

Let's start from the location of Poland. Situated in Central Europe, Poland is bordered by the Baltic Sea in the north and two mountain ranges - the Sudety Mountains and the Carpathian Mountains in the south. The major rivers are the Oder and the Vistula.

The area of Poland, according to administrative division, amounts to 312 679 square kilometres, making it the 70th largest country in the world and the 9th largest in Europe. Poland has a population of over 38,5 million people, which makes it the 34th most populous country in the world and the 6th most populous member of the European Union.

Poland is bordered by Germany to the west, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south, the Ukraine and Belarus to the east, Lithuania to the northeast and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, to the north. Moreover, the major part of the northern border is marked by the Baltic Sea. Polish exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea is bordered by zones of Denmark and Sweden.

Where is Poland?





Poland in Europe

The event which led to the creation of the Polish state was taking control over the tribe of the Polans by the Piast dynasty. It probably took place in the 11th century. Gniezno was the main centre of the developing Polish state. The first historical ruler was Mieszko I.

His reign began in 963 and it lasted until 992. In 965 he concluded an alliance with Boleslaus I the Cruel, the duke of already Christian at that time Bohemia, and married his daughter Dobrawa. The main consequences of that alliance were Mieszko's baptism in 966 and Poland's adoption of Christianity, which placed it in the sphere of Latin civilisation. Collateral consequences of Mieszko's decision were the arrival of clergy to Poland, together with which the new concept of princely (later on royal) power popularised, administrative experience and writing. In 1025, the ruler of Poland obtained the royal title. Since the end of the 13th century, the rulers of neighbouring countries were often elected to the Polish throne. In 1569, after the extinction of a dynastic union with Lithuania which lasted from 1386, both countries decided to form a real union. The new country's official name was 'Rzeczpospolita' (The Republic of Poland).



Mieszko I


History

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland is the supreme Polish legal document, which was adopted by the National Assembly of Poland on 2 April 1997. It decides about the structure of government. It determines the relationships between the legislative, executive and judiciary powers. The Constitution defines the legal status of citizens and the way of their influence on policymaking.

The Consitution of 3rd May - Jan Matejko



The Constitution of 3rd May



In 1772-1795 Polish territory was divided among allied conquerors: the Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Prussia and Habsburg Austria. In 1918 Poland regained its independence as the Second Polish Republic. In 1939 Poland was invaded by the Third Reich and the USRR and divided among Germany, the USRR and Lithuania. It was the direct cause of World War II in Europe. As a result, over 6 million Polish citizens were killed, and Poland became a socialist republic dependent on the USRR.

The Partitions of Poland

On 1 September 1939, the German army invaded Poland. On 14 September, Germans attacked Warsaw. At the time of the siege of the city, the Polish government and the president were evacuated across the southern border to Romania. On 17 September, Poland was also invaded by the Red Army. The invasion was the result of a secret agreement made between Germany and the USRR. On 6 September, the last of the Polish Army was defeated.


During World War II, the Second Polish Republic maintained its sovereignty. The country was represented by the Polish government-in-exile, which was based first in Paris (until 1940), and then in London.



World War II

Warsaw, World War II





In 1980, Polish trade union 'Solidarity' with Lech Waleasa as the leader was founded. A wave of strikes and protests had been sweeping through Poland, which led to the end of communism in Poland.
In 1989, the first democratic government with Tadeusz Mazowiecki as the prime minister was formed. A year later, presidential election was organised, which Lech Waleasa won.

The Third Polish Republic

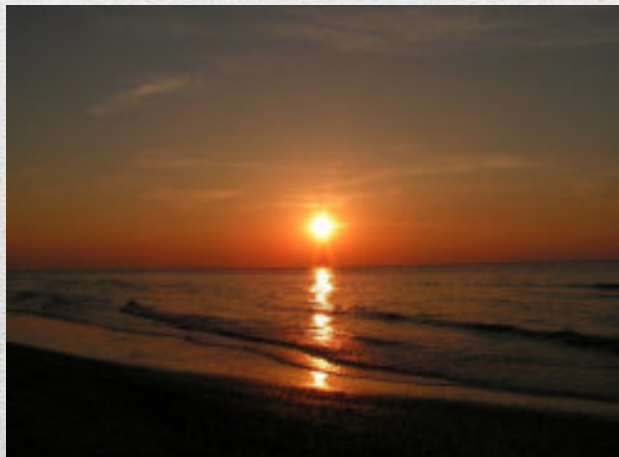


Bronisław Komorowski
The President of Poland



Donald Tusk
The Prime Minister of Poland

Authorities of Poland



Beauty of Poland
