

Migrations of our nations



Territory of Slavs

Slavs are a branch of the Indo-European peoples using Slavic language, of common descent, similar customs, rituals, beliefs. They live in Eastern, Central and Southern Europe, and the northern Asia belt, from Ural to the Pacific Ocean. The Slavs are the largest group of Indo-European population in Europe. Poles are in the West-Slaves group.



On the territory of Poland lived many Slavic tribes, the largest of which were the Vistulans. Many of them surely began to unite, but it was the Polans who were more successful. The first documented ruler of Polans' country was Mieszko I.



During the reign of Mieszko I, when Polans were collectively baptized, there were many rebellions due to the new religion. The most significant was the uprising during the reign of Mieszko II, but even earlier priests of the old religion were bathing people from baptism, in former holy places, and wanted to keep the largest group of supporters among lower social class.

From the beginning of the existence of man on the earth people moved seeking a better place for themselves. The main cause of these migrations was the hope to find more favorable conditions for development. People looked for better land for crops and animal husbandry, and at the same time rich in natural resources. However, in those times the migration had collective character above all and usually concerned the entire tribes which took everything with themselves what they had, i.e. crop plants, animals and tools. At present, however, the migration is in a more individualized form. In the twenty-first century decision it is leave outside the squares of residence of the of personages shall own or at the bridge, together with their families.

The Great Emigration

The Great Emigration (Polish: Wielka Emigracja) involved the emigration of thousands of Poles, particularly from the political and cultural elites, from 1831 to 1870, after the failure of the November Uprising and of other uprisings (1846, 1863). The name is somewhat misleading, as the number of political exiles did not exceed more than 6,000 during this time. The exiles included soldiers and officers of the uprising, the Sejm of Congress Poland of 1830–31, and several prisoners-of-war who escaped captivity.

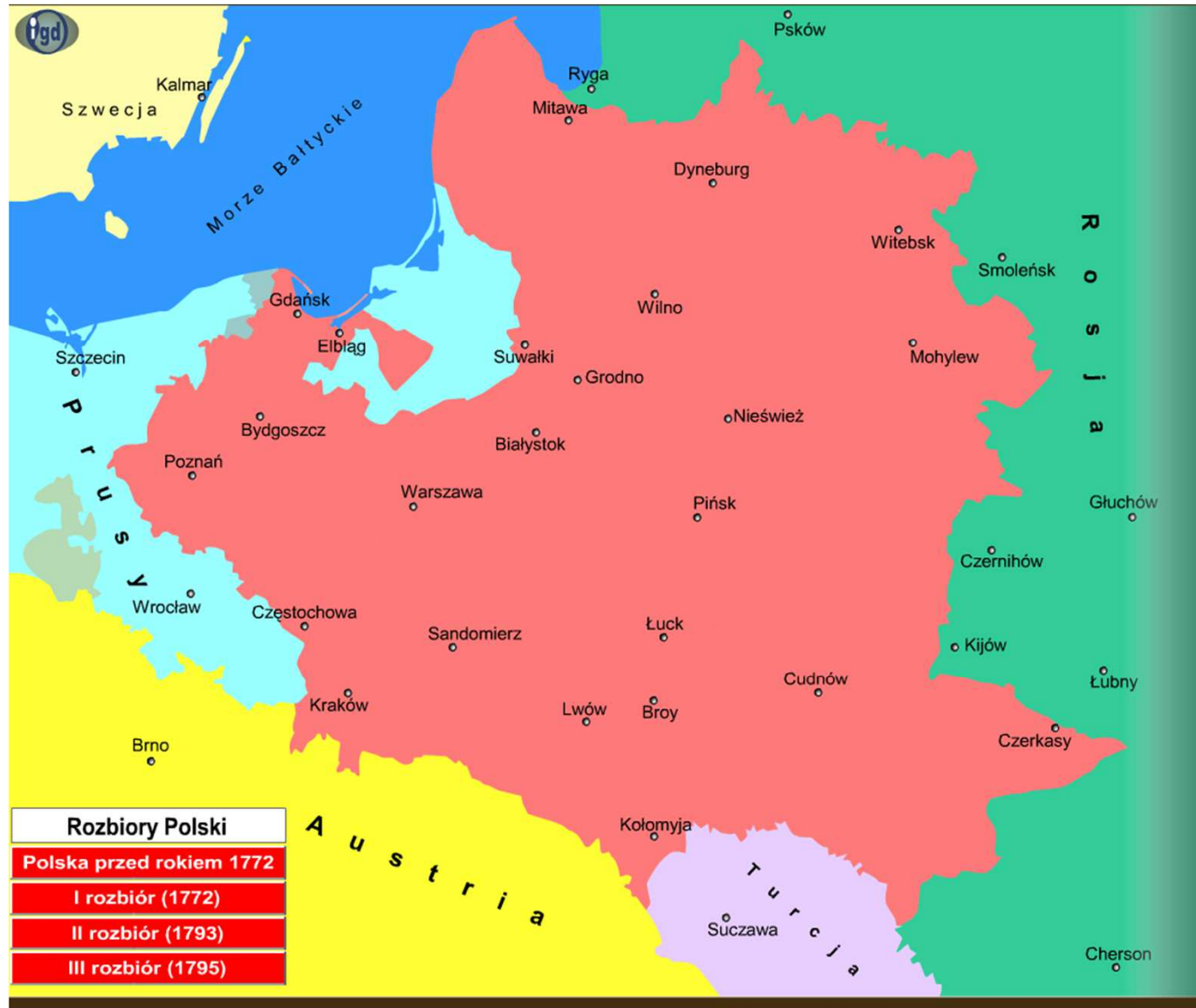


Because of this emigration of political elites, much of the political and ideological activity of the Polish intelligentsia during the 18th and 19th centuries took place outside of the lands of partitioned Poland. Most of the political émigrés based themselves in France.

Partitions of Poland

Partitions of Poland, (1772, 1793, 1795), three territorial divisions of Poland, perpetrated by Russia, Prussia, and Austria, by which Poland's size was progressively reduced until, after the final partition, the state of Poland ceased to exist.

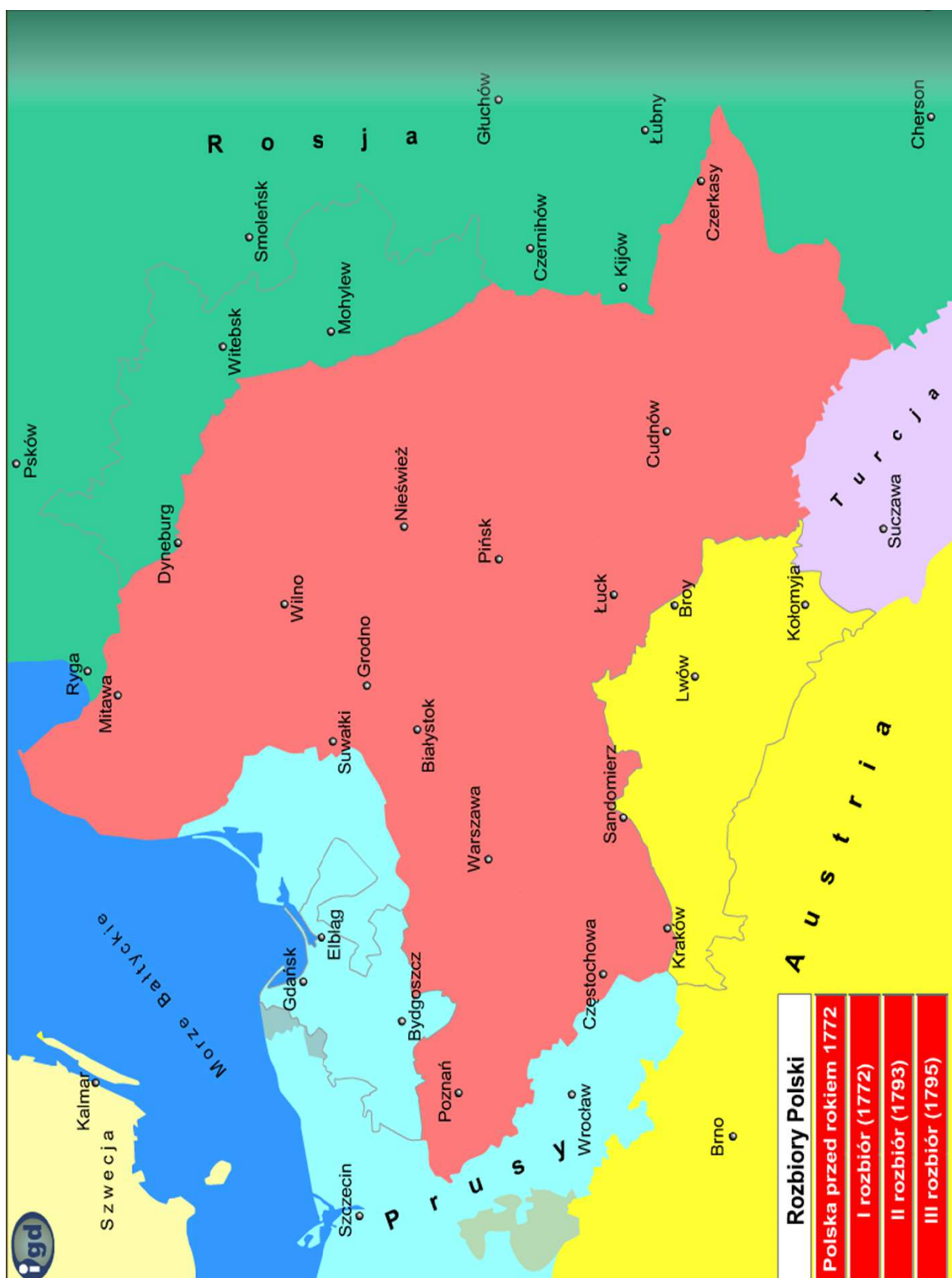
Poland before Partitions



The First Partition

The First Partition occurred after Russia became involved in a war against the Ottoman Turks (1768) and won such impressive victories, particularly in the Danubian principalities, that Austria became alarmed and threatened to enter the war against Russia. Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia, however, in order to avoid an escalation of the Russo-Turkish War, determined to calm Austro-Russian relations by shifting the direction of Russia's expansion from the Turkish provinces to Poland, which not only had a structurally weak government but also, since 1768, had been devastated by a civil war and by Russian intervention and was, therefore, incapable of resisting territorial seizures.

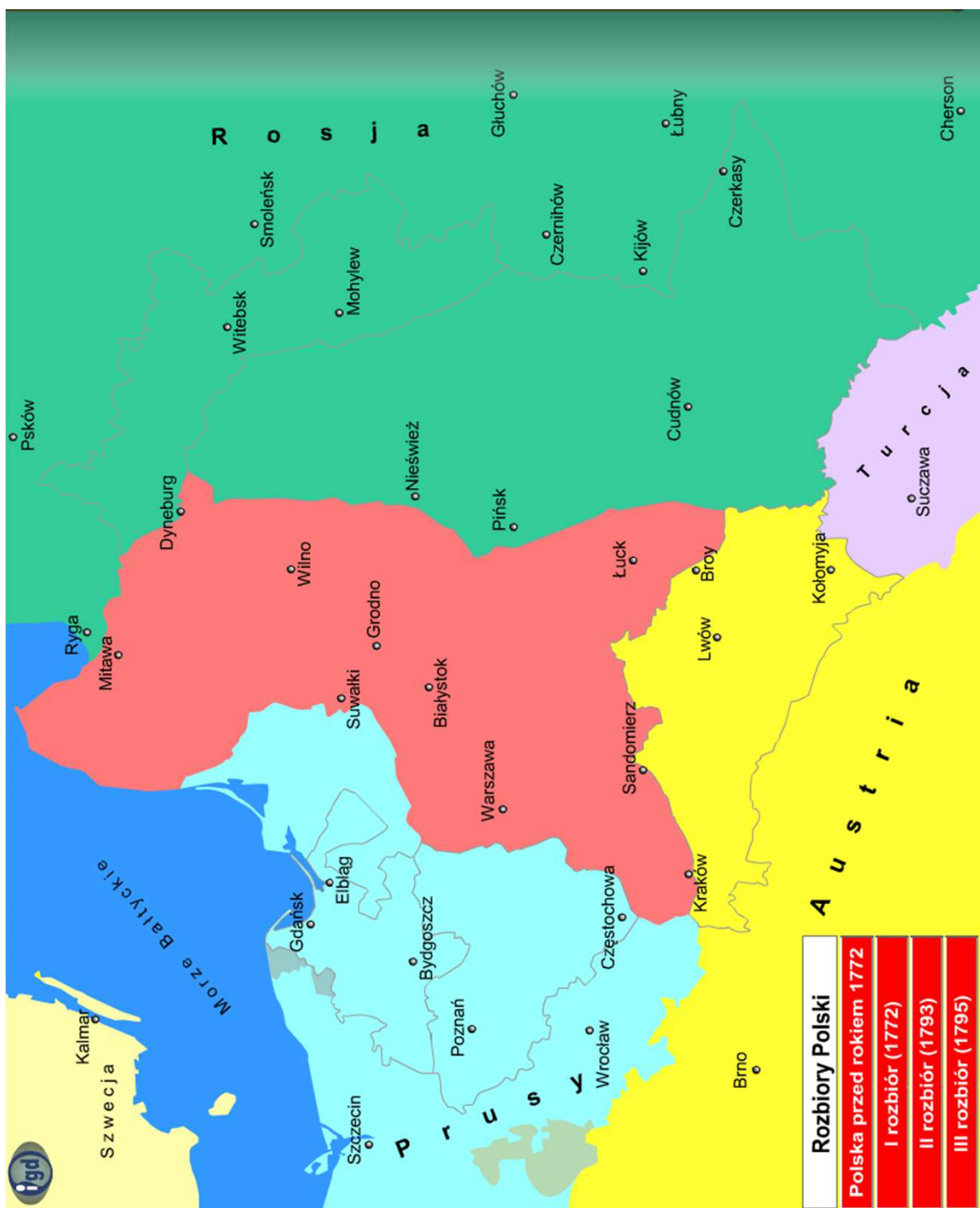
On August 5, 1772, Russia, Prussia, and Austria signed a treaty that partitioned Poland. Ratified by the Polish Sejm (legislature) on September 30, 1773, the agreement deprived Poland of approximately half of its population and almost one-third (about 81,500 square miles [211,000 square km]) of its land area. Russia received all the Polish territory east of the line formed roughly by the Dvina and Dnieper rivers. Prussia gained the economically valuable province of Royal Prussia, excluding the cities of Gdańsk (Danzig) and Toruń, and also gained the northern portion of the region of Great Poland (Wielkopolska). Austria acquired the regions of Little Poland (Małopolska) south of the Vistula River, western Podolia, and the area that subsequently became known as Galicia.



Rozbiory Polski	
Polska przed rokiem 1772	
I rozbiór (1772)	
II rozbiór (1793)	
III rozbiór (1795)	

The Second Partition

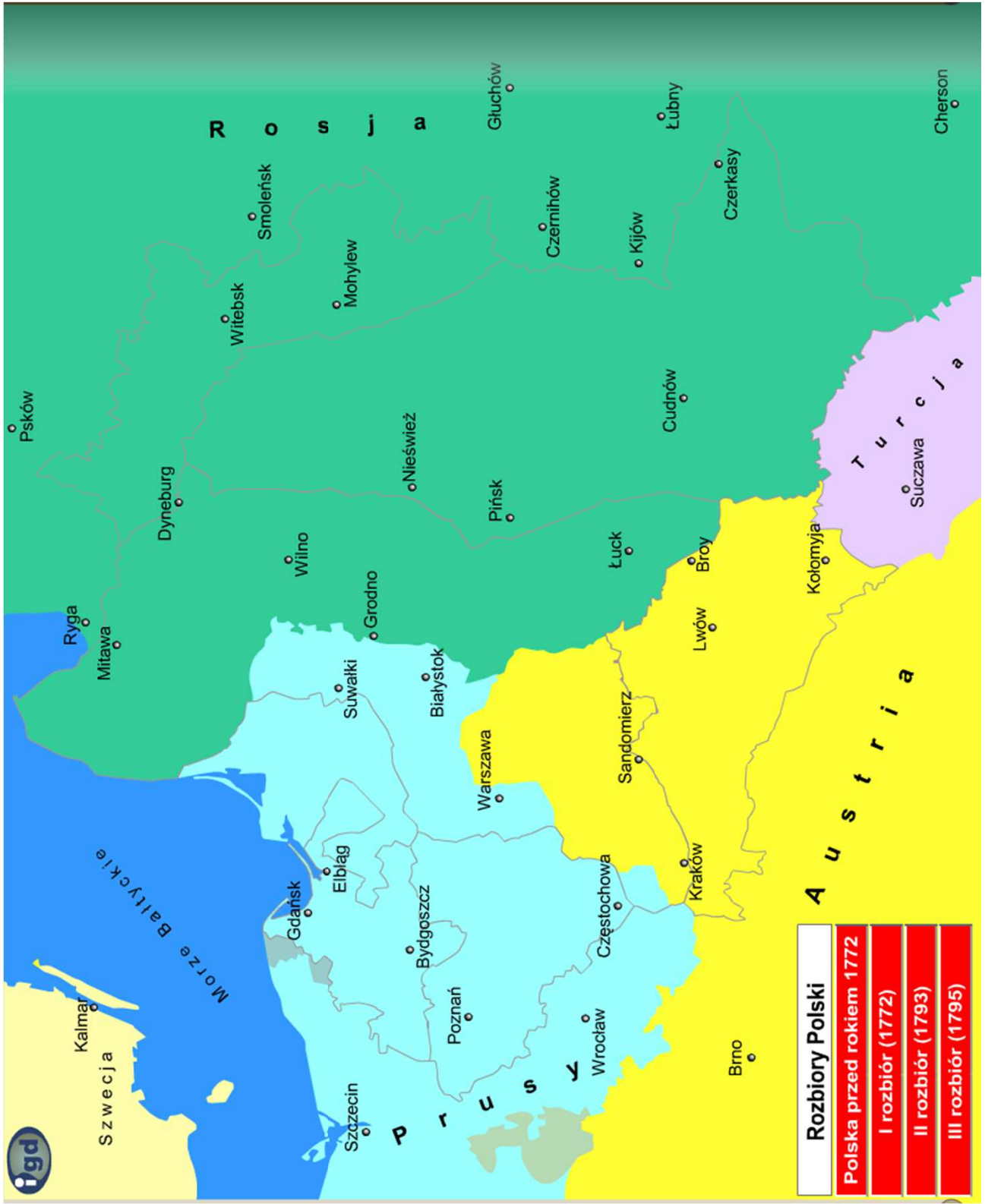
Almost 20 years later Poland, which had made efforts to strengthen itself through internal reforms, adopted a new, liberal constitution (May 3, 1791). That action, however, resulted in the formation of the conservative Confederation of Targowica (May 14, 1792), which asked Russia to intervene to restore the former Polish constitution. Not only did Russia accept the confederates' invitation, but Prussia also sent troops into Poland, and on January 23, 1793, the two powers agreed upon the Second Partition of Poland. Confirmed in August and September 1793 by the Polish Sejm—surrounded by Russian troops—the Second Partition transferred to Russia the major remnant of Lithuanian Belorussia and the western Ukraine, including Podolia and part of Volhynia, and allowed Prussia to absorb the cities of Gdańsk and Toruń as well as Great Poland and part of Mazovia. The Second Partition accounted for an area of about 115,000 square miles (300,000 square km).



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The Third Partition

In response to the Second Partition, the Polish officer Tadeusz Kościuszko led a national uprising (March–November 1794). Russia and Prussia intervened to suppress the insurgents, and on October 24, 1795, they concluded an agreement with Austria that divided the remnants of Poland (about 83,000 square miles [215,000 square km]) between themselves. By the Third Partition of Poland, which was not finally settled until January 26, 1797, Russia incorporated Courland, all Lithuanian territory east of the Neman (Niemen) River, and the rest of the Volhynian Ukraine; Prussia acquired the remainder of Mazovia, including Warsaw, and a section of Lithuania west of the Neman; and Austria took the remaining section of Little Poland, from Kraków north-eastward to the arc of the Northern Bug River.



In the history of Poland all the migrations processes, such as influx of people of the foreign nationality, or migrations to other countries due to economic, political, religious or ethnic reasons were related to political situation at that time in Europe.

After the fall of the November Uprising in 1831, the Kingdom of Poland lost its Constitution and the Polish Army, and furthermore, persecutions and repressions were intensified by the tsarist authorities against its participants, fighting for freedom.

Due to this, compulsory post-uprising emigration started, called Great Emigration. It gathered the Poles mainly in France, but also in England, Belgium and Switzerland. Until the end of the 1830s over 10 thousand soldiers and civilians emigrated.

After 1864, approximately 7 thousand emigrants from the so called Young Emigration joined them. They emigrated mainly to France, but also to Turkey and USA. In the period from 1888-1914 from the former Polish land emigrated approximately 3.5 million people.

Only after Poland regained its independence, emigrations changed. They were no longer caused by political situation, but rather due to economic reasons. Peasants travelled to the USA, Canada, Brazil and Argentina, and workers mainly to France.

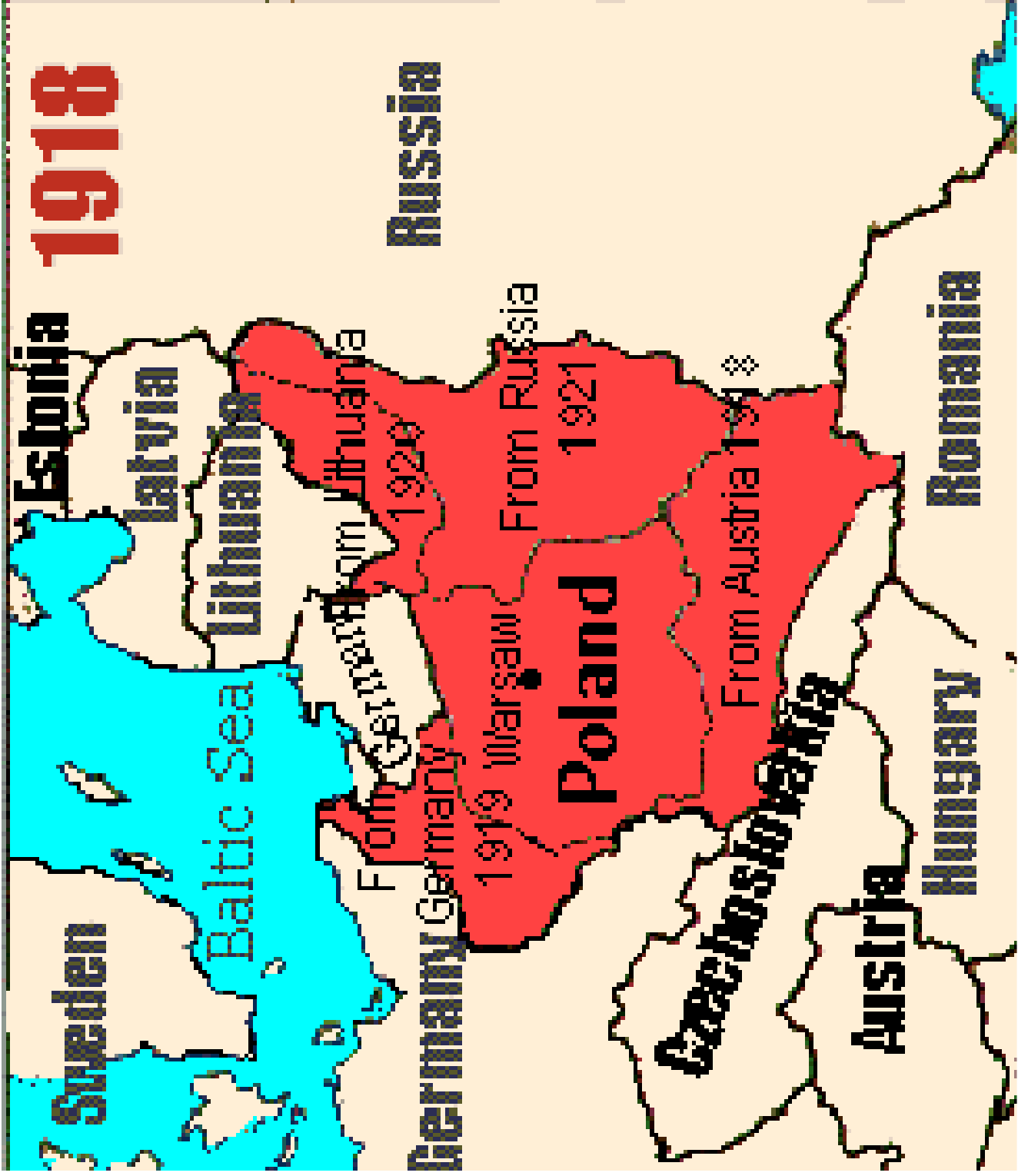
On the basis of "Statistical Yearbooks of the Republic of Poland" and "Labour Statistics" in the period from 1918-1939 from Poland left over 2 million people, including 1.25 millions who emigrated to European countries, mainly France, Belgium and Germany, and 796 thousand people to the USA.

In the period 1939-1941 Nazi authorities were conducting massive displacement of Poles from the territories incorporated in the Third Reich. Their number is assessed to be 700-800 thousand. Significant number was taken to work in Germany, and also to General Governorate.

After the great uprising of the nineteenth century, emigration movements were caused by terror on the territories of Partition Of Poland. It was also expression of objection to subordination of Poland to foreign powers. It also related to hopes of obtaining help from governments (mainly governments of France and Great Britain) for the oppressed Poland.

Economic emigration at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries was a result of overpopulation of the Polish lands in the period of partitions. Due to this, most emigrants were peasants (left mainly for the United States of America, Canada and Brazil). Unemployment began to appear even in the cities, which for the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces and the Home Army meant political emigration.

After 1939, emigration was mainly related to forced displacement. It is estimated that approximately 700-800 thousand people were displaced, and they were mainly sent to forced labour in Germany and General Governorate. After the war, Poland was in the sphere of influence of USSR, which for the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces and the Home Army meant political emigration.



In 1918, borders of independent Poland only began to shape. Their exact location and extent was not yet known. At the end of the World War I only started the process of consolidation of lands to be forming (from 1921) the Second Polish Republic . Most Poles dreamt of borders from 1772, but only few believed that it was possible. The struggle for independence of Greater Poland, and later Silesia only started. On November 1 started the fight for Lviv, and the matters of regaining the access to the sea and status of Gdańsk were not clear.

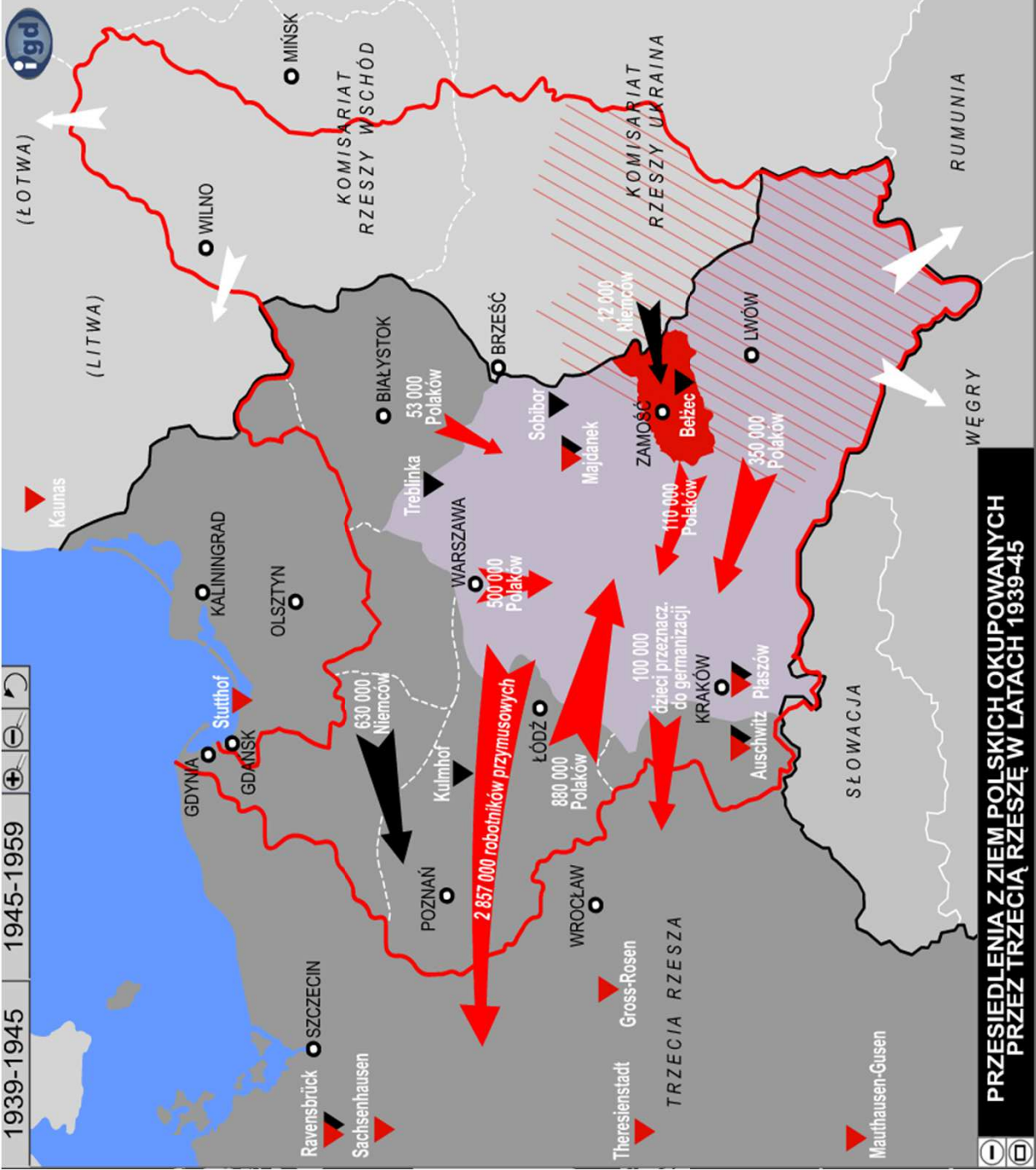
Population of the new country, divided by occupants for 123 years, was not uniform and people had a suspicious approach to new neighbours . Apart from divisions caused by partitions there were also serious ethnic divisions, due to large number of ethnic minorities and their different view on existence of the country in this form. What is more, ways and means of solving the most significant problems were missing.

The Second World War

Displacement of Poles during the World War II took place in the period 1939-1945 in the occupied Poland, and were related to German and Russian plans of Germanization and Sovietization of lands of the Second Polish Republic. Such displacement actions were organized or spontaneous and meant displacement and plundering of assets on entire areas inhabited by Polish people with the plan to settle German people there- the so called Generalsiedlungplan - General settlement plan.

And in case of Soviet authorities this included mass deportation of Poles into the Soviet Union, or to the west, and settle Russians and Ukrainians there.



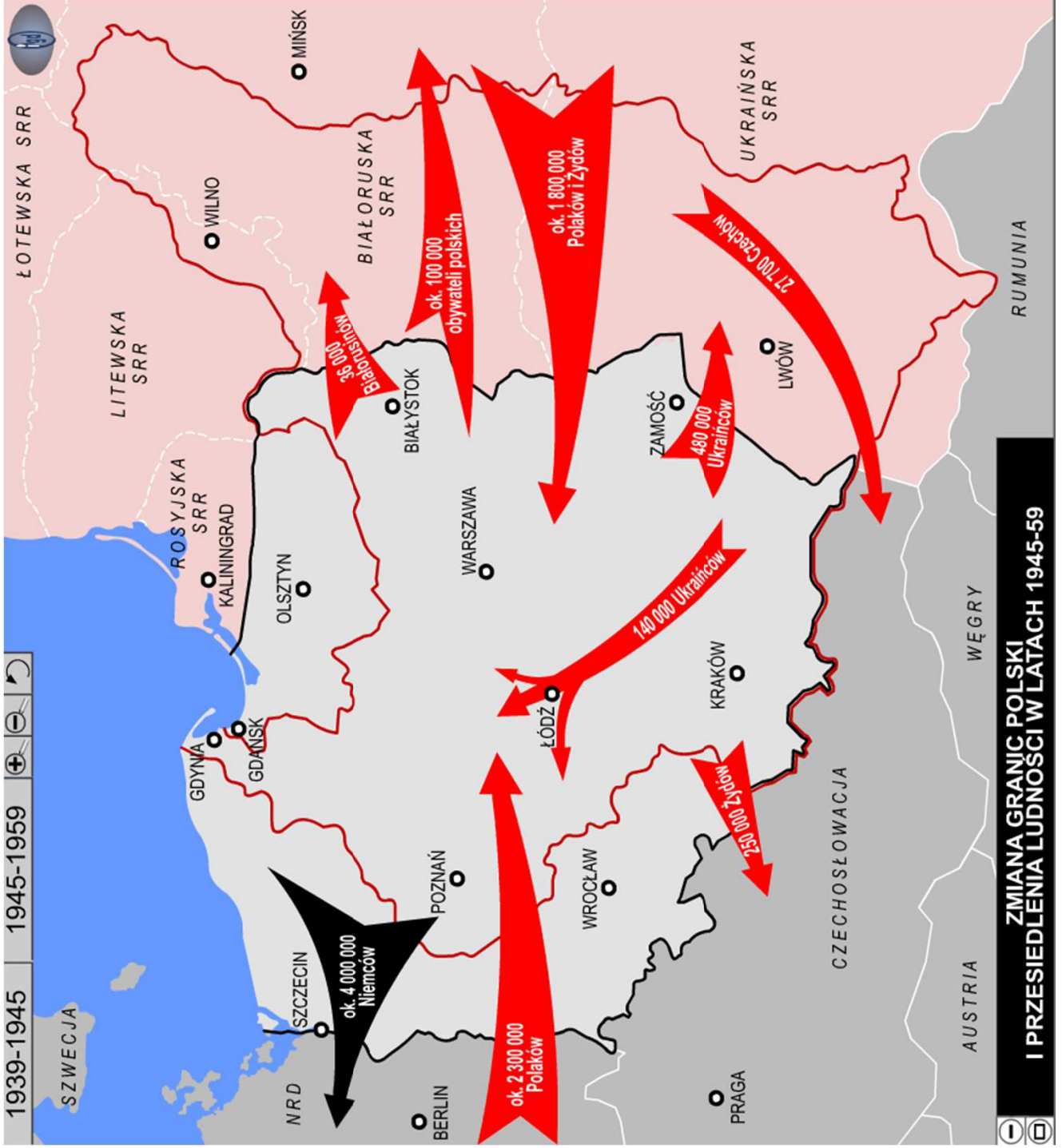




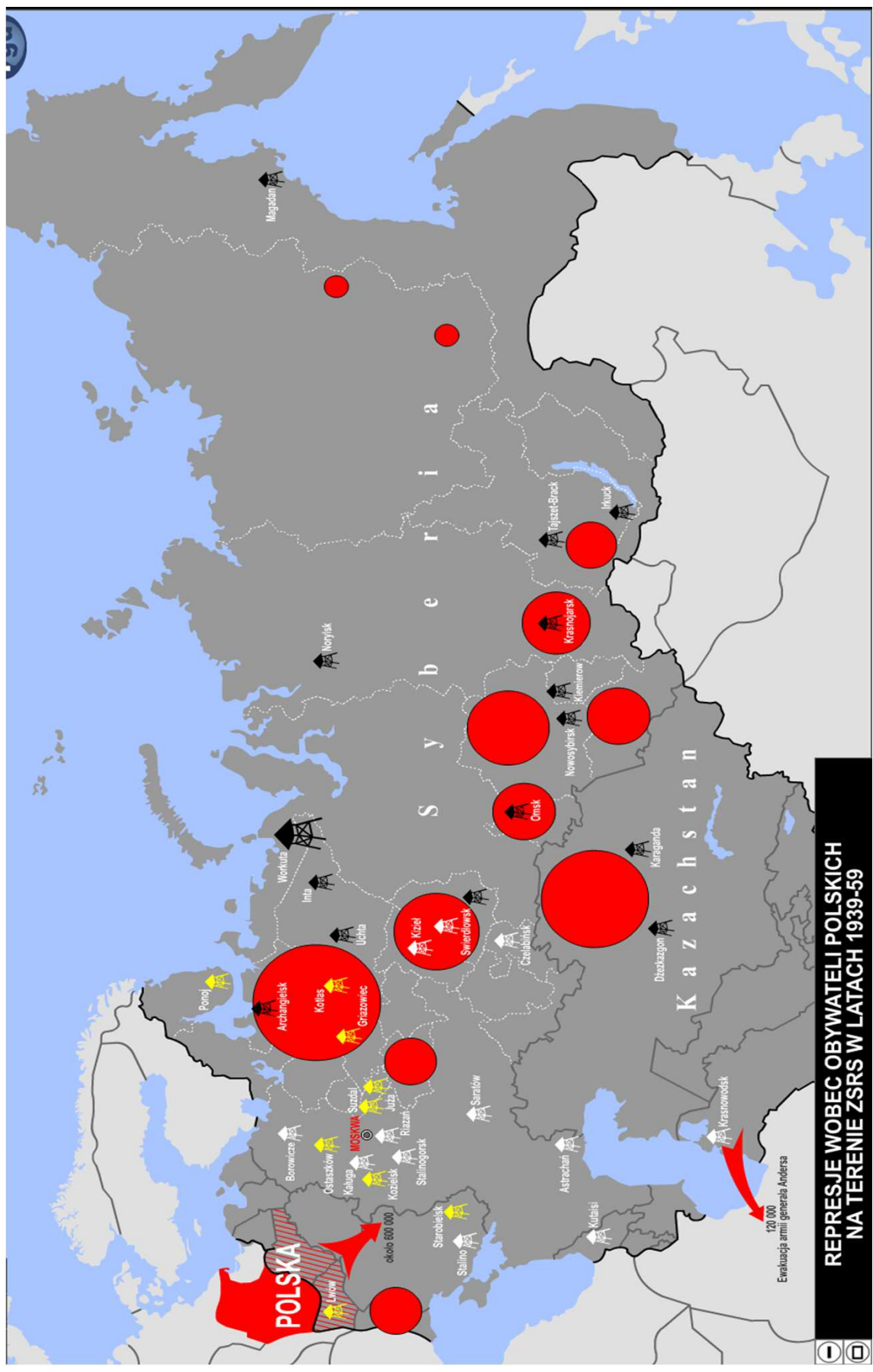
Displacement of Poles from Eastern borderlands (1944-1946) into the new borders of the Republic of Poland - mass displacement actions of Poles from eastern parts of the Second Polish Republic, taken away as a result of Yalta agreements to the benefit of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which took place after signing republican agreements. From the territory of the Latvian Socialist Republic were displaced 148 thousand Poles, and 375.6 thousand were registered to leave that area. In the Kovno region of Latvia approximately 2 thousand Poles were forced to leave. Most displaced people from Latvia settled in Olsztyn and Gdansk provinces, smaller groups also in Wroclaw province.



From Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in the period from 1914-1946 approximately 226.3 thousand Poles were displaced, from 529.2 thousand registered. The displaced people settled mainly in Wroclaw province and western part of the Poznan province, but also in Szczecin and Gdansk provinces.



**ZMIANA GRANIC POLSKI
I PRZESIEDLENIA LUDNOSCI W LATACH 1945-59**



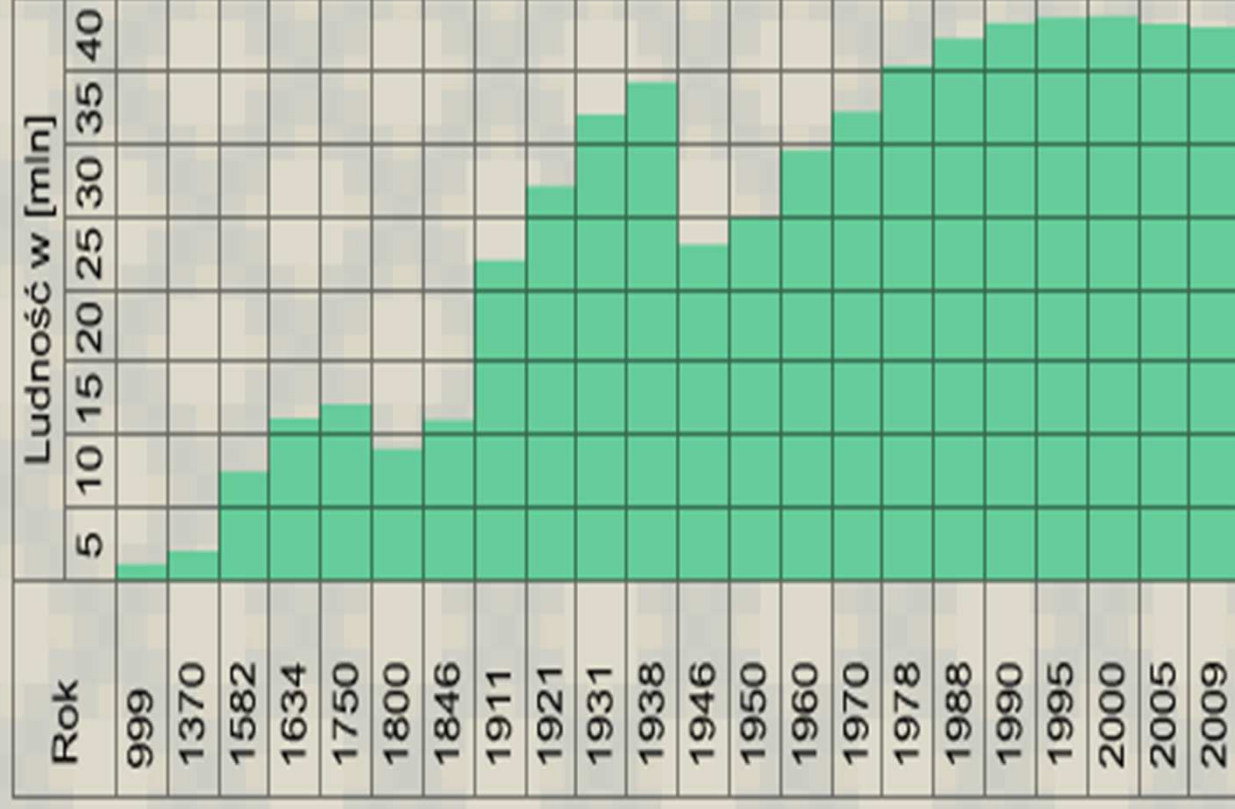
REPRESJE WOBEC OBYWATELI POLSKICH NA TERENIE ZSRS W LATACH 1939-59



The Expulsion of Poles by Germany was a prolonged anti-Polish campaign of ethnic cleansing by violent and terror-inspiring means lasting nearly a century. It began with the concept of Pan-Germanism developed in the early 19th century and culminated in the racial policy of Nazi Germany that asserted the superiority of the Aryan race. The removal of Poles by Germany stemmed from historic ideas of expansionist nationalism. It was implemented at different levels and different stages by successive German governments. It ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945.

The partitions of Poland had ended the existence of a sovereign Polish state in the 18th century. With the rise of German nationalism in mid 19th century, Poles faced increasing discrimination on formerly Polish lands. The first mass deportation of 30,000 Poles from territories controlled by the German Empire took place in 1885. While the ideas of expelling Poles can be found in German political discourse of the 19th century, these ideas matured into nascent plans advocated by German politicians during the First World War, which called for the removal of the Polish population from Polish territories first annexed by the Russian Empire during partitions and then by Germany. Before and after the 1939 invasion of Poland the Nazis exploited these ideas when creating their Lebensraum concept of territorial aggression. Large-scale expulsions of Poles occurred during World War II, when Nazi Germany started the Generalplan Ost campaign of ethnic cleansing in all Polish areas occupied by, and formally annexed to Nazi Germany. Although the Nazis were not able to fully implement Generalplan Ost due to the war's turn, up to 2 million Poles were affected by wartime expulsions with additional millions displaced or killed.

Ludność Polski od X w.



History of Lviv

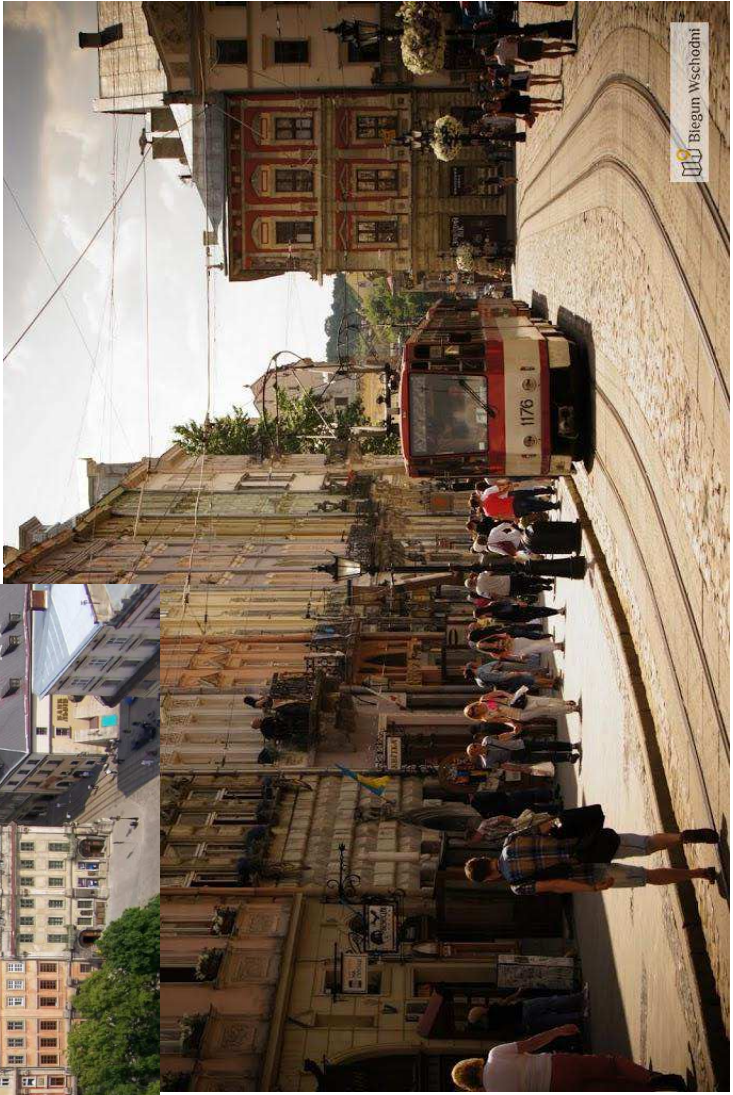
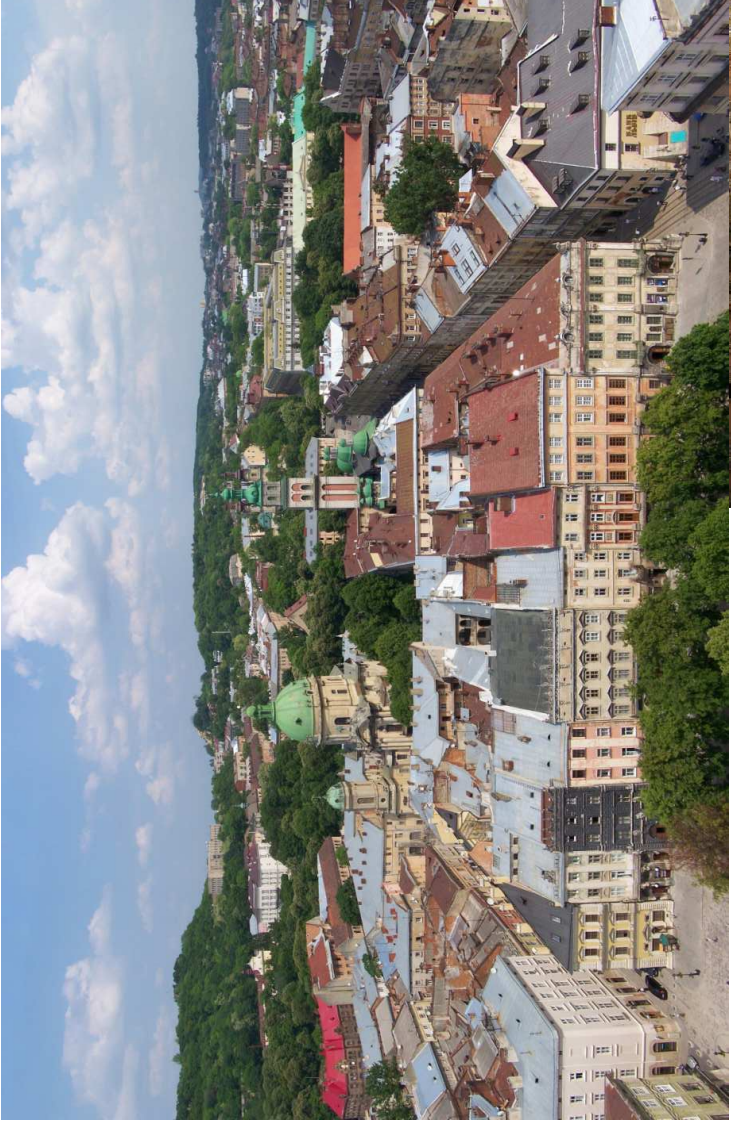
Displacement of Poles from Lviv - the largest (apart from the displacement from Vilnius) urban displacement operation on the territory of former eastern provinces of the Second Polish Republic in the period 1944-1946 as part of forced displacement actions to the post-Yalta territory of Poland. In the period from 1942-1944, immediately before the arrival of the Red Army, Volyn and Eastern Lesser Poland became the area where brutal ethnic cleansing took place, performed by Ukrainian nationalist organizations, supported by the local Ukrainian population. In the vicinity of the city were 5 thousand people. Atmosphere of insecurity was present among Polish rural populations and it made many people escape to central regions of Poland.

Increased number of people running from Lviv was noticeable also in the period before approach of the Soviet front in July 1944 . People were running frightened of Stalin's terror from the years 1939-1941 and also expropriations and deportation to the East. It is estimated, that since June 1944 approximately 45 thousand people left Lviv and never returned to the city. It is not known how many people running from the city were native people of Lviv, and how many of them were residing in the city only temporarily. It is known that 15 thousand people from the Przemysl Land sought shelter from the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) before approach of the Soviet front.

Only one month later, that is on November 1, 1944 Lviv had 244 285 inhabitants, including 112 413 Poles, that is 46% of the total. The number of Ukrainians and Russian increased in that period by 80 thousand approximately. The way the Soviets took away from Poles the only advantage and argument, which could influence the results of Yalta Conference - argument of nationality of inhabitants of the city.

Lviv- Before the World War it was the capital of the Lviv province and one of the most developed cities of the Second Polish Republic, where over 160 thousand Poles lived. Also today it is an important place for many Poles - both those with ancestors living there, and those who still live there, though there are only over 6 thousand of them.





Lviv today, as we can see from the Census in 2001, is 700-thousand metropolis, and Poles constitute less than 1% of its population. In comparison to the situation before war, in the city of 350 thousand inhabitants, Poles constituted over 50% of the entire population (30-35% approximately were Jews, 15% approximately were Ukrainians, and were also present small groups of Armenians, Greeks, Germans - largely polonized as a result of many centuries in Lviv). Many Poles died or were dislocated to many parts of the USSR during the Soviet occupation .During the post-war repatriation (years 1944-1947 and 1956) Lviv was left - according to various estimates - approximately 80 thousand people of Polish nationality. After the war, situation of those who decided to stay in Lviv was not easy. The authorities decided to quickly carry out ukrainization ,and actually, sovietization, which made it difficult to preserve the Polish identity. Even though conditions of functioning of the Polish society in Lviv were better than in most other countries on the former eastern lands of the Polish Republic. During the entire post-war period there were two Polish schools, which have been the centre of cultural life of Poles, and also the churches were open. After 1991, it was possible to openly cultivate the Polish traditions and customs. Also Polish societies, religious groups, radio, theatre groups were formed, there is the University of the Third Age, and relations with Poland are strong. On the other hand, more and more young people decide to study in Poland, and do not come back to their hometown, which means that the Polish minority in Lviv largely becomes a community on elderly people.







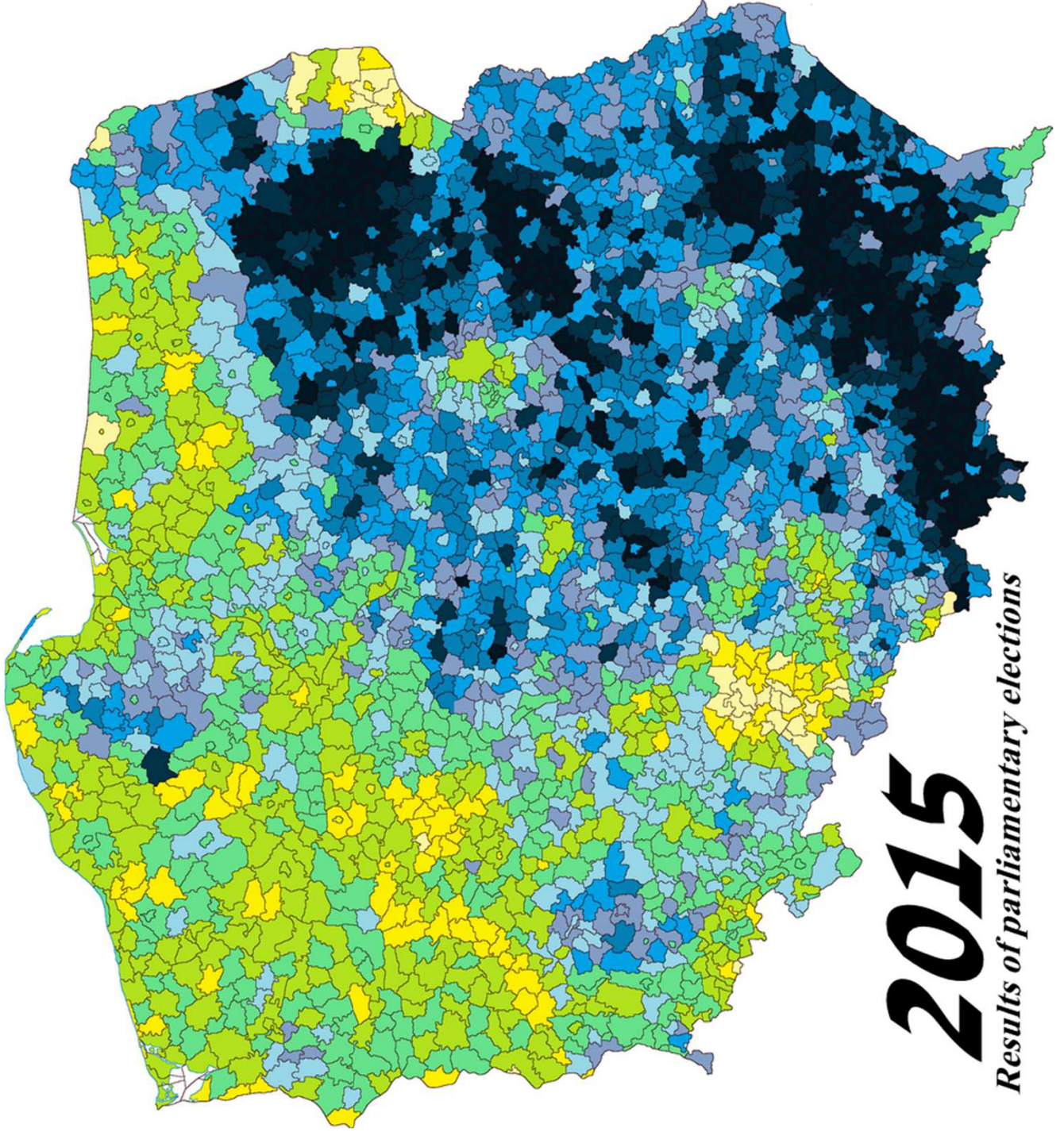






Displacements stayed and will stay in the memory of Poles forever. Yet young people have less and less knowledge of the World War II. Due to this, memory of displacements is present mostly in case of elderly people.

Today, effects of displacements are very clear during elections. PO (Civil Platform) electorate dominates on the territory of Poland which belonged to German to before the war. It is also because the Poles in the west got their own land from communists. It influences also the mentality of inhabitants of these areas. It is foreign population that is accustomed to changes of identity and identification, weakly bound to the place of residence. Due to this, they support leftist and centrist circles. And in the South-East it is PiS (Law and Justice) – a right-wing party. It is the territory of the former Russian and Austrian Partition.



Thank you

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