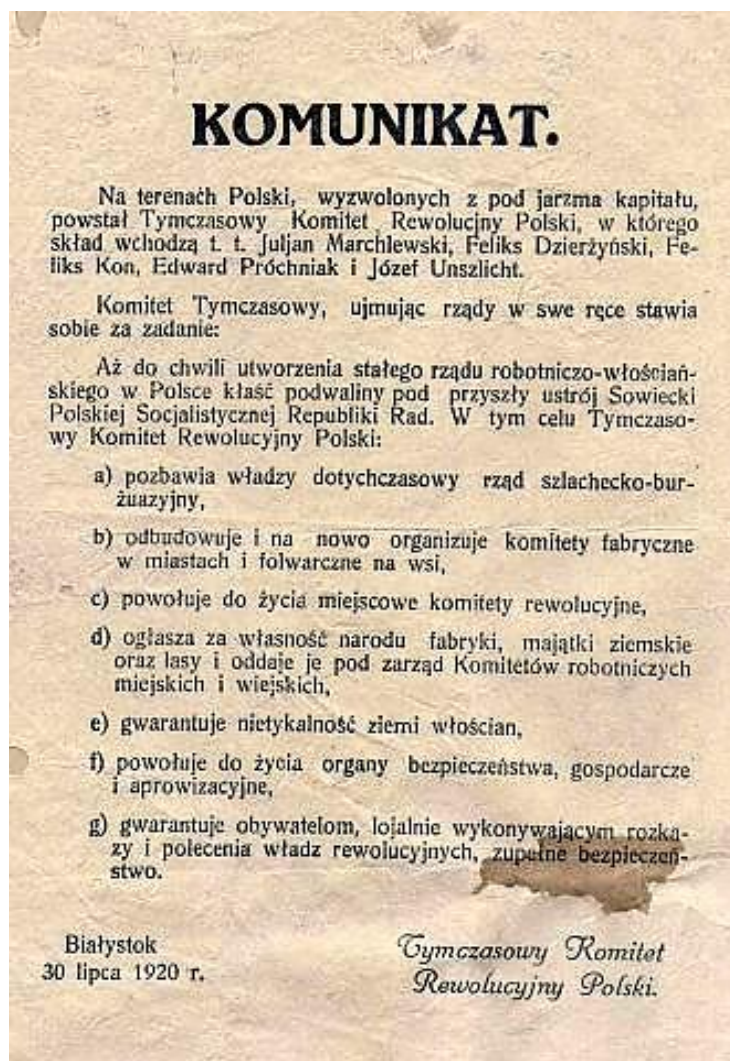
<http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Poland/POL%201920-1922.jpg>

Red line – Soviet Army at Warsaw → white line, Polish Army under Piłsudski in Kiev
→ final Polish borders

1920 – Bolsheviks in Siedlce

(GOOGLE search, 2018) – selected articles, excerpts and summaries:

1/ <http://gazetawarszawska.com/judaizm-islam/2003-dezercja-zydowska> (2003)



Announcement of the Soviet Revolutionary Committee

As an expression of the acceptance (pol. sympatia - liking) of the Bolsheviks, the Jews in **Siedlce** repainted their shop signs from Polish to Russian (in **cyrillic** alphabet). They organized provocative manifestations in Kałuszyn and in Siedlce – in the presence of the Polish government delegation, which was on its way to Russia to the peace-seeking conference. It happened during the first phase of the war, when it appeared that Poland has been lost already!

Information (below) about capturing in **Siedlce** of an armed Jewish military unit is confirmed. In addition, an excerpt from a report by a French journalist, **Robert Vaucher** for his „**Journal de Pologne**”, (...) who arrived in **Siedlce** with other foreign correspondents is quoted – (summarized: “A well known Bolshevik agitator **RADEK**, former Bolshevik envoy to Berlin, arrived in Siedlce a few days ago, ready, at any time soon, to enter triumphantly Warsaw. **Radek**, who is a Galician Jew, is supposed to play one of the main roles in sovietization of Poland. Jews in Siedlce were welcoming him enthusiastically”. When Bolsheviks were entering Siedlce, Jewish population welcomed them with flowers and constructed a triumphal welcoming gate, prepared food and cool drinks. “The Jewish attitude was clearly hostile towards Poland and favorable to the invaders. Young Jews, who

ducked the draft into the Polish Army, served as guides for the Bolsheviks and were denouncing polish patriots."

The SOVIET (revolutionary committee) in **Siedlce** was composed of one Russian and four Jews – not even one Pole. **The Jewish treason in Siedlce became widely known all over Poland.** (...)

The Polish Central Military Command removed all Jews from the active military service and they were detained in a special camp in Jablonna, n/Warsaw (for fear of treasonous activities)

Fragment from: <http://gazetawarszawska.net/judaizm-islam/365-sjonizm-jego-polityka-i-jej-skutki-w-polsce-a-chazarskie-pochodzenie-zydow>

2/ <http://blogpress.pl/node/9456> (2011)

Bolshevik troops occupied Białystok on July 29, 1920. (...) Their commanders, on entering different localities were convinced about better acceptance of the activities of the new rulers by the Jewish population. (...)

An important activity of the **Revkoms** was to disarm the "bourgeoisie" and to arm the workers units, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_committee), which were composed mostly of the young Jews. (They were organized, among others, in Maków Mazowiecki, Wyszaków, Kałuszyn and **Siedlce**. (...)) After the Soviet defeat at Warsaw, some of them - in Maków Mazowiecki, Wyszaków, Kałuszyn and **Siedlce** - were fighting the attacking Poles (...). A several-hundred-strong armed unit of Jewish volunteers was captured in **Siedlce**. (...) At the end of August 1920, a Military Summary Court in **Siedlce** sentenced to death 10 Jews for armed resistance against the Polish Army. All-together the Military Summary Courts sentenced 66 Jews to death during August and September 1920.

3/ http://komunizm.net.pl/wp-content/uploads/2014/Borek_1.pdf (2014)

Soldiers of the 17th Rifle Division of the Red Army entered **Siedlce** during the night of **August 11/12, 1920**, (...), they were quite well familiar about the situation and environment of **Siedlce** (...) for instance, on entering some asked specifically about ... a brick factory owned by one **Mr. Cukier**. (...) **RADEK**, in his telegram from **Siedlce** dated August 17, 1920, stressed that "in that town members of the BUND were standing in the first line of the revolutionary forces", together with the **Poalej-Syjon**, since "they could easier communicate with them in Russian!" (*This is somewhat difficult to understand and accept - since after 135 years of Russian occupation, certainly the Poles could speak Russian but, perhaps ... they did not want to?!"*)

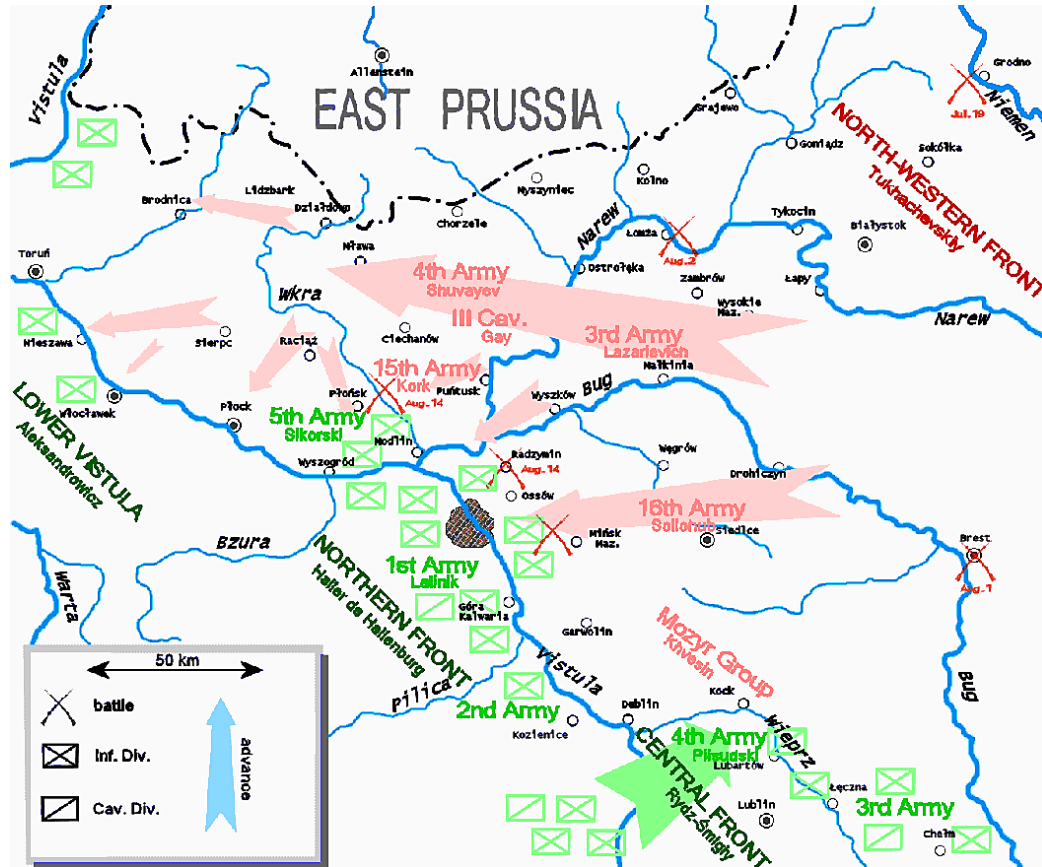
At the Brzeska street, (near a Madonna roadside chapel), Jews built a triumphal gate and welcomed the Red Army with music, bread and salt. (...) They opened their stores, which have been closed earlier for the Polish soldiers. (...) The 17th Division Staff stationed in the hotel "Wiktoria" at 15, Piękna street, where also settled down, for the following few days, the Command of the 16th Soviet Army. The Red army also occupied the Ogiński Palace, the Post Office, Police Post and the Circuit Court building, where they opened a hospital - (**Dr. E. Wiszniewski** was taking care there of 150 sick and wounded Red Army soldiers). Activity of the Soviet **Revkom** came to a sudden end during the night of **August 17/18, 1920**, when they were chased away by the 1st Mountain Brigade of the 21st Division of the Mountain Infantry led by Gen. Andrzej Galica. (...)

4/ Jewish testimonies – denials presented to the Polish Parliament (Sejm) and published in 1921 <https://stopsyjonizmowi.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/inwazja-bolszewicka-a-c5bcydzi.pdf> – (in polish).

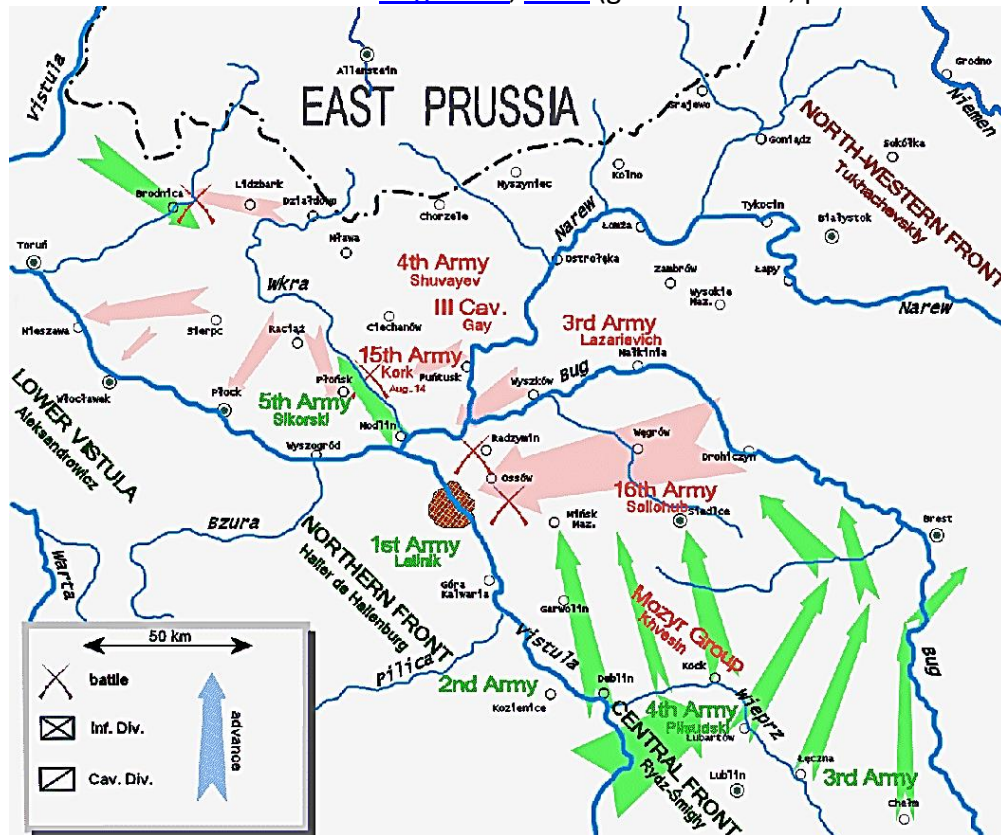
Battle of Warsaw – “Miracle at the Vistula (river)” -

http://www.greatmilitarybattles.com/html/the_battle_of_warsaw.html;

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/File:Battle_of_Warsaw_-_Phase_1.png



Armies before the battle - [August 15, 1920](#) (green – Polish, pink - Russian)



Second phase – Polish Army in counterattack

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Soviet_War - The **Polish–Soviet War**^[N 1] (February 1919 – March 1921) was an armed conflict between the [Second Polish Republic](#), the [Ukrainian People's Republic](#), [Soviet Russia](#) and [Soviet Ukraine](#) over the control of an area equivalent to today's [Ukraine](#) and parts of modern-day [Belarus](#). Although united under communist leadership, [Soviet Russia](#) and [Soviet Ukraine](#) were theoretically two separate independent entities because the [Soviet republics](#) did not unite into the [Soviet Union](#) until 1922.

Poland's [Chief of State](#), [Józef Piłsudski](#), felt the time was right to expand Polish borders as far east as feasible, to be followed by a Polish-led [Intermarium federation of Central and Eastern European states](#)* as a bulwark against the re-emergence of German and Russian [imperialism](#). [Lenin](#), meanwhile, saw Poland as the bridge the [Red Army](#) had to cross to assist [other communist movements](#) and bring about other European revolutions. By 1919, Polish forces had taken control of much of [Western Ukraine](#), emerging victorious from the [Polish–Ukrainian War](#). The [West Ukrainian People's Republic](#), led by [Yevhen Petrushevych](#), had tried to create a Ukrainian state on territories to which both Poles and Ukrainians laid claim. At the same time in the Russian part of Ukraine [Symon Petliura](#) tried to defend and strengthen the [Ukrainian People's Republic](#), but as the Bolsheviks began to gain the upper hand in the Russian Civil War, they started to advance westward towards the disputed Ukrainian territories, causing Petliura's forces to retreat to [Podolia](#). By the end of 1919, a clear front had formed as Petliura decided to ally with Piłsudski. Border skirmishes escalated following Piłsudski's [Kiev Offensive](#) in April 1920. The Polish offensive was met by an initially successful Red Army [counterattack](#). The Soviet operation pushed the Polish forces back westward all the way to the Polish capital, [Warsaw](#), while the [Directorate of Ukraine](#) fled to Western Europe. Meanwhile, Western fears of Soviet troops arriving at the German frontiers [increased the interest of Western powers](#) in the war. In midsummer, the fall of Warsaw seemed certain but in mid-August, the tide had turned again, as the Polish forces achieved an unexpected and decisive victory at the [Battle of Warsaw](#). In the wake of the Polish advance eastward, the Soviets sued for peace and the war ended with a [ceasefire](#) in October 1920.

(* *This concept is being revived now – see recent [Warsaw Conference](#) – below*)

https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&q=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&oq=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&gs_l=psy-

[ab.3..33i160k1.24183.36413.0.36895.32.30.0.0.0.135.2526.22j7.30.0....0...1.1.64.psy-](https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&q=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&oq=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&gs_l=psy-ab.3..33i160k1.24183.36413.0.36895.32.30.0.0.0.135.2526.22j7.30.0....0...1.1.64.psy-)

[ab.2.27.2312.0..0j0i131k1j0i22i10i30k1j33i21k1.77.fHLMaJtqSEg](https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&q=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&oq=Warsaw+intermarium+conference&gs_l=psy-ab.2.27.2312.0..0j0i131k1j0i22i10i30k1j33i21k1.77.fHLMaJtqSEg)

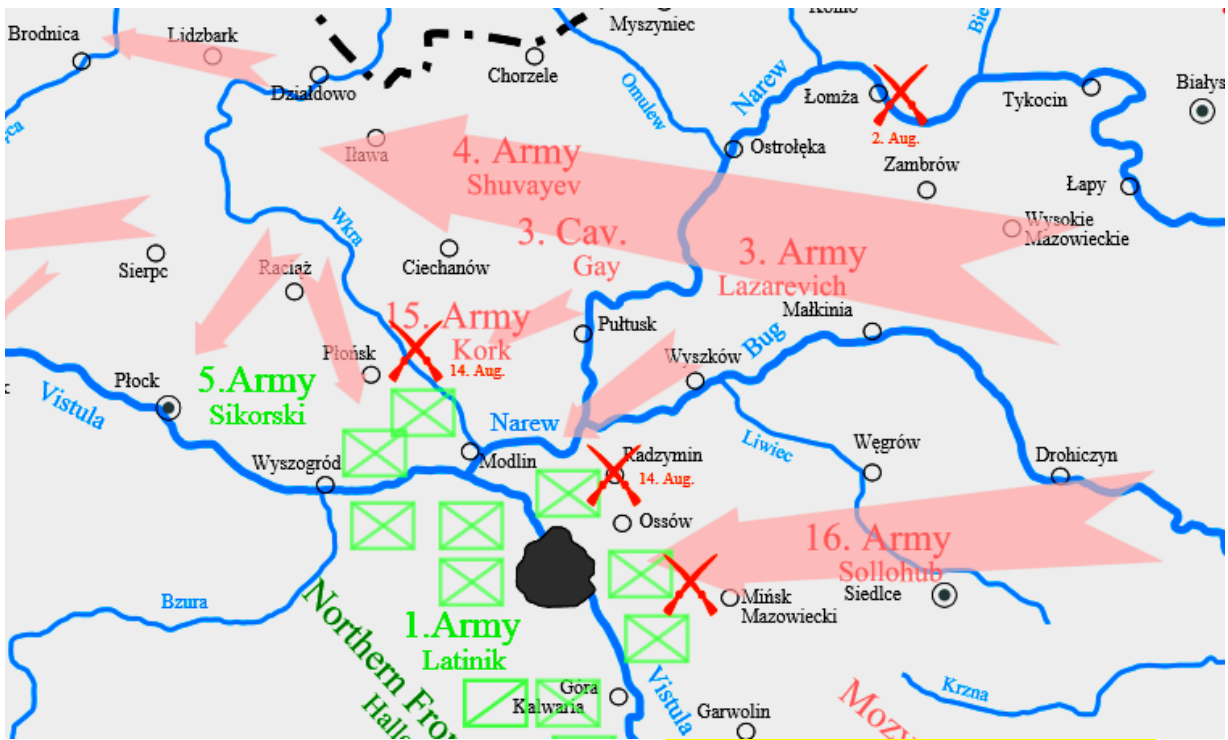
[Warsaw debates Intermarium - New Eastern Europe](#)

<http://neweasterneurope.eu/2017/07/06/intermarium-vs-the-three-seas-initiative/>

*Jul 6, 2017 - It was appropriate enough that **Warsaw** should host a **conference** on the theme of **Intermarium**, the idea being primarily of Polish origin and*

A formal [peace treaty](#), the [Peace of Riga](#), was signed on **18 March 1921**, dividing the disputed territories between Poland and Soviet Russia. The war largely determined the Soviet–Polish border for the [period between the World Wars](#). Much of the territory allocated to Poland in the Treaty of Riga became part of the Soviet Union after World War II, when Poland's eastern borders were redefined by the [Allies](#) in close accordance with the [Curzon Line](#) of 1920.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Soviet_War_in_1920 - The **Polish–Soviet war** erupted in 1920 in the aftermath of [World War I](#). The root causes were twofold: a territorial dispute dating back to Polish-Russian wars in the 17–18th centuries; and a clash of ideology due to [USSR](#)'s goal of spreading [communist](#) rule further west, to Europe ([Soviet westward offensive of 1918–19](#)). At that time both countries had just undergone transition: in 1918 Poland reclaimed independence after 123 years of partitions. In 1917 the [October Revolution](#) replaced the liberal, democratic Provisional Government, that had previously displaced the Tsar in Russia, with Soviet rule. The war ended with the [Treaty of Riga](#) in 1920, which settled the border issue and regulated Polish-Soviet relations until the [German-Soviet invasion of Poland](#) in 1939.



Some of the main battles of the war in 1920 (away from Siedlce and Trzebieżów)

August 10, (1920) - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojna_polsko-bolszewicka (pol. - summary) – the front line run along Przasnysz, Wyszaków, Siedlce. (...) Tuchaczewski issued a directive to capture Warsaw by crossing Vistula from the north. In the hinterlands, the Communists started secretly forming in summer Revolutionary “Revcoms” (in Lublinie, Hrubieszowie, Zamościu, Chełmie, Krasnymstawie, Puławach i Kraśniku), Polish authorities counteracted in July with many arrests.

August 14 - [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Battle_of_Warsaw_\(1920\)](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Battle_of_Warsaw_(1920)) – The situation was saved around midnight when the 203rd Uhlán Regiment managed to break through the Bolshevick lines and destroy the radio station of A.D. Shuvayev's Soviet 4th Army. The latter unit had only one remaining radio station fixed on one frequency which was known to the Polish intelligence. Since the Polish code-breakers did not want the Bolsheviks to find out that their codes were broken, but still neutralize the other radio station, the radio station in Warsaw recited the Book of Genesis in Polish and Latin on the frequency used by the 4th Army, which thus lost contact with its headquarters and continued marching toward Toruń and Płock, unaware of Tuhachevsky's order to turn south. The raid by the 203rd Uhlans is sometimes referred to as "the Miracle of Ciechanów."^[1]

August 16 - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kontruderzenie_znad_Wieprza – Polish Counterattack from the direction of Wieprz river, striking at the rear of the Bolshevick Western Front (Frontu Zachodniego). Józef Piłsudski taking direct command of the entire military operations.

August 16–18 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Dęblin_and_Mińsk_Mazowiecki The Battle of Dęblin and Mińsk Mazowiecki took place (...). The “First Assault Group” was commanded by Piłsudski himself.

August 17 – the 16th Bolshevick army supply lines and direct path of retreat, Warszawa–Brześć–Mińsk was cut-off. They changed it to a tract further north - Stanisławów–Węgrów–Boćki–Bielsk. On this date, Mińsk Mazowiecki, Siedlce, Międzyrzec Podlaski and Białą Podlaską were liberated.

August 17 (pol) – Polish forces advancing from the south reached the line Białą Podlaską – Międzyrzec – Siedlce – Kałuszyn – Mińsk Mazowiecki.

August 24 – units of the Polish 4th Army reached the border with East Prussia (Prus Wschodnich).

Siedlce – as above (different armies were crossing through Siedlce, but there was no major local fighting?)

Trzebieżów - Jan Rzewuski, local organist, e-mail - 9.X.2017 „ (...) there is very little document information about Trzebieżów. A local farmer, Antoni Śledź was telling me that in 1920 Russians passing through for three days, on their way to Warsaw, were jubilant and friendly. A few days later they were rushing back east, it took them only a few hours to pass – they were very unfriendly!” (Many people were threatened in Siedlce)

Łuków county – Jan Rzewuski, 28.X.2017 - (summary from K. Jastrzębska „Życie polityczne Łukowa i powiatu łukowskiego w okresie dwudziestolecia międzywojennego”, in: „Łuków i okolice w XIX i XX wieku”. Warszawa 1989.” The Russians (Red Army) entered Łuków county at night of **August 9/10, 1920**. On August 12, they entered town of Łuków and Stoczek, and on August 14 – Kock. The “**peoples’ rule**” revolutionary committees were installed in Łuków, Stoczek, Celiny, Radoryż, Stanin and Tuchowicz. Earlier, the more prominent members of the local landed gentry abandoned their properties fearing for their lives and fleeing west. Local population of towns and villages received them with great caution, except for **the young generation of Jews, who were welcoming the Bolsheviks enthusiastically**. (...) On their way back from Warsaw, the Russians were merciless and robbing whatever they could. About 1,000 Jews run away with the Russians from the Łuków county. This war revealed in Poland the true and negative picture of a Communist-Bolshevik.

Intermarium federation - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermarium>



2017 Warsaw Conference of the Eastern European leaders discussing new “Intermarium” concept. US President Donald Trump was a special invited guest – standing to the right of President A. Duda

World War-II (in Europe)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_theatre_of_World_War_II - The **European theatre of World War II**, also known as the **Second European War**, was a huge area of heavy fighting across **Europe**, from **Germany's** and the **Soviet Union's** joint **invasion of Poland** in September 1939 until the **end of the war** with the Soviet Union **conquering much of Europe** along with the German **unconditional surrender** on May 8, 1945 (**Victory in Europe Day**). The **Allied forces** fought the **Axis powers** on two major fronts (the **Eastern Front** and **Western Front**) as well as in the adjoining **Mediterranean and Middle East theatre**.



Outbreak of war in Europe -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_theatre_of_World_War_II#Outbreak_of_war_in_Europe - **Germany** and the **Soviet Union** were sworn enemies, but following the **Munich Agreement**, which effectively handed over **Czechoslovakia** (a French and Soviet ally, and the only remaining presidential democracy in **Central Europe**) to Germany, political realities allowed the Soviet Union to sign a **non-aggression pact** (the **Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact**) including a secret clause partitioning **Poland**, the **Baltic Republics** and **Finland** between the two spheres of influence. Full-scale war in Europe began at dawn on September 1, 1939, when Germany used her newly formed **Blitzkrieg** tactics and military strength to **invade Poland**, to which both the United Kingdom and France had pledged protection and independence guarantees. On September 3, 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany and British troops were sent to France, however neither French nor British troops **gave any significant assistance to the Poles** during the entire invasion, and the German–French border, excepting the **Saar Offensive**, remained mostly calm, this period of the war is commonly known as the **Phoney War**.

The **Invasion of Poland**, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland - known in [Poland](#) as the **September Campaign** (*Kampania wrześniowa*) or the **1939 Defensive War** (*Wojna obronna 1939 roku*), and in [Germany](#) as the **Poland Campaign** (*Polenfeldzug*) or *Fall Weiss* ("Case White"), was a joint invasion of Poland by [Nazi Germany](#), the [Soviet Union](#), the [Free City of Danzig](#), and a small [Slovak](#) contingent, that marked the beginning of [World War II](#). The German invasion began on 1 September 1939, one week after the signing of the [Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact](#), while the [Soviet invasion](#) commenced on 17 September following the [Molotov–Tōgō](#) agreement that terminated the Russian and Japanese [hostilities](#) in the east on 16 September.^[15] The campaign ended on 6 October with Germany and the Soviet Union dividing and annexing the whole of Poland under the terms of the [German–Soviet Frontier Treaty](#).

German forces invaded Poland from the north, south, and west the morning after the [Gleiwitz incident](#). Slovak forces advanced alongside the Germans in northern Slovakia. As the Wehrmacht advanced, Polish forces withdrew from their forward bases of operation close to the Polish–German border to more established lines of defence to the east. After the mid-September Polish defeat in the [Battle of the Bzura](#), the Germans gained an undisputed advantage. Polish forces then [withdrew to the southeast](#) where they prepared for a long defence of the [Romanian Bridgehead](#) and awaited expected support and relief from [France](#) and the [United Kingdom](#).^[16] While those two countries had pacts with Poland and had declared war on Germany on 3 September, in the end their aid to Poland was very limited.

The Soviet [Red Army's invasion](#) of [Eastern Poland](#) on 17 September, in accordance with a secret protocol of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, rendered the Polish plan of defence obsolete.^[17] Facing a second front, the Polish government concluded the defence of the Romanian Bridgehead was no longer feasible and ordered an emergency evacuation of all troops to neutral [Romania](#).^[18] On 6 October, following the Polish defeat at the [Battle of Kock](#), German and Soviet forces gained full control over Poland. The success of the invasion marked the end of the [Second Polish Republic](#), though **Poland never formally surrendered**. [General Government](#) was established on October 8.



Dismemberment of Poland in 1939 – **General Gouvernement** under German control



Administrative map of the **General Government**, July 1941 – January 1944, following [Barbarossa](#) - Locations Of labour, concentration and extermination camps are indicated

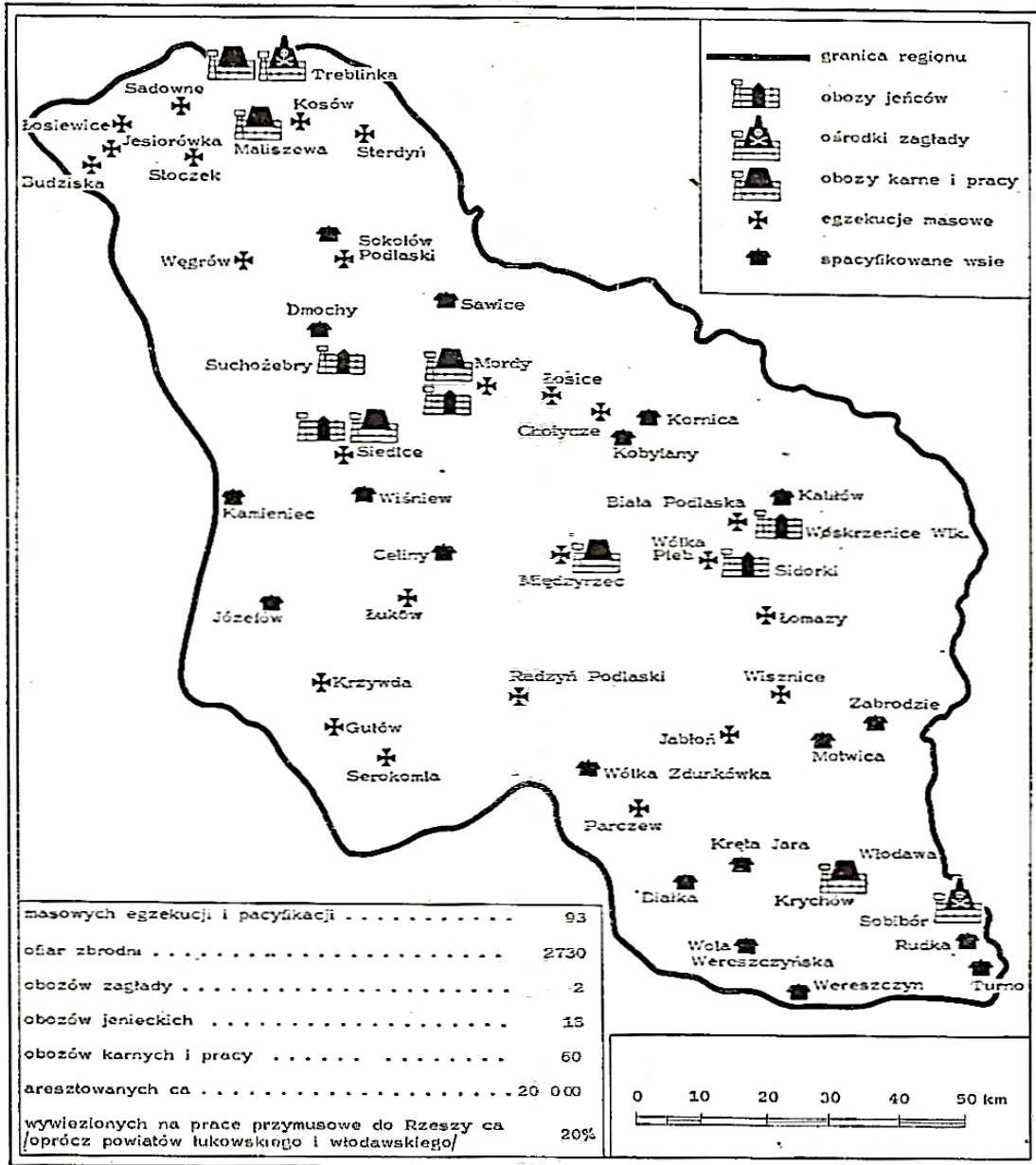


Poland before and after the war

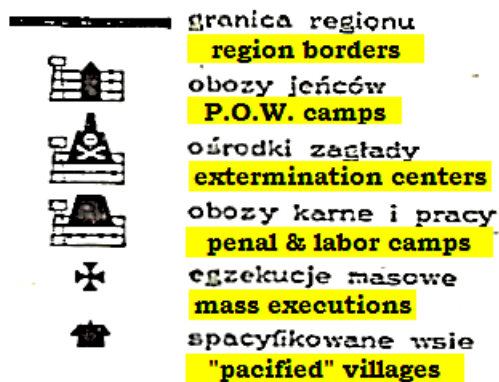
Resistance movement in Podlasie, 1939-1944

(Ruch oporu na Podlasiu, 1939-1944)

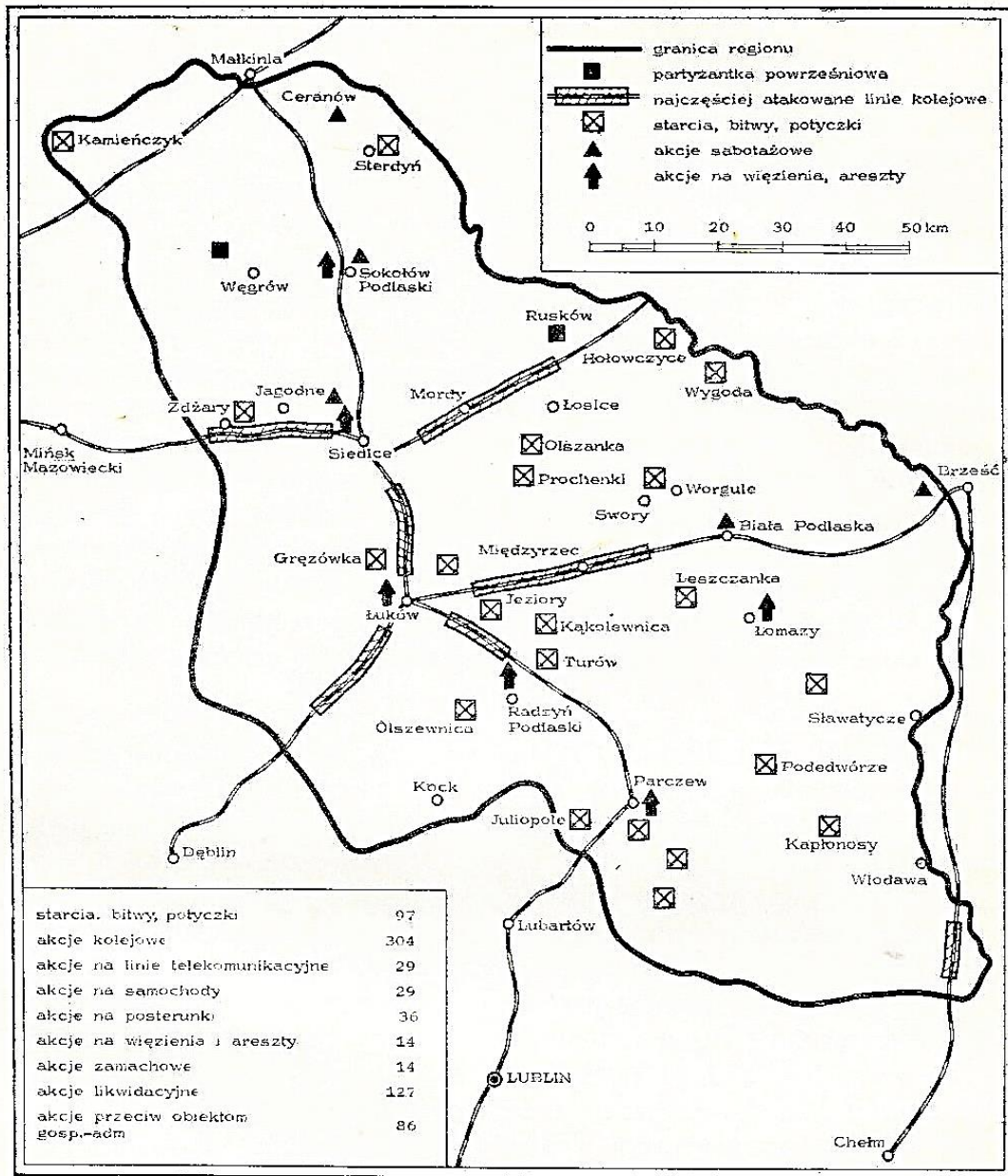
Stanisława Lewandowska, MON, Warszawa 1982, pp. 90 and 377



Terror hitlerowski na Podlasiu



Nazi terror in Podlasie



Akcje podlaskiego ruchu oporu

Military actions of the Podlasie Resistance groups



Siedlce – World War-II - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historia_Siedlec#II_wojna_.C5.9Bwiatowa

(summary of a polish text). Tragic events of WW-II also affected Siedlce. They were: early direct bombing and destruction of parts of the downtown area and of the railroad station, arrests and executions, rounding up the Jewish residents in the Ghetto, then transports to the extermination camp in Treblinka. Continuing arrests, roundups and deportation for forced labor to Germany. Arrivals of railroad transports with children from the Zamość area after expulsions from villages there - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing_of_Zamojszczyzna_by_Nazi_Germany. Their parents were send to Germany or to concentration camps and children were taken away from them for germanization. Polish railway men were notifying local people, opening the locked railroad carriages, removing children and distributing and hiding them among the local citizens, where they survived the war.

German occupation started on **September 11, 1939** and ended after almost 5 years, on **July 31, 1944**. It was interrupted on **September 29 by a German withdrawal and arrival the Red Army**, which stayed there for a few days, (it was a miserable sight, looking at them – poverty, inadequate clothing and old weapons - luckily, they did not have enough time to cause any significant damage or destruction), until **October 9 or 10, 1939**, when the Germans returned.

Local partisan units of the AK, BCh and NSZ were very active in the area (see below). The Red Army arrived at Siedlce on **July 24, 1944**. Fighting in town lasted for the whole week, from July 24 to July 31, 1944. It was initiated by the local Kedyw AK - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kedyw>. They were later aiding and guiding the Soviets locally. German defense was very strong and stubborn and the fights in the city lasted for a whole week. By the time of its termination, the city suffered severe damage and destruction. (... the 47th Army was fighting at Siedlce; only lead elements of the 2nd Tank Army were approaching Praga - Kochanski, The Eagle Unbowed, 417).

Siedlce – Wajszczuk family (<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/059piotr.htm>)

My parents' apartment, in a downtown apartment building was not damaged, luckily, but was totally robbed. My maternal grandparents' suburban villa was burned to the ground and the house downtown, where they lived during the war in a temporary apartment, was bombed and totally destroyed. The other [paternal] grandparents were more lucky, they suffered no significant damage of their property - they lived in a house on a big lot surrounded by a large garden.

During the time of fighting in Siedlce, the whole family and several friends were hiding during 8-10 days in a village a few miles north of town, part of the time in dug-outs in an outside field, covered and masked by wooden boards, soil and large sheaths (bundles) of harvested wheat. We moved from the village to the fields, for a few days, after it had been bombed by the Russians at night from small biplanes (kukuruznik - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polikarpov_Po-2), which were gliding in with the engines shut off, under illumination by very bright flares suspended from parachutes. They have located a German veterinary hospital, which had stopped in this village. A few of our friends were injured or killed in this bombing. The front wall of our house was pierced through in many places by shrapnels - luckily, we were hiding in an inside double-walled alcove and covered with thick down comforters. The unpleasant part of living in the dug-outs in a sandy soil was that they started filling in with water and collapsing when it started to rain. The food was delivered from the village. Once, a German officer arrived in an opened car, checking out what was going on there. We got scared, but he turned out to be a friendly elderly reservist, who later also brought us some canned food.

After returning to town, everything was smelling burned for a long time! There was a lot of destruction. Later that fall, I started attending a regular (legal!) school. Earlier, during the war, I

remember being escorted, one child at a time (!), to private, small group, clandestine classes, where we were taught by a teacher (“**Pani Brzeska**”*) Polish language, history and geography. We were leaving these classes, also one child at a time. Religion was taught by a priest in church.

*/ Władysława Brzeska - <https://books.google.com/books?id=ZWNKAAAAIAAJ&focus=searchwithinvolume&q=Brzeska>

Siedlce and the region - during the war

Siedlce and the whole region was an area of intensive activities of the underground partisan groups of the [AK](#), [BCh](#) i [NSZ](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Government#Resistance - The main resistance force was the [Home Army](#) (in Polish: *Armia Krajowa* or [AK](#)), loyal to the [Polish government in exile](#) in London. It was formed mainly of the surviving remnants of the pre-War [Polish Army](#), together with many volunteers. Other forces existed side-by-side, such as the communist [People's Army](#) (*Armia Ludowa* or [AL](#)) parallel to the [PPR](#), organised and controlled by the Soviet Union. The [AK](#) was estimated between 200,000 and 600,000 men, while the [AL](#) was estimated between 14,000 and 60,000. During the occupation, the various Polish resistance organizations killed about 150,000 Axis soldiers.

Z DZIEJÓW TAJNEGO NAUCZANIA I WOJSKOWEJ KONSPIRACJI NA POLUDNIOWO-ZACHODNICH OBSZARACH POLUDNIOWEGO PODLASIA W LATACH 1939-1944

https://repozytorium.uwb.edu.pl/jspui/bitstream/11320/2953/1/Studia_Podlaskie_15_Wrzosek.pdf
<https://www.sp10siedlce.edu.pl/pomnik.htm>

Trzebieszów – details are summarized in a speech (in Polish) from October 18, 2015 given on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument commemorating these events and the fallen heroes.

http://www.starostwolukow.pl/files/pdf/20151020_referat_odsloniecie_pomnika.pdf

<http://www.trzebieszow.gmina.pl/2015-11-17-odsloniecie-i-poswiecenie-pomnika-zolnierzy-ak-w-trzebieszowie/>

<https://www.lukow-historia.pl/?p=3944> – Rejon II - Trzebieszów



Krzesk – History of the community („gmina”) and local government in Zbuczyn – (Dzieje gminy i samorządu w Zbuczynie - Gmina Zbuczyn) - <http://zbuczyn.com/pdfs/dziejegminyzbuczyn.pdf>, p. 23
(...) During the (*Hitlerite*) occupation of this area, there was functioning in Krzesk an outpost of the Home Army ([AK](#)) „*Krzak*”, (...) corporal Marian Danielak directed the [Military Service of Uprising Protection \(WSOP\)](#) - <https://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/Wojskowa-Sluzba-Ochrony-Powstania;3997587.html>;

[Wojskowa Służba Kobiet](#) - https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojskowa_S%C5%82u%C5%BCba_Kobiet

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojskowa_S%C5%82u%C5%BCba_Kobiet – (Military Service of Women - [WSK](#)) was directed by **Ludmiła Wajszczuk „Maria” (0104)**. In Krzesk were also active - the [Bataliony Chłopskie](#). ([B.Ch.](#) - Polish Farmers' Battalions). The clandestine education service was directed by Edward Michalak. (Several members died in fighting, German jails and concentration camps. (...)) Underground education was carried out in small student groups, usually in the students' houses. Clandestine teachers in Krzesk were: Zygmunt Czajka, Stanisław Kluzik and **Ludmiła**

Wajszczuk – <http://zskrzesk.szkolnastrona.pl/II-wojna-%C5%9Bwiatowa,m,mg,58,60.html>;

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/polski/drzewo/tekst/0104ludmila.htm>

Kąkolewnica - Excerpts from a monograph: "Losy Ziemi Kąkolewnickiej" (The Fates of the Kąkolewnica Lands) - by Jan Trokowicz, Gdańsk-Żakowola Stara 1995

57. Underground Resistance - re. **Franciszek Wajszczuk (0003)** from Zakowola Radzyńska <http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/0003franciszek.htm>

....The population was aware of the existence of the underground organizations... . Many armed actions were conducted in Kąkolewnica and vicinity. The majority of them were carried out by the "Armia Krajowa" (AK - Home Army) and "Bataliony Chłopskie" (Peasant Battalions). Sometimes separately, other times together, since the members of both organizations were frequently school-mates or neighbours....

....Some of the most spectacular forms of resistance fighting included shooting at (from an ambush), stopping and destroying German cars driving on the road Radzyń - Międzyrzec. The most frequent ambushes were set in the woods approaching Żakowola Radzyńska and in the forest past Grabowiec. Three well detailed observation reports prepared by **Franciszek Wajszczuk** and Józef Adamowicz from Żakowola Radzyńska were used to carry them out. Together with their friends they were continuously observing important communication points. A memorable action was carried out near Żakowola by a detachment of the AK under the command of Bronisław Pawlina "Grom" (pseudonym "Lightning"). The intelligence reported the expected arrival of the German high officials. The ambush was successful. The car, which was trying to escape, was targeted and several passengers were killed. Because of the recurrent events, the Germans started cutting down the trees along the roads. It did not help much. The German strength weakened....

After the war – under Communism and Soviet occupation and/or domination

After World War -II, this part of Poland was under the Communist control already since **July 1944 – until 1989** - <http://www.trzebieszow.gmina.pl/przykladowa-strona/> (pol).

Trzebieszów - <https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trzebiesz%C3%B3w>

At the turning of the years 1944/45, 30 men were arrested in a church in Trzebieszów and were shot in [Uroczysko Baran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uroczysko_Bar%C4%85n) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uroczysko Baran killing fields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uroczysko_Bar%C4%85n)) in [Kąkolewnica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C4%85kolewnica) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C4%85kolewnica>).

<http://www.ostatniwyklety.gminatrzebieszow.pl/index.php/8-zolnierze-wykleci>

<http://www.ostatniwyklety.gminatrzebieszow.pl/index.php/ak-jata>

Kąkolewnica - <http://www.doomedsoldiers.com/kakolewnica-forest-masacre-little-katyn.html> - *Kąkolewnica - "Little Katyn" Near Radzyń Podlaski (Pol. "Kąkolewnica - podlaski Katyn")*: *Unsolved Communist Crimes In Poland.*

The Secret of the Kąkolewnica Forest - "Uroczysko Baran"

(uroczysko - sacred/enchanted forest/range/wilderness), draws on Slavic mythology and lore. The crown of leaves of the tall oaks of Uroczysko cast a dark and ominous shadow over the forest floor. All who enter this world find themselves lost, with neither bearing nor pace. Sudden and silent death awaits every misstep; body and soul disappearing as a shade within a shade; their memory carried away on a fog swamped breeze soon to dissolve among other faint wisps.

The inhabitants of the area surrounding Uroczysko* Baran in Kąkolewnica near Radzyń Podlaski, call this place "**Little Katyn**". (pol. "Mały Katyn") During Fall of 1944 and January and February of 1945 stationed here were units of the (*Communist controlled*) II Polish People's Army. The [Home Army](#)

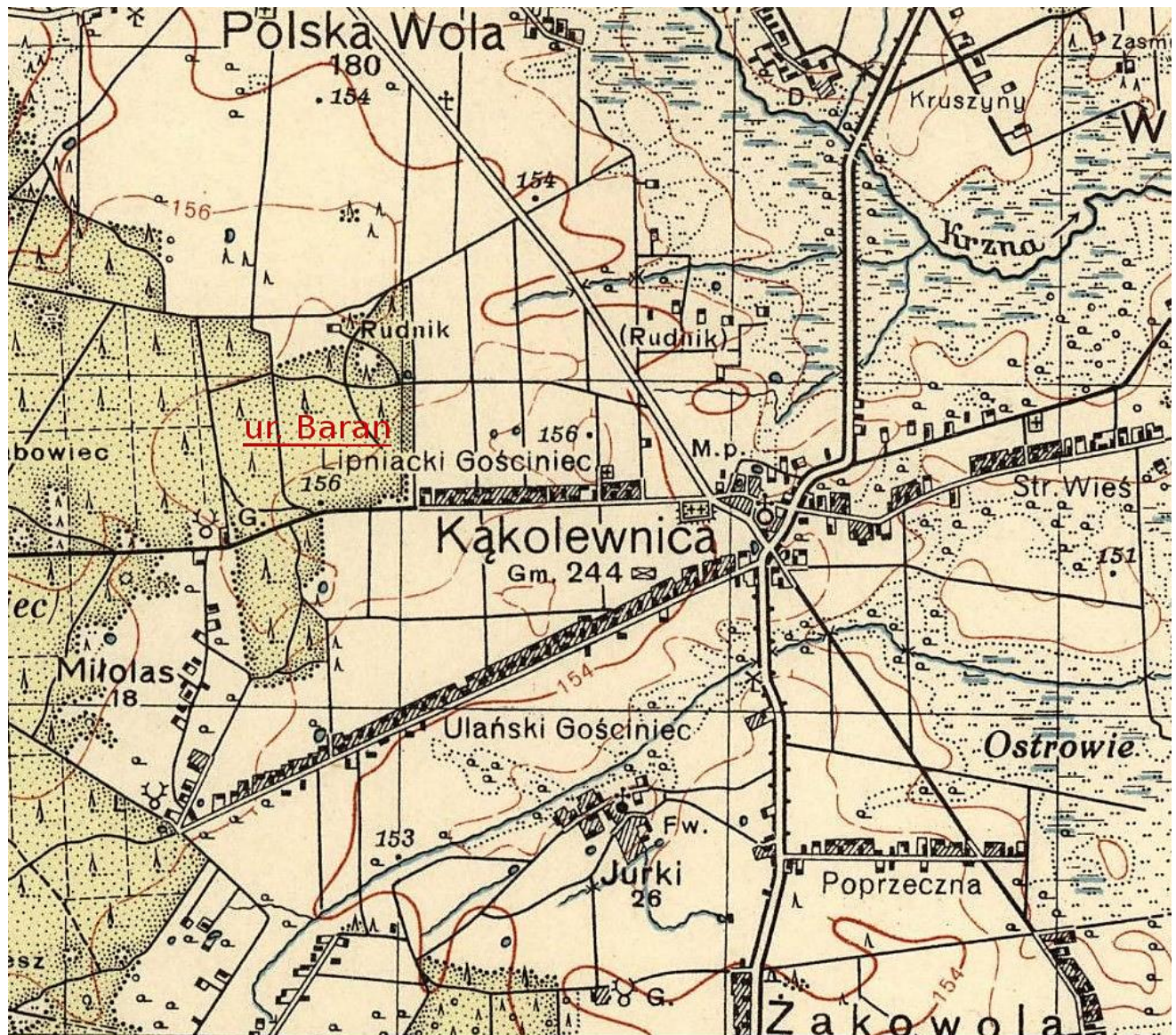
(abbr. AK - Armia Krajowa) soldiers were not the only ones shot here, but also those from **WiN** (pol. *Wolność i Niezawisłość - Freedom and Independence*) and **BCh** (pol. *Bataliony Chłopskie - The Peasant's Batalions*), real and imagined deserters, and others who fell in disfavor with the new communist regime.

To this day, an accurate number of those shot here is unknown. The most conservative estimates give number of several hundreds, but others claim, it should be between 1,300 to 1800 dead.

The Eastern region of Poland between Bug and Vistula rivers were abandoned by the retreating German army in the middle of June, 1944. (...)

More about the Uroczyska Baran – read here (czytaj [TUTAJ](#)).

<http://radzyninfo.pl/aktualnosci/doroczne-uroczystosci-na-uroczysku-baran/>



<http://radzyninfo.pl/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/kakolew.jpg>

At this time active in this region were numerous and well organized units of the Home Army.

In this new and uncertain situation, they awaited for the future to unfold.

(...) Information from the Military Historical Institute reveals that the Military Court attached to the II [Polish People's] Army stationed at Kąkolewnica from September 1944 to January 1945, sentenced 144 persons, including 61 sentenced to death, from which 43 were carried out. Those killed were

primarily soldiers and officers of the Home Army (AK). Executions were carried out by the head of the jail, Sergeant **Bazyli Rogozinski**. (...)

The Home Army units were hopeful that an agreement between [Polish Government in Exile](#) in London, the Soviets, and the newly formed Polish communist government centered around [KRN](#) (*pol. Krajowa Rada Narodowa - State National Council*) and [PKWN](#) (*Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego - Polish Committee of National Liberation*) can be reached. Therefore, they refrained from engaging either the Russians, or the communist Polish People's Army under the Soviet command. During the period discussed here, the sole aim of the Home Army was to fight the Nazi occupiers. Only later, some units began to redirect their activities against the communists. It was a knee-jerk reaction, resulting from months of repression, arrests, torture, and physical extermination.

More than often, it was an issue of physical survival. After the offensive line of the Red Army front established itself firmly along the Vistula river, arrived with them the [NKVD](#), the new administrative organs of PKWN and State Security (the [UB](#)) and began their activities on the territories previously occupied by the Nazis. An indiscriminate campaign of mass repression and arrests against, not only the Home Army underground, but also against the population at large, began. The Home Army units were encircled, disarmed, and their officers arrested. Some of them were **sent deep in to the Soviet Russia to never return**, while others were murdered in summary **executions without a trial**. Those few who stood trials, were convicted as "**enemies of the democratic system.**"

Read also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uroczysko_Baran_killing_fields
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursed_soldiers - **Cursed Soldiers**

Szaniawy-Poniaty - Akcja Mitropa - <https://www.google.com/search?sclient=psy-ab&site=&source=hp&q=Parafia+Trzebieszow&btnK=Google+Search#q=akcja+mitropa&spf=1500436659580>

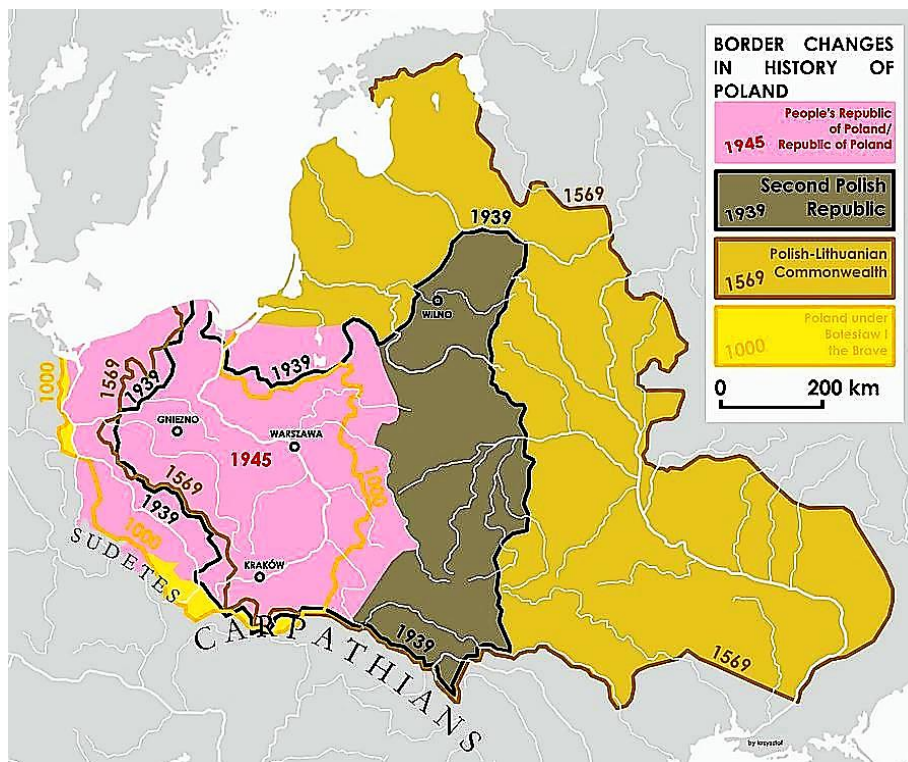
Th [AKCJA MITROPA - Uroczystości odsłonięcia pomnika Żołnierzy AK WiN Obwód Łuków i Radzyń Podlaski w Szaniawach - Poniatkach](#). <http://www.ostatniwyklety.gminatrzebieszow.pl/index.php/o-akcji-mitropa> - ("**Mitropa**" Action – unveiling of a monument to the soldiers of AK-WIN ...)

On **October 3, 1946**, an AK-WIN unit commanded by Lt. Tadeusz Marczuk ps. Kurzawa stopped in Szaniawy - Poniaty near Trzebieszów a special **Soviet Military-Diplomatic train "Mitropa"**. Without any bloodshed, more than 200 soldiers of the Red Army were disarmed, including five generals and few high ranking functionaries of the NKWD, who were travelling to attend a military council meeting in Warsaw. After disarming them, they all were let go, but first they were stripped of their clothing, down to their underwear.

=====

(WJW) - MY FINAL THOUGHTS: Perhaps - those People, (from Siedlce, Trzebieszów, and vicinity = the ancient historic Polish "borderlands") - they were, and are "special", indeed - they survived or went through so many invasions, wars, killing, raping, burning, pogroms – from all directions - but they survived, resisting and fighting back. Perhaps, in the process, they developed special survival skills, character and wisdom – they maintained their "Polishness", culture, language. And - very importantly - their religion and Church, which were very instrumental for this survival, since they always remained a steady and unwavering backbone and refuge, as opposed to governments, rulers, ruling systems, political trends, parties and state institutions.

1,000 years of history and changing borders - summarized



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b9/Border changes in history of Poland.png/380px-Border changes in history of Poland.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b9/Border_changes_in_history_of_Poland.png/380px-Border_changes_in_history_of_Poland.png)



http://www.staypoland.com/images/mapa-historyczna_en.jpg

B. Zamość branch/Gałąź Zamojska – (brief summary)

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/polski/historia.htm#23-12-2012>



<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo.htm>



**December
23 2012**

SUMMARY OF THE REPEATED ARCHIVE REVIEW RE. ZAMOSC BRANCH


1. First entry of the name Wajszczuk found in Wielacza parish - in **1774** – they lived in Wysokie, Parish records - since **1722**
Ordynacja Zamojska/Majorat records – since **1589** - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majorat>
2. First entry of the name Wajszczuk found in Sitaniec parish in **1783** – they lived in Wysokie, Parish records - since ...
Ordynacja records since **1593**. (about Wysokie – since the beginning of the XIX c.)
3. Most likely, the Wajszczuks lived initially in Wysokie – we still do not know from where they came – no earlier records are available. Most complete and most thoroughly studied were records of the families of descendants of Stanisław [1315] i Józef [1391].
4. **Sułów/Sułowek** – this sub-branch originated probably from Sitaniec and, via Wólka Nieliska, arrived at Sułów. First records of the name Wa(j)szczuk appear there at the turn of the 18th/19th c.
5. During WW-II, all residents of Sitaniec and Wysokie were expelled from their villages, some were resettled to other locations, some sent for forced labor to Germany or to the concentration camps. Some, emigrated later to the USA and Canada. People from the Sułów area were also expelled but returned there later.

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Zamość region

Click on the center of the map to see Zamość area



Wysokie - "family nest"

- - current places of residence
- - former places of residence
- - "similar" last names were found
- ⚔️ - parishes

See also other maps and photographs:

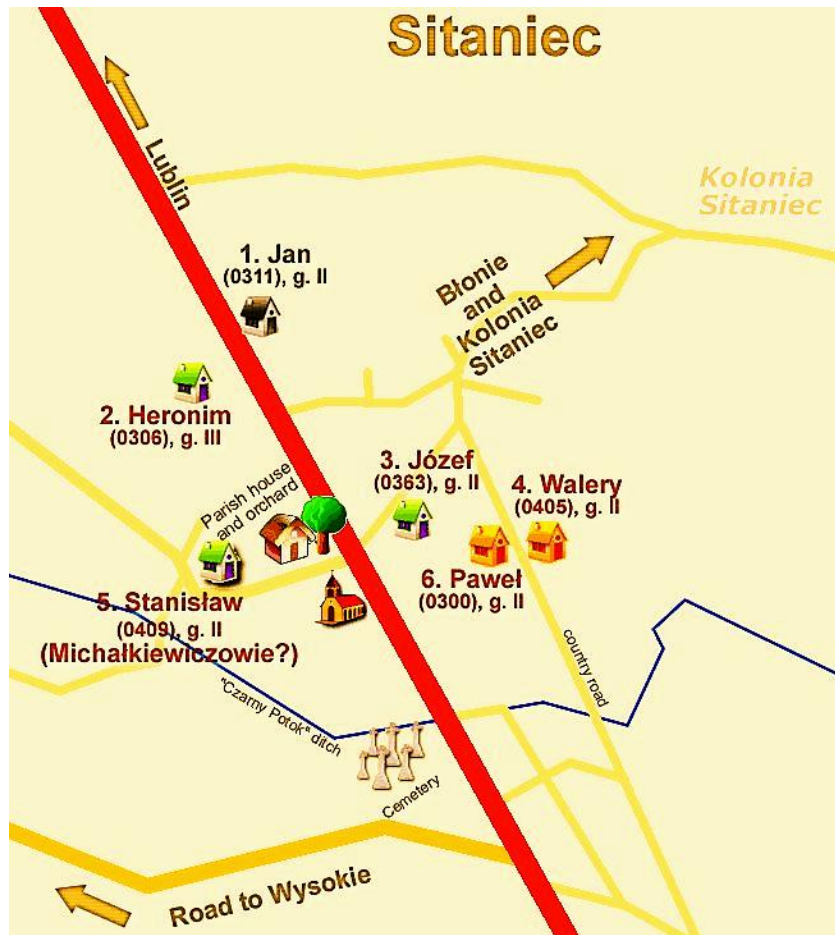
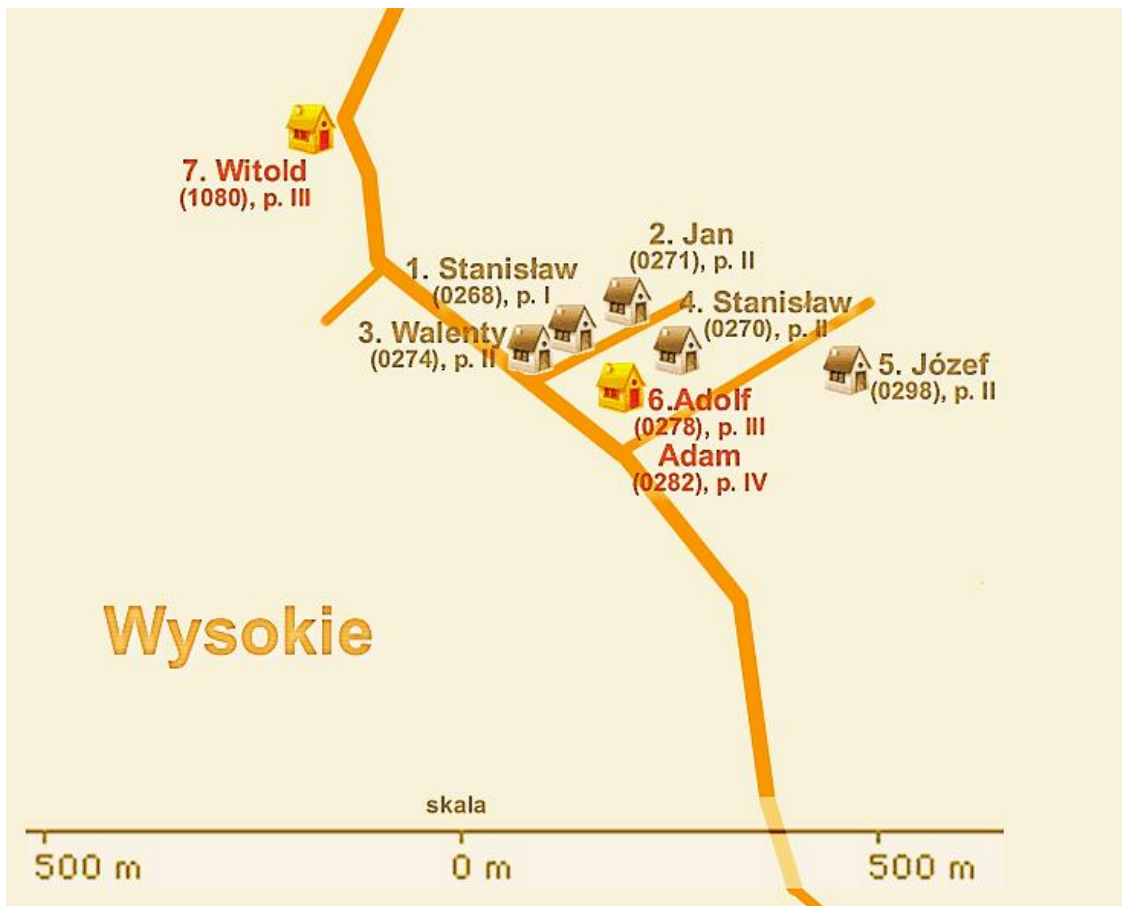
- Places of residence of the Wajszczuk Family IN SITANIEC AND IN WYSOKIE before World War II and at present.
- Places of residence of the Wajszczuk Family IN SUŁÓW before World War II and at present.
- Current places of residence of the Wajszczuks in Sitaniec, Wysokie and Sułów - (photographs)
- Cemetery in Sitaniec
- Zamość area
- Sitaniec area
- The Lublin Upland and Roztocze

WYSOKIE - [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wysokie \(powiat zamojski\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wysokie_(powiat_zamojski))

In 1564 the village belonged to the Szczepreszyn properties of the Górka family ([Górków herbu Łódzia](#)), which was then included in 1593 into the properties (demesne) of the Zamoyski Family. (Ordynacja Zamoyskich). **In December 1942 the inhabitants were expelled by the Germans.**

SITANIEC – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sitaniec>. Its origins go back to the 14th c., it was mentioned in a 1402 document separating it from Chomęciska. In 1420 its owner was Wojciech Sitański (Wojciech „Wosza” „de Sythenec” Sitański), a land magistrate from Chełm, ([sędzia ziemski chełmski](#)). The Ścibors from Sitaniec (called also Sicieński) held the property ownership until 1583 - 84, at that time Stanisław and Marek Ściborowie-Sitańscy sold their parts of village ownership to the Chancellor [Jan Zamoyski](#), the village was included in the Ordynacja ([ordynacji](#)) in 1589 and it became a site of administration for the whole extensive chain of properties. ^[6].

All residents were expelled in December 1942 as a part of Akcja Zamość ([Akcji Zamość](#)).



http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/mapy/domy_sitaniec_wysokie.htm

Sułów/Sułówek

This sub-branch of the Wajszczuk family probably separated itself from the main Zamość stem and arrived to Sułów via Sitaniec in the 2nd half of the 18th century. There has been recently no contact between them.



Sułów [¹suwuf] - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su%C5%82%C3%B3w>, Lublin Voivodeship - is a [village](#) in [Zamość County](#), [Lublin Voivodeship](#), in eastern Poland. (...) It paid a contribution to the abbot of a monastery of the [klasztoru Cystersów w Koprzywnicy](#); he had the right to collect taxes from many polish villages, Sułów was one among them ^[6]. (...) In 1398 the village was mentioned on the list of the [Szczepieszyn](#) properties of [Dymitra z Goraja](#). It was then given by him as a dowry to the parish church in [Szczepieszynie](#).

The name Wajszczuk (or similar) appeared in the books of the **Szczepieszyn Parish** in **1654**.

Szczepieszyn - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szczepieszyn> – history can be traced back to **1352**, during the reign of [Casimir III](#), although archaeological evidence suggests the area had been settled for several centuries prior to this. Neighboring villages named in [Nestor's](#) 11th century [chronicle of Rus](#) further support that Szczepieszyn is much older, once lying beside a major commercial route running from south to north. The town was ravaged by Cossacks (**1648**), Swedes (**1656**) and Turks and Tatars (**1672**). **Parish** – „Parafia św. Mikołaja w Szczepieszynie” was erected in **1398**. (...)

Ethnic cleansing of Zamojszczyzna by Nazi Germany -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing_of_Zamojszczyzna_by_Nazi_Germany



[Czestawa Kwoka](#) – one of many Polish Children of Zamojszczyzna murdered in Auschwitz by Nazi Germans

The ethnic cleansing of Zamojszczyzna by Nazi Germany ([German](#): Aktion Zamosc,^[4] also: *Operation Himmlerstadt*)^[5] during World War II was carried out as part of [a greater plan](#) of forcible removal of the entire Polish populations from targeted regions of [occupied Poland](#) in preparation for the state-sponsored settlement of the ethnic German *Volksdeutsche*. The operation of mass expulsions from Zamojszczyzna region around the city of [Zamość](#) (now in [Lublin Voivodeship](#), Poland) was carried out between November 1942 and March 1943 on direct order from [Heinrich Himmler](#).^[6] It was preplanned by both, [Globocnik](#) from [Action Reinhard](#) and Himmler, as the first stage of the eventual murderous ethnic cleansing ahead of projected Germanization of the entire [General Government](#) territory.^[7]

In Polish historiography,^[8] the events surrounding the [Nazi German roundups](#) are often named alternatively as the [Children of Zamojszczyzna](#) (pl) to emphasize the simultaneous apprehension of around **30,000 children** at that time, snatched away from their parents transported from Zamojszczyzna to concentration camps and slave labour in Nazi Germany.^[9] According to historical sources the German police and military **expelled 116,000 Polish men and women** in just a few months during Action Zamość.^[10]

Victims -

Zamość Uprising - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamo%C5%9B%C4%87_uprising



[Expulsion of Poles](#) from villages in the [Zamość Region](#) (the new German [Kreis](#)) by the [SS](#) in December 1942

The **Zamość uprising** refers to the partisan actions by [Polish resistance](#) (primarily [Armia Krajowa](#) and [Bataliony Chłopskie](#)) against the forced [expulsion of Poles](#) from the [Zamość](#) region (*Zamojszczyzna*, "Zamość Lands") conducted under the [Nazi](#) German colonization policy of [Generalplan Ost](#) during [occupation of Poland](#). The uprising lasted from 1942 to 1944.^[11]

The defense of the Zamość region is considered to have been among the largest actions of the [Polish resistance during World War II](#).^[12]

Casualties and losses - Over 110,000 Polish people from approximately 300 villages [were expelled](#) to make room for German (and to a lesser extent, Ukrainian) settlers as part of Nazi plans for establishment of German colonies in the conquered territories ([Generalplan Ost](#)).¹ Almost 5,000 Polish [children were kidnapped](#) by German authorities from their parents for potential [Germanisation](#).^{[1][3][7][8][9]} Only 800 of them were found and sent back to Poland after World War II.

Wajszczuk Family involvement in WW-II

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/specjalne.htm>

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/wysiedleni.htm>

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/zamek.htm>

C. Other Wajszczuk Family settlement areas -

<http://www.wajszczuk.pl/polski/historia.htm#27-07-2011>;

http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/wajszczukowie_na_mazowszu.htm

July 27, 2011

OTHER WAJSZCZUK FAMILY SETTLEMENT AREAS IN THE 19-TH C. In Mazowsze and its borderlands

1. **Sterdyń** and Sokołów Podlaski – archive search - 2002 i 2007.
2. **Drożdżyn**, community of Sochocin, county of Płońsk – search in 2006.
3. **Żelechlinek**, com. of Żelechlinek, county of Tomaszów Mazowiecki - 2011.
4. **Wajszczuk Family living in the USA** – they came to the USA at the **beginning of the 20th century** - most likely, they originate from one of those areas, but we are still looking for their ancestors and family connections. This branch was discovered earlier – already in 2,000, during the initial internet search.
5. There are also living now in the USA other Wajszczuk families, who belong to the **Zamość branch**. <http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/wysiedleni.htm>. They **arrived after the war** to Canada, and later to the USA - from different forced labor or refugee camps in Germany, where they were sent after expulsions from their villages.

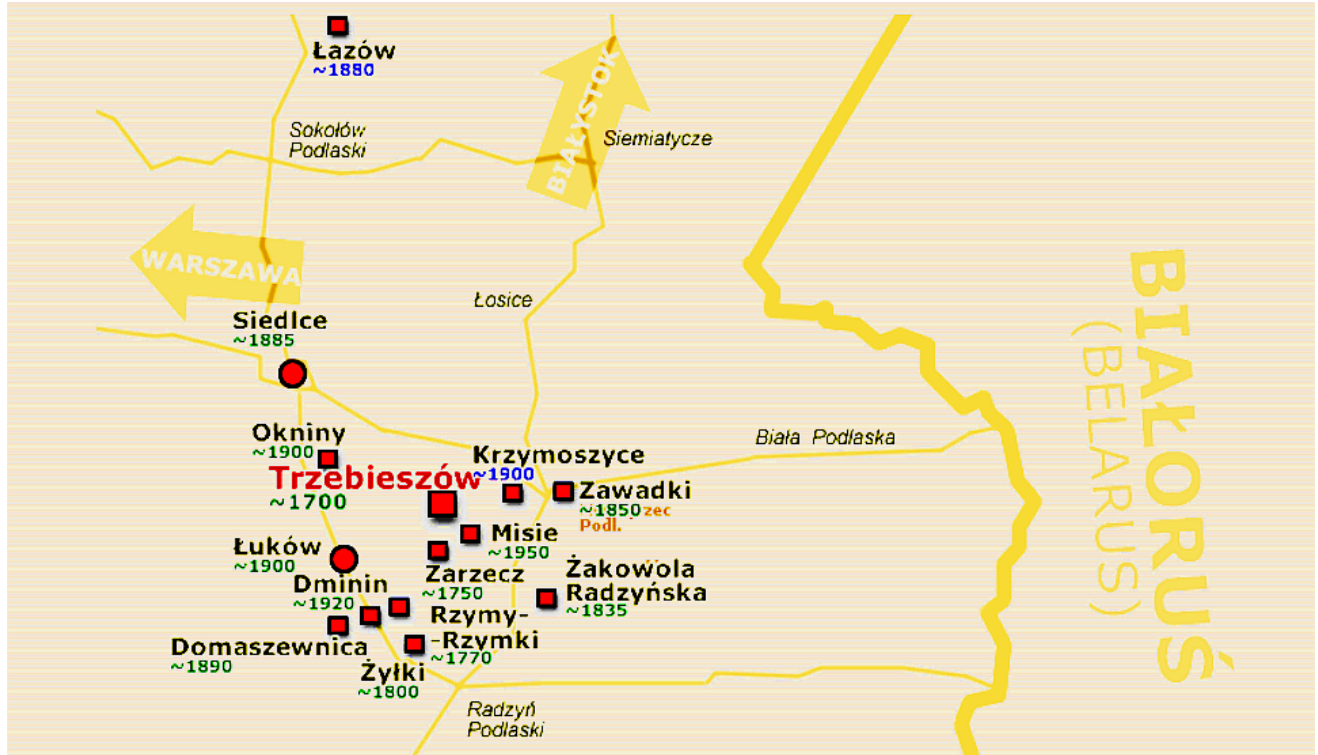
Another emigrant from Poland, but from the “Podlasie Branch” of the Family, is **Waldemar** from Siedlce, who arrived in the USA in the early 1960-ties.

Another Wajszczuk family, originating from Siedlce lives in **Argentina**, where they arrived after the war. <http://www.wajszczuk.pl/english/drzewo/tekst/0062zbniew.htm>



D. Migrations

From Trzebieszów – 18th-20th centuries



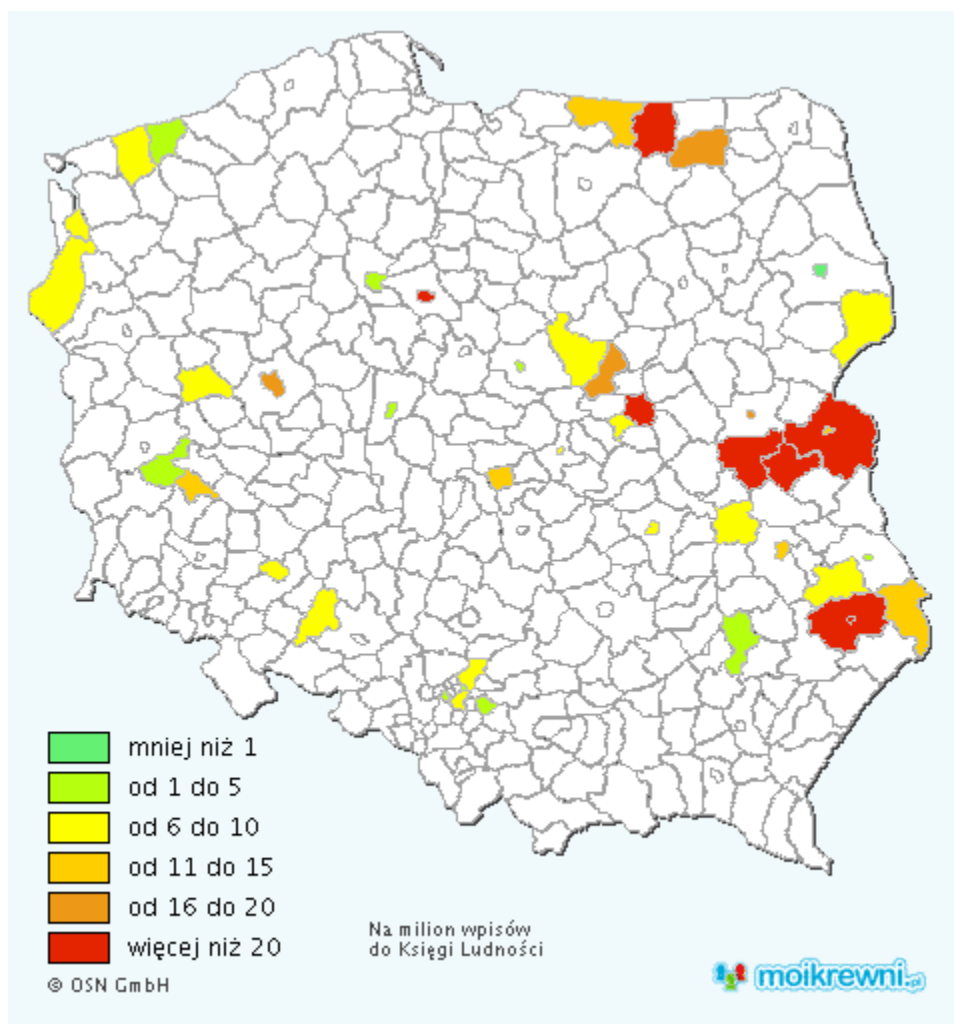
Addresses early in 21th century



Light pink backing – lived there, but absent now

POLAND (2017)

Last name – **Wajszczuk** (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/wzglydny/wajszczuk.html>)



Wajszczuk - total – 372;

Warszawa – (53), Łuków (48), Radzyń Podlaski (36), Biała Podlaska (29), Zamość (22), Kętrzyn (20), Toruń (11), Zamość (10), Siedlce (8), Giżycko - 8.

Wajszczak – total - 258; Płock city (37), Gostyń (36), Sierpc (19), Płock county (11), Lubin (11), Gniezno (8), Grudziądz (7), Warszawa (7) and Leszno (7).

Wajszczyk – total - 387. Tomaszów Mazowiecki (112). Łódź city (86), Ostrów Mazowiecka (37), Warszawa (20), Opoczno (13), Wysokie Mazowieckie (10), Łódź (10), Brzeziny (9), Pabianice (7) and Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (6).

MAPS

DIRECTIONS OF MIGRATION

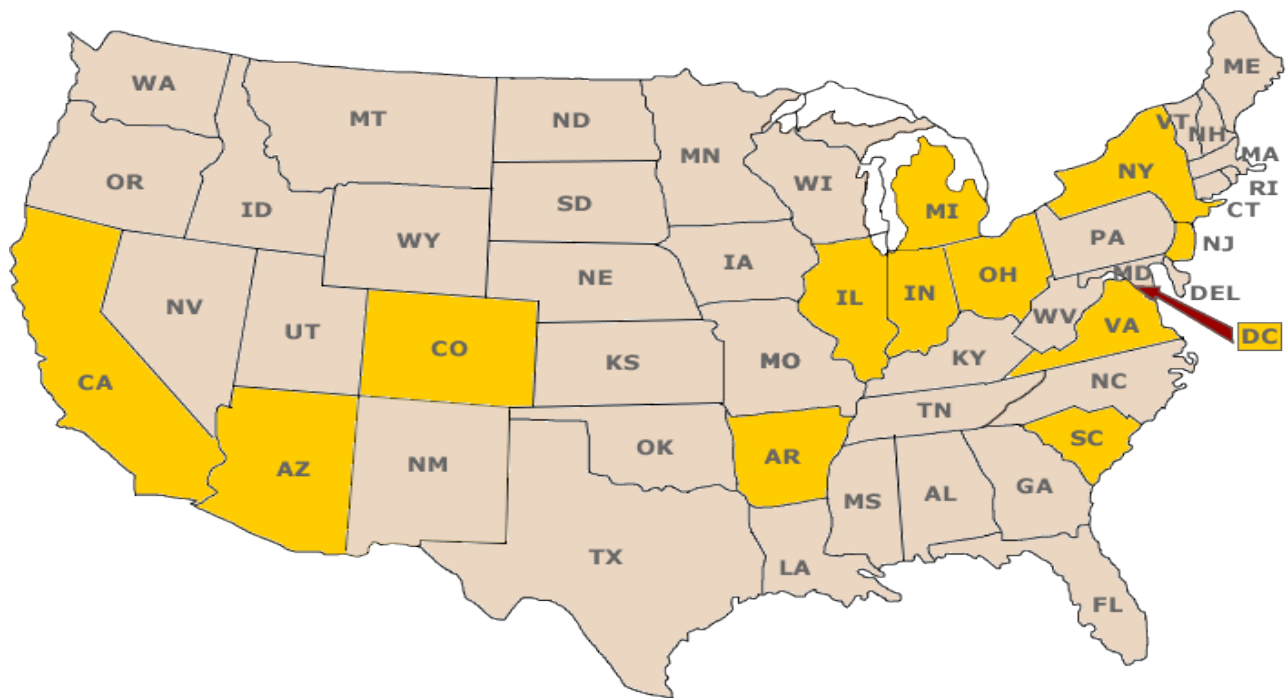
Select country >>>

Click on selected region on the map

The world map displays migration paths with red arrows originating from Poland (Polska) and pointing towards Canada (Kanada), the USA, and Argentina. Labels for 'Kanada (Canada)', 'USA', 'Kolumbia (Colombia)', and 'Argentyna' are visible on the map.

Prepared by: Waldemar J Wajszczuk & Paweł Stefaniuk 2007
 e-mail: waldemar@wajszczuk.v.pl

USA – Orange, States with Wajszczuks



Glorious Past – with hopes for the future!



Polish Hussars - <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/444097213235458611/>



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chevauleger#/media/File:Szwolzer.JPG> - Polish chevaulegers (1st Light Cavalry Regiment) of the Imperial Guard in battle of Peterswalde - [Juliusz Kossak](#) - Collection of National Museum in Warsaw



Polish hussar with Turkish war sign - semi-moon