



ADELAIDES VILNIAUS TUNTAS

ADELAIDE LITHUANIAN SCOUTS

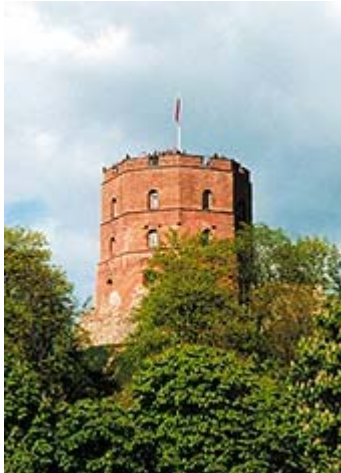
This manual has been specially prepared for the Adelaide Lithuanian Scout Group and is primarily for the use for the non- Lithuanian Speaking Scouts.

This manual has been prepared and endorsed by the Vilnius Tunto Štabas 2004.

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XIV century



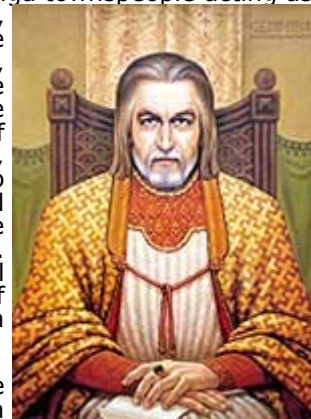
1309 was the year that the capital of the Teutonic Order was relocated from Venetia to Marienburg, Prussia. The Order concentrated all its forces for the war in the Baltic Sea region. Vytenis spent the final year of his rule fighting with the Crusaders.

In October 1315 the name of Vytenis was documented for the last time. In all likelihood he died soon thereafter. Gediminas, a cousin of Vytenis and son of Skalmantas, took the seat of rule at the capital of Lithuania.

1317 was the date of the establishment of the Lithuanian Orthodox Christian metropolis in Novogrudok (Naugardukas), which remained active until 1330. The struggle to retain a separate metropolis was an important part of Lithuanian politics, regarding the East during the entire XIV century. It was revived from 1354 to 1361, and 1376 to 1389. A metropolis was necessary to solidify the territorial gains made in Russia. Only by developing a strong empire, could Lithuania fortify itself against the Teutonic Order, which had the backing of all Western Europe. Gediminas began laying the foundation for such an empire from the very beginning of his reign. He annexed the territory of Turov-Pinsk. He then had his son

Algirdas married, and named him the successor to the Vitebsk Duchy, and its ruler soon thereafter at about 1320. Gediminas entered into an alliance with the Tver Duchy in 1320, which lasted intermittently until 1375. He had Smolensk (prior to 1326), Pskov (1322), Halich-Volynia (about 1320-1324), and Kiev (about 1325) placed under his protectorate (Halich is also written as Halicz, and known as Galicia). Vilnius became the capital of Lithuania during the reign of Gediminas.

In March-April 1323, Gediminas sent a letter to the Pope with the Riga townspeople acting as intermediaries. And on May 26th, he sent letters to the Hansa cities, the Franciscans, and the Dominicans. The letters expressed his desire to accept Christianity. He invited church people, crafts artisans, merchants, and farmers to Lithuania, and announced that three churches had already been built in Vilnius and Novogrudok. The Teutonic Order, however, managed to interfere with the plans of Gediminas. Under pressure from the Pagans and Orthodox Christians, who were supported by the Order, Gediminas retracted his decision to be christened. When the envoys of the Pope arrived on November 3rd in 1324, Gediminas stated that he had never intended to be christened, and that the clerk had made an error in the writing. Regardless, he never persecuted the Christians, believing that "we all have one God," and only the worship of God is different. In spite of this, the Pope approved that the retention of a 4-year truce between Lithuania and the Teutonic Order remain in effect.



In April 1325 Gediminas entered into an alliance with Wladyslaw I the Short (also known as Ladislas I Lokietka), the King of Poland. On October 16th, he gave his daughter Aldona in marriage to Casimir, the King's son. Gediminas and Wladyslaw attacked the Brandenburg province early in 1326, causing the Pope to demand that the truce between the Order and Lithuania be again confirmed. At the time, the province was being ruled by the son of Emperor Louis IV of Bavaria, an enemy of the Pope. The alliance with Poland proved particularly useful to Gediminas, when the Order again proceeded to make war with Lithuania, following the ending of the truce in 1328.

1329 was the year, when the massive army of Czech King John of Luxembourg and the Teutonic Order invaded Lithuania, and captured the most important fortresses of Samogitia. These battles were interrupted when Wladyslaw I the Short (Ladislas I), the King of Poland, began to attack areas under jurisdiction of the Order. The war with Poland drew the attention of the Order away from Lithuania for a time. Lithuania went to the aid of Poland between 1330 and 1331, however during the course of the war, disagreements arose, and the alliance was

terminated. Riga, a long-term ally of Lithuania, capitulated to the Order in 1330.



On February 25, 1336 the huge army of the Teutonic Order and the Crusaders laid siege around Pilenai Castle in Samogitia. The defence, led by Margiris, made a valiant effort, but once it became clear that they were unable to withstand the attack, they burned everything and committed mass suicide.

1337 was the year, when the Crusaders built Bayerburg (also known as Bajerburg or Bavarian Castle) at the Nemunas River, intending that it become the capital of a defeated Lithuania. Emperor Louis IV of Bavaria went so far as to make a gift of Lithuania to the Order. Nevertheless, the Lithuanians managed to destroy Bayerburg, and ruin the plans of the Order.

On April 7, 1340 the childless Duke of Halich-Volynia, Boleslas (Boleslaw) George II, was poisoned by the nobility (a privileged social class, also referred to as gentry, boyars, or baiores). Liubartas, the son of Gediminas, became the successor of this Duchy, as the son-in-law of the earlier Duke. **In December 1341** Gediminas died, leaving the state to his 7 sons. The capital of Vilnius was designated for Jaunutis, but Algirdas was more

powerful. He had inherited Vitebsk and Kreva (Krevo), and soon thereafter, delegated his son Andrius to rule Pskov. Kestutis, who had inherited the Trakai Duchy from his father, was required to defend Lithuania from the Order. He was displeased with the weak Duke of Vilnius, who was unable to provide him with necessary support.

In winter 1344-1345, Kestutis, having learned of the plans for a large-scale invasion of Lithuania by the Order with the Czech and Hungarian Kings, took control of Vilnius, and handed the rule over to Algirdas. The friendship and accord between Algirdas and Kestutis lasted a lifetime. Immediately after the Vilnius overthrow, they spread a rumour, that they were about to attack Sambia. Once the Grand Master of the Order moved all his forces to Sambia, the brothers raided Livonia. The invasion, planned by the Order, failed.



On February 2, 1348 the Lithuanian army blocked the path of the Prussian Crusaders, who had raided Lithuania, by Streva stream. Unfortunately, the army met with total defeat. Two members of the Gediminaitis family dynasty, Narimantas and Manvydas, were killed. It proved to be one of the worst military defeats of Lithuania during the entire XIV century. **In autumn 1349** the King of Poland Casimir III the Great seized Halich, then ruled by

Liubartas. A long war erupted between Lithuania and Poland for Volynia. Poland captured the western edge of Volynia in 1366, and gained a long-term stronghold. Nevertheless, the greater part of Volynia remained under the rule of Lithuania.

On April 18, 1358 Emperor Charles IV offered Christianity to Algirdas and Kestutis. Algirdas demanded that the Crusaders retreat from Baltic lands, as a condition. With that, the negotiations failed.

On March 13 - April 16, 1362 the Crusaders destroyed the brick Kaunas Castle, and began the most violent period of battle against Lithuania, which lasted nearly 20 years. They attacked Lithuania some 70 times during that period. **In autumn 1362**



taking full advantage of the internal fighting of the Golden Horde, Algirdas defeated the Tartars near the Blue Waters, and captured Podolia and Kiev. This battle marked the end of the expansion of the Lithuanian nation into Russia.

1368-1372 was the period, when Algirdas organised 3 military movements (1368, 1370 and 1372) to Moscow in support of his father-in-law, Duke Michael of Tver. He was unable to take control of Moscow. Tver was forced to accept the rule of Moscow and renounce its alliance with Lithuania in 1375. Smolensk also



fell under the influence of Moscow temporarily. **On May 24, 1377** Algirdas died, leaving his son Jogaila as successor. (Jogaila, sometimes spelled Jagello, was called Jagiello by the Poles, Yagaylo by the Muscovites, and Jagal by the Teutonic Order). Kestutis backed Jogaila, but Duke Andrius of Polotsk, the oldest son of Algirdas caused an uprising, believing that he had the superior right to the throne. Andrius was supported by two of his other brothers and Dmitri, the Grand Prince of Moscow. The Prince found himself engaged in a war with Khan Mamai of the Golden Horde, thus Jogaila decided to support the Khan. **On May 31, 1380** Jogaila entered

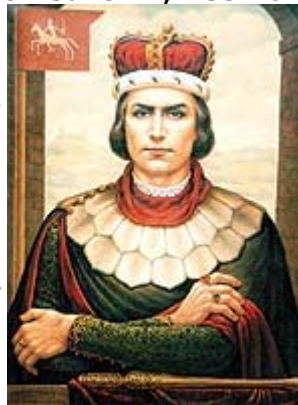


into a secret peace treaty with the Teutonic Order at Dovydiskes. By virtue of this treaty, he was obligated to withhold support for Kestutis in the event the Order were to attack his holdings. Jogaila then hurried to aid Khan Mamai. However, he did not reach the battle, fought on September 8th at Kulikovo Field, in time. The Moscow Prince had crushed the forces of the Horde. In the meantime, Kestutis learned of the betrayal by Jogaila, and decided to have him expelled from Vilnius.



In November 1381 Kestutis took control of Vilnius, and sent Jogaila to Kreva (Krevo) and Vitebsk, his ancestral lands. **On June 12, 1382** the supporters of Jogaila enacted an overthrow in Vilnius. In a short time Jogaila had also taken control of Trakai. Kestutis and his son Vytautas arrived at Trakai with an army for the negotiations, proposed by Jogaila, however once there, they were taken prisoners.

Servants of Jogaila assassinated Kestutis at Kreva (Krevo) Castle, where he had been held prisoner. Vytautas was able to escape soon thereafter, and fled to the safeguard of the Crusaders.



On July 30, 1383 the Teutonic Order declared war on Jogaila. The army of the Crusaders, being led by Vytautas, captured Trakai and laid siege to Vilnius on August 12th. Skirgaila recovered Trakai on November 3rd, but the brick peninsular castle was destroyed, and Trakai lost its significance for the next 25 years.

1384 was the time, when Jogaila extended a peace offering to Vytautas, and promised to return his ancestral lands to him. Vytautas burned down three fortresses of the Crusaders and returned to Lithuania on July 9th. At first he was granted the rule of Grodno and Podlachia, and in 1387 - Volynia. (Vytautas has variously been named in foreign languages Vitoldus, Vitovt, Withold, Witthaud, and Vitautas).

On August 14, 1385 by virtue of the Act of Kreva (Krevo) Jogaila announced his intention to marry Queen Jadwyga (sometimes written as Hedwig) of Poland, and to accept Christianity along with his brothers and subordinates, who had not yet been baptised. Jogaila swore, that once he became the King of Poland, he would use all of his property for the needs of both kingdoms, as much for Lithuania, as for Poland. He also swore to release Polish prisoners, and to unite "his own Lithuanian and Russian lands to the Kingdom of Poland forever."



On February 2, 1386 Jogaila was elected the King of Poland by the Polish Sejm (Parliamentary Council of Representatives) of the nobility in Lublin. Jogaila arrived at Krakow, and on February 15th was christened and given the name of Wladyslaw. On February 18th, he married Jadwyga. The majestic coronation of Jogaila as King of Poland was held on March 4th. Thus, the conditions of the Kreva (Krevo) agreement became the resolutions of a personal union. However, the relations between the nations of Lithuania and Poland were, as of yet, not clearly defined by the agreement.

In February 1387 Jogaila began to institute the reforms in Lithuania, which required by the conditions for the union with Poland. On February 17th, he established the Vilnius Bishopric. On February 20th, he declared the first of the privileges to the Lithuanian nobility, who had accepted Christianity. The privileges were the granting of rights equal to those held by the Polish nobility. On February 22nd, he ordered all Lithuanians to accept the Catholic faith. Soon thereafter, he also established the first 7 parishes. The christening of Lithuania proved to be a tremendous social upheaval, even though Lithuania with her Pagan faith already exhibited the most important elements of civilisation, including brick architecture and writing. Dukes of the Pagan faith were as advanced, as to go on military manoeuvres bringing a personal office with them. For example, the travelling bag of Skirgaila, which fell into the hands of the Crusaders in 1385, was found to contain "Russian privileges sealed in lead." On March 22nd, Jogaila granted Magdeburg Rights to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. On April 28th, he transferred the Trakai and Polotsk Duchies to Skirgaila, and

delegated him to be the next in command in Lithuania. **In December 1389** Vytautas started an uprising against Jogaila and the influence of the Polish in Lithuania during an unsuccessful attempt to take control of Vilnius.

On January 19, 1390 Vytautas renewed the alliance with the Teutonic Order, and swore to uphold his earlier obligations. Although Vytautas was unable to take control of Vilnius even with the assistance of the Order, he was able to rapidly expand his influence and rule. Finally, Jogaila offered Vytautas the post of his next in command in Lithuania. Vytautas then again burned down three fortresses of the Order, and returned to Lithuania.



On August 4, 1392 Vytautas entered into an agreement with Jogaila in Ostrow at the border of Poland and Lithuania. By virtue of this agreement, Vytautas was granted the Trakai Duchy, and became, in fact, the ruler of Lithuania. Vytautas managed to formulate a strong central government, and neutralise the consequences of internal struggles over a relatively short time.



1396 was the year, that Khan Tochtamysh of the Golden Horde, defeated by Grand Khan Timur (Tamerlane) the Great, fled to Lithuania, and requested assistance from Vytautas. In return he promised to transfer all of Russia under the rule of Vytautas. Vytautas entered into a truce with the Crusaders, and concentrated all his strength to the East. By helping Tochtamysh, he expected to quickly form a powerful state and become its king. Between 1397 and 1398, he organised two marches to the Black Sea and the Crimea. He brought back many Tartars and Karaims, and settled them at the Trakai Duchy.

On October 12, 1398 Vytautas affirmed the truce with the Teutonic Order at Salynas Island of the Nemunas River. He transferred Samogitia up to the Nevezis River to the Order. The Lithuanian nobility, who had gathered at Salynas, declared Vytautas to be the King of Lithuania.

1399 brought the first Lithuanian March of the Cross against the Tartars, organised by Vytautas. Both the Pope from Rome, and the Patriarch of Constantinople declared this March of the Cross. Vytautas marched with the army of Lithuania, Poland and the Teutonic Order to the Vorksla River, where he faced the Tartar army. During the August 12th battle, Vytautas was totally defeated, and barely escaped himself. The plans of Vytautas for becoming the King of Lithuania and ruler of all Russia were tossed asunder.

By **Tomas Baranauskas**



State of Lithuania in the XIII century

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Vilnius State capital | Hungary |
| State of Lithuania in 1330 | Sweden |
| Lands annexed to Lithuania until 1362 | Western Pamaris |
| Domain of the Germanic Order and Bishops | Golden Horde |
| Poland | Moldova |
| Russia | Czechia |
| | 1362 X Significant battles |

XV century



1400 was when the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas went to the assistance of the Teutonic Order with an army to take control of the Samogitians, who had been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Order by virtue of the Salynas Agreement.

1401 was marked by the recognition of Vytautas as the Grand Duke of Lithuania for the duration of his life. The recognition was granted by King Jogaila and the Royal Council. The recognition came by virtue of agreements between Lithuania and Poland, concluded in Vilnius and Radom, Poland. The Samogitians, who were being encouraged and supported by Vytautas, rose in rebellion against the Order.

1401-1404 was the period, when the Lithuanian Collegium Lithuanorum, part of Prague University, began educating Lithuanian priests. Queen Jadwyga of Poland had established this collegium. As it transpired, Lithuanian never did actually attend classes here, but tended, for the most part, to study at Krakow University, which had retained a dormitory for

Lithuanians since 1409. The collegium ceased operating in 1704. 1404 was the date of the Rzeszow (Raciań) Peace Treaty, drawn by Jogaila and Vytautas with the Teutonic Order in Poland. It confirmed the jurisdiction of Samogitia by the Crusaders to the Nevezis River. Additionally, the agreement prohibited trade by the Samogitians with Lithuania.

1404-1405 was the period, when Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas annexed the city and territory of Smolensk to Lithuania. Smolensk then was an important Eastern European trading centre, and a stronghold of strategic importance.

1408 was the date, when Vytautas granted Magdeburg Rights of municipal self-government to the city of Kaunas. Vytautas drew a peace treaty with the Grand Duchy of Moscow during the very start of a war with the Duchy in September. All that time, the ruler of Moscow was Vasili, a son-in-law of Vytautas.

1409 was the year, when a parochial school and church were established at Naujieji (New) Trakai. The town was granted Magdeburg Rights of municipal self-government during the same year. In the springtime, the Samogitians initiated an uprising against the Crusaders at the direction of Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas. On July 15, 1410 the joint army of Lithuania and Poland achieved a crushing victory against the army of the Teutonic Order at the famous Battle of Zalgiris (also known as Grünwald or Tannenberg).



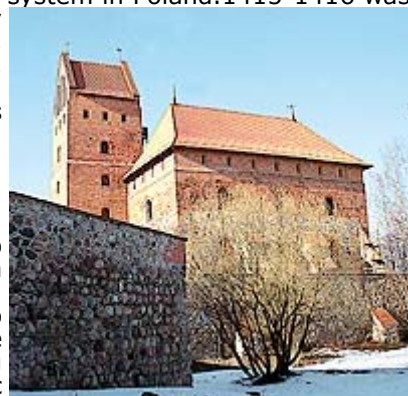
On February 1, 1411 the Thorn (Toruń, Poland) Peace Treaty was signed, wherein the Teutonic Order disclaimed any and all right to Samogitia until the deaths of King Jogaila of Poland and Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania.

On May 3, 1413 Benedict Makra, an arbitrator sent by Emperor Sigismund von Luxembourg, officially recognised that the lands reaching from the mouth of the Nemunas River and Klaipeda are part of Lithuania.

On October 2, 1413 the independent existence of the Lithuanian state was confirmed by virtue of the Horodlo (Poland) Acts between Lithuania and Poland. Both countries were firmly interrelated by the Gediminaitis family dynasty. Relatives of the Lithuanian nobility joined in brotherhood with families of the Polish nobility, thus receiving their coats of arms. An administrative territorial subdivision was introduced in Lithuania, which was based on the system in Poland. 1415-1416 was the time of attendance by Samogitian envoys, delegated by Grand Duke Vytautas, to the Meeting of the Church in Konstanz, Germany. The meeting had initially assembled in 1414. There, they disseminated a complaint regarding the injuries done them by the Teutonic Order. Meeting participants obligated the Vilnius Bishop and Lvov Archbishop to have Samogitia christened.

On October 24, 1417 the Samogitian Bishopric was established. Its centre was located in Medininkai (now, Varniai).

1418 was the period, when Grand Duke Vytautas began to distribute the peasantry under his domain to the Samogitian nobility, as an effort to develop and strengthen this social class. The peasantry was obligated to work at the estates of nobles to ease their readiness for war. Part of the Samogitians were displeased with the new order, and rebelled by demolishing churches being built, and invading the lands of the Teutonic



Order. 1421-1422 was when Motiejus Trakiskis, a newly appointed Vilnius Bishop, declared a demand, that all the prelates within the Bishopric know the Lithuanian language, and refer to Lithuanians only in their own language.



On September 27, 1422 the Melno See (Prussia) Peace Treaty was drawn with the Teutonic Order. By virtue of this treaty, Lithuania regained Samogitia, however the mouth of the Nemunas River and Klaipeda remained under the domain of Prussia until 1923. Furthermore, the treaty defined a specific border at the west of Lithuania, which has, in part, remained intact to the present.

In January 1429 Emperor Sigismund von Luxembourg offered to crown Grand Duke Vytautas as the King of Lithuania. The offer was made at the assembly of East and Central European leaders, held in Lutsk, Ukraine.

1429-1430 was the time of the development of the Chronicle of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania in Smolensk.

1430 was a time, when every sort of protest was made by the Royal Council of Poland to oppose the efforts of Grand Duke Vytautas to achieve the crown for Lithuania. A war was in the making between Poland and Lithuania. The behaviour of King Jogaila was contradictory. He both would approve the plan of Vytautas, and then, oppose it. On September 8th, the planned regalia for the coronation of Vytautas in Vilnius failed. The Polish border patrol did not permit passage of the envoys of Emperor Sigismund von Luxembourg. These envoys were attempting to deliver the royal crown and the legal acts, related to the coronation. On October 27th, Vytautas died. His remains are entombed at the Vilnius Cathedral (then St. Stanislaus Church). 1430-1432 was the period, when Grand Duke Svitrigaila attempted to implement the goal of Vytautas, and achieve coronation, as the King of Lithuania. However, he was removed from power by the efforts of Polish politicians.

1432 marked the beginning of the rule of Grand Duke Zygimantas Kestutaitis, a brother of Vytautas, who had been chosen by the Polish. On October 15th, he renounced the legal guarantees of Lithuanian sovereignty in favour of the Kingdom of Poland by virtue of agreements drawn in Grodno. On December 9th, the army of Duke Svitrigaila, who had been overthrown, was defeated near Asmena.

On May 6, 1434 was the declaration of the privilege for the nobility, granted by Grand Duke Zygimantas Kestutaitis. The rights of Catholics and Orthodox Christians were made equal within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by this privilege. On June 1st, the King of Poland and Supreme Duke of Lithuania, Jogaila, died.



On September 1, 1435 the Battle of Pabaiskas (Ukmerge) was fought. The Lithuanians and the Polish defeated the allied army of the Livonian Order and Duke Svitrigaila.

On December 31, 1435 an Eternal Peace Treaty was signed between Poland and Lithuania, and the Teutonic Order in Brzesé Kujawski, Poland. Therein, the lands of the Order were legally transferred to the jurisdiction of the allied countries, and thus, conclusively were removed from the rule of the German emperor.

On March 20, 1440 Grand Duke Zygimantas Kestutaitis was murdered in Trakai. On June 29th, the Lithuanian aristocracy declared the thirteen-year old, Kazimieras Jogailaitis (Kazimierz Jagiellończyk) to be the Grand Duke without the approval of the Royal Council of the Kingdom of Poland. He had been sent to Lithuania as a delegate of Poland.

1441 was the year, when Magdeburg Town Rights were granted to the Karaim population of Naujieji (New) Trakai. The same year, the rebellion by the Smolensk townspeople was quelled.

1442 was the year of agreement, reached between Grand Duke Kazimieras and the Samogitians. Although Samogitia was conclusively annexed to Lithuania, its autonomy was safeguarded. The Nevezis River became the demarcation of the eastern administrative boundary, which was established as a bailiwick administrative unit. Within the formal title of the ruler, the area was referred to as a duchy.

1445 was the earliest date, referring to the activities of the German Hanseatic Merchants' League in Kaunas.

1446 was the year that the first collection for a Lithuanian Chronicle was compiled. On May 5, 1447 Grand Duke Kazimieras (also known as Casimir or Kazimierz) was also elected as the King of Poland. He granted the Lithuanian nobility a privilege, which expanded their rights, however, restricted the rule of the Grand Duke within Lithuania. On June 25th, Kazimieras was crowned the King of Poland, and thereafter, he was less and less concerned about the affairs of Lithuania.



On August 31, 1449 the Eternal Peace Treaty with the Grand Duchy of Moscow was signed. Therein, the spheres of influence were defined for the territory, which formerly had been Russian. Grand Duke Kazimieras allowed huge concessions to Moscow, which was then a country gaining in strength.

1456 was the year, that Jonas Gostautas, the Vaivode of Vilnius led the Lithuanian aristocracy in the effort to have Grand Duke Kazimieras removed from the throne of Lithuania.

1457 was the year, that the Council of Nobles refused financial and military assistance for Poland, then at war with Prussia (the 1454-1466 Thirteen Year War). The Council was under the leadership of Jonas Gostautas, the Vaivode of Vilnius. Such a vote was passed in spite of having received a promise, that the Lithuanian territories, once occupied by the Crusaders, could be annexed in the future. The Samogitians were being led by their Elder Jonas Kėsgaila at the time. Under his leadership, Klaipėda was surrounded, and ultimately seized. By blocking the roads, the Samogitians interfered with the shipments of aid, being sent by the Livonian Order to Prussia.

1458-1484 was the duration of the life of Saint Kazimieras (Casimir), the son of Grand Duke Kazimieras. He was officially declared a saint in 1602. His tomb is located in the Shrine of St. Casimir in the Basilica of the Vilnius Cathedral.

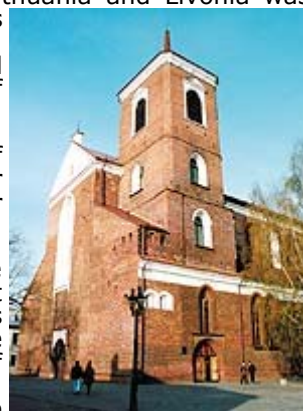
1468 was the year of the issue of the Kazimieras Code of Laws - the first codification of the laws, which were then effective in Lithuania.

1469 was the year of the establishment of a school at the Varniai Cathedral in the Samogitia Bishopric.

1471 was the year, that Grand Duke Kazimieras did not allow the Dukes Olelkaitis, successors of Grand Duke Algirdas, to rule the capital of Kiev. A vaivode province (palatine) was established instead of the abolished Kiev Duchy. Martynas Gostautas was appointed the first vaivode of the province. 1473 was the year, that the border between the state of Lithuania and Livonia was defined, stretching from the Baltic Sea to Polotsk. A parochial school was opened in Kaunas. The year was also notable for the beginning of grain exports, primarily rye, from Lithuania through Gdansk, Poland and several ports of Prussia. This event witnessed a rapid development of the economy of Lithuania.

1478 was notable for the start of the demands by the Grand Duke of Moscow, that Lithuania return Polotsk, Vitebsk, Smolensk and other formerly Russian lands. From 1484 he started declaring himself the ruler of all Russia. Lithuanian rulers did not recognise this title.

1480 was the date of the death of Jan Długosz, a historian, who was the author of the monumental work History of Poland. Therein, the first thorough discussion of the theory of the Roman origin of Lithuanians was presented. According to this theory, Romans accidentally came upon Lithuanian territory, while fleeing from the internal squabbles of Rome during the times of Caesar and Pompeius during the I century B.C. The rulers and aristocracy of Lithuania had evolved from these predecessors. The theory was based on similarities between the Lithuanian and Latin languages, and traditions of a Pagan faith.



1481 was the year that the former Dukes Olelkaitis of Kiev attempted an ill-fated overthrow, and intended to murder the local ruler. The Dukes were attempting to annex the Slavic, rather than ethnically Lithuanian territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the country of Moscow.

The ruler had prohibited the Slavic population to build new churches and monasteries. Furthermore, gifts of land or other types of property to the Slavic population were prohibited (this prohibition ceased to be effective in 1507).

1482 was marked by the start of attacks onto the southern part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the northeastern part of Poland by the Crimean Tartars. The Tartars had become vassals of the Turkish Sultan, and were backed by the Grand Duke of Moscow. Kiev and its surroundings were badly devastated during this year.

1487-1494 was the period, when border wars erupted between Lithuania and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. The upper lands of the Oka River were lost.

In about 1490, the coin mint, established by Grand Duke Kazimieras in Vilnius, began operating. The silver Lithuanian pusgrasis coins went into production. The event marked the beginning of a massive monetary reform. The decimal system was applied for Lithuanian money, which moved the money, based on the Prague grasis, out of circulation. This period of reform ended in 1535-

1536, when the Lithuanian grasis coins began being minted instead of the pusgrasis coins. The grasis had a value of 10 pinigelis. On June 7, 1492 Kazimieras, the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, died in Grodno. His son Aleksandras was appointed the Grand Duke. He proceeded to declare privileges, which enlarged the rights of the Lithuanian nobility and the Council of Nobles, and restricted the power of the Grand Duke.



On February 15, 1495 Grand Duke Aleksandras married Helen, the daughter of Ivan III of Moscow in an effort to establish good neighbourly relations. Thus, he confirmed the truce of the prior year. Later, this Grand Duke was to drive the Jews out of Lithuania, and confiscate their property. It seems that during the course of the war with Moscow, the Grand Duke and quite a number of influential members of the aristocracy had become indebted to the Jewish population. On August 23rd, the status of the first crafts guild of gold smithing was enacted in the city of Vilnius.

1499 was the year, that the Vilnius ?union? was negotiated. Grand Duke Aleksandras and King John Albrecht of Poland decided to continue the co-ordination of their actions, when electing the leaders of the two separate nations, and provide mutual military assistance. The book, entitled Agenda, was the first to have been compiled in Lithuania by Canon Capitula Martynas of Vilnius. It was printed in Gdansk. The book provides descriptions of church rituals with texts of prayers for the needs of local liturgists.

Acquisition of empty lands within Lithuania spread widely until the end of the XV century. Uznemune, northern Lithuania, the Baltic Sea coast toward Palanga, and the lands along the Prussian border were settled. The total area of this territory measured some 25,000 m2. The territory of ethnic Lithuanians, populated by more than 0.5 million people, reached some 80,000-100,000 km2. There were at least eight epidemics of contagious diseases during that period. No less than 130 parish churches were funded. Krakow University registered nearly 400 students from Lithuania.

By **Arturas Dubonis**



XVI century

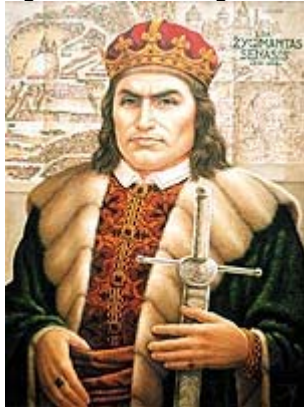
1500-1503 was the period, when a new border war erupted with the country of Moscow. On July 14th, the Lithuanian army was crushed at the Vedrosh tributary at the Dnieper River on Smolensk territory. The Commander in Chief of the army, Duke Konstantinas Ostrogiskis (Constantine (Ostrogski) of Ostrogoth) was taken prisoner by the Muscovites.

1501 was the year, that Grand Duke Aleksandras was elected the King of Poland. On October 23rd, Aleksandras and participating Lithuanian delegates ratified the resolution, which had been passed by the Electorate Sejm (Council of Representatives) of Poland. The ratification took place in Melnik, Poland. The historical resolution called for the joining of Lithuania and Poland into one country.

The Bishop of Vilnius, Albertas Taboras, filed a complaint, that the prelates of Lithuanian churches do not know the Lithuanian language.

1503 was the year, when the Jewish population was invited to return to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in return for their support of the war with Moscow. The Head of State, Aleksandras, never did return his debts, however, the nobles of the country had to make full repayments.

1505 was marked by the fact that the Lithuanian aristocracy did not ratify the 1501 Melnik Agreement during the session of the Brest Seimas (Council of Representatives). 1506 was the year, when the invading Crimean Tartars penetrated territories of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which were ethnically Lithuanian. A brick wall of defence was erected around the city of Vilnius. Paralysed, Grand Duke Aleksandras died. He was the last ruler of the Grand Duchy to have spoken the Lithuanian language. Sigismund II the Old (Zygmunt I Stary) was first elected the Grand Duke of Lithuania, and later, the King of Poland.



1507 was the year, that the Jewish population of Brest was granted a privilege by the Grand Duke. This privilege specified all rights, liberties and obligations. It was to become the standard model to be applied for the Jewish population throughout the Lithuanian nation.

1507-1508 was a period of war with the Grand Duchy of Moscow. 1508 was the year that Duke Michael Glinski instigated a rebellion against the Grand Duke in the Russian territories of Lithuania. He invited the backing of Moscow. Once the rebellion was quelled, M. Glinski fled to Moscow.

1512-1514 was again a period of war with the Grand Duchy of Moscow.

On December 13, 1513 a parochial school for the city of Vilnius was established at St. Johns? Church.

1514 brought about the privilege, held as being fundamental for the entire Jewish population, living in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. During the summer months M. Glinski held discussions with the troops, which had been stationed for a lengthy time at Smolensk. He convinced the Muscovite Army to unexpectedly overtake Smolensk. The Lithuanian army soundly defeated the Muscovites near Orsha on September 8th. The Lithuanian army was being commanded by Duke Konstantinas Ostrogiskis (Constantine (Ostrogski) of Ostrogoth), who had escaped his imprisonment in 1507. The Resolutions Regarding Manor Estate Holders in the Vilnius and Trakai Vaivode Provinces (Palatines) were approved. Therein, the rules related to the care of the property of the Grand Duke, which was, in effect, national property.



1522 was the year, when a truce was negotiated with the Grand Duchy of Moscow.

1522-1525 was the period, when Franciscus Skoryna began publishing activities in Vilnius. He opened the first book-printing house in Lithuania. On December 4, 1522 the Lithuanian nobility swore, that they would elect as Grand Duke no other than Prince Sigismund August, the son of Sigismund II the Old (Zygmunt I Stary).



1523 was the date of the publication *De Statura, Feritate Ac Venatione Biontis Carmen* (Hymn about the Appearance, Ferociousness and Hunting of the [Aurochs] Bison by Michael Husowein in Krakow. This work exalts the times under the reign of Vytautas, praises the industriousness of the people, and poetically describes the nature of Lithuania.

1525 was the year, that a memorial was unveiled for Queen Bona Sforza by Lithuanian Chancellor Albert Gostautas. It contained an accusation, that the Lithuanian Hetman, Duke Konstantinas Ostrogiskis (Constantine

(Ostrogski) of Ostrogoth), ethnically a member of the Slavic group known as Ruthenians, along with his countrymen had conspired against the nation of Lithuania.

1526 was the year, that the Synod of the Vilnius Bishopric issued resolutions, calling for definitions of the Gospel and other religious writings in the Lithuanian and Polish languages, and for establishment of parochial schools at major churches. The potential threat to Lithuania from propagation of reformation ideas was deliberated at this and later synods, which occurred in 1538, 1542 and 1546. The Lithuanian Council of Nobles proposed to Sigismund II the Old (Zygmunt I Stary), that he have his son crowned the King of Lithuania. Thereby, the Polish nobles would be obligated to return the crown, which had been initially sent by the Emperor for Vytautas the Great.

1527 was a time, when the ruler reduced the power of the Elder of Samogitia, and began to personally govern the rural areas. Such a move was in response to the frequent complaints by the Samogitian nobility, that their Elder had been unjustly taking advantage of his office, and demanding excessive payments of tributes.

1528 was the year of a decision by the Vilnius Seimas (Diet or Council of Representatives), regarding wartime recruitment. It was determined that one cavalry soldier for each eight holdings, held in fief by any noble would be sent into war. Those with smaller or no land holdings were obligated to ride into war alone. The composition of the army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was documented. This comprised the first, more comprehensive census of the population of Lithuania. The data of this census indicated, that the ethnic Lithuanian population numbered no less than 750,000 persons.

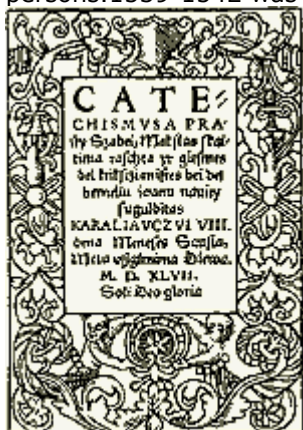
1529 was the year, when the Grand Duke issued the Resolutions Regarding Samogitian Lands, as well as amendments and addenda to Resolutions Regarding Manor Estate Holders in the Vilnius and Trakai Vaivode Provinces (Palatines). Contained therein was the inducement to sell surplus products, particularly grain, on the market for cash money. Lithuania and Livonia signed a new boundary delimitation agreement. The demarcated boundary is close to the current border with Latvia. On September 29, 1529 the First Lithuanian Statute came in effect. The systematised body of laws was documented. The state system, governmental and administrative organs, and the status of the privileged nobility were legally formulated by virtue of the Statute. It also began to legally liquidate the particularisation of national lands.

1530 was the time of the establishment of an independent Lithuanian Province of Bernadine monks.

1532 marked the end of operations of the Hanseatic Merchants' League in Kaunas, because it limited the growth in trading.

1534-1537 was again a time of war between Lithuania and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. The area of Gomel was retrieved, however all the other lands of ancient Russia, known as Uzdnepre, remained firmly in the hands of the country of Moscow until the Livonian War.

1537 was the year of the establishment of the Polish Royal Estate in Vilnius. By 1543, it was enlarged to 43 persons, and a women's division was formed. The Lithuanian Estate had 19 persons. 1539-1542 was marked by the work of Lithuanian educator Abraomas Kulvietis in Vilnius. He established and administered the first school of higher education, where he disseminated the ideas of Reformation and Humanism. Vilnius Bishop Povilas Alseniskis forced the closing of the school. Then A. Kulvietis moved to Prussia (Königsberg).



1544 was the year, that the ruler, Sigismund II the Old delegated the right of rule of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to Sigismund August.

On January 8, 1547 the first Lithuanian book, *Katekizmus prasti žadei* (Ordinary Words of Catechism) by Martynas Mazvydas, was published in Königsberg.

1548 was when Sigismund August became both Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, following the death of Sigismund II the Old.

1550 was the year of the writing of *De Moribus Tartarorum, Lithuanorum et Moschorum* (About Traditions of Tartars, Lithuanians and Muscovites), an educational treatise by Mykolas Lietuvis for the young ruler, Sigismund August. It is believed that M. Lietuvis was actually Venclovas

Mikalojaitis, the secretary of the ruler.

In mid-XVI century, there were 259 active parish churches at the Vilnius Bishopric, and 43 at the Samogitian Bishopric.

V a l a k a s A g r a r i a n R e f o r m

On April 1, 1557 the regulations on the Valakas Agrarian Reform were declared. Valakas of this reform was a unit of land, equal in measurement to 21.3 hectares or 52 acres. The valakas system had already been used in measuring the estates of the ruler since 1547. Later, Queen Bona Sforza applied the system for measuring her own estates. The aristocracy, nobility, landholders and the Church proceeded to survey their lands, according to the valakas system over

a period of 20 years. During the course of the reforms, land was defined as good, average, poor, and very poor. The farming lands of each settlement were connected into precise tracts, whereby there would be sufficient land for each family to have three fields ? one for winter crops, one for summer crops and one of fallow land. Such a tract comprised one unit of the valakas. Such a three-field system was put in effect throughout Lithuania. Farmsteads, which had been scattered within some rural district, were moved into one designated village along a central roadway within the territory, surveyed by the valakas measurements. The so-called street or valakas-type villages made their appearance. Villages were subdivided into vaitas units, comprising one hundred units of the valakas, and representing as many families. Farmers were provided the right to elect their own administrators and bench representatives. Most of the small towns were also measured anew, using the valakas measurements. Sometimes they were allocated a new and more convenient location. The primary accent of the towns was a four-corner central square, where the major roadways would intersect. The Vilnius Vaivode Province consisted of over 12,036 valakas, Trakai Vaivode Province ? over 21,347, and the Samogitia Bailiwick ? 24,251. The average farm consisted of 16 hectares of land. The peasant farmers had to work the lands of the ruler and the manor estate holder. The work of plowing newly designated fields, often an area of the estate with auxiliary buildings, also fell to the peasants. Two days per week of bondage labour was required for each one of the valakas of land being worked, using one's own tools. For example, the care of one such unit lot with buildings, belonging to the manor estate, required bondage labour from seven one-unit lots of the valakas, being farmed by the serfs. A monetary tax tribute also had to be paid. In cases where the estates had no plots of land for plowing, a monetary tribute payment was required in the stead of the bondage labour. The ruler had few estates within Samogitia; thus the bondage system was not widespread there. The system for payment of taxes was also revised. Taxes were no longer levied on the basis of one farmstead, because several related families could be involved in the farming. Rather, taxes were levied on each of the units of valakas, being worked by one family. The number of taxpayers increased, and the burden of bondage servitude increased. Nevertheless, the servitude required was equal to all, based on the capabilities of the peasantry. A farmer, who took half a unit of the valakas, had to pay half the amount of taxes, and perform half the required servitude. However, the farmers lost their rights of ownership to the land. The land was declared as property of the ruler, a noble or the Church. The right of a serf to move to another area was curtailed. Thus, the system of serfdom was soundly established, and farmers were referred to as peasants. The class of the landholding nobility was distinctly separated from the unprivileged class of peasants. The aristocracy was granted titles of landed gentry, gentry and noble. The middle class of a semi-privileged rural group was relieved of the obligation of bondage, however were required to pay the tax tribute. Over time, they were referred to as boyars, or so-called kings or princes.



The income of the national treasury increased, as the reforms were being implemented. The increase was some 4 to 8 times, depending on the various calculations performed. Arable land became more expensive. As comparison, in 1540 the price ratio of arable land to grazing pastures was 1:1. In 1560, the ratio was 1.5:1. After the reforms were fully implemented, the price of land became some 2.5 to 3 times greater than that for grazing pastures.

The valakas system of land use, along with its bondage and tax obligations, remained in effect until serfdom was abolished in 1861. And it wasn't until the land reform of 1923 to 1939, before the valakas system came to a final end in Lithuania. Now, remnants of this system can only be found in the surroundings of Vilnius, which had been annexed by Poland from 1923 to 1939.

On September 14, 1557 an agreement was signed in Pasvalys between Lithuania and Livonia, which was directed against Russia.

1558 was the year, when the Russian army attacked Narva, Tartu and Tallinn. Lithuania proceeded to defend Livonia. Poland entered later. Denmark and Sweden defended their own

interest. Thus, the Livonian War began. On November 28, 1561 Livonian lands were annexed to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by virtue of the Vilnius Agreement. Later, they were annexed to the Kingdom of Poland, as well.

1564 was the year that the Russian army seized Polotsk, thereby causing a direct threat to Vilnius. Hetman Mikalojus Radvila (Radziwill) the Red defeated the Russian troops at Ula River. Negotiations between the Lithuanian nobility and Poland took place, regarding a new union. Court reforms were implemented in Lithuania. Three levels of courts were established in each county: a land court, castles court and a third court. Counter-Reformation resolutions were passed at the Trident Assembly of the Clergy, which was held from 1545 to 1563.

1565 brought the establishment of county level councils of representatives (dietines), which were to develop into the foundations for political organisations of the nobility.

On March 11, 1566 the Second Statute of Lithuania came into effect. The Statute consolidated the reforms of the mid-XVI century, and enlarged the rights of the nobility.

In summer 1567, the most comprehensive census of recruits for the army of the nobility was accomplished. On July 1, 1569 the nobility of Lithuania and Poland signed the Union Act in Lublin, Poland. Thereby, a Commonwealth was formed – the Republic of the Two Nations. The Republic was to have one elected ruler, a Seimas (Sejm in Poland) parliamentary body, and a common foreign policy. The fact that Lithuania retained a separate legal, administrative and financial system, and a separate army guaranteed rather wide autonomy for Lithuania within the Commonwealth.



1569 was the year, when the Jesuits, members of the Brotherhood Order of Christ's Militia, began to establish their Order in Lithuania. Their goals were to defend the Pope, overcome the Reformation movement, and reaffirm the Catholic Church. 1570 was notable for the establishment of a Collegium, a school of higher education, in Vilnius by the Jesuits.

On July 7, 1572 Sigismund August, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, died in Poland. He had been the last descendant of the Lithuanian Gediminaitis family dynasty, which had ruled since 1316. 1576 marked the end of a lengthy time period, when Lithuania had no ruler, except for the short reign of several months by French Prince Henry of Valois. Stephen Bathory, the Voivode of Transylvania, was elected the King and Grand Duke of the Republic.



Augustinus Rotundus, a Vilnius Vaitas (Administrator) had been known to comment: "Lithuanians fell in love with the Polish language." This was a testimony of the rapid Polonisation of the Lithuanian nobility. The nobility of Ruthania also fell under the influence of Poland.

On April 1, 1579 Vilnius University was instituted, due to the efforts of the Jesuits. Initially, the Faculties of Theology and Philosophy were offered.

1581 was the year that the Supreme Court of Appeals was established. The ruler transferred his right to deliberate the appellate cases of the nobility to this institution, established explicitly for this purpose.

1582 marked the victorious finish of the war with Russia over Livonia by the Lithuanian and Polish army, being commanded by King Stephen Bathory. The first published history of Lithuania was issued in Königsberg – *Kronika Polska, Litewska, Ymódzka i wszystkich Rusi*, written by Matthew Strykowski.

1586 was the year of the death of King Stephen Bathory after a difficult illness.

1588 was the year that the Third Lithuanian Statute was passed, taking effect on January 6th, 1589. It was an improved version of the codification of legal standards. It affirmed the rights of the nobility and the bondage of the peasantry. Furthermore, it introduced the death penalty even for the murder of a commoner. Lithuania is described as an independent country, having the Grand Duke as its own ruler. It also retained other attributes of sovereignty. For example, it prohibited non-citizens from acquiring ownership in Lithuania, which was contradictory to the



Lublin Union. The Third Lithuanian Statute remained in effect until 1840. On July 10, 1591 the aggressively minded Catholics of Vilnius burned down the Evangelical Reformation church, homes, school, and care home. These deeds marked the end of religious tolerance in Lithuania.



1595 was the time that the first book, written in the Lithuanian language, appeared within Lithuanian territory. The book was *Katekizmas* (Catechism), compiled by Mikalojus Dauksa, a Canon from Medininkai of the Samogitian Bishopric.

1596 was notable for the formation of the Brest Union by the clergy. Therein, Orthodox Christians of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland recognised the authority of the Pope and Catholic dogmas, however retained their own rituals. In due course, the supporters of the Union became known as the Uniates.

1599 was the year that Canon Mikalojus Dauksa from Medininkai published *Postile* by Wujek in the Lithuanian language. In the foreword of the book, the Lithuanian nobility is urged to retain their native Lithuanian language and not renounce the language for others, primarily the Polish language.

Until 1600, the population within the ethnic Lithuanian territory was over a million people. Every seven or eight years, the land was smitten by epidemics of contagious diseases. Thirty book titles were published in the Lithuanian language in Prussia and Lithuania.

By **Arturas Dubonis**





The State of Lithuania during the second half of the XVI century

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|--|---|
| — Boundary of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth | — Pamarys Duchy |
| — Boundary of the State of Lithuania after 1569 | — Sweden |
| — State boundaries | — Perekop Horde |
| Vilnius State capital | — Czech Kingdom, Silesia |
| — Grand Duchy of Lithuania | — Udauguvio Duchy (annexed to Livonian lands in 1561) |
| — Poland | — Kingdom of Denmark |
| — Vassal Duchies of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth | 1564 ✕ Significant battles |
| — Russia | |

XVII century



guardian of Lithuania in 1636.

1600-1629 was the duration of the war between the Polish and Lithuanian Commonwealth and Sweden. The war was fought to regain the rights of Sigismund Vasa, the ruler of Poland and Lithuania, who had been removed from the throne of Sweden in 1599. Another issue was the Livonian lands under dispute.

1602 was the year, when Pope Clement VIII, due to the request of King Sigismund Vasa, declared the sainthood of Prince (1458-1484) Kazimieras (also known as Casimir or Kazimierz). He was the son of Kazimieras Jogailaitis (Kazimierz Jagiellończyk), the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1440-1492), and King of Poland (1447-1492). Pope Urban VIII declared St. Kazimieras to be the

In autumn 1604, a ?false? Russian Czar, Dimitri I, backed by Ukrainian Cossacks and by hired Lithuanians and Polish soldiers, invaded the country of Russia. On June 20, 1605 he invaded Moscow and declared himself the Czar. He was assassinated during the 1606 Moscow Insurrection. On September 27, 1605 the battle of Salaspils (also known as Kircholm), a town in Latvia, took place. There, the army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and support troops from Poland and the Duchy of Courland won their greatest victory against the Swedes. The army had been commanded by Jonas Karolis Chodkevicius (Jan Karol Chodkiewicz), a Hetman of Lithuania.



1606-1607 was the period of a mutiny, which ended unsuccessfully. The mutiny had been instigated by the opposition, displeased with the efforts of King Sigismund Vasa to strengthen the rule of the king. Not a single of the planned reforms by opposition, who had engaged in the fighting, was ever implemented in the country.

1607-1609 was the time of the intervention into Russia by Dimitri II, who had declared himself czar. The aristocracy of Poland and Lithuania had backed him.

1608 was the year, when a province of Lithuanian Jesuits was established. 1609-1618 was the duration of another war with Russia by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Russian Army was defeated in a battle at Klushin, Russia in 1610. Czar Vasili Shuisky, who had been taken prisoner, was removed from the throne. The Russian nobility elected Ladislav, a son of King Sigismund Vasa, as the King. The Polish and Lithuanian army marched into Moscow.



1612 was the year that the Polish and Lithuanian Army was forced to withdraw from Moscow. Michael Romanoff, the first of a new dynasty, was declared the Czar in 1613.

1613 was the year of the issue of one of the most accomplished works of cartography of the time, a map of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The map was printed in Amsterdam. It had been drawn at the initiative of Lithuanian Marshall Mikalojus Kristupas Radvila (Radziwill) Naslaitelis.

1613 was the date of the establishment of a Jesuit college in Kraziai. It grew to become the most renowned educational institute in Samogitia during the XVII-XVIII centuries.

On January 3, 1619 a 14.5 year cease-fire agreement was signed at Deuline, a village near Moscow. The war of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with Russia came to an end. Lithuania gained Smolensk and Starodub. Poland gained Chernigov and Novgorod of the Severians. Prince Ladislav Vasa did not renounce his rights to the throne of Russia.

1619 was the date of publication of Slavic Grammar by Meletius Smotricki in Vievis, a town near Vilnius. The book had tremendous influence on the first grammar books of the Russian language.

In about 1620, the first dictionary, involving the Lithuanian language, was published. Konstantinas Sirvydas, an instructor at Vilnius University, compiled the Dictionarium Trium Linguarum (Dictionary of Three Languages) in Polish, Latin and Lithuanian. New editions of the dictionary were issued in 1631, 1642, 1677 and 1713.

On September 25, 1621 the Swedish army, commanded by King Gustavus Adolphus, occupied Riga, establishing his rule for a lengthy period at the mouth of the Daugava River. One of the reasons for the success of the Swedes was that the major military forces of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were concentrated to the south. There, the army withheld an attack by the Turkish army on Chotin. The army of the Commonwealth had been commanded by Jonas Karolis Chodkevicius (Jan Karol Chodkiewicz), Grand Hetman of Lithuania.

1623 was the year, when the first Jewish Council of Representatives of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Vaad, assembled. This was the highest institution of self-government for the Jewish community in Lithuania. The representatives came from various community groups, known as the

kahals. The Vaad was active until 1762.

On September 26, 1629 a 6-year truce was signed with Sweden at Altmark (today, Stary Targ in Poland). Sweden gained southern Estonia, Riga City and northern Latvia, as well as the right to temporarily collect customs duties at the ports of Poland and Prussia.

On April 30, 1632 King Sigismund Vasa died. On November 14, 1632 Ladislas Vasa was elected the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, easily and without competition. He ruled from 1632 to 1648. He managed to retain friendly relationships with leaders of various political groups, and was tolerant toward the Protestants. He held views, more favourable toward the Orthodox Christians, than those of his father. Although he was talented as a military leader and had ambitious foreign policy plans, his initiative was stifled by the political system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The nobility would not allow Vasa to declare a war with Turkey.



1632-1634 was the duration of another war with Russia by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Russia made an unsuccessful effort to regain Smolensk. A truce was formed at Polianovka, a village in Russia, on June 14th of 1634.

1635 was marked by the war between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Sweden which ended with the 26-year truce, signed at Stumdorf (today, Sztumska Wieś in Poland) on September 12, 1635. Thus, the Swedes had to withdraw their troops from the seacoast of Poland and the duchies of Prussia. They also lost their right to collect customs duties at those locations.

1636 was notable for the staging of the first opera in Lithuania. The performance was held at the Royal Manor Theatre in Vilnius. The theatre was active until 1644.

1640 was the year, when the Evangelical and Reformation Church of Vilnius was moved outside the city limits, following the clash of the Protestants with the Catholics, and the closing of their school. The confrontation between the Catholic and Protestant Churches had been ongoing since the second half of the XVI century. It became evident that Catholicism was to dominate.

1644 was the date of the establishment of the Faculty of Law at Vilnius University.

On May 28, 1648 King Ladislas Vasa died. On November 17, 1648 Jan Casimir Vasa, a brother of Ladislas Vasa, was elected the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He ruled from 1648 to 1668. He had taken a spiritual path in life, and had entered the Jesuit Order. Later, he made preparations to become a Cardinal. During his rule, he faced a period of unprecedented upheavals and the most difficult war and political crisis. Although he proved to be a strong military leader, he never did become popular with the nobility. The losses suffered during the wars with the neighbouring countries were comparatively small. However, he was never able to implement his own ideas for internal policies. Thus, he renounced the crown and emigrated to France, where he became a secular abbot. He was the last member of the Vasa family dynasty, which had been interrelated with the Lithuanian Jogailaitis family dynasty of the past.



1648 was marked by the start of the insurrection by the Ukrainian Cossacks and the peasantry. The leader of the insurrection was Bogdan Chmelnickij. An attempt was made to instigate the insurrection in the

Slavic areas of White Russia within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

On July 31, 1649 the Lithuanian army, commanded by Field Hetman Jonu-sas Radvila (Janusz Radziwiłł), defeated the Cossacks in a battle, fought at Lojev, a White Russian town. The Cossacks had been attempting an invasion into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The army with J. Radvila at the lead overtook Kiev in 1651.

1650 was the year, when the first volume of *Historiae Litvaniae* (History of Lithuania) was published in the Latin language in Gdansk. The author of this treatise was Albertas Vijukas-Kojelavicius, an instructor at Vilnius University. The second volume was published

1650 was the year, when the first volume of *Artis Magnae Artilleriae* (The Great Art of Artillery) in the Latin language by Lithuanian academician Kazimieras Semenavicius was published in Amsterdam. The concept of multi-stage rockets was raised therein for the first time.

1652 was the year, when the right of the liberum veto, which disallowed the passage of any resolution by so much as one opposing vote, was employed for the first time at the Sejm (Diet or Council of Representatives). Ladislas Sicinskis, a deputy from Upyte county in Lithuania, employed this right. Sicinskis abruptly put an end to the proceedings of the Diet by refusing to sanction the prolongation of the sessions beyond the customary six-week period. (The Story of Lithuania, Thomas G. Chase, Stratford House Inc. New York, 1946, p. 152) although no decision had been passed. This proved to be an important step, deepening the political crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Use of the liberum veto was employed to terminate the proceedings of the Sejm prior to the customary six-week session for the first time in 1669. In 1688, it was even employed for the first time to prevent the session from starting. The work of the Sejm was

paralysed from the end of the XVII century to the first half of the XVIII century. 1654 was the date of the publication of the first grammar book for the Lithuanian language in the Latin language in Königsberg. The title of the book was *Grammatica Litvanica* (Lithuanian Grammar) by Danielius Kleinas (Klein).



1654-1667 was the period of another war with Russia by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It began following the merger of Russia with the Ukraine in 1654. Between 1654 and 1655, the Russian army surmounted the defence forces of the Lithuanian army, and occupied the greater part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

On August 8-10, 1655 the Russian army occupied Vilnius. This was the first time in history that the capital of Lithuania was to be overtaken by enemy forces. The occupation of the capital lasted 6 years. Russian Czar

Alexi Michailovich declared himself the Grand Duke of Lithuania in Vilnius on September 13, 1655.

1655-1660 was the period of another war by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with Sweden. Attacks on Poland and Livonia began in mid-1655. The Swedes invaded Warsaw and Krakow, the most important cities of Poland. King Jan Casimir Vasa abdicated and withdrew to Silesia, then under Austrian rule. The greater portion of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was occupied by Russia and Sweden in 1655. This period of time became known as the Deluge.

On October 20, 1655 the 1,134 representatives of Lithuanian aristocracy and nobility rallied with Jonusas Radvila (Janusz Radziwill), the Grand Hetman of Lithuania. They agreed to sign an agreement with representatives of Sweden in the town of Kedainiai. The agreement declared the termination of the Union of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with Poland, and recognised the King of Sweden as the Grand Duke of Lithuania. Part of the Lithuanian army and numerous members of the nobility protested against the Kedainiai Agreement, and continued the battle with the Swedes. The fighting intensified after the return of King Jan Casimir Vasa to Poland on January 1, 1656. That same year, the uprising against the Swedes started in Lithuania.

On September 9 ? November 6, 1657 the vassal-like dependence of the Duchy of Prussia to the Kingdom of Poland was abolished by virtue of the agreements, drawn between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Duke of Brandenburg and Prussia.

1660 was the time that Evangelical Reformationist Samuel Boguslav Chilinski translated the Bible into the Lithuanian language, and began to have it printed in London. Unfortunately, the project was never fully implemented.

On May 3, 1660 a peace treaty was signed with Sweden at Oliva near Gdansk. The national boundaries remained the same, as had been demarcated by the 1629 Altmark Truce. Jan Casimir Vasa renounced his claim to the throne of Sweden.

On January 30, 1667 a 13.5 year cease-fire agreement was signed between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia at Andrussovo village near Smolensk. It ended the war, which had lasted from 1654 to 1667. Russia regained the territories, lost during the beginning of the XVII century. It annexed Kiev and the part of the Ukraine, which lay to the left of the Dnieper River. Zaporozhe was to be jointly governed. In 1678 this Peace Treaty was extended for another 13.5 years. An Eternal Peace Treaty was signed in 1686, but only ratified by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1710. The boundaries, demarcated in 1667, were only slightly revised by later agreements, and basically, remained intact until 1772.

During the mid-XVII century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was largely destitute. It lost some 40% of its population to wars, plague, epidemics, starvation and the exile of its people to Russia. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth lost its position of leadership in Eastern Europe.

On September 16, 1668 King Jan Casimir Vasa abdicated from the throne, and left to live in France in 1669. He died there on December 16, 1672. On June 19, 1669 Mykolas Kaributas Visniovickis (Wiszniowiecki) was elected the King of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania, and ruled from 1669 to 1673. The elected ruler displeased much of the aristocracy, particularly those who sympathised with France. This caused the threat of civil war in 1672. He proved to be a weak and passive ruler. During the entire time of his short rule, he was under the threat of being removed from the throne.



1672-1676 witnessed a continuation of the war of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with Turkey. The internal crisis and the inability to raise a resistance were threatening the sovereignty of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth by 1672. An agreement signed in Buchach on October 18, 1672 obligated payment of an annual tribute to Turkey. However, the agreement was not ratified. The joint army of Poland and Lithuania totally defeated the Turkish army in the Battle of Chotin on November 11, 1673. The Commander of the army was Jan Sobieski, the Grand Hetman of Poland. Nevertheless, a large part of Western Ukraine was lost to Turkey by virtue of the 1676 and 1678 agreements.

1673 was the year, when the Lithuanian representatives at the Sejm (Diet or Council of Representatives) of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth successfully demanded that each third Sejm assemble in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Grodno (today, a part of Belarus) was selected as the location for such sessions. The first such Sejm

assembled in 1678. However, this precluded the meetings of the highest assembly of Lithuania. This body had de facto performed the functions of an independent Lithuanian Seimas (Diet). In that manner, it had circumvented the resolution of the Lublin Union, which had abolished the Seimas of Lithuania. The last highest assembly of Lithuania met in 1671. On November 10, 1673 King Mykolas Kaributas Visniovieckis (Wisniewiecki) died.



On May 21, 1674 Jan Sobieski was elected the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He ruled from 1674 to 1696. He proved to be a talented military leader, but he was unable to implement his plans for internal and foreign policies, because he lacked consistency. The crisis within the nation continued to deepen during the time of his reign.

During the second half of the XVII century, pressure on the Protestants and Orthodox Christians continued to increase. During that time, these religious minorities were fully forced out of the Senate, and lost all of their political influence of the past. The Anti-Trinitarians, who belonged to the radical Reformationists, had to either leave the country or convert to Catholicism by virtue of a 1658 decision, passed by the Sejm. In 1668, conversion from Catholicism to Protestantism was prohibited. In 1673, non-Catholics were precluded from becoming nobles. Manifestations of religious intolerance increased.

During the 7th and 8th decades of the XVII century, the most notable baroque architecture structures were built in Lithuania, including the Pazaislis Monastery near Kaunas, and St. Peter and Paul's Church in Vilnius. Construction was financed by two cousins, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Kristupas Pacas and Grand Hetman of Lithuania Mykolas Pacas. 1683-1699 was another period of the war with Turkey by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. King Jan Sobieski did score a major victory with his army near Vienna in 1683. Nevertheless, the war dragged on, wearing down the country and deepening the internal political crisis. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth did manage to regain all the territories it had lost to Turkey during the second half of the XVII century by virtue of the 1699 Karlowitz Peace Treaty. This treaty was signed between Turkey and the coalition of countries against Turkey.



On April 18, 1694 Vilnius Bishop Constantine Casimir Bzostauskas (Brzos-towski) excommunicated Grand Hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Vaivode of Vilnius, Kazimieras Jonas Sapiega, one of the most influential members of Lithuanian aristocracy. The excommunication was instigated, because the Bishop had been displeased by the winter layover of the army on Church-governed properties. The move sharpened the political crisis, which had overtaken the country over the last years of the rule of King Jan Sobieski.

On June 17, 1696 King Jan Sobieski died. On June 25, 1697 an equalisation of powers of the Ministers of Lithuania and Poland (coaequatio iurium) was passed by the Electorate Sejm (Diet or Council of Representatives). In that manner, the comparatively greater powers of the Grand Hetman and Grand Treasurer (both these positions were held at the time by the most influential aristocrats in Lithuania from the Sapiega family), and Chancellor of Lithuania were restricted. The implementation of this resolution helped the opposition in their civil war against the rule of the Sapiega family in Lithuania. The civil war in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania lasted with intervals from 1697 to the beginning of the XVIII century. The aforementioned resolution also called for the replacement of the earlier use of the White Russian language to Polish within the official legal system. Such decisions during 1697 accelerated the political and cultural integration of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland.



On June 27, 1697 Duke of Saxony Frederick Augustus was elected the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The rule of King Augustus II was from 1697 to 1733. His reign was particularly controversial. Being one of the oldest members of a Germanic dynasty, he was unable to adequately evaluate either his own situation or that of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, wherein the nobility played the greater role in politics. He was unable to fully utilise the opportunities presented by his personal union with Saxony. Most of his more ambitious projects were never accomplished, whereas his failures only served to deepen the crisis

in the country. In February 1700, Augustus II with the army of Saxony attacked Riga, then under the rule of Sweden. This marked the beginning of the Great Northern War.

On November 18, 1700 the Lithuanian nobility and the magnates, who were opposed to the Sapiega family, won a victory, in which they crushed the army loyal to Sapiega and their allies, the nobility which supported them, in the Valkininkai (a town near Vilnius) battle. The enemies of Sapiega also reached a final victory in this civil war. The hegemony of the Sapiega family was thus undermined. No other aristocratic family was able to acquire such rule in Lithuania during the XVIII century.

By **Gintautas Sliesoriunas**





Grand Duchy of Lithuania during the second half of the XVII century

- Boundary of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1650
- Vilnius** State capital
- Grand Duchy of Lithuania
- Kingdom of Poland
- Vassal duchies of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- Russia
- Kingdom of Prussia
- Habsburg domain
- Sweden
- Ottoman Empire
- 1673 Chotinas ✕ Significant battles
- Naivode Province of Livonia and Piltene County (ruled in common by Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania)
- Part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, annexed to Russia after the Andrussov Agreement in 1667
- Part of the Kingdom of Poland, annexed to Russia after the Andrussov Agreement in 1667
- Territory of the Kingdom of Poland, annexed by Brandenburg after the Velava-Bydgoszcz Agreement in 1657
- Zaporozhe – ruled in common by Russia and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth by the Andrussov Agreement in 1667. Conclusively transferred to Russia by the Eternal Peace Treaty in 1686

XVIII century

1700-1721 was the duration of the Great Northern War.

1700-1710 was a time of military actions taking place within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (also known as the Republic of the Two Nations, and Zecpospolita, hereafter, referred to as the Commonwealth).

On March 9, 1701 an alliance agreement was signed in Birzai between Augustus II and Russian Czar Peter I.

On December 1, 1701 the army of Swedish King Charles (or Carl) XII invaded Samogitia. On April 5, 1702 the Swedish army overtook Vilnius. Two political camps evolved in Lithuania. One, led by M. S. Visnioveckis (Wisniowiecki) and G. A. Oginski, upheld the alliance with Augustus II and Russia. The other, led by K. J. Sapiega, who had been discharged from governing as hetman, supported the alliance with Sweden.



On March 15, 1703 a general confederation of the nobility was formed in Vilnius. They upheld Augustus II in the war with Sweden. Representatives of the confederation signed an agreement with Russia on July 9th. Thus, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became obligated to fight the Swedes. On July 12, 1704 allies of the Swedes in Poland deposed Augustus II from the throne. They elected Vaivode of Poznan, Stanislas Leszczynski as King during a session of the Warsaw Sejm (Diet or Council of Representatives). He was a member of one of

the most influential families of Poland Proper. By marrying Katarzyna Opalinska in 1698, he strengthened his position and became one of the wealthiest magnates of the Commonwealth. He was ambitious and yearned to govern. However, he had a weak character and was a compliant person.

On August 30, 1704 an agreement was drawn by Russia and the Commonwealth (allies of Augustus II) in Narva. Thus, the Commonwealth officially entered into the war against Sweden.

On September 2, 1704 the Samogitia Confederation of the Nobility endorsed support of King Stanislas Leszczynski. The Commonwealth essentially became two countries with two kings and their courts.



1704-1708 were unstable years of fighting with areas and towns of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania transferring from hands to hands. Opposing forces of the nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were active in the battles.

On September 24, 1706 Augustus II was forced to renounce the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

On August 21, 1709 the Russian army crushed the Swedes at Poltava. The end of the war was imminent. Russia became one of the most powerful nations in the region. Together with Austria and the strengthening Prussia, Russia was to influence the political relationships in the region.

On February 4, 1710 Augustus II, backed by the Russian army, was again recognised the ruler of Poland and Lithuania by the Sejm (Diet or Council of Representatives). Stanislas Leszczynski fled abroad. 1708-1711 was a period, marked by lean harvest years and the plague, which added to the misfortunes of the devastating war. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania lost about a third of its population.



1713 was the year, when Augustus II again brought the Saxon army into the Commonwealth, seeking to fortify the power of the ruler. This displeased the nobility, which formed a confederation in opposition to the ruler in 1715. Russia took full advantage of the internal discord. Peter I took a mediator role between the nobility and the King. The Russian army marched into the Commonwealth.

1717 was the year that the Sejm (Council of Representatives) in Warsaw went into session under observation of the Russian army. It met for merely one day, and no deliberations were permitted. Thus, it was coined the 'Dumb Sejm'. A Russian dictated reconciliation between the ruler and the confederation, whereby Augustus II was forced to withdraw the Saxon army, and the nobility renounced their rights to organise confederations. The governing power of the hetman was suppressed, and military troops reduced to 24,000 soldiers (in Lithuania the troops were reduced to 6,000). The lower level dietines (councils of representatives) of the nobility were limited in their scope of capabilities. The liberum veto right was retained. The constitutional guarantor of the 'Dumb Sejm' became Peter I. This marked the beginning of open intervention by Russia into the internal matters of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

On February 2, 1733 Augustus II died. An interim period of rule began. The majority of the

nobility raised the candidacy of Stanislas Leszczynski to the throne. Austria and Prussia supported Frederick Augustus, the son of Augustus II and successor of Saxony.

On September 12, 1733 Stanislas Leszczynski was declared the ruler at the Electorate Sejm (Council of Representatives). On October 5, 1733 the part of the nobility, backed by Russia, declared Frederick Augustus the ruler. He was crowned under the name of Augustus III on January 20, 1734. The Saxon army entered the territory of the Commonwealth, and, together with Russian forces, defeated the confederate troops raised in support of Stanislas Leszczynski. The so-called Polish inheritance war broke out in Poland, fought by France and Spain which backed Leszczynski (his daughter Maria married the King of France Louis XV in 1725) against Austria, Russia and Saxony, supporters of Augustus III. France lost the war, and Leszczynski had to renounce his right to the throne. He withdrew to France, where he ruled Bar and the Duchy of Lotharingia for the rest of his life. 1734-1763 was the time of the reign of Augustus III. He had been the only son of Augustus II and Christiana Eberhardine of Hohenzollern. In 1712, he had converted from the Protestant faith to Catholicism. In 1719, he married Maria, the daughter of Emperor Joseph I. Once he took rule, Augustus III attempted to continue the policies, begun by his father for closer relationships between the Commonwealth and Saxony. The policies had been intended to assure his successor the crowns of Saxony and the Commonwealth. He based his foreign policies on Russia. However, neither the internal or foreign policies ever proved successful. Augustus III spent most of his time in Saxony, therefore he delegated the governing of the Commonwealth to the executive first minister, who at first was A. Sulkowski, and after 1738, H. Brühl. However, H. Brühl was unable to develop a solid group among the manor estate holders, and his methods of governing were unpopular. The significance of the ruler was decreasing in the Commonwealth during the reign of Augustus III. An oligarchy had developed of government by the aristocracy. Issuance of laws broke down. So-called political groups dismantled 13 of 14 sessions of the Sejm (Council of Representatives). Two major political groups of the aristocracy became prominent. One, called the Republicans, was for the rights and freedoms of the nobility, elections of the ruler, curtailment of the power of the ruler, and retention of the liberum veto. The leadership of this group was the Potocki family. Members of this group in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were the Radvila (Radziwill), Sapiega and Visniovieckis (Wisniowiecki) families. The Republicans did not support any national reforms, and believed that the Commonwealth would survive, so long as it remained weak and unthreatening to its neighbours. Another group of the aristocracy was known as the Familia. It was led by the Czartoryski family, and sought reforms and a strengthening of the nation. They recommended specific military and treasury reforms at the Sejms (Councils of Representatives), held between 1738 and 1752. As the military forces of Prussia increased, Russia and Austria began to support the policies of the Familia. They expected to use the Commonwealth as leverage against the increasingly formidable Prussia. The Enlightenment became widespread in the Commonwealth, as in other Western European countries from the middle of the XVIII century. Throughout Europe the tendency for Enlightenment in general was an effort to limit centralised government, initiate control over its activities, and make it more responsible to the public. The enlighteners, who were the supporters of national reforms in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, were seeking to strengthen the central government, thereby protecting its sovereignty. State reform became the most important issue. The position of the enlighteners in the Commonwealth strengthened during the second half of the XVIII century. They generated new ideas, promoted and defended them. Nevertheless, the majority of the middle and lower level nobility remained indifferent to innovations. Enlightenment concepts changed life within the country. The Piarists began establishing schools in confrontation to the Jesuits from the third decade of the XVIII century in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. These schools offered more natural and social science courses.



1742 was the year of the establishment of the Collegium Nobilium by the Jesuits in Vilnius. The school was for the children of the nobility, and was modern for its time. Initially, it was part of the University, and split off as a secondary school after 1751. The program of education included lay

courses of physics, geography and history. From 1754 an archeographer Motiejus Dogelis began to issue the historical documents of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in his work entitled *Codex Diplomaticus Regni Poloniae et Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae*.



1756-1763 was the duration of the Seven-Year War in Europe. Although the Commonwealth did not participate in the war, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania suffered, because it became the location for the movements and camping of the Russian army.

1760 was the year, when the first Vilnius newspaper called *Kurier Litewski* went into circulation.

During the last decades of the XVIII century, Classicism replaced the Baroque style of architecture in Lithuania. A school of Lithuanian classic architecture formed. Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevicius was the most distinguished architect of this style. He designed the Vilnius Cathedral and City Hall, and the Bishops Palace ensemble in Verkiiai.

On October 5, 1763 Augustus III died. During the interim period of governing, which lasted from November 11, 1763 to September 7, 1764, the candidates raised by the political groups of the Commonwealth were selected with an aim to gain the support of foreign countries. The Czartoryski family relied on Russia, whereas the Potocki and Branicki families leaned toward Prussia, France and Turkey. Stanislas Augustus Poniatowski of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a nephew of Michael Czartoryski, was raised as a candidate by the Czartoryski group, which was backed by the Russian army. 1764 was the year, when construction of the Vilnius Observatory of Astronomy was completed.

On September 7, 1764 Stanislas Augustus Poniatowski was elected the ruler. The man had exceptional talents and intelligence. He became acquainted with the Epoch of Enlightenment in European culture by travelling throughout France and England. He well understood the situation of the Commonwealth by participating in political life with the Czartoryski group. He had lived in St. Petersburg between 1755- 1756, and 1757-1758. First he had served there as secretary to the English Embassy, and later, as an envoy of Saxony. There, he also entered into an affair with Duchess Catherine, the future Catherine II, who was then the wife of Peter, the successor to the throne. Once he became the ruler, he sought to implement reforms and make the anarchistic Commonwealth more European. He initiated cultural reforms, and was a supporter of literature, the arts and theatre. The King's taste in art and his surroundings were influenced by the French culture. In the area of economics, Stanislas Augustus backed the development of manufacturing. Second half of the XVIII century was an intensive



period in the development of the economy. The increase in demand for goods on Western European markets prompted the estate holders to reorganise their operations. They developed the lands of their manor estates, improved fertilisation and drainage of their fields, increased the amount of arable land, and planted more crops for sales. An industry of manor estates began developing, and hired labour was used more frequently. The magnates, particularly Antanas Tyzenhauzas, the Grodno Elder, administrator of the royal estates in Lithuania and Treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (from 1765), began to establish manufacturing plants at their estates, such as paper and glass mills, and textile looms and bleaching plants. A. Tyzenhauzas sent young people to study agronomy in England, and due to his efforts, schools for land surveyors, builders and veterinarians were established in Grodno. The first botanical garden in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was founded.

1764-1766 was the period, when the Czartoryski group began to execute part of the reforms in national government with the support of the ruler. A solidification of the Commonwealth was unfavourable to Russia and Prussia. The two countries came to an agreement in St.

Petersburg to join forces in preventing changes in the internal affairs of the Commonwealth in 1764.

1765-1775 was the time that Kristijonas Donelaitis, a Lithuanian poet, wrote his work titled *Metai* (Seasons) in Prussia. This was one of the first realistic compositions in European literature.

1766 was the year, when the Sejm (Council of Representatives) of the Commonwealth rejected the demand by Russia to grant Orthodox Christians and Protestants (known as the dissidents)

political rights, equal to those of the Catholics. 1767 marked the start of the support of Russian Empress Catherine II for the members of the nobility, who were displeased with the Czartoryski reforms, and had gathered at the Radom Confederation. The support of Catherine II was done on the pretext of protecting the rights of the dissidents. The Sejm of the Radom Confederation began its work in Warsaw, then surrounded by the Russian army. The old order was re-established.



On February 24, 1768 political rights were granted to the dissidents of the Commonwealth, and Catherine II was recognised as the guarantor for the safety of the internal political affairs of the Commonwealth. Thus, the sovereignty of the Commonwealth was formally and legally restricted, and it became dependent on Russia.

On February 29, 1768 a confederation met in Bar Town of Podolia. This group was in opposition to the Radom Confederation and the influence of Russia in the Commonwealth. The confederationists began their activities on the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in July of 1768. Mykolas Jonas Pacas was declared the Senior Marshall of the General Confederation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania under the flag of Bar. Juozapas Sapiega, Mykolas Kazimieras Oginski and Karolis Stanislas Radvila (Radziwill) were the magnates, who supported the Confederation.

1768-1772 was the period, when the activities of the Bar Confederation expanded throughout the entire country, however the awaited support from France, Turkey and Austria never came. Russian troops crushed the confederate forces.

1769 was the year that Prussia and Austria began negotiations, regarding a partitioning of the Commonwealth. This was initiated to block a potential strengthening of Russia at the account of the Commonwealth. On August 5, 1772 a trilateral agreement was signed by Russia, Prussia and Austria. By virtue of this agreement Russia gained 92,000 km² of the territory of the Commonwealth. This territory included the Vaivode Provinces of Polotsk, Vitebsk and Mstislav, the eastern part of the Minsk Vaivode Province and Latgala. Prussia and Austria annexed part of the lands of Poland. Prussia gained 36,000 km² of Pomerania, Western Prussia and Varmia. Austria annexed 81,900 km² of the lands of Poland Minor and the city of Lvov. The Commonwealth lost some 35% of its population and approximately 30% of its territory. The Sejm (Council of Representatives) ratified the partition in 1773.



On October 14, 1773 the Commission of Education was instituted by decision of the Sejm (Council of Representatives) of the Commonwealth. It became one of the first ministries of education in Europe. All of the academies and schools throughout the entire Commonwealth were the responsibility of the Commission. It was also responsible for the sciences, and was expected to assure more secular and modern views in research. The first Chairman of the Commission of National Education was Bishop Ignatius Masalskis. By 1774, the Commission began reforms in elementary schools. The decision was made to establish one elementary school for each three parishes. There were over 300 such schools developed in the Vilnius Bishopric by 1777. The children of peasants were taught in their native language in the primary schools. 1775 was the year, when a new organ of government, the Permanent Council, was instituted alongside the ruler by decision of the Sejm (Council of Representatives). There were 36 members, delegated by the Sejm seated on the Council. The 5 departments, which comprised the Council, were War, Treasury, Foreign Policy, Police and Justice. During the time the Council functioned (1775-1788), the army was modernised and enlarged, the rule of the hetman was curtailed, and mercantile and financial reforms were implemented. Economic life within the Commonwealth was vitalised. The population grew rapidly. Whereas in 1772, the population of the Commonwealth was 6.5 million people, by the end of the XVIII century, it was some 9 million. (The first universal census of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1790 counted the population at over 3.5 million people). The Commission of National Education and the Permanent National Council shaped the first executive organs of government, effective for the entire Commonwealth.



The ninth decade of the XVIII century marked favourable conditions for social and economic reforms in the Commonwealth as well as the increase in self-dependence of this state. These conditions were due to the French Revolution and the Balcan War which distracted the attention of the European powers.

1781 was the year, when Vilnius University was defined as the highest school of education in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Departments of Astronomy, Medicine (1781), and Architecture (1793) were newly instituted.

The second half of the XVIII century marked the continual publication of almanacs and reading

books. The development of the information and news system was initiated. On October 6, 1788 the historical Four Year Sejm (Council of Representatives) of the Commonwealth went into session in Warsaw. It remained in session for 4 years. The number of deputies, elected during the 1790 elections, doubled. It took a reformationist turn. It introduced a stable national tax on landlords, enlarged the army, and determined new procedures for its formation and regulation. The Permanent Council was abolished on January 19, 1789. The Russian army moved out in the spring of 1789.



On April 18, 1791 the Sejm (Council of Representatives) passed the law Our Free Royal Towns in the States of the Commonwealth. Thereby, the townspeople were granted the privilege of not being apprehended without court order. They also gained the right to acquire landholdings, the right to send their own delegates to the Sejm and participate in deliberations regarding town affairs, the right to hold office in the national administrative system and the courts, and to serve in the army

as officers. The town reform provided wider support for the social monarchy. The first step had been taken in converting the class system of the population into a citizenry. On May 3, 1791 the Sejm (Council of Representatives) passed a new Constitution, which determined the most important principles for organising order in the state, comparable to the XVIII century European conception. The Commonwealth of the nobility with an elected ruler was converted to a constitutional hereditary monarchy. The Constitution legalised the bourgeoisie principle of property, whereby the landless nobility lost their rights to participate in local small-scale Sejms (dietines or councils of representatives), whereas the more affluent townspeople were provided the rights of the nobility. The Constitution confirmed town laws, declared the care of the nation for free townspeople, and guaranteed personal freedom for townspeople, who had fled abroad and returned. The May 3rd Constitution also changed the political structure of the country. The highest power of governing was delegated to the Sejm, and the liberum veto right was abolished. Executive power belonged to the King and the Cabinet of Ministers, named the Custodial Council of the Laws. The King was to be elected, however selected from the ruling dynasties. The Sejm elected 4 nationally based Commissions (Ministries): Education, Police, War and Treasury. The Unitarian model of the State, which had been laid out in the May 3rd Constitution, did not satisfy the representatives of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, who were seeking to retain the separation of Lithuania from Poland. Nevertheless, the deputies of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, who backed the reforms (the Sejm group of Kazimieras Nestor Sapiega, the Artillery General of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania), supported the Constitution. They understood the necessity of strengthening the nation, and could see the threat to its existence. At the same time, efforts were made to use post-Constitutional Acts to legalise the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as a partner with the equal rights of Poland within the status of a Federation, and retain dualism. The objective was reached on October 20th of 1791, when the Sejm passed the Law on Mutual Guarantees for Both Nations, wherein an equal number of members from Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was determined in institutions, common to the central government. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania was recognised an equal part of the dualistic Commonwealth with Poland. The reforms of the Four-Year Sejm and the



Constitution were unsatisfactory to a portion of the aristocracy and nobility. These were the ones, who held the old form of governing to be of greatest value, and those who had declared opposition to any sorts of reforms, which abolished the privileges of their class. Furthermore, the strengthening of the Commonwealth was not in conformity with the interests of Russia.

On April 27, 1792 the opposition to the Constitution signed a Confederation Act in St. Petersburg, which was directed against the reforms. The Act with a falsified date of May 14th in 1792, was declared in the town of Targowica after the Russian army had already marched into Poland and Lithuania.

In May-July 1792, the Russian army occupied all of the territory of the Commonwealth without confronting any major resistance.

On June 25, 1792 a General Confederation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was formed in Vilnius. The leaders were two Kosakowski brothers, Simonas ? the Field Hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and Juozapas ? the Bishop of Livonia. They sought not only to re-establish the old freedoms of the nobility, but also to reinstate the union rights of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

On July 23, 1792 Stanislas Augustus joined the Confederation. This step proved to eradicate the work of the reformists ? the May 3rd Constitution.

On January 23, 1793 Russia and Prussia signed an agreement for the second partition of the Commonwealth in St. Petersburg. Russia annexed Kiev, Braclav, Podolia, the lands of the Minsk Vaivode Province, the eastern part of the Vilnius Vaivode Province, the land of Brest and the eastern portion of Volynia. Prussia annexed the western lands of Poland with Gdansk, Toruń and Poznan. The Commonwealth lost approximately 250,000 km² or about half of its territory.

On June 17, 1793 the Sejm (Council of Representatives), called into session in Grodno, was

forced to ratify the partition. The Constitution, which was passed, declared the re-establishment of the old order in the country. On March 24, 1794 the insurrection, led by General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, ignited in Krakow. The insurrection was against the order introduced at the Targowica Confederation and the second partition. The insurrectionists formed their own provisional government – the Supreme National Council.



On April 16, 1794 the insurrection also erupted in Lithuania. The first to revolt were the troops of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Siauliai. The insurrectionists of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania overtook Vilnius, and declared the Act of Insurrection between April 23rd and 24th of 1794. Their own provisional government was formed – the Lithuanian Supreme National Council. The executive bodies of government began being formed. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania began adapting the universal resolution of the Government of the Polish insurrectionists. Therein, personal freedom for the peasantry is recognised, and peasants, serving in the army of the insurrectionists are relieved of their duties of

bondage. The April 23rd - June 25th Insurrection spread throughout the entire territory of the Grand Duchy. Jokubas Jasinskis led the insurrectionists of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. They acted autonomously, and invited volunteers to join in the defence of independence, as well the fight for the freedom and equality of all citizens.

On August 11, 1794 the Russian army invaded Vilnius to suppress the insurrection. It invaded all the territory of Lithuania to the Nemunas River between the end of September and middle of October. On November 5, 1794 Warsaw capitulated. The insurrection was suppressed.

On October 24, 1795 the agreement for a third partition of the Commonwealth was signed between Russia, Austria and Prussia in St. Petersburg. Russia overtook the western lands of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the Nemunas River, Volynia and Courland. Prussia and Austria shared the remaining lands of Poland. Uznemune went to Prussia.



On November 25, 1795 the declaration was announced that the institution of the King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was annulled. All titles and citizenship of the country were also abolished. Stanislas Augustus renounced the throne.

The third partition erased the Commonwealth from the list of European countries. Lithuania was annexed into the Empire of Russia.

1796 was the year, when civil administration became effective in Lithuania. The land was subdivided into Guberniyas (Vilnius and Slonim), along the example of Russia. Later, the two were merged into one Guberniya of Lithuania.

By **Ramune Smigelskyte**





**The Grand Duchy of Lithuania after
the Second Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1793**

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| — Boundary of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth | — Territory of Poland annexed by Russia after the second partition |
| — Boundary of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth prior to the partition | — Territory of Poland annexed by Prussia |
| • Centres of the vaivode provinces | |
| ■ Grand Duchy of Lithuania | ■ Prussia |
| ■ Kingdom of Poland | ■ Russia |
| ■ Courland and Semigallia Duchy (vassal of Poland and Lithuania) | ■ Austria |
| ■ Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by the Russian Empire after the second partition | ■ Sweden |
| | ■ Ottoman Empire |



The Third Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1795

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| <p>— Boundary of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth after the II partition in 1793</p> <p>Vilnius State capitals</p> <p>• Centres of the vaivode provinces</p> <p>— Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by Russia after the third partition</p> <p>— Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by Prussia after the third partition</p> <p>— Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by Austria after the third partition</p> | <p>— Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by Prussia after the third partition</p> <p>— Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by Austria after the third partition</p> <p>— Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by the Russia after the third partition</p> <p>— Prussia</p> <p>— Russia</p> <p>— Austria</p> <p>— Sweden</p> <p>— Ottoman Empire</p> |
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XIX century

On January 15, 1797 the Act, signed by Russia, Prussia and Austria in St. Petersburg, once and for all legally annulled the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. 1800 brought a change in marking the passage of time. The old Julian calendar, then effective in Russia, was introduced in Lithuania. The Gregorian calendar remained in use in Uznemune and beyond.

On September 21, 1801 the Lithuania Guberniya (a Russian administrative unit, similar to a province) was subdivided into the Lithuania Vilnius and Lithuania Grodno (Gardinas) Guberniyas. The General Governor of Lithuania, who resided in Vilnius, administered these Guberniyas.

On April 16, 1803 the Vilnius (formerly Lithuanian) School of Higher Education was reorganised to the Vilnius Imperial University by order of Russian Czar Alexander I. The Education District of Vilnius was established to take the place of the Commission of Education.

1804 brought proclamation of the Jewish Statute. One of the points of the Statute obligated the Jewish population to vacate villages. This relocation was terminated in 1809. By virtue of another point in the Statute, Jewish surnames were made official. 1807 was the year, when Napoleon established the Warsaw Duchy on the basis of the pact, signed on July 7th in Tilsit (Tilze) between Russia and France. The Duchy included the area of Lithuania, called Uznemune. Although the peasants were granted personal freedom by the Napoleonic Code, which had been introduced there, they never did become owners of the land under their use. The Warsaw Duchy remained intact until 1815.



1811 was the year, when Mykolas Kleofas Oginski submitted the project of his design for instituting the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to Czar Alexander I of Russia. The project involved the foundation for an autonomous country, whereby the eight Russian guberniyas under jurisdiction of the Lithuanian Statute would comprise the country, which would be ruled by the Russian Czar.

On June 24, 1812 war was declared by Napoleon against Russia. His army invaded at the Nemunas River, heading toward Kaunas, and in a few days, had penetrated the territory of Lithuania.

On July 1, 1812 the commission for a provisional Lithuanian Government, which was to be ruled by the French, was established by the order of Napoleon. It proceeded to execute all the administrative functions within Lithuania. Stanislovas Soltanas, former Manor Marshall of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, was named chairman of this commission. The Vilnius, Grodno and Minsk Guberniyas, and the Bialystok area were under commission jurisdiction, and were named departments. The commission operated until December of 1812, when the army of Napoleon withdrew from Lithuania.

On July 14, 1812 an act was declared at the Vilnius Cathedral. The act declared the resolve of the residents of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to uphold the status of Lithuania as a political entity, just as Lithuania had been during the period of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. 1812 was the year that the Masonic Lodges of Lithuania renewed their activities. The first structure for the Masonic organisations had been established in Vilnius during 1776, and the first lodge had begun operating in Vilnius since 1778.



On January 6, 1813 Russian Czar Alexander I signed the manifest for the end of the war with Napoleon. By this time, the Russian army had fully occupied all of the territory of Lithuania, ruled to the time of the invasion by Napoleon.

1815 was the year of the decision by the Vienna Congress to establish the Kingdom of Poland, which was to include the part of Lithuania, then named Uznemune. Napoleonic Law and the Gregorian calendar remained in effect. Polish was the only official language to be spoken at administrative and legal offices. The Kingdom of Poland retained a close relationship with the Russian Empire, which was based on personal contacts. It observed the constitution, which had been a gift from the Russian Czar.

1816 was notable for the issuance of the first translation of the New Testament into the Lithuanian language in Vilnius. The Duke of the Samogitian Bishopric, Juozapas Arnulfas Giedraitis and his supporters had prepared the edition.

1817-1823 was a period of activity by the Masons and underground student organisations.

1817 was the year of the establishment of the Masonic Subravn Society by the intelligentsia of Vilnius. It published periodicals, critical of obsolete social traditions. Additionally, the Society

planned for a means of merging the Education District of Vilnius with the Kingdom of Poland. 1817 marked the establishment of the student Filomatai and Filaretai Societies, which encouraged a spirit of patriotism and a struggle against Russian rule among the young people. These societies promoted the formation of massive secret youth organisations, particularly among students in Vilnius, Kraziai, Kedainiai, Kaunas and other areas of Lithuania. The groups emphasised moral advancement, self-reliance, education and the struggle against the ideas of the Russian autocracy. One of the founders of the Filomatai Society was the famed poet Adam Mickiewicz.



1818 was the year that the local Vilnius District Seimas (Council of Representatives or Dietine) of the nobility issued an entreaty to the Russian Czar to grant the peasants individual liberties. The entreaty was not honoured.

1818 was also a year, when the book, *Metai* (Seasons) by Kristijonas Donelaitis was published by Liudvikas Reza with a German translation.

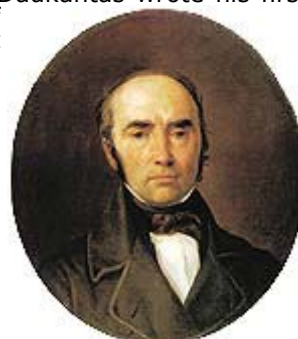
1819 was the time that the Palanga and Sventoji Districts of the Lithuanian seacoast were split off from the Vilnius Guberniya of Lithuania, and annexed to the Courland Guberniya.

1822 was the year, when all activities of Masonic organisations were prohibited by Russian Czar Alexander I. The Vilnius student and Lithuanian secondary school organisations were closed, and their members, repressed and exiled. 1822 was the year that Simonas Daukantas wrote his first history book titled *Darbai senuju lietuviu ir zemaiciu* (Achievements of Ancient Lithuanians and Samogitians). S. Daukantas became the first historian to have written the history of Lithuania in the Lithuanian language.

1822-1823 was the period, when the first editions of poetry by Adam Mickiewicz were published in Vilnius.

1822-1824 was the time that a group of Samogitian students became active at Vilnius University. Its members S. Daukantas, K. Nezabitauskis, S. Stanevicius and others initiated the work for promoting Lithuanian identity and public education.

1823 was the year of another order, issued by Russian Czar Alexander I, to have the Jewish population relocated from all rural villages.



1823-1824 was the time that the first periodical from Lithuania Minor was issued in the Lithuanian language, titled *Nusidavimai dievo karalystej* (Events in the Kingdom of God).

1825 was the year, when Liudvikas Reza and his supporters published the first collection of Lithuanian folk songs in Königsberg.

1827 was the year that Russian Czar Nicholas I introduced obligatory military service for the Jewish population. This policy was an effort to eliminate the separation of the Jewish nationality and to integrate them into the mainstream society of the Empire. Before that time, Jews would pay additional taxes to the state budget instead of serving in the army.

1828 was the year of the entreaty, issued by the heads of Vilnius University to the Russian Ministry of Education. The entreaty requested permission to establish the Lithuanian Language Department at the University. The entreaty was not honoured.

1828 was the year of the publication of *Teuda be? Israel* (A Lesson for Israel) by Icchak Levinson from Kremenieco of Volynia, the initiator of the Russian Haskalo Movement. The Romas Printing House of Vilnius issued the book. The book had great influence on the propagation of the Jewish movement for education in Lithuania.

1829 was the year that the work *Darbai senuju lietuviu ir zemaiciu* (Achievements of Ancient Lithuanians and Samogitians) by S. Daukantas was published. 1830-1831 was the duration of the insurrection in Poland and Lithuania against Russian rule. The Lithuanian Supreme Committee, established in Vilnius, was responsible for the organisation and leadership of insurrection in Lithuania and the western part of White Russia. The commander in chief of the insurrection was A. Gelgudas. The Provisional Central Government of Poland operated from his headquarters in Lithuania. The decisive battle of the insurrection occurred on June 19th of 1831. An army of 26,000 soldiers, being led by Vilnius General Governor M. Chrapovicki, and 12,600 insurrectionists, being led by A. Gelgudas clashed at the Paneriai Hills near Vilnius. The insurrectionists were defeated. After several more battles with the Russian army, the insurrections began a partisan struggle, which lasted until the spring of 1832. The re-establishment of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (a federation of two nations?) was a major goal of the insurrection.



1831 was the year that the first secular Jewish school for girls began teaching in Vilnius.

In autumn 1831, a Russian government policy for the 'elimination of Polish origins' began being implemented within the lands of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The goal of this policy within Lithuania was the de-Polonisation of the land, followed by total Russification. The lands of Poland and Lithuania began being referred to as the Western Territory of Russia.

On May 15, 1832 Russian Czar Nicholas I signed the order for the closing of Vilnius University.

1832-1833 was notable for the two specialised schools, established by the Russian government to replace Vilnius University, which had been abolished. The schools were the Vilnius Academy of Medicine and Surgery, and the Vilnius Roman Catholic Spiritual Academy. 1835-1841 was the period of the publication of the nine volumes of *Lietuvos istorija* (Lithuanian History) by Teodoras Narbutas in Vilnius. The books were written in the Polish language.

On February 27, 1839 the death penalty was executed against Lithuanian Emissary of the Young Poland underground organisation, Simonas Konarskis (Szymon Konarski). The organisation had been planning an insurrection against the Russian rule.

1839 was the year of the liquidation of the Uniate Church in Lithuania. Members of the church were forcibly returned to the Orthodox Christian Church. Priests were prohibited from baptising children, born of mixed marriages.

1839 witnessed the elimination of Polish language and literature subjects from the school programs in the Western Territory of Russia.

On January 9, 1840 the order for national peasantry reforms was issued by Russian Czar Nicholas I. The bondage of the Lithuanian peasants was replaced by the *cincas*, a feudal system of land rental, and autonomous local rule in the rural areas was established.

On July 7, 1840 the Statute of Lithuania was abolished by the order of Russian Czar Nicholas I. Laws common to Russia were introduced into Lithuania.

On August 6, 1840 the name of Lithuania was removed from the names of the Vilnius and Grodno Guberniyas. 1840 was marked by the rising fame of composer Stanislaw Moniuszka in Vilnius. The opera he composed, *Halka*, was performed for the first time.



On June 4, 1841 a decree was issued by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, allowing the establishment of Lithuanian elementary schools at Samogitian Bishopric churches. Due to the efforts of Bishop Motiejus Valancius, such schools numbered some 200 by the middle of the XIX century. About one half of the population of certain Samogitian areas learned to read, because of the existence of these schools.

1841-1842 was the period of secularising the lands, where the Catholic Church predominated. This policy was instituted as a means to reduce the economic strength and superior standing of the Church in comparison with the Orthodox Christian Church.

1841 marked the start of the first secular school for Jewish boys in Vilnius.

1841-1851 was the period of the publication of *Athenaeum*, a periodical in Vilnius, written in the Polish language. The editor was Józef Ignac Kraszewski. It paid a great deal of attention to the history, culture and ethnography of Lithuania. This periodical, along with all the press of that time, was under control of Russian censure. Publication of Polish language periodicals had ceased after 1831, due to the 'elimination of Polish origins' policy, then being executed by the Russian government. The official publication of the government, *Litovskij Vestnik - Kurier Litewski*, was issued in two languages, Russian and Polish, until early in the fifth decade.

1842 was notable for the publication of the book, *Zvilgsnis i vietinius archeologijos saltinius* (A Look at the Local Archaeological Sources) by Eustachijus Tiskevicius (Eustachij Tyszkiewicz). The book provided the initiation of studies in archaeology in Lithuania.

On January 11, 1842 the Vilnius Academy of Medicine and Surgery was closed. The reason for the closing was the exposure of student activities, which had continued to foment the ideas of Lithuanian and Polish patriotism and achievement of independence from Russian rule by participating in conspirator activities, which were directed against the Russian government.

1842-1844 was the period when the Vilnius Roman Catholic Spiritual Academy, which was seeking to strengthen control over academics and student activities, and to become engaged in the policies of the Russian government, was transferred to St. Petersburg.

On July 13, 1843 an order was issued by Russian Czar Nicholas I for the institution of a Kaunas Guberniya. Seven districts from the Vilnius Guberniya comprised the Kaunas Guberniya. Lyda, which had been part of the Grodno Guberniya, and the Vileika and Dysna districts, which had been part of the Minsk Guberniya until this time, were annexed to the Vilnius Guberniya.

On April 27, 1844 a law was declared for the obligatory reporting of inventory in the Western Guberniyas of Russia. The Russian government was seeking to directly regulate the relationships

between the manor estate lords and the peasantry, as well as to limit the rights of the local landholders and their influence on the public.

1844 was the year of the abolishment of the kahalas, the Jewish communities of ethnic religion, which had been self-regulating. The Jewish population was delegated to be within the general system of Russian government. Public schools began being founded for Jewish children, which were taught in the Russian language. A state school for rabbis was established in Vilnius.

1845 was the year, when the first history book on Lithuania and the Lithuanian culture was published in St. Petersburg. The book by Simonas Daukantas (J. Laukis) was entitled, *Budas senoves lietuviu, zemaiciu ir kalnenu* (The Nature of Ancient Lithuanians, Samogitians and Uplanders).

1846 was marked by the issuance of calendars in the Lithuanian language, entitled *Metu skaitliai* (Year Count) by Laurynas Ivinskis.

1846-1849 was the time of the underground activities of secret brotherhood of Lithuanian youth, named *Zwi¹zek Bratni M³odzięzy Litewskiej*. This underground Polish and Lithuanian organisation was preparing plans for a new uprising against Russian rule. The leaders were two brothers, Pranciskus and Aleksandras Dalevski. The organisation was exposed in 1849, and its members and leaders, brought to trial. The activities of the organisation had been directed at stopping Russification, and encouraging national resistance against the Russian regime.

1848 was notable for the publication of the work titled *Zemaiciu vyskupyste* (The Diocese of Samogitia) by Motiejus Valancius.

1850 was the year, when Motiejus Valancius was named the Bishop of the Samogitians (Telsiai). The Catholic Church began an organised effort to stop the Russification of the Lithuanian people.

1852 was the year of the establishment of the Central Archive of Ancient Legal Acts in Vilnius.

1854 was the year that the first steamboats began coursing the Nemunas River. The first telegraph line was laid.

1855 was the year, when the Vilnius Commission on Archaeology, a society of humanitarian sciences, began operations in Vilnius. It had recruited the intelligentsia for research in the country, and promoted plans for the re-establishment of Vilnius University. The Museum of Ancient Artefacts began acting under the direction of the Commission. The Commission, which had been established at the initiative of Eustachijus Tiskevicius (Eustachij Tyszkiewicz). At the time the country had no institutions of higher education. The contributing members included professional historians and history enthusiasts, physicians, naturalists, writers, artists, public figures and manor estate holders. The Commission was the singular institution, which provided the means to organise the academic and cultural life of the country in one manner or another. It engaged in research, and advocated academic and cultural information from the fields of history, archeography, literature, language arts and architecture. The Commission remained active until 1864.

1856 brought a return of Polish language and literature courses at secondary schools. The move was related to the temporary *détente* of liberalism policies by the Russian Czar. Alexander II, who took the throne after the death of Nicholas I, put the policies into effect.

1856-1857 was the time that the first academic work of Lithuanian language grammar was written and published by Augustus Schleicher, a German linguist. On February 12, 1857 Russian Czar Alexander II signed the decree, directing the General Governor of Vilnius, Vladimir Nazimov to establish a committee of guberniya nobility to prepare reforms, regarding the peasantry.

1857-1858 was a notable period in publishing. Six volumes of *Teka Wileńska* (A Vilnius Portfolio) were issued. These were followed by the publication of two volumes of *Pismo Zbiorowe Wileńskie* (A Collection of Writings from Vilnius), one in 1859 and one in 1862. These books included Polish language contributions by Lithuanian writers and poets, works of other authors of the country on Lithuanian themes, and scientific and journalistic articles on subjects of relevance to Lithuania.

1857-1859 were years of unsuccessful efforts by Mikalojus Akelaitis and other members of the intelligentsia of democratic views to gain permission from the Russian government to publish a Lithuanian newspaper for Lithuanian circulation.

1858-1864 was the period of the sobriety movement in Lithuania. Bishop Motiejus Valancius created sobriety societies, which drew mass participation by the peasants. This action disturbed the old order, changed the relationships between the manor holdings and the peasants, and the relationship of the common people to the Russian government. The peasant became a conscious subject in the struggle against Russian rule. The influence of the Catholic Church became



stronger. The Russian government prohibited the activities of these societies in 1864. 1860 was the year, when Adomas Honoris Kirkoras, a researcher in Lithuanian history and a publisher, became the official editor of Vilenski Vestnik – Kurier Wileński newspaper. All of the official information appeared in Russian and Polish, whereas the literary and ethnography material appeared only in Polish. From the fifth decade to that time, the newspaper had been published only in the Russian language. The newspaper devoted most of its attention to Lithuanian affairs, and held to a liberal perspective. The majority of the intelligentsia of the country contributed to the newspaper.

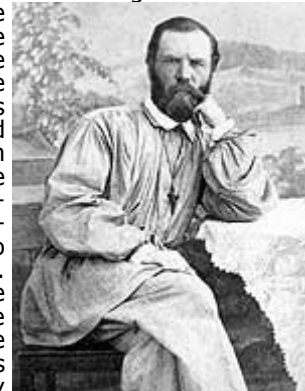


On March 3, 1861 Russian Czar Alexander II signed the law regarding the abolishment of serfdom. Personal freedoms were granted the serfs, serving at private manor estates. The conditions for purchase of allocated lots of land were specified.

In March-August, 1861 was a time marked by the manifestation of the politics of patriotism with proclamations for the return of nationhood of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Russian government declared a state of war in Vilnius on September 3rd of 1861. The effort was

meant to squelch the unrest, related to the abolishment of serfdom and the manifestations of patriotism throughout the county of Vilnius and nearly all of Kaunas Guberniya.

1861-1862 witnessed the completion of the St. Petersburg-Warsaw Railroad line through Lithuania. In summer 1862, the Revolutionary Movement Committee formed to organise a revolt against Russian rule. By autumn, it was reorganised into the Committee of the Province of Lithuania, which proceeded to make contact with the Central National Committee in Poland. The conservative faction of the manor estate holders in Lithuania had joined forces with the camp of the faction of 'whites,' who were under the leadership of Jokubas Gejstoras (Gejsztor), Aleksandras Oskerka, Antanas Jeleniskis (Jeleński), and Aleksandras Domeika (Domejko). These men supported the program of 'organic work.' Their program involved making demands to the Russian government to enlarge the rights of the local nobility for self-rule. Furthermore, the program called for the re-establishment of Vilnius University, and the founding of public schools and libraries. It also made entreaty to publish and circulate literature in the native language. The program urged prudence in altering the relationships between the landholders and peasants for the preservation of large-scale governmental land ownership. The leaders of the revolutionaries were priest Antanas Mackevicius, attorney Konstantinas Kalinauskas (Kalinowski), and officer and aide-de-camp of the Vilnius Military Division, Liudvick Zwierzdowski. These men were even more convinced than the 'whites' of the need to hasten the start of an insurrection. They promoted this idea by publishing special periodicals, aimed at the public at large – the peasantry.



On January 22, 1863 the Central National Committee, named the Provisional National Government, declared an insurrection in Lithuania and Poland.

On February 1, 1863 the Lithuanian Province Committee took over the functions of a revolutionary government in the provinces.

On March 12, 1863 Russian Czar Alexander II signed an edict for the abolishment of the temporary obligations of the peasantry to the manor estate holders. Bondage was abolished, and an obligatory purchase of allocated lands was introduced. The former temporary recipients of the obligations were consigned to the category of peasant owners, and the duties of the cencas feudal system of land rental were reduced. The right of use by the peasants of the arable lands of service within the territory of the applicable manor estate was recognised. Such an edict had the purpose of diverting the peasants from participation in the insurrection. On May 7-9, 1863 a battle between the insurrectionists and the Russian army took place near Birzai. The defeat suffered by the insurrectionists forced their leadership to retract from their larger operations, limit themselves to partisan activities, and evade face to face battles with the enemy.



On May 13, 1863 Russian Czar Alexander II appointed Michael Muraviev, as the chief of the Northwestern Provinces, and granted him extraordinary powers for the purpose of suppressing the insurrection. The Lithuanian part of the Augustavas Guberniya was transferred to the jurisdiction of Muraviev from September of the same year.

In autumn 1863, the insurrection began to falter. This insurrection had been a common effort of Poland and Lithuania, the partners of the former Commonwealth, joined together in the opposition to Russian rule. A major purpose of this alliance had been to gain freedom from Russia by re-establishing the borders of the former country, as they had existed in 1772 by one means or another. The various interest groups in Lithuania held differing visions for the political future of Lithuania. The

White Party, being led by J. Gejstoras (Gejsztor), envisioned Lithuania as being a province of Poland. The other group, led by Antanas Mackevicius, envisioned the country as an equal member of a federation. A third group, with Konstantinas Kalinauskas (Kalinowski) and Jokubas Dauksa at

the forefront, sought a separate and independent country of Lithuania. Motiejus Valancius and Laurynas Ivinskis accented an outlook on freedom, which took ethnicity into consideration, however they remained indifferent regarding the other projects. The suppression of the insurrection was a hard blow on the nobility, the traditional political power within Lithuania, as well as Poland. The Russian policies in effect and the process of modernisation permitted a greater voice to the new intelligentsia of Lithuania, which was socially interrelated with the rural peasant society. Thereby, the nobility lost their leading position in the population.

On January 1, 1864 M. Muraviev prohibited the activities of all schools, not under government administration.

Early 1864 brought about the publication of a series of articles written by Alexander Hilferding, a Russian academician and public activist in St. Petersburg. The articles argued for policies of de-Polonisation in Lithuania and White Russia, and urged the Russian government to recognise certain rights for the use of the Lithuanian language in areas of education and public life.

1864 was the year, when Bishop M. Valancius submitted projects to M. Muraviev, regarding the necessity of teaching reading and writing in the Lithuanian language at Russian elementary schools within the jurisdiction of the Kaunas Guberniya. Furthermore, there were projects, regarding the establishment of Lithuanian classes at Catholic Churches and a Lithuanian secondary school at the Clerical Seminary of Varniai. These projects were rejected in May.

On February 10, 1864 Konstantinas Kalinauskas (Kalinowski), the last of the senior officers of the insurrectionists within the ?Province of Lithuania?, was apprehended and hung in Vilnius a month later.

On March 2, 1864 Russian Czar Alexander II issued a decree regarding peasantry reforms in the Kingdom of Poland. By virtue of the decree, the peasants became owners of the land under their own domain. The decree was also effective in the Uznemune part of Lithuania.

On May 22, 1864 Alexander II approved the program for the Russification of the Northwestern Province, approved by the Western Committee. The authors of the program were M. Muraviev and Ivan Kornilov, his assistant who was in charge of the Education District of Vilnius. The Western Committee was a special secret governmental organ of Russia. The program was titled Renewal of Russian Origins Program. It was based on the concept that the Western provinces, including the lands of ethnic Lithuanians within them, were ?Russian lands since centuries.? The program also called for the restraint of Catholic Church activities, and the discrimination of Catholics in favour of the Orthodox Christians. Thereby, persons of Catholic backgrounds were to be precluded from governmental service within the country, providing priority to Russian Orthodox Christians. It also encouraged formation of Russian manor estate holders with their own peasantry by prohibiting the Catholic nobility from purchasing manor estates put up for sale. Numerous manor estates, which had been confiscated following the insurrection, were distributed to peasants moving in from Russia, when no buyers appeared among the Russian landholders. The program also involved the elimination of Polish language and culture from the public life of the land, and the Russification of elementary schools. It was believed that Russian teachers would succeed in integrating Lithuanians and White Russians into mainstream Russian cultural life, and would protect the population from the influence of Polish culture. The teachers were expected to create a tension between the peasantry, who spoke the Lithuanian and White Russian languages, and the Polish-speaking manor estate holders and nobility. By teaching youth the Russian language, which was to naturally become the language for the process of civilising the entire land, a Russian political consciousness would be implanted. The Russification policies, implemented in Lithuania during the entire XIX century, were based on this program. However, the result was an even more active Polonisation of the public, due to the opposition of Lithuania to the Russification. It was the Polish culture, which was then commonly related with the survival of a cultural, national and political identity. 1864 was the year, when the Russian government relocated the Samogitian Bishopric headquarters from Varniai to Kaunas without the approval of the Vatican. This was done to more effectively observe and control the actions of the bishop.

1864 was marked by the establishment of the Vilnius Commission on Archeography. It took the place of the closed Vilnius Commission on Archaeology. The purpose of the new institution was to arrange publication of Lithuanian historical documents, which were relevant to the policies of the Russian Czar. The Commission issued 39 volumes of documents, related to the territory of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania between 1865-1915. Numerous valuable research resources were issued.

1864-1865 was a time, when any Lithuanian books, written in the Latin alphabet, whether printed locally or imported, were prohibited. All works, written by Lithuanians, were ordered to be in the Cyrillic script. The period marked the beginning of the prohibition of the Lithuanian press. Although the prohibition was never legally formulated, and merely confirmed by the word of Russian Czar Alexander II on January 30th of 1866, it remained in effect for 40 years.

1865 marked the start of the opposition to the politics of Russification, being organised by Bishop M. Valancius. He encouraged the priesthood to urge the peasants and the general population to resist the Russian Orthodox faith, boycott books written in Cyrillic letters, and form underground Lithuanian schools.



1866 was the year, when the Russian government established teaching courses at Veiveriai, wherein teachers for the elementary schools of Uznemune were trained. The courses were reorganised into a seminary for teachers in 1872. The Lithuanian language was being diligently taught, due to the implementation of policies, related to dividing the Lithuanians from the Polish. Thus, the institution, which had been meant to serve the policies of Russification, instead became an important centre for educating the new Lithuanian intelligentsia. On January 13, 1867 a new administrative order took effect. The Suvalkai Guberniya, comprising the northwestern counties of Augustavas Guberniya was established. This area had been a vaivode until 1837, subordinate to the Warsaw General Governor. Henceforth, the area, which had been referred to as Uznemune, became known as Suvalkai.



On June 5, 1867 the Vilnius Public Library was opened. Private libraries, primarily confiscated by the Russian government from manor estates after the insurrection, and the former library of Vilnius University comprised the collections of this library. The Public Library had a particularly rich collection of manuscripts. The Museum of Ancient Artefacts continued to operate alongside the library, following the closing of the Vilnius Commission on Archaeology.

1867 was the founding year of the Marijampole Gymnasium (High School) for Boys. Teaching of the Lithuanian language was permitted as an elective subject there, as well as at Suvalkai Gymnasium and the Seinai Junior Gymnasium. National stipends were granted for ten graduating students from the Suvalkai Guberniya for studies at Moscow University. The stipends were meant to encourage a pro-Russian attitude among the class of Lithuanian intelligentsia, who held anti-Polish views, albeit had not lost their ethnic identities. The Gymnasium became an important training ground for the new class of Lithuanian intelligentsia.

1867-1870 was the period, when a system for publication of Lithuanian press in the traditional alphabet and the illegal circulation of such in Lithuania was developed in East Prussia at the initiative of Bishop M. Valancius.

1868 witnessed the beginning of mass emigration from Lithuania to the United States of America and other countries on the continents of the Americas and Western Europe, due to the stimulus of difficult economic conditions.

1871-1873 was the period of the construction of the Liepaja - Romnai Railroad line. 1872 brought the recall of a state of war, which had been declared during the time of the insurrection. Nevertheless, most of the policies of Russification and discrimination of that period remained in effect. The regime of the Russian administration in Lithuania took a more tolerant turn until 1882.



The 1864 Russian court reforms began being belatedly implemented after cessation of the state of war. A comparatively modern legal system was introduced. The reforms included non-elitist courts, professional practice of attorneys, contesting of lawsuits, independence of judges from the administration and a legal system, and public disclosure. An institution of district arbitrators was established. However, the reforms were only partially implemented in the country. Russian arbitrators, whose professional competency had been limited to the resolution

small civil cases, were appointed by the zemstvas, which partly were the independent municipalities of the nobility. Arbitrators were appointed by the Russian administration in the Northwestern Province. The appellate institution for this hierarchy of courts was a convention of county arbitration judges.

1873 was notable for the issuance of *Chefek Chaim* (Life's Craving), a book of a theological nature, which was printed in the Hebrew script. The book won world acclaim for its author, Rabbi I. M. Cohen.

On January 13, 1874 Russian Czar Alexander II issued an order for the abolishment of the conscription of recruits, and introduced obligatory military service for the entire population. This was an additional step in the direction of public advancement.

1876 was the year, when the Russian Law on Towns, passed in 1870, became valid for the Kaunas and Vilnius Guberniyas. The Duma (council of representatives) at the town level began electing their boards on the basis of a property census, rather than by class status.

1879 was the year of the founding of an academic literary society in Lithuania Minor, known as *Litauische Literarische Gesellschaft*.

1880 was the year that the Polish Socialist Organisation, *Gmina Socjalistów Polskich*, formed.

1882-1896 was the time, when the first telephone lines were laid in Lithuania. 1883-1886 marked the issue of the first illegal Lithuanian periodical dedicated to Lithuania Proper, titled *Ausra* (Dawn), in Eastern Prussia. The unlawful Lithuanian national movement was revived. The newspaper contributed greatly to the awakening of Lithuanian national consciousness, and the consolidation of the intelligentsia of Lithuania nationally. The primary ideologists of the newspaper were Jonas Basanavicius and Jonas Sliupas.

1883-1894 marked the establishment and operations of the first secular organisations for the unlawful circulation of the Lithuanian press.

1883 was the year of the establishment of the Kaunas and Vilnius Circuit Courts, and the Vilnius Courthouse. Modernisation of the legal system was completed in accordance with the Russian 1864 Law on Courts.

1883-1887 was the period taken for a slow conversion of the poll tax, initially introduced in 1795, to a land tax, which was applicable to all taxable classes of the population. The deed was a social advancement for the country.

1885-1914 was the duration of the activities of Birute, a Lithuanian cultural society in Tilze. It encouraged Lithuanian national consciousness.

1887 was the first year, when a group of Lithuanian Social Democrats assembled in Vilnius. 1889-1905 was the period of the publication and illegal circulation from Eastern Prussia of *Varpas* (Bell), a periodical of a liberal and democratic perspective, designed for the intelligentsia, and *Ukininkas* (Farmer) for the rural population. Both periodicals criticised the Russification policies of the Russian government and Polonisation, and urged a struggle for democratic rights. Both periodicals, but particularly *Varpas* had great significance in heightening Lithuanian national consciousness, and formulating a program for a cultural and political national movement. The main ideologist of *Varpas* was Vincas Kudirka between 1889-1899. His composition of *Tautiska giesme* (National Hymn) became the national anthem of Lithuania. The major contributors to *Varpas* periodical included Kazys Grinius, Juozapas Bagdonas, Juozapas Adomaitis-Sernas, Jonas Jablonskis, Povilas Visinskis, Jonas Vileisis, Jurgis Saulys, and other of the most eminent names of that time.



1890-1896 was the time of the publication of *Zemaičiu ir Lietuvos apžvalga* (A Review of Samogitia and Lithuania) periodical, issued by the Catholic intelligentsia of Eastern Prussia, who held conservative views. The periodical also criticised the politics of Russification, however it refrained from propagating a struggle against the Russian government.

On March 3, 1892 the Russian government issued an order regarding the persecution of underground Lithuanian and Polish schools.

In June 1893 a convention of the Polish Socialist Party (*Polska Partja Socjalistyczna* ? PPS) was held in Vilnius. Lithuania and White Russia were recognised as a territorial unit for the activities of this party. A Lithuanian PPS section was organised.

On November 23, 1893 was the date of the Kraziai Massacre. The Russian government brutally quelled the people, who were protesting against the closing of the Kraziai Monastery by the government.

1895-1904 was a period of activity by distributor and reader societies of the then unlawful Lithuanian press. 1895 witnessed the issue of the books of poetry, entitled *Pavasario balsai* (Voices of Springtime) and *Jaunoji Lietuva* (A Young Lithuania), written by Jonas Maciulis under the name of Maironis. The manifestations of rebirth of the Lithuanian nation were made poetically meaningful.

1896 was the year of the establishment of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party. The written party platform sought a sovereign Lithuania, comprising the Guberniyas of Vilnius, Kaunas, Suvalkai and Grodno, and one, which would be linked with neighbouring countries on the basis of a free federation. Eminent party activists included Alfonsas Moravskis, Andrius Domasevicius, and at a later time, Vladas Sirutavicius, Augustinas Janulaitis, Mykolas Birziska, Steponas Kairys and others.



1896-1904 was the publication period of *Tevynės sargas* (Homeland Guardian) periodical in Eastern Prussia. It gave expression to the ideas of the members of the intelligentsia, who held views of modern Catholic thought. The periodical was active in the protest against Russification, and made effort to involve the rural population in the movement for a national struggle. The main ideologist of the periodical was a Lithuanian author, priest Juozapas Tumas-Vaizgantas.

1897 was the year of the first census of the entire population, conducted by the Russian Empire. The data of this census states that the population of the Lithuanian areas of Kaunas, Vilnius and

Suvalki numbered 2.5 million people. 1897 brought the recall of the prohibition of building new Catholic churches. Catholic schoolchildren were no longer forced to attend the Russian Orthodox places of worship during the holidays of the Russian Czar.



On October 7-9, 1897 the first convention of Jewish Social Democrat organisations was held in Vilnius. There, the Bundas, a public Russian and Polish Jews workers' union, was established.

1897-1902 was the period, when the first stockholder companies began forming in Lithuania.

1898-1899 was a period, marked by the merging of underground Polish culture and education societies into an illegal alliance, named Oúwiata, led by Witold Waslawski.

1899 was the year, marked the initiation of the activities of the pro-Masonic Neosubracv Society, led by Attorney Tadas Vrublevskis (Tadeusz Wróblewski) in Vilnius.

On August 20, 1899 the first play was acted for the public in Palanga. The play, *Amerika pirtyje* (America in the Steam Bath), was written by Antanas Vilkutaitis-Keturakis.

By Rimantas Miknys



Lithuania in the Russian Empire 1795-1843

- Boundary of the Russian Empire in 1815-1914
- - - Boundary of the Lithuanian Guberniya in 1795-1801
- Boundary of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the second partition in 1793
- Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by the Russian Empire after the second partition
- Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by the Russian Empire after the third partition
- Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by Prussia after the third partition
- Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by Austria after the third partition
- Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by Prussia after the third partition
- Prussia
- Centre of the Lithuanian Guberniya
- Guberniya centres



Lithuania in the Russian Empire in 1843-1915

-  Boundary of the Russian Empire in 1815-1914
 Boundaries of the guberniyas since 1843
 Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by the Russian Empire after the second partition
 Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by the Russian Empire after the third partition
 The territory of Lithuania behind the Nemunas River (Užnemunė) and other territories of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed by Prussia after the third partition, that belonged to the Russian Empire from 1815
 Territory of the Kingdom of Poland annexed by the Russian Empire after the third partition and from 1815
 Prussia
 Guberniya centres
 County centres since 1843, and in Suwalki Guberniya from 1867

XX century until 1918

1900 was the year when Lithuanians took part in the World Exhibition in Paris.

1901 was the year of the opening of the M. Muraviev Museum, which accumulated museum displays and archives about the Insurrection of 1863. 1902 was marked by the formation of the Lithuanians (changed to Lithuanian after 1906) Democratic Party (LDP). The party formulated a platform to seek the demarcation of the ethnographic borders of an independent democratic Lithuanian country. The proposed borders were much as the present day borders of Lithuania.



1902 was also marked by the establishment of Mizrachi, the first Zionist party in the Russian Empire.

On May 7, 1904 the prohibition of press in the Latin (or Lithuanian) alphabet script was recalled. On December 23, 1904 the first legal daily newspaper, Vilniaus žinios (Vilnius News), was published in

Vilnius in the Lithuanian language.

On January 1, 1905 a Russian Zionist conference assembled in Vilnius, and the headquarters for the organisation was opened there.

1905 brought the organisation of the first liberal women's society, Lithuanian Women's Alliance for the Defence of Women's Rights. Their members, such as Ona Pleiryte-Puidienė, Felicija Bortkeviciene, Sofija Kymantaite-Ciurlionienė, and others sought the gain of political voting rights for women. Their policy was to support the work for the common good of the country, which was a means to achieve Lithuanian autonomy.

1905 was the year of the first democratic revolution, started in Russia after the Bloody Sunday of January 22nd. Protest strikes and clashes between demonstrators and the Russian army took place in Vilnius and other towns.

On May 3, 1905 the Russian government instituted a state of emergency in the Vilnius Guberniya, which was not recalled until May 3, 1910.

On May 14, 1905 the Russian Czar Nicholas II signed a decree, permitting the teaching of the Lithuanian and Polish languages as subjects at schools in the Guberniyas of the Western Province.

On August 28, 1905 the Russian government instituted a state of emergency in the Kaunas Guberniya. It remained in effect until August 25, 1909.

On November 12, 1905 a state of emergency was instituted in the Suwalki Guberniya.

In November 1905, the National Lithuanian Democratic Party was officially established. It served as the centre for the co-ordination of Lithuanian political forces during the preliminary work for the congress to be held in Vilnius. On December 4-5, 1905 the Congress of Lithuanians was held in



Vilnius. Later, it was named the Great Seimas (Council of Representatives or Diet) of Vilnius. Among the resolutions passed, a demand for political autonomy within the ethnographic borders of Lithuania was included. The resolution also called for a democratically elected Seimas in Vilnius. The congress provided an extra impulse to the national movement, occurring throughout Lithuania. This was a social revolutionary movement in the country, directed against the absolutism of Russia. Goals included political and social reforms. The 1905-1906 nationalist movement of Lithuanians provided direction to the entire country of Lithuania, and was oriented to the restoration of statehood, based on the formation of a national and democratic citizenry. This Lithuanian Congress proved to be an event of the greatest significance, following the

1863 Insurrection. It showed that a national consciousness had formed in Lithuania. Furthermore, it clearly defined the ethnographic political views of Lithuanians.

In autumn 1905, the first legal Polish daily newspaper, Kurier Litewski (Lithuanian Courier), was issued in Vilnius.

1905-1906 was the period of activity of the lawful political party, Stronictwo Konstytucyjno-Katolickie na Litwie i Białoruży (Constitutional Catholic Party of Lithuania and White Russia), established in Vilnius by the Vilnius Bishop, Edward von der Roep. The party platform called for an expansion of local self-government, and autonomy for the Kingdom of Poland within the auspices of Russia. The party sought to strengthen the positions of the Catholic clergy in the land. It was influenced by the program of Russian Cadets (Constitutional Democrats).

1905-1906 was the period, when the Polskie Stronictwo Demokratyczno-Norodowe (Polish



National Democratic) Party intensified its activities. The members of this party began publication of the newspaper Dziennik Wileński (Vilnius Daily) in Vilnius on August 19, 1906. The newspaper served to promote the ideas of the party. Members of this party were opposed to the idea of autonomy for Lithuania and White Russia, however did back the idea of autonomy for the Kingdom of Poland, and Polish national and cultural rights. They were opposed to any limitations of such rights within the Northwestern Guberniyas of Russia. Autumn 1905 - winter 1906 was a



time, when the Russian government was essentially not in control of the rural districts of Lithuania. Local administrative institutions had passed into the hands of the governmental bodies, which had been formed by the rural citizenry themselves. Armed groups formed in some areas, however they did not develop into an armed resistance against Russian government at that time.

1906 was the year of the publication of Gazeta Wileńska (Vilnius Newspaper) by the democratic intelligentsia of the Polish in Lithuania. It initiated the ideas of the so-called ?krajovci? political group. The view being promoted was based on the historical concept of Lithuania. It held Lithuania and White

Russia to be one country with a common history, territory, economy and culture. It propagated concord among the Lithuanians, Polish, White Russians, Jews, Russians, and all the other national ethnic groups of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania, based on principles of citizenship. Citizenship was held to be more important than nationality. Use of the principle of citizenship, as a political treatise was an effort to stave off possible national and territorial conflicts within the territory of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which could evolve as a result of a nationalistic ideology. Mykolas Römeris was the ideologist of the newspaper.

1906 was the year of the publication of two White Russian newspapers. One, the Nasza Dolia (Our Fate), was published from February 14th to October of 1906. The other, Nasza Niwa (Our Soil) began publishing on November 21st of 1906 to replace the first. They both had great importance in consolidating White Russian intellectuals, who were prepared to work at raising the national consciousness of White Russians. The initiators and primary contributors of these newspapers were Anton and Ivan Luckevicz and Vaclovas Lastauskis, amongst others.

By spring 1906, the Russian government had re-established Russian control in the rural areas of Lithuania by the employment of special military forces.

On March 17, 1906 an edict was passed by the Russian government, which permitted formation of professional unions and societies.

On May 10 - July 21, 1906 the first Duma (Council of Representatives) of the state of Russia assembled. There were 15 representatives from Vilnius, Kaunas and Suwalki Guberniyas at the Duma (Council). Eight of them were Lithuanians. They were particularly active in deliberating land issues. Their declarations emphasised the idea that Lithuania should be considered separately from the Russian Guberniyas in implementing land reforms. It was argued that Lithuania already had traditions of private land ownership and management.

On September 6, 1906 the law, regarding the persecution of underground Polish and Lithuanian schools, was abolished. Entire networks of underground Polish and Lithuanian schools had formed throughout the territory of Lithuania during the second half of the XIX century. These schools urged an opposition to Russification amongst the citizens.

On November 6, 1906 Russian Czar Nicholas II signed an edict for the subdivision of the rural population into individual farmsteads. This edict hastened the expansion of capitalistic farming in Lithuanian villages.

On November 6, 1906 the first Lithuanian opera, titled Birute, was staged in Vilnius. It was composed by Mikas Petrauskas.

1906 was the year, when the first Catholic educational societies were established. These were: Saule (Sun) at the Kaunas Guberniya, Ziburys (The Beacon) at the Suvalkai Guberniya, as well as Sviesa (Light), the liberal society of Lithuanian culture and education at Marijampole, which was legalised in 1905. They all played an important role in propagating Lithuanian national culture and education.

In December 1906, the Oúwiata alliance of Polish culture and education was legalised in the Vilnius Guberniya.

1906-1909 was the time in which Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis created his major compositions.

1907 was the year, when the platform of Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party was announced in Draugijos (Society) magazine. It had been planned prior to the Congress of Lithuanians or the Great Sei-mas, which took place in Vilnius during December 4-5, 1905. Autonomy for Lithuania was one of the demands on the platform.

On January 9, 1907 the first Lithuanian fine arts exhibition opened in Vilnius. On March 5 - June 15, 1907 the Russian National Duma (Council of Representatives) II went into session. There were 7 Lithuanians participating. Representative Petras Leonas argued the land issue, urging Lithuanian lands to be returned under individual ownership, because such was the consciousness within the rural population of Lithuania. This discussion was another highlight in the issue of the separation of Lithuania from Russia, a concept that had formed historically.



1907 was the year of the establishment in Vilnius of the Lithuanian Science and Lithuanian Art Societies, the Polish Science Friendship Society in Vilnius, and Ausra (Dawn), a Lithuanian educational society. All these societies had tremendous influence on the development of cultural life in Lithuania during this period. They also aided in laying the foundations for progressive academic research, particularly in history, ethnography and literature.

On September 23-24, 1907 the Lithuanian Women's Assembly was held in Kaunas, which provided impetus for the movement of organising women for greater roles in public life.

On November 14, 1907 - on June 22, 1912 the Russian National Duma (Council of Representatives) III was in session. There were 4 Lithuanians participating. They raised the demand for transferring the decision regarding the land issue to the autonomous Lithuanian Seimas (Council of Representatives or Diet). The concept of autonomy for Lithuania was also propagated.

1907 was the year that Viltis (Hope), a magazine of national views went into circulation in Vilnius. It laid the foundations for the public and political group of Lithuanian nationalists. The editors were Antanas Smetona and Vaizgantas.

1908 was the year, when the Russian government closed the Ausra (Dawn) and Sviesa (Light) Societies in Vilnius. It was held that these societies were inappropriate to the purpose of political and cultural Russification in the Northwestern Province.

1908 was also the year Ruta Lithuanian Theatre Lovers Club formed in Vilnius. Later in 1911, publication of Teatras (Theatre) magazine began.

1911-1915 was the period, when the Masonic Lodges renewed their activities in Vilnius. The Jednolita, a provincial Lodge of the Great Russian East, was established in 1911. It was followed by the establishment of Litwa (Lithuania) the same year. In 1914, the Bialoruś (White Russia) was established.

1911-1915 was the period of the publication of Przegląd Wileński (Vilnius Review), a Polish democratic newspaper. The newspaper propagated ideas to raise the consciousness of the Polish, as citizens of the country.

1912 brought about the abolishment of the institution of the Vilnius General Governor. The Kaunas and Vilnius Governors became directly subject to the Russian Ministry of the Interior and the Russian Czar.

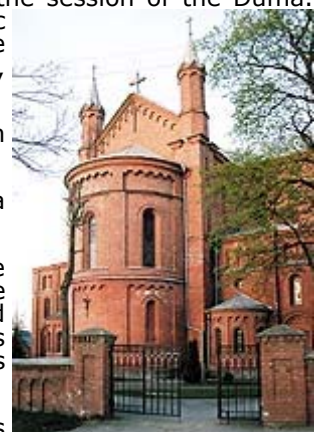
On November 24, 1912 the Russian National Duma (Council of Representatives) IV went into session with 4 Lithuanians participating. The deputies remained in session until October 19th of 1917. Martynas Ycas, one of the Lithuanian representatives, raised the issue of a project for the autonomy of Lithuania within the state of Russia. It was submitted for deliberation by the Duma. Petras Leonas, a representative who had participated on the Duma II, was the author of the project. Both men were members of the Russian Constitutional Democratic Party. The party had previously had a written platform, seeking the goal of Russian decentralisation. Member of the Lithuanian Democratic Party Mykolas Januskevicius, the Lithuanian representative in the Duma, also spoke about Lithuanian aspirations for political autonomy during the session of the Duma. 1913 was the year of the establishment of Rytas (Morning), a Catholic Lithuanian educational society of education in the Vilnius Guberniya. One of the purposes of the society was to disseminate Lithuanian ideas, which were opposed to Polonisation.

1913 was also the year that Vaivorykste (Rainbow), the first Lithuanian literary magazine, went into circulation in Vilnius.

On August 1, 1914 marked the beginning of World War I. Lithuania found itself on the front line of battle.

On August 11, 1914 the Lithuanian Society (initially called the Provisional Committee) of Relief for War Sufferers, a charitable organisation, was established in Vilnius. It became a political and cultural centre of the Lithuanian community. The founders were: Petras Leonas, Martynas Ycas, Antanas Smetona, Emilija Vileisiene, Antanas Vileisis, Kazimieras Olsauskas and J. Masiotas.

On August 17, 1914 Lithuanian intellectuals of right political views passed a declaration in Vilnius, which was subsequently signed by Jonas Basanavicius and Donatas Malinauskis. The declaration, submitted in the name of the Lithuanian nation, expressed



both a loyalty to Russia, and also the faith that after the war, the government of the Russian Czar will agree to adjoin all the territories, wherein Lithuanians reside, including Lithuania Minor. The officially stated purpose was provision of more favourable conditions for Lithuanians to develop their culture. Political autonomy within the territory of Russia was carefully noted in the declaration.

On October 20, 1914 - January 23, 1915 was the period of the work of the Committee of Lithuanian Representatives for all the Dumas (Councils) of Russia. The work of the committee was to support and strengthen charitable organisations, develop national relief societies for war victims, and raise issues of relevance to Lithuania at Russian governmental institutions. The committee ceased its work due to the internal strife between its rightist and leftist members.

On November 1-4, 1914 a convention of the representatives of the Great Russian East Lodges met in St. Petersburg. The tactics of political forces in opposition to the government of the Russian Czar was deliberated. Cemakas Sabadas, Anton Luckevicz, and Mykolas Römeris were the representatives for Lithuania and White Russia at the convention. They proposed that the main organisers of the convention, the Russian cadets, pass a resolution regarding political autonomy for Lithuania and White Russia, as one of the points in the platform of the liberal movement in Russia. The proposal was rejected. This made it clear that even the liberal and democratic political forces of Russia had not renounced imperialistic goals. Lithuanian politicians proceeded to seek other political partners to resolve the problem of political self-determination for Lithuania.

1914 was the year of the founding of the Lithuanian Theatre Society.

1915 was the year of the occupation of Lithuania by the German army. It occurred consequent to the battles, which had taken place during the spring, summer and autumn, and lasted to mid-October. On March 15, 1915 the Lithuanian Military Council was established. The former



administrative units of Lithuania, Suwalki and Vilnius comprised the Council. Duke Franz Jozeph von Birstein was delegated to head the Council on March 29th. The Council was part of the governmental structure of the Oberost, consisting of the eastern territories occupied by the Germans. Two headed the Oberost: Paul von Hindenburg, the Commander of the eastern front of the army of the Kaiser, and Erich Ludendorf, the Commander-in-Chief of the front headquarters. Between 1915 and 1918, the territory of the Oberost was measured to be over 108,808 km². It encompassed the Suwalki, Kaunas, Grodno, and Courland Guberniyas, and nearly all of Vilnius Guberniya. Governmental units of the Oberost within Lithuania were subdivided into 34

counties. The counties were subdivided into 230 rural districts.

On March 23-24, 1915 a conference was held in Warsaw, organised at the initiative of the supporters of independence for Poland. Participating in the deliberations were Lithuanian and Polish activists of democratic persuasion from Vilnius. The group was represented by Mykolas Slezevicius, Jurgis Saulys, Mykolas Römeris, and Witold Abramowicz. They were delegated to handle all actions related to the aspiration for the independence of Lithuania and Poland. However, the Lithuanians were distrustful of their political partners, thus the contact was terminated.

On April 15, 1915 leftist Lithuanian political activists established the Lithuanian Society for Provision of Legal and Agronomic Assistance to act separately from the Lithuanian Society of Relief for War Sufferers. The purpose of the new organisation was also the provision of assistance to refugees and victims of war.

On October 2, 1915 the Russian army withdrew from Vilnius. Nevertheless, the Russian government still managed to confirm the By-laws of the Citizens Committee (on Relief for War Sufferers), organised by the Polish. Polish politicians had harboured the hope that the Citizens Committee would provide for an early start of self-government in Lithuania. Initially, five Lithuanian representatives took part in the activities of the committee. The Chairman was Stanislaw Kognowicki, a Pole and the Vice-Chairman was Jonas Vileisis, a Lithuanian. However, after a few months the work of the committee, which had been common to both the Lithuanians and Polish, terminated due to disputes, regarding allocations of relief funds.

On October 11, 1915 the Polish Education Committee, which was being supported from Warsaw, was established. The Committee was responsible for the founding of Polish educational institutions.

On October 16, 1915 Lithuanians established the Politics Committee for the Defence of Lithuanian Interests, which was separate from the Polish. The committee was responsible for deliberations regarding Lithuanian political issues. Members included Antanas Smetona, Petras Klimas, Jonas Basanavicius, Jurgis Saulys and Antanas Stankevicius.

In November 1915, there were some 3 million refugees in all of Russia, including 300,000 from Lithuania, and 530,000 from Poland.

1915 was the year that a German military government was formed to rule the occupied lands of Lithuania and Courland. Its official name was Militaerverwaltung Litauen-Kurland.

On December 19, 1915 the Confederation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was organised at the

initiative of the ?krajovcai,? who were democratically minded Polish politicians from Vilnius. Lithuanian, Polish, White Russian, and Jewish representatives participated in the confederation. The purpose was to form one country of Lithuania and White Russia, and thus again establish the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. A goal was to assure the equality of all the nationalities, residing within such a country. The universal proclamation, issued by the Confederation Council, was based on the idea that Lithuania and White Russia would comprise the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The capital of the country was to be located in Vilnius.

1916 was the year that new railroad lines were laid by the Germans. The lines ran from Taurage to Radviliskis, and Siauliai to Mintauja (Jelgava). A narrow gauge rail track was laid to run from Svencionys to Narutis Lake, and other destinations.

On March 8-12, 1917 was the date of the February democratic revolution in Russia. Russian Czar Nicholas II renounced the throne on March 15th to the advantage of his brother, Michael, who renounced the throne the following day. With that, the title of Grand Duke of Lithuania disappeared (Russian Czars had been granting themselves the title of Grand Duke of Lithuania from August 14th of 1655, the date of the occupation of Vilnius, the capital of the Grand Duchy by the Czar of Russia).

On March 9, 1917 the Lithuanian National Council was formed in Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg), Russia. It was organised and co-ordinated by Lithuanian political parties and groups, who had withdrawn to Russia. It was formed to determine the political future of Lithuania.



On May 27 - June 3, 1917 the Seimas (Council of Representatives) of Lithuanians throughout all of Russia was held in Petrograd. Two independent resolutions, regarding the future of Lithuania, were passed, due to the split between the right and left factions among the Lithuanian political representatives. The right faction made the statement that the country should be separate from Russia, whereas the left upheld wide autonomy for Lithuania within a democratic Russian Republic. The resolution of the left called for the Seimas of Lithuania to be the governmental organ in the political future of Lithuania.

On September 18-22, 1917 the Vilnius Conference was held with the approval of the German government. Participants passed resolutions, regarding the future of Lithuania, and elected a 20-member Lithuanian Council. One resolution, regarding the political future of Lithuania, raised the issue of an independent Lithuanian nation within demarcated ethnographic borders, which would be based on democratic principles. Another resolution specified an allied relationship of such an aforementioned state with Germany. The Lithuanian Council elected a Presidium, which was chaired by Antanas Smetona. The Council became the primary organisation, concerned with the re-establishment of Lithuanian statehood.

On December 11, 1917 the Lithuanian Council proclaimed the act for the re-establishment of the Lithuanian state. It did not discuss independence, but rather the self-determination of Lithuania, joined with Germany in terms of an alliance. The relationship of the alliance was described in terms of military and transportation conventions, and common customs and monetary systems.

By **Rimantas Miknys**



Lithuania in 1915-1918



1918-1940



On February 16, 1918 the Lithuanian Council unanimously passed the resolution for the re-establishment of the Independent State of Lithuania at 12:30 p.m. in the historical capital of Vilnius at Didžioji st. 30 (currently Pilies st. 26). The *de jure* sovereignty of the now modern country was legally proclaimed. The actual re-establishment of independence was confirmed by the resolution passed at the Constituent Seimas (parliamentary Council of Representatives) on May 15th, 1920.

March 23, 1918 brought recognition of Lithuania by an Act of Emperor Wilhelm II. Various conventions and subordination contacts were binding with Germany. This was the first time that international recognition of Lithuanian statehood was declared. July 11, 1918 was the day the Lithuanian Council was officially named the Lithuanian State Council. This was based on the legal Act, whereby Germany had recognised the Statehood of Lithuania.

July 13, 1918 was the day of proclamation by the Lithuanian State Council. Lithuania was declared a constitutional monarchy. Furthermore, Duke William von Urach of Wittenberg was elected to take the throne as King under the title of Mindaugas II. These proclamations were the effort of the Council to circumvent any attempt by Germany to annex the country to Prussia or Saxony.

November 2, 1918 brought recall of the resolution by the Lithuanian State Council to elect William von Urach as King. Instead the Council passed the foundations for a Provisional Constitution of Lithuania, the first Fundamental Law of the new Lithuanian State.

November 11, 1918 was the confirmation date of the first provisional Government of Lithuania by the Presidium of the Lithuanian State Council. The institution was based on the statutes of the Provisional Constitution. Augustinas Voldemaras was named the Prime Minister of the Government, which contained six Ministries.

November 23, 1918 was the date of the law, issued by Prime Minister A. Voldemaras, regarding the organisation of the 1st regiment of the Lithuanian Army. At the time, the German forces were dispersed, and the threat of Soviet Russia increased. The date marked the beginning of the formation of the Lithuanian Army.



November 30, 1918 was the date, when the Act was passed by the National Council of Lithuania Minor, regarding the intent of the majority of the residents of Prussia (Lithuania Minor) to merge with the re-established State of Lithuania.

December 16, 1918 was a day of demonstrations and rallies, organised by the Vilnius Communists, a Jewish league, and the leftist pro-Russian Social Democrats. These groups were attempting to support the approaching Red Army and the Communistic government of V. Kapsukas.

December 20-21, 1918 were the dates of international travel by Prime Minister A. Voldemaras and State

Council Chairman A. Smetona. They visited Germany, France, and other countries to request financial and material aid, and diplomatic recognition of Lithuania.

December 22, 1918 was the date a decree was issued by the Communist Government of Russia, headed by V. Lenin. The decree recognised the government of V. Kapsukas as supreme, and Lithuania, as being Soviet and under the jurisdiction of Russia.

December 27, 1918 was the day of confirmation of the newly appointed Government in Vilnius. Mykolas Slezevicius became the Prime Minister. The Government took immediate measures to repel the aggression by external forces.

December 31, 1918 was the withdrawal of the occupying German forces from Vilnius. The Government of M. Slezevicius, which was under the threat of the Polish nationalistic forces and



the approaching Communist Red Army, withdrew to Kaunas. January 2, 1919 was the day that Polish troops, breaking the resistance of local Communistic forces, took possession of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, for a brief time.

January 5, 1919 was the day that the Russian Red Army forced the retreat of the Polish troops and seized Vilnius. Once the Communist government of V. Kapsukas gained foothold in the city, the invasion was continued with a purpose occupy all of Lithuania.

January 16-23, 1919 the 2nd Lithuanian State Conference was held in Kaunas. The issues deliberated were related to the re-establishment of independence, and internal, as well as foreign policies. A strategic plan for the Government was drawn, regarding the struggle against foreign invaders.

February 7-9, 1919 marked the cessation of further penetration by the Red Army into the depths of Lithuania. The Kedainiai Lithuanian Guard, which was being supported by the Germans, put up a strong front of resistance. Povilas Luksys, the first Lithuanian volunteer soldier to die for his country, was killed in the area, surrounding Tauciunai village.

April 4, 1919 was the date of the passage of the second Provisional State Constitution by the Lithuanian State Council. It included the institution of the Presidency. Antanas Smetona was elected the first President of the country. April 19, 1919 the Polish troops again invaded Vilnius.

This was during the period of the war between Poland and Soviet Russia.



May 21, 1919 was the opening day of the Tautos (National) Theatre in Kaunas. It was headed by actor and play director, A. Sutkus.

August 25, 1919 was a day of victory for the Lithuanian armed forces. They conclusively forced the retreat of the Red Army out of Lithuania, and were also able to take the last foothold of the Communists, Zarasai Town. This time the Lithuanian army acted without the assistance of the Germans.

November 20-21, 1919 brought another victory for the Lithuanian armed forces, this time against the Bermondts troops near Radviliskis. The Bermondts troops were the White Guard of Germans and Russians, who invaded Lithuania from Latvia.

January 27, 1920 was the grand opening day in Kaunas for Courses of Higher Education. There were 350 students registered for the courses. Five faculties and departments were scheduling the courses. The date marked the beginning of higher education in independent Lithuania.

April 14-15, 1920 during the free, democratic elections to the Constituent Seimas, the Christian Democratic bloc won the absolute majority of votes (59 of 112). May 15, 1920 in Kaunas, the first meeting of the Constituent Seimas was held at the State Theatre Palace. There, the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania with the capital city in Vilnius was legally consolidated. The high officials of the Seimas were elected. The time marked the beginning of an intensive period in development of governmental institutions and reforms.

July 12, 1920 was the date of the peace treaty, signed in Moscow between Lithuania and Soviet Russia. The first article stated: "...without any reservations Russia recognises Lithuania's independence and self-government with all its due jurisdictional rights, and with good will renounces for all times, all rights of Russian sovereignty which she had had over the Lithuanian nation and its territories."



August 6, 1920 was the date of the ratification of the peace treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia by the Constituent Seimas.

October 7, 1920 was the date of the signing of the truce between Lithuania and Poland by empowered delegations at Suwalki. The agreement was to become effective on October 10th. The truce included specification of a demarcation boundary between the two countries, whereby Vilnius remained within Lithuania.

October 9, 1920 was the day of the supposed rebellion by Polish soldiers and residents of the Vilnius area, arranged by General L. Zeligowski with the encouragement of the Polish Government. With an unexpected attack, the General took possession of Vilnius. Henceforth, the capital city of Lithuania and the eastern, ethnically Lithuanian territories remained in the hands of the Polish government until September of 1939.

October 20, 1920 was the date the 6th (1st long-term) coalition Government with K. Grinius as Prime Minister was approved by the Constituent Seimas.

December 31, 1920 was the premiere opening of La Traviata, an opera by Giuseppe Verdi, at the Kaunas State Theatre Palace. The starring role of Alfred was performed by the highly evaluated tenor K.

Petrauskas. February 16, 1921 was the grand opening of the War Museum exhibition in Kaunas. The date marked the beginning of a national effort to safeguard the heritage of the past.



May 14, 1921 was the date of the first official meeting of negotiation delegations from Lithuania and Poland at a League of Nations session. O. Milasius, the representative empowered by Lithuania, presented historical, legal, ethnographic, and economic arguments in support of the jurisdiction of Vilnius by Lithuania.

May 20, 1921 was the submission date of the 15 section project to the Lithuanian and Polish delegations by P. Hymans, a spokesperson for the League of Nations. The project regarded resolution of the territorial disputes between both countries. Later, the project was resolutely rejected by the Lithuanian delegation, which was headed by E. Galvanauskas.

January 8, 1922 was election day to the so-called Central Lithuania Seimas (Council of Representatives). The election had been called by resolution of the Sejm (Council of Representatives) of Poland in occupied Vilnius. The purpose was to annex the occupied ethnic lands of Lithuanians.

February 15, 1922 was the confirmation date of the Law on Implementation of Land Reform by the Constituent Seimas. A legal foundation was laid for radical agrarian reorganisation in Lithuania.

February 16, 1922 was the opening day of Kaunas University. It was established on the basis of the Courses of Higher Education, which had already been operating. This was the first institution of higher education in independent Lithuania.

August 1, 1922 was marked by the passage of the first immutable Constitution of Lithuania by the Constituent Seimas. Therein, the structure of the modern State, the Republic of Lithuania, along with its democratic community of citizens, was established.

October 1, 1922 was the day of the introduction of the litas, the national currency for Lithuania. It proved to become one of the most stable currencies in Europe during the inter-war period.

October 10-11, 1922 was the election day of the 1st Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. The Seimas has been established on the basis of the immutable Constitution of Lithuania.

January 15, 1923 was the date of the annexation of Klaipeda (then Memel) city and its ethnic surroundings to Lithuania by the Government of Lithuania. This followed an instigated rebellion against the administration of Entente. The annexation act was executed to preclude the international rule, then operating in the area. February 16, 1923 was the confirmation date by the Ambassadors Conference of the League of Nations of the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania in the district of Klaipeda (Memel). Lithuania was obligated to implement an extraordinary regime of autonomy within the area.

May 8, 1924 was the date of signing of the Klaipeda Convention between the signatories of participating nations and Lithuania in Paris. The same also confirmed the status of autonomy within the district of Klaipeda (Memel), which was already effective.

June 10, 1924 was the date of the resignation of the 9th Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Lithuania, then headed by Prime Minister E. Galvanauskas. Single party rule by the Christian Democrats came into force in Lithuania from this day.

August 23-24, 1924 marked the performance of the first National Song Festival in Kaunas.

December 13, 1925 was opening day at the M.K. Ciurlionis Picture Gallery in Kaunas. The display of the works of this famous artist and composer was completed. The design of V. Dubeneckis was used for the construction and interior of the building.



April 4, 1926 was the date of the establishment of the Lithuanian Church Province. Neither Vilnius nor its surroundings, then occupied by Poland, were incorporated into the Province.

May 8-10, 1926 was the time, when the Christian Democratic bloc lost the elections to the 3rd Seimas. The left and moderate parties, the Social Democrats and Populists, won the majority of the vote.

June 12, 1926 marked the beginning of radio broadcasts from Kaunas.

June 15, 1926 was the date of the formation of the leftist coalition Government by the Social Democratic and Populist Parties. This Government, headed by Prime Minister M. Slezevicius, remained the executive organ of Lithuania for half a year.

September 28, 1926 was the date of the signing of the non-aggression pact between Lithuania

and the Soviet Union in Moscow. Therein, the latter again recognised Vilnius as the capital of Lithuania.

December 17, 1926 was the date of the military coup d'état against the Government, staged by the National and Christian Democratic Parties. The democratic order of the country was discontinued. It marked the beginning of the authoritarian rule by President A. Smetona.



April 12, 1927 was the day of the dissolution of the 3rd Seimas by A. Smetona, the President of the Republic of Lithuania. This was accomplished by virtue of a Constitutional Act. The 4th Seimas was not elected again for 9 years.

September 9, 1927 was the day of the attempted putsch (overthrow) by the leftist Social Democratic and Populist groups. These groups were opposed to the governing of A. Smetona and A. Voldemaras, members of the Nationalist Union. Although unrest was generated in Taurage, Alytus, and other locales, the putsch proved unsuccessful.

September 27, 1927 was the date of the signing of the Concord Agreement between the Holy See and the Government of Lithuania. The agreement called for the respect of the Catholic Church, and rights and liberties for persons of this religious faith.

May 15, 1928 was the proclamation date of the new Constitution of Lithuania by A. Smetona, the President of the Republic of Lithuania. The Cabinet of Ministers had approved the proclamation. It was exchanged in lieu of the Constitution, which had been passed on August 1st of 1922 by the Constituent Seimas. This Seimas had been declared null and void during the coup d'état of the country.

September 23, 1929 was the confirmation date of the 15th Cabinet of Ministers by President A. Smetona, following the removal of the radical-minded A. Voldemaras from office. J. Tubelis, a man of moderate views, was appointed the new Prime Minister.

October 15, 1931 was the day of the decision by the International Hague Tribunal, favourable to Lithuania in the dispute with Poland. The issue had involved railroad transportation, and the transit of Polish goods through Lithuania via the Nemunas River.

December 11, 1931 was the re-election day of President A. Smetona by special electors of the nation for a 7-year term, as specified by the Constitution of May 15th, 1928.

August 11, 1932 was the court date, when the Hague Tribunal rejected the case brought by Germany. The complaint filed was an accusation against Lithuania for using an excess of the limits of power in the governing of Klaipeda lands, and violation of the statutes on autonomy. The Tribunal cleared Lithuania of the charges.

June 1-21, 1933 was the period of the establishment of pro-Nazi German political parties, headed by Pastor von Sass and veterinarian E. Neumann. The purpose of these parties was to sever Klaipeda from Lithuania.



July 15-17, 1933 were the historic days of the Transatlantic flight by Lithuanian pilots, S. Darius and S. Girenas from New York to Kaunas. They successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean, however met with a tragic death at Soldin Forest in Poland, a mere 650 km from Lithuania.

June 7, 1934 was the date of the putsch (overthrow) by the supporters of former Prime Minister A. Voldemaras, nationalistically inclined military officers. The officers were led by P. Kubiliunas, the Chief of Armed Forces Staff. Their purpose was to return A. Voldemaras to the seat of office. The unrest within the military forces was easily quelled.

December 12 marked the beginning of the trial of 122 German Nazis from the Klaipeda territory, charged with treason against the Government of Lithuania. Sentence was passed on 87 persons, and 4 of them received the death penalty. However, a few years later all of them received amnesty by the Presidential Act.

February 6, 1936 was the date of the resolution by the Minister of the Interior, prohibiting all political parties in Lithuania, except for the ruling party, the National Union.

June 9-10, 1936 were the election days to the 4th Seimas. Voter turnout was 68.3%. The ruling National Party won the absolute majority of the vote in these elections. One reason was that the opposition had not been allowed to raise their candidates.

May 7, 1937 in Riga, the Lithuanian Men Basketball Team won the European championship.

March 17, 1938 was the day of the ultimatum by Poland, demanding that diplomatic relations be renewed within 48 hours. The ultimatum came after an incident at the demarcation boundary at Alytus County. There, a Polish soldier had been killed for violating this administrative line. The Government of Lithuania satisfied the demand in light of the realistic comparison of Polish and Lithuanian forces.

May 12, 1938 was the date the final Constitution of Lithuania during the inter-war period came into effect. It was officially announced in Valstybes žinios (Government News) bulletin. President A. Smetona and Prime Minister V. Mironas had signed it.

March 22, 1939 was the surrender day of the Government of Lithuania to the ultimatums, raised by Hitler's Germany for the transference of Klaipėda city and its district to the Nazis. Lithuanian governmental offices were evacuated from Klaipėda, and the troops were withdrawn.

August 23, 1939 was the date the non-aggression pact was signed between the Soviet Union and Germany in Moscow. The secret protocol, which specified spheres of influence of both countries within Eastern Europe, including the Baltic countries, was also signed the same day. Lithuania happened to have fallen into the German sphere of influence.

September 17, 1939 was the start of the march of the military forces of the Soviet Union into Western Ukraine, Western White Russia, and Vilnius and its surrounding territories. This move was in accordance with the advance agreement with Germany at the beginning of World War II.

September 28, 1939 was the date, when the Friendship and Border Demarcation Agreement was signed by the two aggressor nations, the Soviet Union and Germany. The agreement was drawn after the fall of Poland. This also had a secret addendum, which transferred Lithuania to the sphere of interest of the Soviet Union.

October 10, 1939 was the date, when the Mutual Assistance Treaty was signed between Lithuania and the Soviet Union under the pressure of the Soviet Government in Moscow. The treaty called for the return of the southeastern territories, along with Vilnius to Lithuania. Concurrently, it demanded the establishment of Soviet military bases within Lithuania. October 27, 1939 was the day, when the special forces of the Lithuanian army marched into Vilnius. A. Merkys, authorised by the Government of Lithuania for Vilnius city and its district, took control of the area.

November 21, 1939 was the confirmation date of the appointment of A. Merkys by President A. Smetona. A. Merkys was to head the last independent Government of Lithuania during the inter-war period. The Government was composed of members of the National Union, and the Christian Democratic and Populist Parties.

May 30, 1940 was marked by the unfounded accusations of the Soviet Government. It claimed that the Government of Lithuania was engaged in organising a provocation against garrisons of dislocated Soviet soldiers. It also accused the Government of the kidnapping of a soldier, and gathering reconnaissance information.

June 14, 1940 was the date of the ultimatum from the Soviet Union to Lithuania. It demanded formation of a new government, bringing in an additional Soviet troops, and trials of high Lithuanian Government officials. The Government of Lithuania concurred with the ultimatum.

June 15, 1940 witnessed the movements of the Soviet Army into all the most important centres and strategic locations of the country, and the occupation of all Lithuania. The President of the Republic A. Smetona withdrew to Germany.

June 16, 1940 marked the beginning of the Sovietization of the country. It followed the arrival of V. Dekanozov, Assistant to the Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union.

June 17, 1940 was the date of the formation of a pro-Moscow oriented People's Government, headed by J. Paleckis, at the direction of V. Dekanozov.

June 27, 1940 was the day of the dissolution of the 4th Lithuanian Seimas by the government of J. Paleckis.

July 7, 1940 was the day that A. Snieckus, the Soviet appointed Director of the State Security Department, approved the plan for the arrest and detention of the leadership of Lithuanian political parties. The plan was executed during the night between July 11th and 12th. July 14-15, 1940 were the days of the fabricated elections to the supposed parliament, the People's Seimas. The elections were in accordance to the Soviet model.



July 21, 1940 was the day of the proclamation of Lithuania as a Soviet Republic. The illegal proclamation was made by the Communist-controlled People's Seimas without consideration of the Constitution of the country. Land and the most important objects to the economy were nationalised.

August 3, 1940 was the day of the annexation of Lithuania to the USSR by the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union in Moscow. The Soviet annexation replaced the occupation of the country: Lithuania became a Soviet republic.

August 25, 1940 was the day the Constitution of the Soviet Republic took effect in Lithuania. Governmental institutions and

the organised structure of society reverted to the jurisdiction of the Communist regime.

November 11, 1940 was the establishment date of the Lithuanian Activist Front at the initiative of K. Skirpa in Berlin. It had an underground headquarters and anti-Soviet organisations within occupied Lithuania. The purpose was to seek Lithuanian independence during the start of the war between Germany and the USSR.

By **Ceslovas Bauza**

1940-1953

January 10, 1941 was the date of the signing of a repatriation treaty between the Governments of Germany and the USSR in Moscow. The treaty called for the repatriation of German citizens and nationals from Lithuanian SSR to Germany, and Lithuanian citizens and Lithuanian, Russian and Belorussian nationals from Germany to Lithuania. Between February and March, some 53,000 persons thus left Lithuania, while 12,000 Lithuanians and 9,300 Russians and Belorussians were relocated from Klaipeda and Suwalki lands to Lithuania.



April 14, 1941 was the day, when resolutions of the Lithuanian Communist Party and the Government of Lithuanian SSR were passed. These resolutions levied huge taxes and tributes of grain, potatoes, meat, milk, and other products on the rural population. The levies were similar to those, requisitioned by the Kaiser's Germany during World War I.

June 14-18, 1941 were the dark days of the first massive arrest and exile of the population. Some 17,500 Lithuanians were exiled from their homes. However, as the war between Germany and the USSR took hold, this deportation process was interrupted.

June 22, 1941 marked the official start of the war between Nazi Germany and the USSR. The German troops invaded Lithuania. The anti-Soviet armed June Insurrection took place.

June 22-27, 1941 was the duration of a battle between the Red Army and the German forces in Lithuania. The Red Army and Soviet repressive structures murdered political prisoners and residents of Lithuania. At Rainiai, 76 people were tortured and executed, and at Pravieniskes ? some 400. Executions also took place in Panevezys, Kaunas, Rokiskis, and other locations.

June 23, 1941 was the broadcast over Kaunas radio, declaring the re-establishment of the country of Lithuania by the Provisional Government of Lithuania, led by J. Ambrazevicius.

July 28, 1941 was the announcement day by the Commissioner of the Ostland Province of the German Reich, H. Lohse. He declared that German civilian administration (Zivilverwaltung) was being introduced. Lithuania came under the rule of Commissioner General A. T. Renteln.

August 5, 1941 brought a stop to the actions of the Provisional Government of Lithuania by A. T. Renteln. On this day, the final meeting of the Government took place.

August 26, 1941 witnessed the closing of the Lithuanian Activist Front by the order of Commissioner General A. T. Renteln. The property of the Front was confiscated.



December 18, 1941 was the date that the resolution by the USSR State Defence Committee was passed. The resolution called for the organisation of the Red Army's 16th Division of Riflemen of Lithuania. Comprising the Division were some 2,500 soldiers of the 29th Territorial Division of Riflemen of the retreating Red Army, residents of Lithuania, Lithuanians who had formerly lived in the USSR, and other nationalities of the population of the USSR.

January 31, 1942 was the date of the report by W. Stahlecker, the head of Operative Group A, which was responsible for the mass murders of the Lithuanian Jewish population. He reported to the Supreme Security Council of the Reich that over 136,000 Jews had been killed in Lithuania.

March 7, 1942 was the date of the Decree by A. Rosenberg to the Minister of the German Reich in charge of the occupied territories of the East. The Decree called for the official institution of 'local self-government' in Lithuania, as well as in Latvia and Estonia.

April 1, 1942 was the date of the annexation of Svyriai and Asmena Counties and several other locales of Belorussia, and the formation of a new county of Eisiskiai to the area of Lithuania. The territory of Lithuania was 67,200 km² in area.



May 20, 1942 was a day of revenge for the shooting of 3 German officials by Soviet partisans near Svencionys. Over 400 residents of the Svencionys area, primarily Polish people, were murdered in retribution.

May 27, 1942 was the date of the public census, taken in the area of Lithuania. It reported the population of Lithuania (excluding the Jewish population) to be approximately 2.8 million people, including an ethnic composition, as follows: 81.1% Lithuanian, 12.1% Polish, 3.0% Russian and 2.9% Belorussian.

November 9, 1942 was the day, when a Memorandum was issued to Commissioner General A. T. Renteln by former officials of the Republic of Lithuania, K. Grinius, M. Krupavicius, and J. Aleksa. This Memorandum was in protest of the colonisation of Lithuania, the relocation of Lithuanians and Poles from farms, and the policies of the occupying force regarding the Jewish population.

February 18, 1943 was the date of the announcement of a Decree by the Ministry of the German Reich in charge of the occupied territories of the East. The Decree regarded the reinstatement of private ownership in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

February 24 - March 20, 1943 was the duration of the unsuccessful battles of the 16th Rifle Division of the Red Army near Aleksievka in the area of Oriolas. The Division suffered huge losses. Some 4,800 soldiers were killed, injured or froze to death.

March 1, 1943 marked the start of the registration of an SS Legion in Lithuania. The approximately 30,000 - 40,000 military unit of all types of weapons was subordinate to the Commander of the SS Army.

March 16-18, 1943 brought repressions by the Nazi occupying force in reprisal for the united and resolute stance of the Lithuanian citizenry in resisting the formation of an SS Legion. Reprisals included the detention of 46 public activists at Stuthoff concentration camp, and the closing of the Universities of Kaunas and Vilnius and other schools of higher education. A scathing article appeared in the press, condemning the intelligentsia of Lithuania for refusing to establish a Lithuanian SS Legion. July 18, 1943 brought the demand by the Germans to recruit some 10% of the Lithuanian population (about 270,000-280,000 people) for forced labour in Germany.



November 25, 1943 was the day, when a constituent meeting of representatives from political parties and resistance organisation was held in Kaunas. There, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (Lithuanian abbreviation ? VLIK) was formed. It served as the highest institutional underground centre on the national level for the defence and representation of national rights.

February 16, 1944 was the airing of a radio broadcast from Kaunas with General P. Plechavicius speaking. He invited the men of Lithuania to volunteer for the local Lithuanian troops, which he would be commanding. It was believed that such forces would form the nucleus for the army of a reinstated Lithuania.

May 15-21, 1944 was the period, when the Lithuanian local troops were dismantled and disarmed. Many of its officers met with repressions.

June 3, 1944 was the day, when Nazi avengers burned down Pirciupiai village, killing 119 people. The act was in revenge for the loss of a few German soldiers by Soviet partisans.

July 5, 1944 was the day of the announcement of one of the last declarations of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania. Therein, the effort of the USSR to again occupy Lithuania was condemned, and the re-establishment of the independent nation of Lithuania was declared.

July 13, 1944 was the day of the occupation of the Lithuanian capital city of Vilnius by the Red Army's 3rd Belorussian Front. Early August, 1944 was the time of the arrival of the NKVD 4th Army Division, commanded by General P. Vetrov, to Lithuania. Its purpose was to administer retaliatory retributions.



August 30, 1944 was the day, when the Supreme Council of Lithuania SSR passed the Law, regarding the liquidation of the consequences of the German occupation. The Soviet land reform began being executed.

September-October, 1944 marked the early formation of the first groups of partisans. Armed resistance began.

November 11, 1944 was the date of the formation of a VKP (b) CK Bureau to be headed by M. Suslov in Lithuania. The Bureau was the highest governmental institution of Soviet rule in Lithuania. It was dismantled in 1947.

January 28, 1945 was the date of the take-over of Klaipeda by the Red Army. After this, the Red Army also proceeded to invade Nida, and other residential areas of the Courland Spit. The reoccupation of all the territory of Lithuania was thus completed.

June-September, 1945 was another period of mass deportations of the Lithuanian population from numerous counties. Over 6,300 people were apprehended, and forcibly removed out of their own country.

Late 1945 was a period of rebuilding the means of transportation and communication, which had been destroyed during the war. Over 2,000 manufacturing enterprises began operating.

Spring 1946 was the period, defined as the end of the first period of armed resistance. The first period of armed resistance was characteristic for the large number of volunteers, and the tactics of active battles.

August 6, 1946 was the date, when the 5-year plan for 1946 to 1950 was passed by the Supreme Council of Lithuania SSR in Vilnius. The execution of the plan involved an arrangement of conditions for adaptation of the economy of Lithuania to the interests of the USSR. In time the economy was to become into an indivisible part of the USSR economic complex.

February 26, 1947 was the date of the establishment of the first post-war kolkhoz in Dotnuva, a rural district of Kedainiai. It was named the M. Melnikaite Collective Farm. Forced collectivisation in agriculture was thus begun.

December 12, 1947 was the date the official criteria of what constituted a "kulak" farm was determined by the Council of Ministers of Lithuania SSR, and the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist (Bolshevik) Party. Furthermore, all Party and Soviet governmental bodies were obligated to submit lists of "kulaks." Such lists continued to be compiled until 1953. About 15,000 people from the rural population of Lithuania were entered into such listings, and thereby, met with severe repressions.



March 20, 1948 was the date, when the resolution, regarding the organisation of kolkhozes in Lithuanian SSR, was passed by the Council of Ministers of Lithuania SSR and the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist (Bolshevik) Party.

May 22-23, 1948 was a period, marred by the execution of the most massive deportations of the population ever known in the history of Lithuania, heretofore. Over these two days 11,365 families, numbering over 40,000 people, were seized from their homes and exiled.

July 8, 1948 was the day, when the houses of worship of all faiths, other church buildings and religious objects were nationalised. The nationalisation was executed by resolution of the Council of Ministers of Lithuania. Ideological attacks on the Catholic Church of Lithuania were initiated.

November 1948 brought an end to the stage of a massive armed resistance by the guerrilla fighters in Lithuania.

February 2-22, 1949 was the time, when all the leaders of the Lithuanian partisan fighters held a convention in Minaiciai (Radviliskis r.). The Lithuanian Movement of Struggle for Freedom was established. The highest level of commanding leadership of the armed underground was formed.

February 15-18, 1949 was the date of the Lithuanian Communist (Bolshevik) Party Congress IV in Vilnius. The assignment raised at the meeting was to attain "total victory of a collective order."

March 25-28, 1949 was the time of another massive deportation and exile of the population of Lithuania. This time, 8,765 families, numbering about 29,000 people were arrested, and deported.

Early 1950 was denoted as the time, when a "fundamental breakthrough" had been achieved in executing forcible collectivisation in agriculture. Collectivisation actually brought ruin to agricultural production, deranged the structure that had been evolving historically, and transformed the entire rural population of Lithuania into landless farm labourers without any rights.



May 30, 1950 was the day the Three Crosses monument, standing atop a Vilnius hill, was detonated. It was designed by an architect A. Vivulskis in 1916.

June 29-30, 1950 the sculptures of St. Casimir, St. Elena with Cross and St. Stanislas were knocked down from atop the pediment of the Vilnius Cathedral. July 15, 1950 was the day a new national anthem was confirmed for Lithuania SSR by the Council of Ministers of Lithuania SSR. The previous anthem, Tautiska giesme (National Hymn) by V. Kudirka, was prohibited.



July 21, 1950 was the day that the Statue of Freedom in Kaunas was demolished, prior to the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of Soviet Lithuania.

October 2-3, 1951 brought another mass deportation and exile of the Lithuanian population. Over 16,000 people were banished this time.

December 26, 1951 was the day, when the Council of Ministers of Lithuania SSR passed the Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Constitution (the Supreme Law). Therein, a "consolidation of the victory of socialism" in Lithuania was declared.

January 23, August 5, and November 29, 1952 were the dates of further mass deportations and exile of the Lithuanian population. In total, 312 families, numbering over 1,100 people, were apprehended and exiled.

during these days. February 26, April 12, and September 12, 1953 were the deportations days during the final period of exile of the population.

May 30, 1953 was the day of the capture of J. Zemaitis, the Presidium Chairman of the Lithuanian Movement of Struggle for Freedom at Simkaiciai Forest in the region of Jurbarkas. He was executed on November 26, 1954.

1953 brought an end to the organised activities of the armed resistance. The centralised structures of the partisans ceased to function.

By **Rimantas Zizas**



1954-1987

March 4-15, 1954 was the date



of the 10-Day Festival of Lithuanian Literature and Art. It was arranged after a lengthy period of difficulties. This event was in accordance to the canons of socialistic realism, then being experienced in Moscow. It was meant to demonstrate the Communistic re-education of the intelligentsia in the creative arts.

November 2, 1955 was a day of a public protest. A group of young people sang national hymns at the cemetery, where military officers are buried, during an All Saint's Day commemoration in Kaunas. It was to be the first time the Soviet police would be called forth to disperse a crowd after the suppression of the resistance.

December 22, 1955 was a day, marked by the refusal of M. Gedvilas, the Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers to grant the requests of the Lithuanian Catholic Church hierarchy during their meeting. The Church requested permission to issue religious press. Furthermore, it wanted the return of the Vilnius Cathedral to the believers.

November 5, 1956 was the day of an official recommendation by the leadership of the Communist Party to Moscow. It recommended that the high government officials of the former Republic of Lithuania, and the greatest activists of the post-war resistance movement be forbidden to return to Lithuania from their exile locations of detention. The request was granted.

May 1, 1957 was the date of the first broadcast by USSR Television.

June 6, 1957 was the formation date of the USSR People's Council of National Economy, which continued to operate until October 20, 1965. It was formed during an interim period, when rights regarding economic activity in the Soviet Republics had been enlarged.

November 2, 1957 during All Saint's Day, a spontaneous protest demonstration erupted amongst the crowd of 2,000, against the self-serving measures of the Soviet regime. The confrontation with the police resulted in the arrest of 105 people.

December 24, 1958 was the date, when the law requiring eight years of mandatory schooling was passed.

May 28, 1959 was the passage date of a resolution by the Central Committee of the USSR Communist Party in Moscow. It regarded the work of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party with its personnel. Therein, even the subtlest of means to make the local administration more Lithuanian was strictly condemned.

April 18, 1960 was the time of the full capacity launch of the Kaunas Hydroelectric Station at the Nemunas River.

December 21, 1960 was the day, when N. Khrushchev angrily denounced the work, which had



been started on the reconstruction of Trakai Castle, and conservation of the Birzai and Medininkai Castles. He referred to such work, as no more than an idealisation of a feudal Lithuania.

November 11, 1961 was the establishment date of the Society for Monument Maintenance and Ethnography. It was the only organisation with such responsibility throughout the entire USSR.

December 17, 1964 was marked by the completion of electrification. Electricity was introduced into all the residential areas of the kolkhozes and state farms.

June 12-19, 1965 was the agenda date of the first Poetry in Springtime

Festival in Lithuania.

October 22, 1966 was the date, when the issue of the occupation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was brought before the United States Senate. The resolution was not passed.

November 7, 1968 was the day, when a State award was presented for architecture of the Zirmunai residential micro region in Vilnius, recognised the best in the Soviet Union.

November 3, 1970 was the opening day of the most modern highway in the Soviet Union, the Vilnius-Kaunas Highway.

November 23, 1970 was the day of the defection of Lithuanian seaman S. Kudirka. He jumped from the Soviet ship, where he had been working, and fled to a border patrol cutter ship of the United States. There, he requested political asylum. The request was denied, and he was returned to the Soviets. Kudirka was sentenced to serve a 10-year term in a strict regime penal colony in Mordovia.

March 19, 1972 witnessed the appearance of the first Lithuanian underground publication, Lietuvos Kataliku Baznycios kronika (The Chronicle of the Catholic Church of Lithuania). The publication was secretly sent abroad, where it was translated into other languages. By 1987, a total of 75 issues had thus been released.

May 14, 1972 was a dramatic day, when a student R. Kalanta set himself on fire in protest against the Soviet occupation, and perished for Lithuanian freedom. This occurred in the square facing the Musical Theatre of Kaunas.

May 18-19, 1972 was the time that public political demonstrations erupted in Kaunas. Appeals of an anti-Soviet nature were proclaimed. The troops of the Interior dispersed the demonstration. Several hundred participants were arrested, and 3 had criminal charges brought against them.

January 22, 1974 was the day, when A. Snieckus, the long-term leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party (1936-1974), died in Druskininkai. He was the only leader of all the Soviet Republics, who managed to manoeuvre during the times of Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. He protected the Lithuanian Communist Party from repressions.

November 25, 1976 was the establishment date of the Helsinki Group of Lithuania, a dissident organisation in Vilnius. The leader of the Group was V. Petkus. It was able to operate on a semi-legal basis. The organisation gathered information about violations of human rights in Soviet Lithuania.



June 14-15, 1978 was the establishment date of the Lithuanian Freedom League, an underground organisation. The leader was A. Terleckas, who managed to raise the issue of freedom for Lithuania on an international scale. The organisation also sought to raise the national, political and religious consciousness within the population of an occupied country.

November 13 was the date of the establishment of the Catholic Committee for the Defence of the Rights of the Believers. The founders were the priests of Lithuania.

August 23, 1979 was the day, when 45 representatives from the Baltic States announced the United Declaration. It demanded that the USSR and Germany, both the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic, officially recognise the Molotov-Ribentrop Pact as invalid.

January 17, 1980 was the date of the declaration, sent to the General Secretary of the United Nations and the Supreme Council of the USSR by Lithuanian dissidents, and other representatives from the Baltic States. This declaration was an official protest against the armed invasion of

Afghanistan.

October 10, 1981 was one of the dates of the declarations made by dissidents of the Baltic countries to the leaders of the USSR and Nordic countries, demanding that the Baltic states be declared a zone without nuclear weapons.



June 14, 1982 was the day, declared to be Freedom Day for the Baltic States by United States President R. Reagan. Therein, the official resolve was repeated, which stated that the forcible incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR was not recognised.

May 26, 1983 was the day, when the resolution regarding the teaching of the Russian language was passed by the leadership of the Communist Party of the USSR and the USSR Government. It called for an intensification of the teaching of Russian at all educational and academic institutions in all Soviet Republics. Teaching was to begin as early as kindergarten and pre-school classes.

August 23, 1987 was the day of a protest demonstration, held by the Lithuanian Freedom League by the statue of Adam Mickiewicz in Vilnius. Several hundred people protested the predatory Molotov-Ribentrop Pact with its secret protocol on its 48th anniversary.

1988-1999

February 16, 1988 is Lithuanian Independence Day (inter-war). It was commemorated on this year under the threat of government attacks and repressions. At night under clandestine circumstances, there appeared those, who dared to raise the tri-colour flags of Lithuania on buildings in Vilnius, Palanga, and other areas.

April 20, 1988 was the day, when A. Juozaitis, a philosopher, read his essay titled *Politine kultura ir Lietuva* (Political Culture and Lithuania) at a meeting of the Artists' Union. That marked the first time that the Soviet fabricators of Lithuanian history, and the stagnation of the government in Lithuania were openly condemned.



May 22, 1988 was meant to be a 40-year commemoration of the massive exile of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1948. The demonstration was being organised by the Lithuanian Freedom League at Gediminas Square in Vilnius. However, the Soviet police disrupted the activities.

June 3, 1988 was the date of the establishment of the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement. It was founded by a 35-member initiator group at a meeting of the academic and cultural intelligentsia of Lithuania.

June 14, 1988 was the day, when the Lithuanian Freedom League dared to hold a meeting at Gediminas Square. Commemorated at this meeting was the mass exile of the Lithuanian population, which had been started in June of 1941 by Stalin. L. Laurinskis, a post-war dissident, publicly raised the forbidden tri-colour Lithuanian flag during the meeting.

June 24, 1988 was the date of the first massive demonstration, organised by the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement at Gediminas Square in Vilnius. A demand was made of the Communist Party leadership for reforms, involving the reorganisation of the country.

July 9, 1988 was the date of another mass demonstration, organised by the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement, this time at Vingis Park in Vilnius. Over 100,000 people attended. There, the position of the Communist Party of Lithuania regarding its views toward Moscow was condemned. Demands were made for increased self-dependence of Lithuania, and the legal reinstatement of national symbols.



August 23, 1988 witnessed yet another massive protest demonstration at Vingis Park with 150,000 people in attendance. In remembrance of the 49th anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribentrop Pact, the policies of Stalinist aggression toward Lithuania were condemned. A demand was made for the reinstatement of historical justice.

September 16, 1988 was the date of the first issue of *Atgimimas* (Rebirth), a weekly periodical, published by the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement.

September 17, 1988 was the day of the "circle of life," whereby some 15,000 people circled the Ignalina Atomic Power Station at the urging of the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement. The demand raised was for an inspection of the Atomic Power Station by an international expertise group.

September 28, 1988 was a day, when both the troops of the Interior and the police force were called in to disperse a meeting, organised by the Lithuanian Freedom League. The meeting had been held to observe the Soviet and Nazi transaction, which had taken place in demarcating national borders. This marked a sharpening of confrontations between the leadership of the Communist Party of Lithuania and the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement.

October 6, 1988 was the date of the Decree by the Supreme Council Presidium of Lithuania SSR. It legalised the tri-colour flag of Lithuania and the national anthem, *Tautiška giesmė* (National Hymn) by V. Kudirkas, as symbols of Lithuania SSR.

October 7, 1988 was a proud day, when the national tri-colour flag of Lithuania was raised atop the tower of Gediminas Castle in Vilnius. Thousands had gathered to witness this event.

October 19, 1988 was marked by a change in the leadership of the Communist Party, which had been prompted by pressure from the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement. R. Songaila, the 1st Secretary resigned, and N. Mitkinas, the 2nd Secretary was removed from office. A.

Brazauskas was elected to head the Communist Party. October 22-23, 1988 were the scheduled dates of the constituent convention of the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement at the Sports and Performance Stadium in Vilnius. It became a huge forum for national rebirth. The Vilnius Cathedral Basilica was officially returned to the believers.



November 24, 1988 was the day, when a petition, signed by 1.8 million residents of Lithuania, was submitted to the Supreme Council Presidium of the USSR in Moscow. The petition was in protest of the constitutional amendments, passed by the USSR. The amendments had completely curtailed the self-dependence of the Republics of the USSR.

January 10, 1989 was the day of another demand by the Lithuanian Freedom League. The demand called for the United Nations Organisation to deliberate the issue of the decolonisation of the Baltic States.

February 5, 1989 was the conference date for the reinstatement of the Lithuanian Democratic Party (LDP) of Lithuania. The conference was held in Vilnius at the apartment of P. Peceliunas, a former political prisoner.

February 15-16, 1989 a special session of the Seimas of Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement was called in Kaunas at the State Drama Theatre. A Lithuanian Independence Day ceremony was held. An official declaration expressing the requirement for national sovereignty was passed.

February 16, 1989 of this year finally witnessed the commemoration of the Independence Day of Lithuania by numerous events. A memorial board was unveiled on the building, where the Act of Independence had been signed in 1918. Flowers were ceremoniously placed on the graves of the Signatories of the Act of Independence and the freedom fighters of Lithuania. A mass meeting was held at Gediminas Square. The Christian Democratic Party was reinstated.

March 25, 1989 was election day for deputies for the People's Deputy Congress of the USSR. During the first election round, 31 candidates of the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement were elected. After the final round, 36 of the 42 Lithuanian delegates elected were members of the Sajudis Movement. May 7, 1989 was the day of the unveiling of a monument for the partisans of the post-war period in Varniai. The monument was built at the initiative of the Lithuanian Freedom League. The unveiling occurred in spite of the efforts of the government to disrupt the event.



May 13-14, 1989 was the scheduled date of the Assembly of the People's Front of Latvia and Estonia, and the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement in Tallinn. The Baltic Council was established during the proceedings. Documents, co-ordinating joint political activities, were passed.

May 18, 1989 was an important day, when the Supreme Council of the USSR passed the declaration regarding the national sovereignty of Lithuania. It also passed amendments to the LSSR Constitution, whereby the laws of the Republic had precedence over the USSR jurisdiction.

June 2, 1989 was the day, when the People's Deputies of the USSR Congress I formed a committee. The committee was delegated to provide a political and legal evaluation of the Molotov-Ribentrop Pact.

June 14, 1989 was a day of commemoration of the June massive exiles of the population in 1941. The church bells of Lithuania rang ceremoniously for the event. The Three Crosses Monument, which had been detonated by the Bolsheviks in 1951, was re-erected atop Kreivasis Hill of Vilnius.

June 23, 1989 was the day of the commemoration in Kaunas of the anti-Soviet Insurrection of June 23rd in 1941. The event had been organised by the Lithuanian Freedom League and Young Lithuania organisation. A demand was raised to have the Soviet Army withdrawn from Lithuania.

August 6, 1989 was the date of the signing of a communiqué, developed at the 36th Lithuanian Studies Week, held on Gotland Island. The communiqué proclaimed that the re-establishment of an independent Lithuania was a purpose, sought on a united basis by all Lithuanians throughout the world.

August 22, 1989 was the day, when the special committee of the Supreme Council of the USSR presented its conclusions regarding disastrous consequences to Lithuanian Statehood by the

Molotov-Ribentrop Pact. Soviet aggression was named, as an international crime. August 23, 1989 was an extraordinary day, when some 2 million people from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia linked hands, and formed a living chain, stretching from Vilnius through Riga and up to Tallinn. This human chain stretched some 650 km in total. The event was an act of solidarity during the 50-year anniversary commemoration of the transaction between J. Stalin and A. Hitler against the Baltic countries. This act of solidarity was named Baltijos kelias (Baltic Road). A declaration was made during a solemn session of the Seimas of Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement. The declaration stated that the relationship between Lithuania and the USSR must be based on the Peace Treaty of July 12th of 1920.



August 26, 1989 was the date of a declaration made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR. The declaration was a threat to the Baltic States, which were demanding freedom and independence.

September 20, 1989 was the reinstatement date of the Union of Lithuanian Riflemen in Kaunas.

September 23-24, 1989 were the scheduled dates of the constituent conference of the M. Valancius Movement for Sobriety.

December 7, 1989 was the date of the amendments, made to the 6th and 7th Articles of the Constitution of Lithuanian SSR by the Supreme Council of Lithuanian SSR. The amendments abolished the political monopoly and single-party rule of the Communist Party in Lithuania.



December 19-20, 1989 were the dates of a special session of Congress XX of the Communist Party of Lithuania. There, the majority, who were reformers, officially split from Moscow, and declared themselves to be an independent party of Social Democratic views. The Communists, who had remained loyal to Moscow, assembled as the Communist Party of Lithuania.

December 24, 1989 was the date of confirmation by the Conference II of the People's Deputies of the USSR. The confirmation regarded the conclusions, reached by the Committee in the evaluation of political and legal consequences of the Molotov-Ribentrop Pact. A. Jakovlev headed the Committee. The conference was held in Moscow.

January 11-14, 1990 was the duration of a visit by a delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, headed by M. Gorbachev. Their goal was to 'discipline' the Lithuanians, and coerce them to renounce their demands for the re-establishment of independence.

January 15, 1990 was the date, when the Supreme Council of Lithuanian SSR elected A. Brazauskas, the head of the independent Communist Party of Lithuania, the Chairman of the Supreme Council Presidium of Lithuanian SSR.

February 7, 1990 was the date, when significant resolutions were passed at a session of the Supreme Council of Lithuanian SSR. These resolutions annulled the acts, regarding the annexation of Lithuania, passed by the People's Seimas (Council of Representatives) on July 21st of 1940, and by the Supreme Council of the USSR on August 3rd of 1940. The acts of annexation were thus declared illegal.

February 16, 1990 marked a ceremonious observance of Lithuanian Independence Day. Large assemblies gathered at monuments to freedom, which had been rebuilt in Kaunas, Kretinga, Prienai, and Ukmerge.

February 24, 1990 was the date of the first round of free and democratic elections to the Supreme Council of Lithuania SSR. Candidates of the Sajudis Lithuanian Reorganisation Movement won 101 of the 141 mandated seats for deputies during the elections, including supplementary voting. March 11, 1990 was the date, when the Supreme Council of Lithuania SSR declared itself to be the legitimate parliamentary body, representing the will of the country. Now, as the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, it passed the Act for the Re-establishment of the State of Lithuania. The Constitution of the State of Lithuania, which had been passed on May 12th in 1938, was symbolically reinstated, and the validity of the Constitutions of the USSR and Lithuanian SSR were terminated. The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania passed the Provisional Fundamental Law (Constitution). V. Landsbergis was elected the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania.



March 17, 1990 was the day, when K. Prunskiene was appointed the first Prime Minister of the

Republic of Lithuania. April 18, 1990 was the day, which marked the start of the economic blockade of Lithuania. The blockade was executed by the USSR, seeking to force the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania to renounce the Act of Independence.



May 2, 1990 was the date of an important law, passed by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania. This law reinstated the rights of the residents of Lithuania, who had been repressed for their resistance to the occupying regime.

June 12, 1990 was the date of the Act for the Restitution of the Catholic Church, passed by the Supreme Council.

June 29, 1990 was the moratorium date, relating to the Act of March 11th, which was to extend for the duration of the negotiations with the USSR. The Supreme Council passed the moratorium. This brought an end to the economic blockade of Lithuania.

September 25, 1990 was the date of another important law, passed by the Supreme Council. This was the Law on Political Parties, which guaranteed conditions for a variety of political parties and democratic political system.

January 8, 1991 brought an unsuccessful attempt to take-over the Parliament building by Communistic forces. A rise in retail prices was used as a pretext. The Government of K. Prunskiene

resigned.

January 10, 1991 was the date of an ultimatum, issued by USSR President M. Gorbachev. The ultimatum demanded that Lithuania adhere to the Soviet Constitution. A. Simenas was confirmed the new Prime Minister of the Government.

January 11, 1991 was the day of the seizure of an office of the National Defence Department and the Press building by Soviet soldiers.

January 13, 1991 was the night, when the Soviet Army turned their weapons, tanks on an unarmed, peaceful crowd of people, gathered around buildings of strategic importance to Lithuania. In this manner the Soviet soldiers seized the Radio and Television buildings and the Television Tower. Human losses numbered 14 dead and 700 injured. G. Vagnorius was confirmed the new Prime Minister of the Government.



January 16, 1991 was the day of the ceremonious procession through Vilnius to the Antakalnis cemetery. The bodies of the defenders of Lithuanian freedom were carried to their final resting-place.

January 17, 1991 was the establishment date of a Volunteer National Defence Service.

February 9, 1991 was the day of a universal public opinion survey in Lithuania. Over three-fourths of the citizens of Lithuania agreed with the Constitutional premise, that the State of Lithuania is an independent and democratic Republic.

February 11, 1991 was the date of the first de jure recognition of the Republic of Lithuania by a foreign country, Iceland.

July 29, 1991 was the date, when an agreement was signed between Lithuania and Russia, regarding bilateral relationships. The Federation of Russia recognised the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania.

July 31, 1991 was the night of the murder of 7 on-duty customs and police department officials. The killing by the Omon Special Forces of the USSR occurred at the Medininkai Customs Post.

August 19-21, 1991 was the time of the Communist putsch in Moscow. For the duration of the putsch, thousands of people surrounded the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, maintaining an uninterrupted watch on the building. A. Sakalauskas, a volunteer defender, was killed.

August 22, 1991 was the day of the withdrawal of Soviet Army officers from the occupied buildings of Lithuania. The Supreme Council prohibited the Communist Party of Lithuania (part of the Communist Party of the USSR), as being treasonous, as well as all activities by the repressive Security Committee institutions.



September 6, 1991 was the date of the recognition of the Republic of Lithuania by the USSR.

September 17, 1991 was the date, when the Republic of Lithuania achieved membership in the

United Nations Organisation.

October 15, 1991 was the date of the signing of the Conclusive Act of the European Security and Co-operation Conference in Helsinki by V. Landsbergis, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania.

January 13, 1992 was the date of the signing of a declaration, regarding good neighbourly relationships and co-operation between Lithuania and Poland.

April 30, 1992 was marked by the acceptance of Lithuania into the International Monetary Fund.

May 13, 1992 was the date of the official visit by F. Mitterand, the President of France. An agreement was signed between Lithuania and France, regarding concord, friendship and co-operation.

May 30, 1992 was the day that the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) ceased its activities, because liberation had been achieved.

June 8, 1992 was the date, when the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania passed a Constitutional Act, disallowing the Republic of Lithuania to join any post-Soviet Eastern alliances.

June 14, 1992 was the date of the referendum, whereby 68.95% of the citizens of Lithuania voted to have the foreign army withdrawn the same year. The referendum also had a provision for compensation of related losses to Lithuania.

September 7, 1992 was the date of a meeting between the President of Russia, B. Yeltsin and the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, V. Landsbergis. They signed an agreement for the schedule of the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania.

October 1, 1992 was the official date when Lithuania became disengaged from the currency zone of the rouble. October 25, 1992 was election day of members to the Seimas (parliamentary Council of Representatives). The first round was won by the opposition, the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (the party of former Communist Party members). The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania passed with 56.76% of the vote in a public referendum.



November 19, 1992 was the date of the Reinstatement of the Army of the Republic of Lithuania Act passed by the Supreme Council.

November 25, 1992 was the date that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania assembled for its first session.

February 14, 1993 was the election day, when A. Brazauskas was elected the President of the Republic of Lithuania. He won by a 60% vote of the electorate.

February 25, 1993 was the day that A. Brazauskas was sworn into office.

March 31, 1993 was the day that A. Slezevicius took office, as the Prime Minister of the 6th Government of the Republic of Lithuania. May 1, 1993 was the date of the Constituent Conference of Tevynes sajunga (Homeland Union) Conservative Party of Lithuania.

May 11, 1993 was the date, when the Republic of Lithuania became a member of the European Council.

June 25, 1993 was the date, when the litas, the unit of national currency, went into circulation.

August 31, 1993 was the day, when the last division of the Russian army finally left Lithuania.

September 4-8, 1993 was the time of the religious visit of Roman Catholic Pope John Paul II to Lithuania. He led holy mass at large outdoor gatherings of



the believers in Vilnius, Kaunas, Siluva, and at the Hill of Crosses in the Siauliai region. September 6, 1993 was the date of the submission of the joint declaration of the Republic of Lithuania and the Federation of Russia to the General Secretary of the United Nations Organisation. A. Simutis, the representative for Lithuania, and G. Voroncov, the Russian Ambassador, submitted the declaration. The declaration outlined the final steps for the complete withdrawal of the Russian army from Lithuania.



September 13, 1993 was the date of the signing of the Trilateral Declaration for Regional Security and the Trilateral Trade Agreement. The Prime Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, A. Slezevicius, V. Birkavs and M. Laar signed the documents.

November 4, 1993 was the date of the first, historic meeting between B. Yeltsin, the President of the Federation of Russia and A. Brazauskas, the President of the Republic of Lithuania. Relationships between both countries were the topics under discussion.

January 4, 1994 was the date of the official request by President A. Brazauskas to NATO General Secretary M. Woerner. The request was to accept Lithuania as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). All the most influential political forces in Lithuania had approved this request.

February 2, 1994 was the day, when Marija Birute Alseikaite-Gimbutas, a world-renowned Lithuanian archaeologist and academician, died in a Los Angeles hospital in the United States. Prehistory and ancient civilisations had been the topics of her research.

March 15, 1994 was the day of the passage of the Law on Land. The majority party of the Seimas, the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party faction had cast the most votes in favour of this law, though the members of the other parties had been in opposition.

March 18, 1994 was the date, when the protocol for the establishment of international peacekeeping missions by the Baltic Battalion was signed. The protocol was signed by the 3 Army Commanders-in-Chief of the Baltic countries at the Yurmala resort of Latvia.

March 30, 1994 was the date of the Government resolution, which selected the US dollar to be the currency linked to the Lithuanian litas. The official, stable exchange rate of 4 litas to 1 dollar was established.

April 27, 1994 was the date, when the Trade Relations Agreement was signed between the Republic of Lithuania and the United States of America in Washington D.C.

May 9, 1994 was the date, when Lithuania was granted associated member status at the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Union. June 6, 1994 was the date of a historic meeting in Riga. The Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia ? A. Brazauskas, G. Ulmanis, and L. Mer met with the President of the United States, B. Clinton.



June 13, 1994 was the day, when Stasys Lozoraitis, a Lithuanian diplomat, died in Rome. He spent a lengthy time of his life serving in the diplomatic corps of Vatican and the United States. He submitted valuable recommendations, regarding the re-establishment of the state of Lithuania in 1990. S. Lazoraitis was a candidate to the post of the President of the Republic of Lithuania in 1992.

August 1, 1994 was the time that the first group of the Lithuanian soldiers left for Croatia on a peacekeeping mission.

September 13, 1994 was the day, when Juozas Girnius, a renowned academician and philosopher, died in Boston of the United States. He was another renowned Lithuanian refugee, living abroad, who had been active in Lithuanian causes.

October 7, 1994 was the day, when the remains of the third President of Lithuania, Kazys Grinius, were returned to Lithuania from the United States. A ceremonious session was held at the Seimas parliament building to honour the memory of K. Grinius.



December 9, 1994 was the date, when the Alliance of Trade Unions of Lithuania was accepted for membership in the largest world confederation, the International Free Trade Unions.

April 10, 1995 was the formation date of a commission to deliberate the losses to Lithuania, caused by the occupation of the USSR, and the actions of the occupying foreign army. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania formed this commission.

June 12, 1995 was the date of signing Agreement, which established European Union associate

membership status. The Prime Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in Luxembourg signed this agreement.

August 25, 1995 was the day of the unveiling of a monument in Viekšniai. The monument was in honour of three academicians and public figures, Mykolas, Vaclovas and Viktoras Birziska.

September 9, 1995 brought a television bridge between the youth of Lithuania, gathered at the Hill of Three Crosses in Vilnius, and Pope John Paul II.

October 14, 1995 was the establishment date of the Lithuanian-Polish Congress, a public organisation with the goal of integrating the people of the Polish minority into the state activities in Lithuania. February 1, 1996 was the date of an amendment to Article 47 of the Constitution and Constitutional Law, passed by the Seimas. The issue of the amendment was ownership rights of land, not designated for agricultural use. This marked a move which brought the legal system closer to the legal standards of the European Association.

February 8, 1996 was the date that the Seimas approved the resignation of Prime Minister A. Slezevicius.

February 16, 1996 was the unveiling day of the statues of the Presidents of Independent Lithuania, A. Smetona, A. Stulginskis and K. Grinius. The statues were erected at the yard, fronting the inter-war Presidency building in Kaunas.

February 23, 1996 was the date of the Presidential Decree of A. Brazauskas, which confirmed the composition of the Government to be headed by Prime Minister M. L. Stankevicius. Five new Cabinet members were included in this Government.

March 9, 1996 was the reinstatement date of Birute, the national organisation of culture in Tilze by the community of the Lithuanians of Kaliningrad.

March 13, 1996 was the date, when Tevynes sajunga (Homeland Union) Conservative Party became a member of the European Democratic Union at of the Leadership Conference.

May 28, 1996 was the date of another historic meeting in Vilnius. The Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia ? A. Brazauskas, G. Ulmanis and L. Mer signed a declaration of partnership for the purpose of integration, and discussed the internal problems of the three countries.



September 21, 1996 was the day of the unveiling of a monument in the Central Public Garden of Vilkaviskis. The monument was dedicated to Jonas Basanavicius, the patriarch of the nation, inspirer of national rebirth and an active contributor to Ausra (Dawn) publication. Sculptor A. Zukauskas and architect V. Balciunas had designed the statue.

September 22, 1996 was the ceremonious unveiling day of the bronze figure of Grand Duke Gediminas at the Vilnius Cathedral Square. A Lithuanian refugee sculptor from abroad, V. Kasuba, had designed the monument.

October 20, 1996 was an election day for members to the Seimas. Tevynes sajunga (Homeland Union) Conservative Party received the greatest number of votes, 29.6%, during the first round of election, in the multi-mandate electoral districts. In total the right-wing parties received over 40% of the votes cast by the electorate.

October 28, 1996 was the date, when the District Court of Vilnius began deliberations on the first case related to the genocide of the people of Lithuania. The accused were three enemy collaborators during the post-war years from Antazave.

November 25, 1996 was the date of the first session of the newly elected Seimas. All 137 new members were sworn in. V. Landsbergis was elected the Chairman of this parliamentary body. Eight factions of the Seimas were formed. November 28, 1996 was the date of the official change in the name of the Supreme Council of Lithuania, elected in 1990. It was named the Re-establishment Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. The change in the name was by resolution of the Seimas (parliamentary Council of Representatives) in the process of ratifying the importance of acts, related to the re-establishment of Statehood.

December 4, 1996 was the date of the Presidential Decree by A. Brazauskas. Therein, the new composition of the Government of Prime Minister G. Vagnorius was confirmed.

January 8, 1997 was the date of the 450th anniversary of the first published Lithuanian book. The national commemoration was held at the Opera and Ballet Theatre of Vilnius. The National M. Mazvydas Library organised an international conference, named Mazvydo skaitymai-1997 (Readings of Mazvydas-1997).



March 4, 1997 was the day, when Metropolitan Audrys Juozas Backis, the Archbishop of Vilnius, blessed of the cornerstone of the chapel of the Vilnius Seminary for Priests, being built on Kalvariju street in Vilnius.

March 23, 1997 was the day of municipal council elections. The Tėvynės sąjunga (Homeland Union) Conservative Party won 493 of the mandates, the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party won 180, and the oppositional Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party won 212.

April 30, 1997 was the day of a unanimous vote by the Seimas for the law, regarding the establishment of the State Defence Council. The President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Seimas, the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces were to comprise the Council.

May 16, 1997 was the official date of the opening ceremony for the Presidential Palace, located on S. Daukantas street. President A. Brazauskas moved into the new facilities.

May 28, 1997 was the date, when Pope John Paul II established the new Siauliai Bishopric. Priest Eugenijus Bartulis was named the first Bishop of this Bishopric.

June 5, 1997 was the day, when the Seimas passed the Law on the Ownership Rights of Citizens for the Reinstatement of Remaining Real Estate Property.

June 18, 1997 was the day of honour bestowed on the Lithuanian Women's Basketball Team, who had won the European champion titles for the first time in Lithuanian history. The official ceremony of honour took place at the Presidency and the Seimas.

July 10, 1997 was the time that the European Commission recommended the start of deliberations regarding European Union membership for 6 Central European countries. Unfortunately, the request of membership by Lithuania was ignored.

September 10, 1997 was the date of a ceremonious session at the Seimas. The 200-year anniversary of the death of Gaon Elijah of Vilnius, a renowned Jewish man of wisdom, was observed.

September 23, 1997 was proclaimed the day of the commemoration of the Jewish genocide. On this day, President A. Brazauskas signed a decree for the national awards ceremony. The Saviour of Victims Cross was presented to 27 people from Lithuania and abroad.

October 24, 1997 was the date, when A. Brazauskas, the President of the Republic of Lithuania and B. Yeltsin, the President of the Federation of Russia signed an agreement in Moscow. The agreement was a demarcation of national boundaries. It also involved the separation of exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Baltic Sea.

November 5, 1997 was the day that Lithuania was for the first time elected to the Executive Council of UNESCO – the United Nations Education, Sciences and Culture Organisation.

January 4, 1998 was the date of the second round of elections for the President of Lithuania. V. Adamkus was elected by 49.96% of the voters. His opponent A. Paulauskas won 49.22% of the vote.

January 22, 1998 witnessed a press announcement of the dire results of the Tuskulenai Manor investigation. The territory of the manor was exhumed, and the remains of some 700 victims of the Soviet regime, unearthed. These people were tortured, murdered and secretly buried by the KGB in that territory between 1944 and 1947.

February 1, 1998 was the official date, when Lithuania became an associated member of the European Union. February 26, 1998 was the inauguration date of the newly elected President of the country, V. Adamkus in Vilnius. He was sworn into office during a ceremonious session of the Seimas. Mass was held at the Cathedral Basilica for harmony in the country.



April 8, 1998 was the date of a law passed by the Seimas regarding the duties of volunteer military officers. The duties of the volunteers within freedom fighter structures were deemed comparable to the ranks of retired officers in the armed forces of the Republic.



June 16, 1998 was the date, when the Seimas voted by roll call, and passed the law, regarding terms and deadlines of compensation for real estate purchases by the Government. Therein, it was specified that recompense for land, bodies of water and forests would be made by the year 2006, and homes and apartments, by 2010.

July 4, 1998 was the presentation date of the most valuable art collection in Lithuanian history. It was presented to the leader of the Republic of Lithuania and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church at Chodkevicius Manor in Vilnius. The collection was discovered at the Cathedral of Vilnius, hidden from Soviet officials on the pretext of security in 1985.

opened in honour of this day in the town of Kudirkos Naumiestis.

July 7, 1998 was the date of the sale of Lietuvos telekomas (Lithuanian Telecommunication), an

enterprise, strategic to the national economy. Amber Teleholding AS, a Swedish and Finnish Consortium, purchased a 60% stockholding in the company for 510 million USD.

August 21, 1998 was the day, when awards were presented to a group of people for active struggle for human rights and the freedom of the country. V. Adamkus, the President of the Republic of Lithuania awarded the Order of the Vytis Cross (a national symbol) to N. Sadunaite, Bishop J. Borutas, Monsignor A. Svarinskas, Priest R. Grigas, and V. Lapienis. Two awards were given in memoriam to Priests J. Zdebskis and B. Laurinavicius after their deaths.

September 14, 1998 was the grand opening of St. Joseph Seminary for Priests in Vilnius. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Seimas, the high officials in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and representatives of Catholic institutions from abroad. September 29, 1998 was the date, when the Seimas held a roll-call vote, and passed the law for the merging of the largest enterprises, strategic to the economy. The enterprises involved were Mazeikiai nafta (oil refinery), Butinges nafta (oil terminal), and Naftotiekis (oil supply). Williams, a United States company, was recognised as the strategic investor into the oil industry of Lithuania.



October 6, 1998 was the date, when the Seimas of Lithuania passed the law regarding compensation to the families of victims of the Soviet occupation between 1940 and 1990. Allowances of up to 20,000 litas were to be paid out over a 5-year period.

October 9, 1998 was the day of the completion and opening of the most modern highway in Lithuania. The Vilnius-Panevezys Highway, stretching 135 km in length, was built in accordance with European standards.

November 11, 1998 was marked by the completion of underwater construction jobs in the sea for the Butinges Oil Terminal, an enterprise of strategic importance to the economy. A pipeline of 17.5 km in length was laid. Technological processes for the export and import of crude oil were installed.

November 28, 1998 was the date of the ceremony for the re-interment of the remains of Archbishop J. Skvireckis, returned to the country from Austria. The Archbishop, translator of the Holy Bible into the Lithuanian language, was laid to rest in a crypt of the Kaunas Cathedral Basilica.

December 5, 1998 was the 100-year anniversary day of the authorship of the Lithuanian national anthem, Tautiska giesme, and the 140th birthday commemoration of its author, V. Kudirka. The V. Kudirka Museum December 10, 1998 was the date, when the declaration, recommended by



Chairman V. Landsbergis, was passed in the Seimas. The Conservative and Christian Democratic majority passed the declaration by a roll-call vote. The declaration was a condemnation of Communism and the structures of the former regime of Communism.

December 21, 1998 was the day of the abolishment of the death penalty in Lithuania. The Seimas passed the bill by an absolute majority vote. The applicable article of the Criminal Code was amended to replace the death penalty by life imprisonment.

On April 20-22, 1999 Kaunas Zalgiris basketball team won the European Cup during the Euroleague finals in Munich, thus achieving one of the most significant victories in the history of Lithuanian sports clubs.

On May 3, 1999 the 8th Government Cabinet of the Republic of Lithuania under Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius resigned from its office.

On June 3, 1999 the Seimas adopted law amendments, which allowed the American company Williams to acquire 66 % of shares owned by the largest Lithuanian object under privatisation, Mazeikiu nafta (Mazeikiai Oil) enterprise.

On June 10, 1999 the 9th Government Cabinet of the Republic of Lithuania under Prime Minister Conservative Rolandas Paksas took an oath in the Seimas and started its activities.

By **Ceslovas Bauza**