





King Boleslaus I The Brave



and his invincible knights



During the period of internal fragmentation, northern crusade against pagan Prussian began. One of the first cities built by crusaders and Teutonic Knights was Elbląg (called Elbing). Teutonic state within 100 years became one of the main enemies of Polish Realm.





Beginning of 13th century, Baltic Sea coast.

A northern crusade begins. Christians from Europe arrive at the banks of the Vistula River to build their new lives. Bloody war breaks out .

All described in a series of books by Mr. Tomasz Stężala.

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17th century was time of wars for our Rzeczpospolita (state of common care). We fought against **Austria (1588 – Byczyna victory)**, the **Swedes (1605 – Kircholm victory, capturing Stockholm)**, against Russia (capturing Moscow), against Cossacks – Beresteczko victory), against muslim Turks and Tartars – **(1683 – Vienna victory, saving Europe)**. Although all the conflicts were victorius, it weakend the monarchy and nobility, which caused in the end of 18th century partition of Poland. We lost independence for 123 years.



Vienna 1683



1605 - Kircholm

**Those years built crucial virtues of Poles –
tolerance towards non-Poles and strong love for freedom and homeland,
which are still cultivated.**



When the Great War was about to end, Polish patriots made winning powers consider our independence. Such people as Ignacy Paderewski, Józef Piłsudski and Roman Dmowski managed to build one state from three different parts (Russian, Austrian and German), and immediately Poland had to fight for its borders. In 1920 we stopped Bolsheviks who wanted to invade Europe and we crushed communism for 20 years.



1920 Battle at Warsaw

In 1939 Poland was attacked both by Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union. For over 5 years the country was occupied. About 6 million Polish citizens (out of 30 million) were killed, economy was ruined, borders were moved westwards. When other European countries enjoyed freedom, we had bloody time of communism, till 1989. We are still gaining our independence, freedom and wealth. But we love our homeland and hometown – Elbląg.



BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Our city was founded in 1237. During most time of its history played very important role in Teutonic State, Kingdom of Poland, Prussia, Germany and in Republic of Poland. Kings, emperors and the Pope visited it. Almost totally destroyed in 1945 it was rebuilt and it is still growing.



So, what is our heritage now? What characterizes the Poles?

We are much more religious than other nations. In August thousands of pilgrims go to Częstochowa, to pray to Our God's Mother. Most people regularly pray in churches.

We are proud of our history, bravery, national spirit and tolerance. A lot of foreigners settle down nowadays in Poland and find safe and friendly home.

We love our national culture: i.e. dances, music, literature. Our cuisine is simply the best. If you do not believe it – look and the vlogs. We are considered as a very hospitable nation.

The Poles are very hard working and enterprising. Millions had to emigrate to western countries to find proper job. Most of them are highly rated for creativity and their hard work.



Polish Food Paradise
You never get enough

And this is our cultural heritage.

