

Your Ancestors in Volhynia and Poland from 1700 to 1900: How They Got There and How They Lived

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(Annual meeting is at the Milwaukee Radisson Hotel on July 24th and 25th - German Fest Weekend)).

Presentation Online at

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Remus?

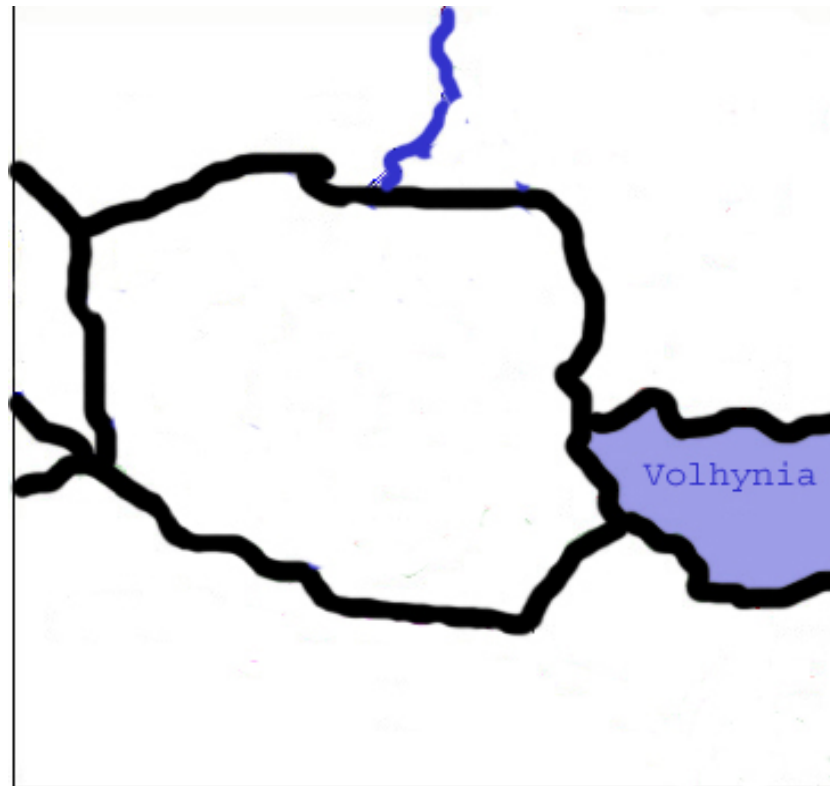
- Rem (pronounced Rehm) = Saxon clan name for those who punch holes (in people using spears). Lots of Rem in Bavaria and Saxony from 1300.
- -us A Latin suffix added by those with the church and universities around 1500 (very fashionable). The name links Remus directly to villages near Dresden, Saxony.



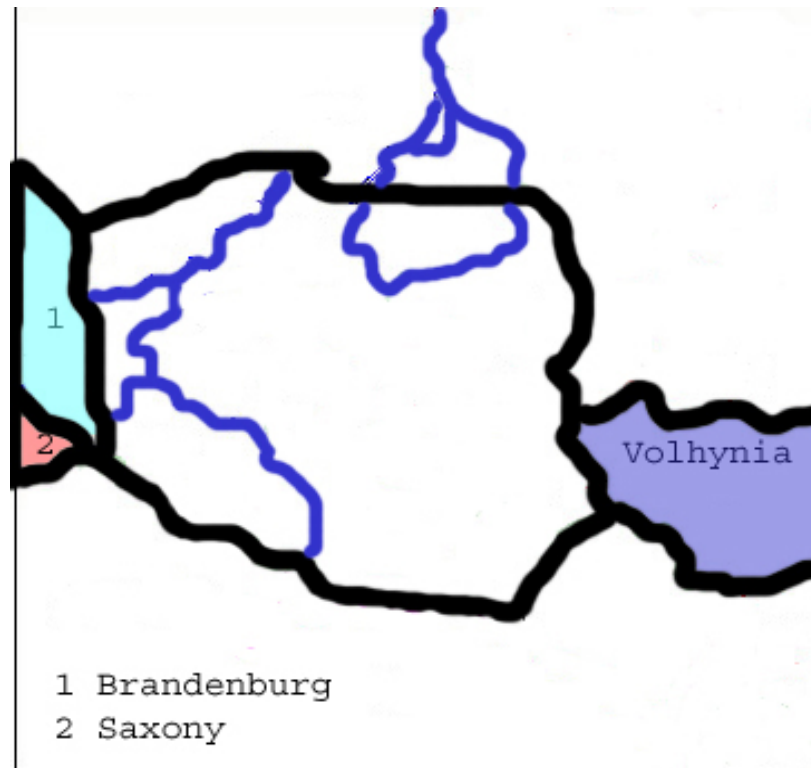
Agenda

- Follow the trails of the Germans migrating out of Germany into Poland and Volhynia
- Talk about how they lived and why they migrated.

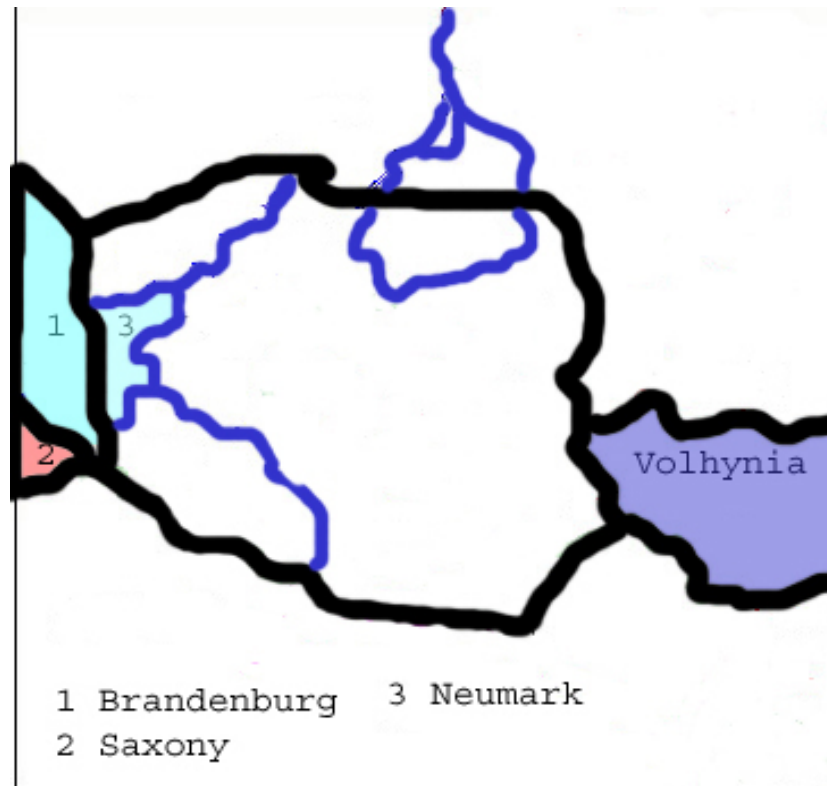
Where is Volhynia?



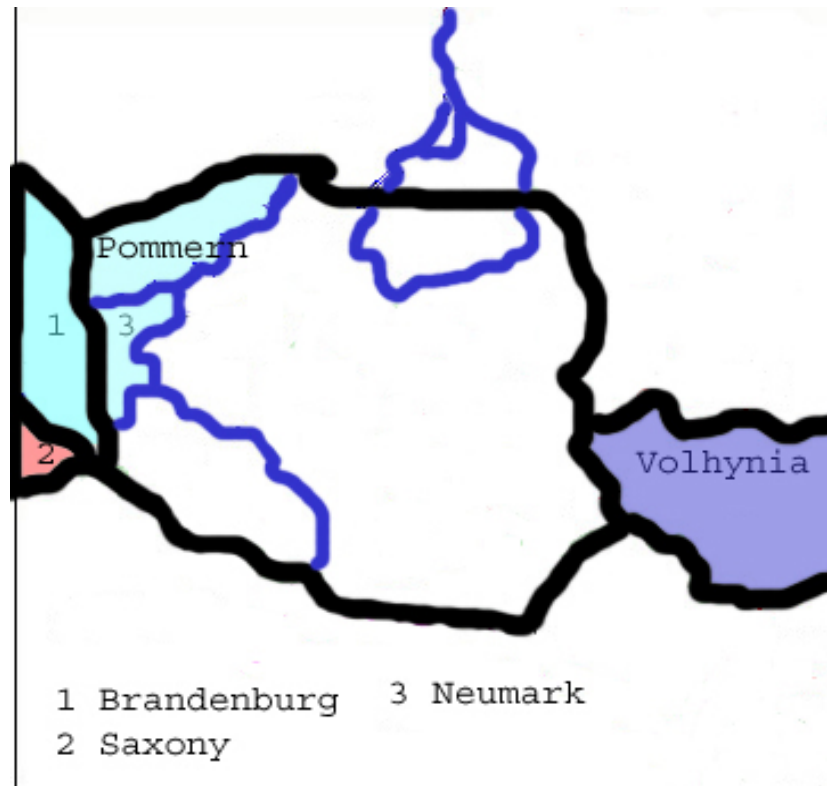
Where are the Germans?



Where are the Germans?



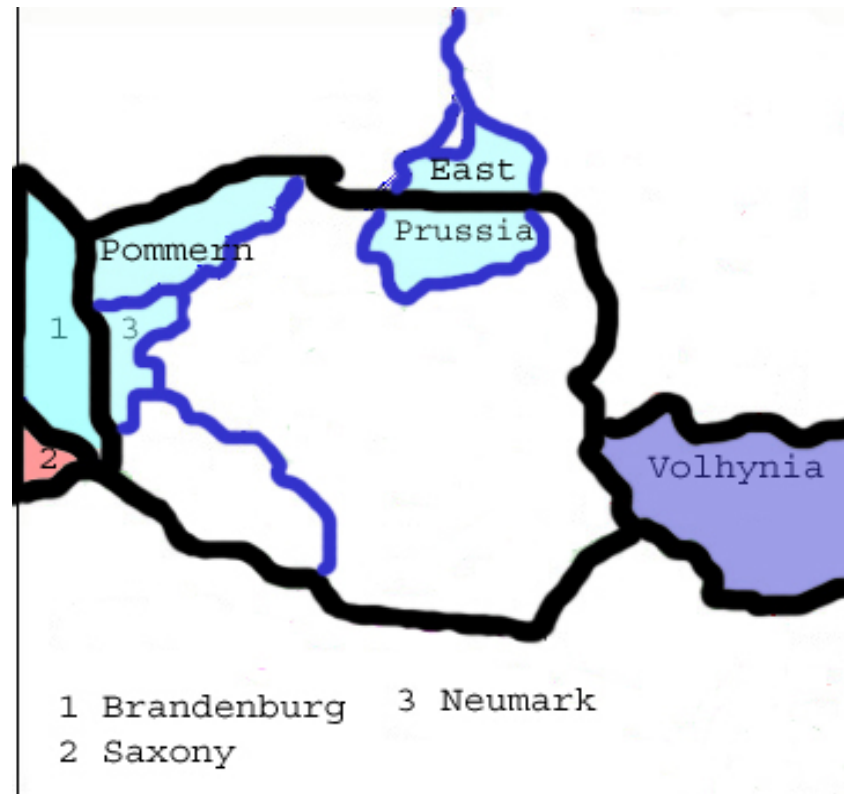
Where are the Germans?



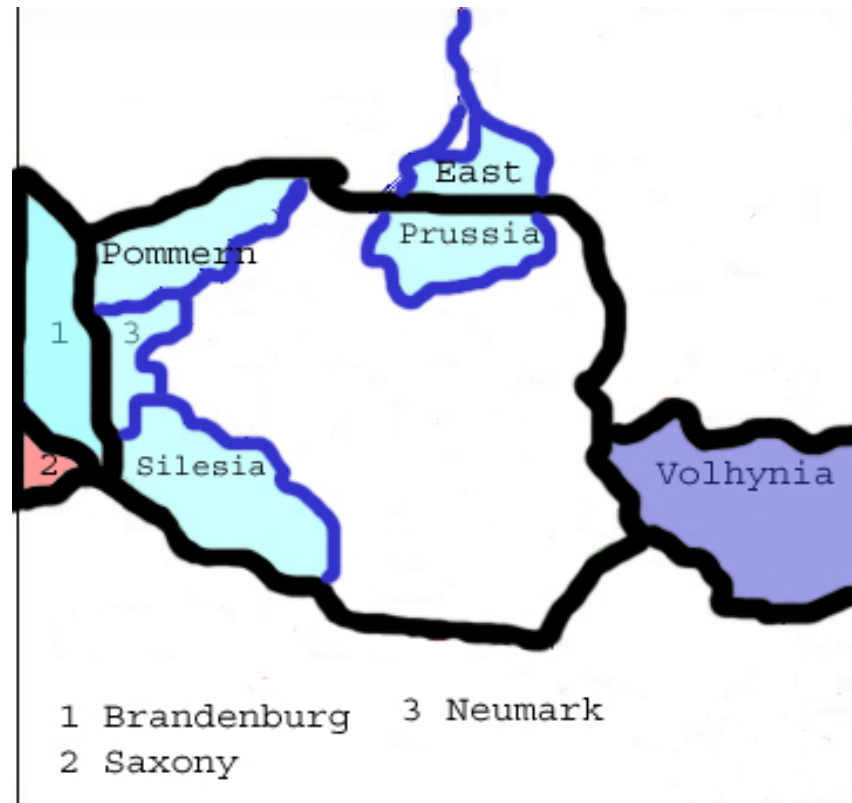
(Hinter) Pommern

- Lightly populated initially with Wends and Kashubians
- Gradual inflow of Germans inland for farming
- Cooperative arrangements with Wend and Kashubian nobility
- Merged later with East Prussia, Brandenburg, and Silesia to form Prussia

Where are the Germans?



Where are the Germans?



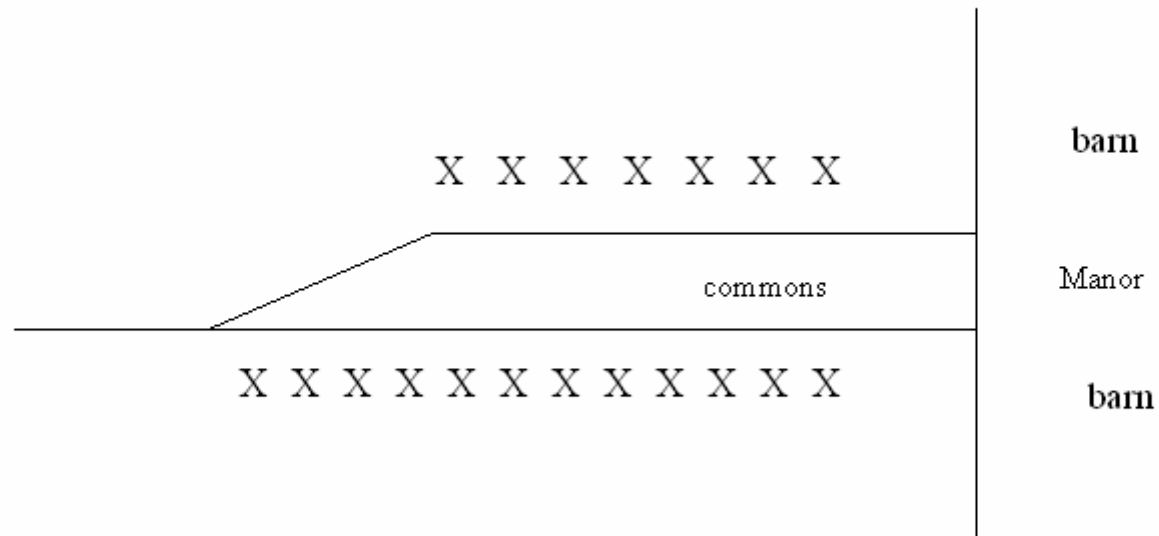
Conditions in 1720

- The Swedes fought the joined Russians, Poles, and Prussians across northern Poland.
- The Swedes lost but more than one third of the Poles died.
- The Polish nobility recruited Germans to fill the jobs of the deceased Poles – these were mostly on manorial farms.

Life on the Manorial Farm



Life on the Manorial Farm

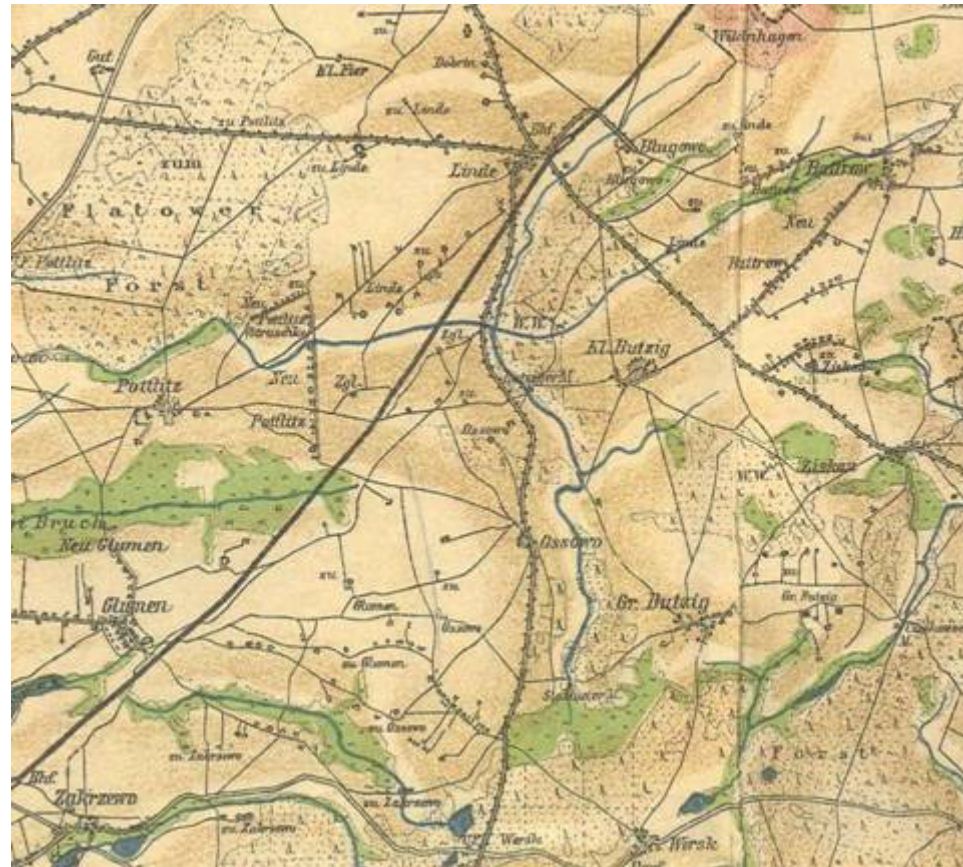


Who Is The Top Dog In The Manorial Village?

1. Schulz - village head
2. Farm Workers (inheritable, irrevocable work contracts)*
3. Farm Workers (annual work contracts)*
4. Millers and Krügers (grain processors and brewers)*
5. Blacksmiths and craftsmen *
6. Schoolmasters*
7. Day laborers *
8. Shepherds*
9. Household laborers and maidservants.
(* grew their own food in a small garden)

Soon the manorial farms were fully manned and the nobles devised a better way to make money. Namely, take vacant land and allow a German to recruit farmers and establish a village (and pay rent, usually in rye).

Life in the Non-manorial Village



Life in the Non-manorial Village



Who Is The Top Dog In The Village?

1. Schulz - village head
 2. Farmers (inheritable lease) *
 3. Farmers (annual lease) *
 4. Millers and Krügers (grain processors and brewers)*
 5. Farmers who were also blacksmiths and craftsmen *
 6. Farmers who were also schoolmasters *
 7. Day laborers *
 8. Shepherds *
- (* grew their own food and clothes)

What Did They Grow?

- Rye? yes
- Hemp? yes
- Flax? yes
- Potatoes? Yes after 1750
- Livestock? A few

Flax (Linen) and Hemp

- Grow flax and separate the grain from stem
- Berries provides oil, breakfast, and fodder
- Immerse stem in water until casing breaks
- Separate out dry fibers
- Spin into yarn (and dye?)
- Weave into Cloth
- Wear or Sell
- (Involves whole family)

Who is the Best Wife?

- Thin and beautiful girl? no
- Big Bones and Strong Girl? yes
- Young girl (for example, 16)? yes
- High School Graduate? Not available
- Second Cousin or a Relative? yes
- Girl from family in the same job? yes
- Girl from big family? yes

Where were the children baptized in 1750?

- Lutheran Church? No, banned
- Catholic Church? yes
- They weren't baptized? no

Good Retirement Planning

- Have healthy male children? yes
- Have a healthy spouse? yes
- Be healthy yourself? yes

- The small farmer had a house, outbuildings, land for a small garden, and land for cash crops such as rye, barley, or oats in the old days (and potatoes since 1750). Also hemp and flax for clothing. The small farmer also had access to the commons. The small farmer would pay his rent in grain.
- To be successful, the farmer needed a capable wife to share the tasks and children.
- The farmer's male children were his social security.

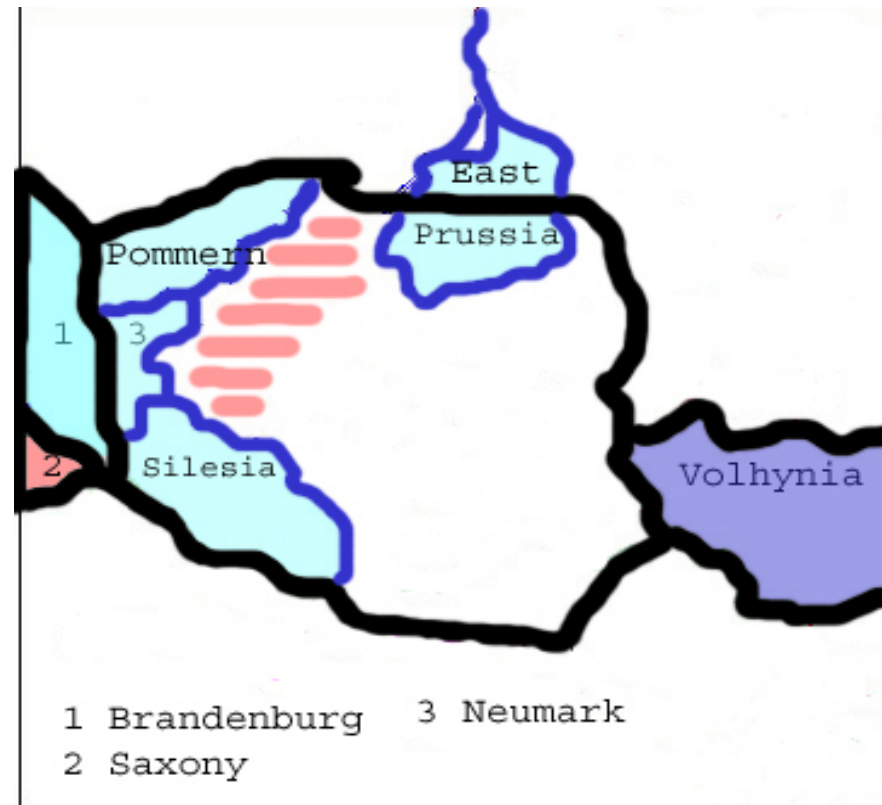
Who Dispensed Justice?

- The families involved themselves?
- The lord of the manor if manorial farm?
- The schulz (mayor)?
- All the above

- Why did everyone know the date that Saint Martin's birthday was celebrated (November 11)?
- The day you paid your landlord and prepared for winter.

Now let's restart our journey to
Volhynia

Migrations 1700 to 1772



Where did this pre 1772 wave come from?

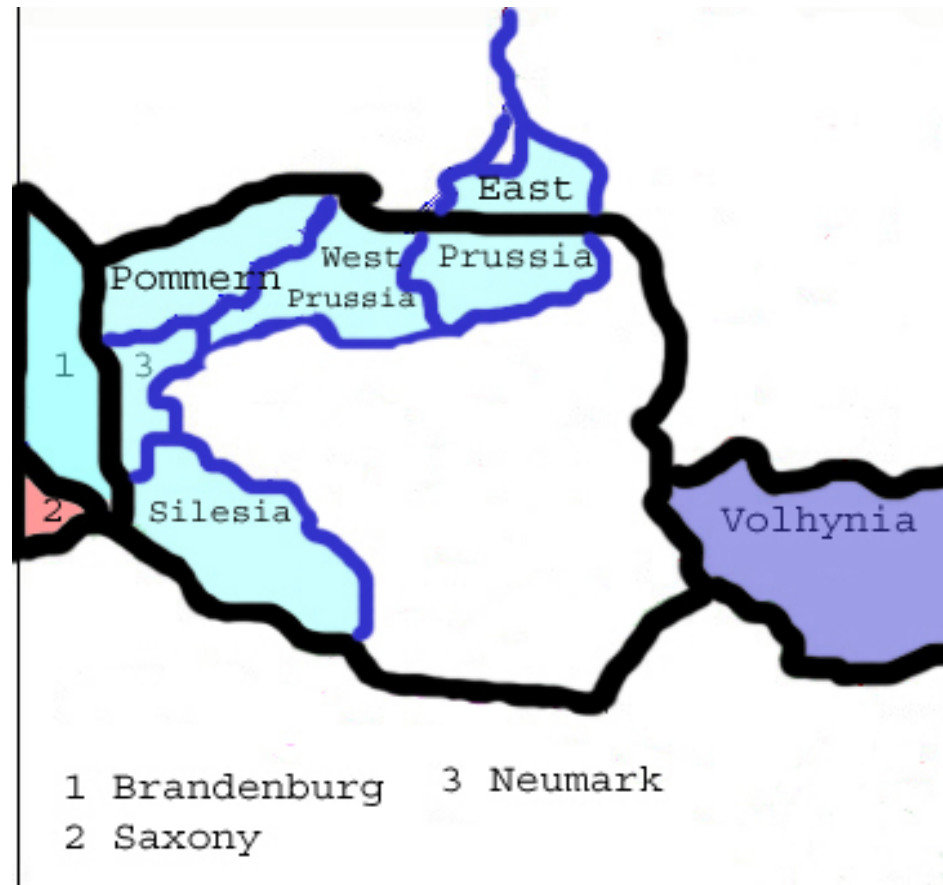
- Saxony
- Neumark
- Silesia
- Pommern
- (Saxony was known for its flax growing and Silesia for its weaving)

Why was Poland Partitioned?

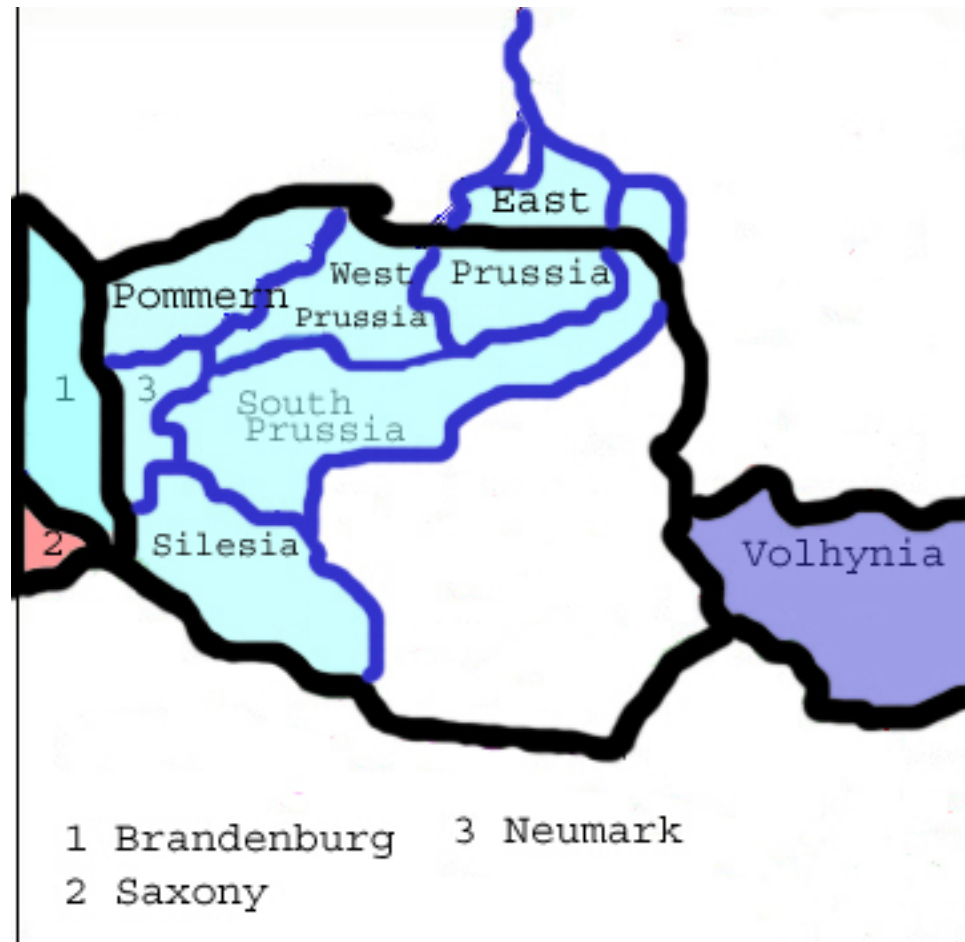
- Because Russia, Prussia, and Austria wanted more land?
- Because the Polish government was malfunctioning?
- Because there was religious oppression of non-Catholics?

All the above.

1772 First Partition of Poland



Third Partition of Poland 1794

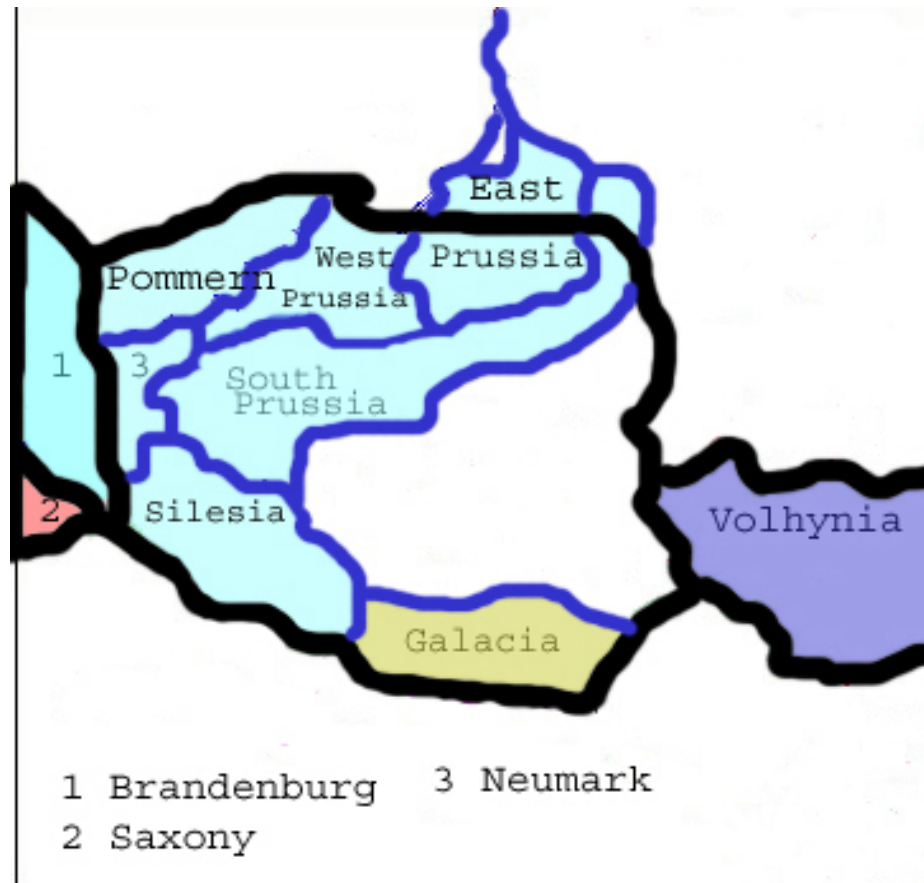


Prussia recruited Germans for the areas gained from the Partitions

- Recruited widely in 1772 and 1795
- Some incentives provided
- Good success in 1795 attracting Germans from Wurttemberg, Bavaria, and Saxony
- Initial homesteads often were inadequate

- Now an expanded view of Prussia, Russia, and Austria in 1795 (and no Poland)

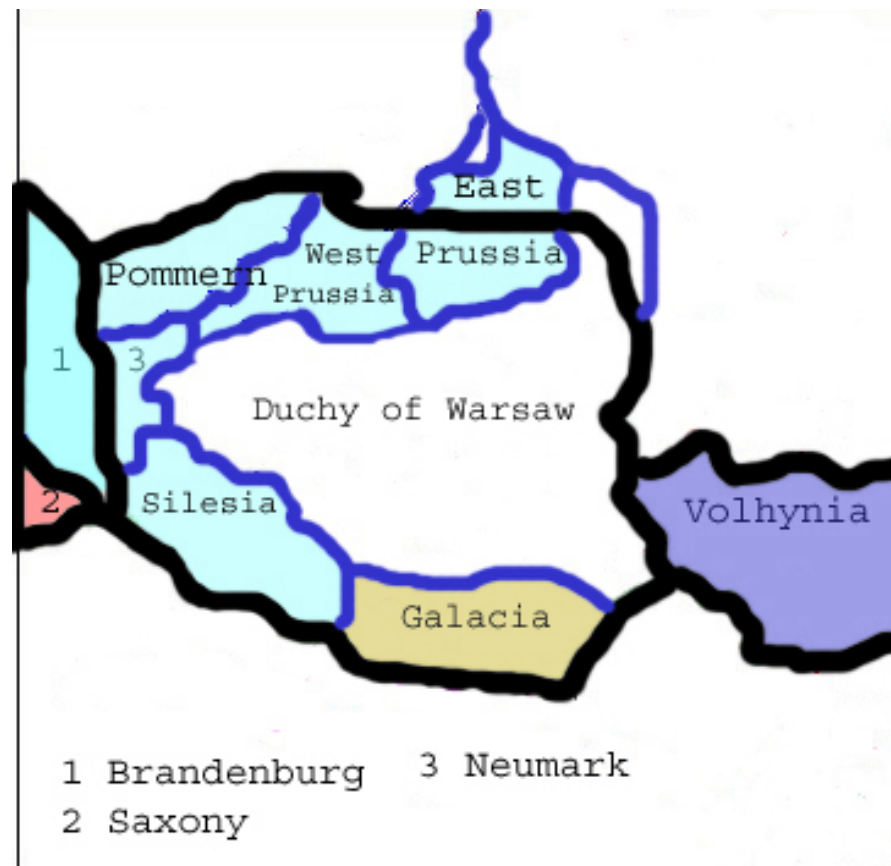
Austrian and Russian Poland 1795



Some areas of Poland given to Prussia were incorporated into Napoleon's Duchy of Warsaw (1807 to 1813).

So some German farmers in Prussian Poland suddenly found themselves in the Duchy of Warsaw.

Napoleon's Poland 1806 to 1815



Poland after Congress of Vienna 1815



Some areas of Poland given to Prussia were first incorporated into Napoleon's Duchy of Warsaw (1807 to 1813) and later these areas became part of Russian Poland.

So some German farmers in Prussian Poland suddenly found themselves in Russian Poland.

Germans in Russian Poland



Continuing German Migration into Russian Poland ca 1820

When Russia took over central Poland, many of the Polish and Russian nobles began to set up and recruit Germans for cloth making villages on their land (and collect rent). This was particularly true in the sandy region of central Poland like around Lodz. (Flax grows well in sand).

1831 Migration to Volhynia

- In 1831 the Polish rose up against the Russians. This made life unsafe for Germans and destroyed the market for their cottage industry cloth.
- The nobility in Volhynia invited the cloth makers to set up industry there.

Where did the 1831 migration to Volhynia come from?

- These folks seem mostly to be cloth makers from Russian Poland, particularly from cloth-making areas in central Russian Poland.
- These folks were **previously** from Prussian Poland cloth making areas (that is northern Poland).
- They were **more previously** drawn to Prussian Poland from cloth-making areas in Wurtemberg, Silesia and Saxony soon after the partition.

Germans in Russian Poland



Consequences in Prussian Poland

The uprising of 1831 made the Prussians become concerned about Prussian areas of Poland. Thus, many German settlers were brought into Posen and West Prussia areas.

1863 Migration to Volhynia

- In 1863 there was another and nastier Polish Uprising. The Russian troops suppressed it.
- Meanwhile, the serfs had been freed in Volhynia and they left the manorial farms there. So the nobles began to sell the land causing a much larger migration.

Where did the 1863 migration come from?

- They came from Russian Poland seeking safety and farm land to purchase.
- They also came from areas like West Prussia and Pommern where the land was fully farmed and available only by lease.

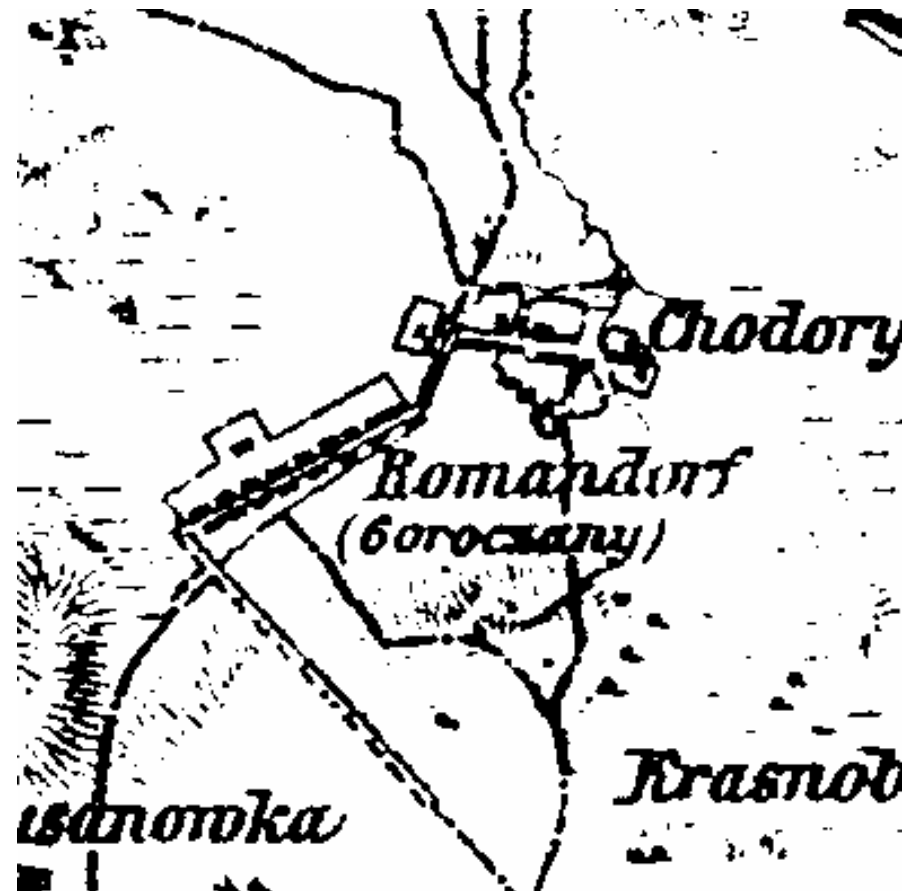
A Note on West Prussia and Pommern

After 1850, West Prussia and Pommern became overpopulated and the economic conditions got really bad.

This led to major migrations of these people not only to Volhynia but to the Midwest US and the rest of the world.

So any old timers around St Joe who are not from Volhynia are from the above regions.

Life in Volhynia ca 1870



Life in Volhynia ca 1870



- The farmer had a house, outbuildings, land for a small garden, and land for cash crops such as rye, barley, or oats. The farmer also had access to the commons. The farmer would pay his mortgage usually with money.
- To be successful, the farmer needed a capable wife to share the tasks and children.

What is the shape of the farmer's field?

- Circular like a meadow in the woods?
- Rectangular (twice as long as wide)?
- Rectangular (6 furrows wide and 1000 feet long)?
- If they had a Prussian plow, the last option.

Who Is The Top Dog In The Volhynia Village?

- 1.Schulz – elected village head
- 2.Farmers (owned land) *
- 3.Farmers (leased land from other farmers) *
- 4.Millers and Krügers (grain processors and brewers)*
- 5.Day laborers *
- 6.Smiths and craftsmen *
- 7.Schoolmasters *
- 8.Shepherds *

(* grew their own food and still flax and hemp for clothes)

Where were the children baptized in 1870?

- Lutheran Chapel or Lutheran Church?
- Catholic Church?
- Russian or Ukrainian Orthodox Church?

All of the above.

Where did the children go to school?

- At the bigger towns in the region? No
- In the village at the chapel? Yes

The Beginning of the End 1892

The Russian Government became worried about the Germans living in Russia so introduced a program of Russification where everyone must:

Learn the Russian Language

Go to Russian Orthodox Church

Serve in the Russian Army.

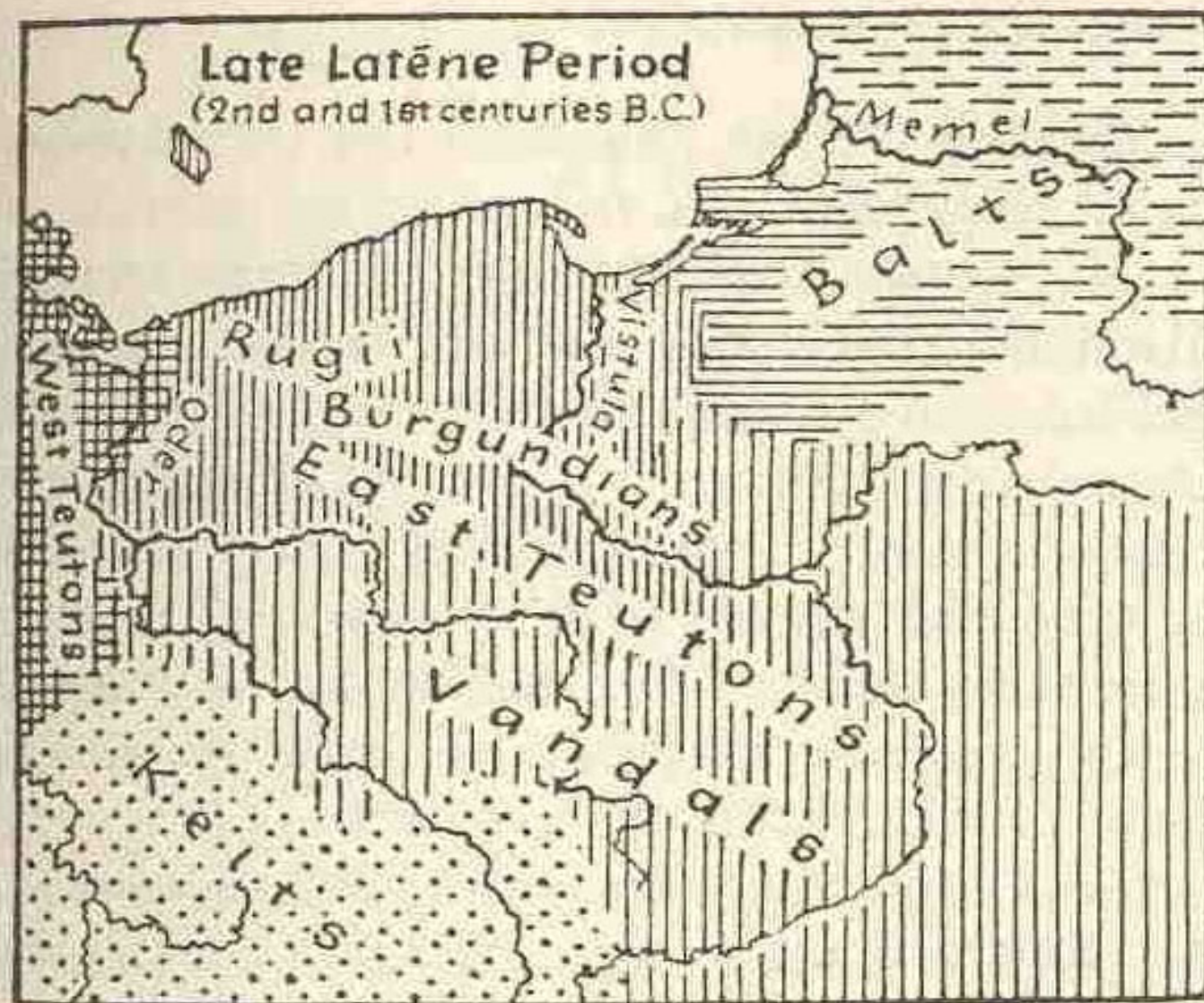
Consequences

A mass migration of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Germans as well as Poles and Ukrainians to the US, the Americas, and Australia.

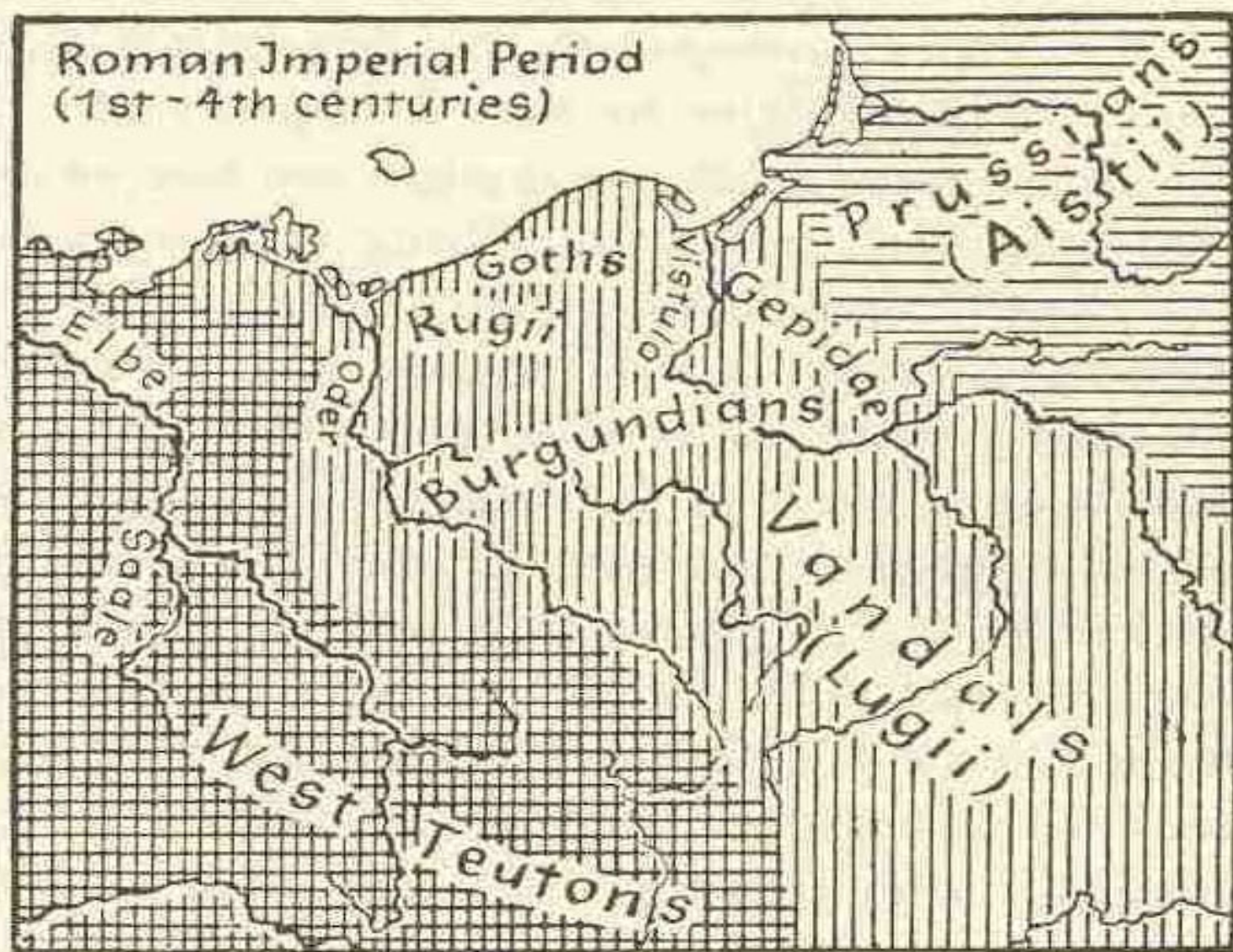
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Pre-History of Northern Europe

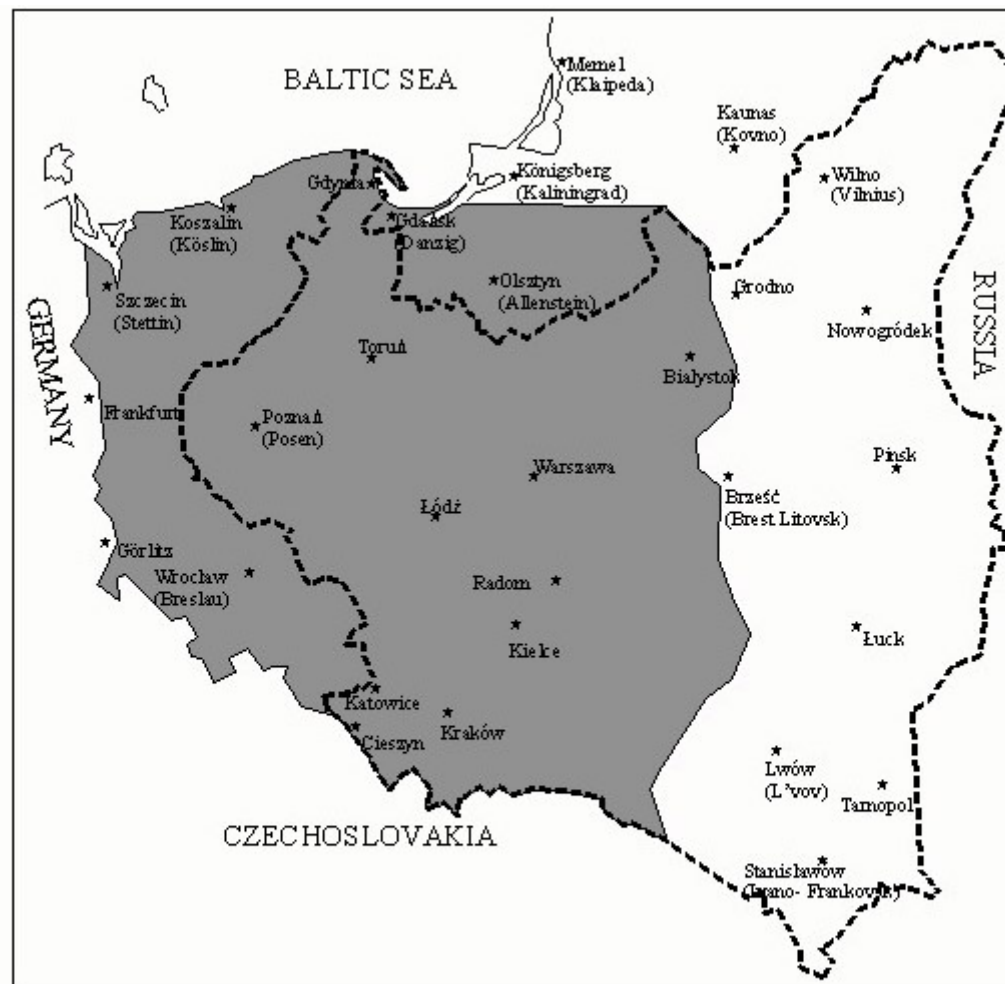
- Land of the Celts - prior to 400 BC
- The arrival of the Germanic Tribes



Roman Imperial Period
(1st - 4th centuries)



Why Few Germans Are Left in
These Areas? (Russian strategy
in WWII)



INDEPENDENT POLAND, 1921-1939, After World War II, the borders of Poland shifted west, taking parts of Pommern and Brandenburg and giving up parts of Grodno, Volhynia, and Vilna to Russia.



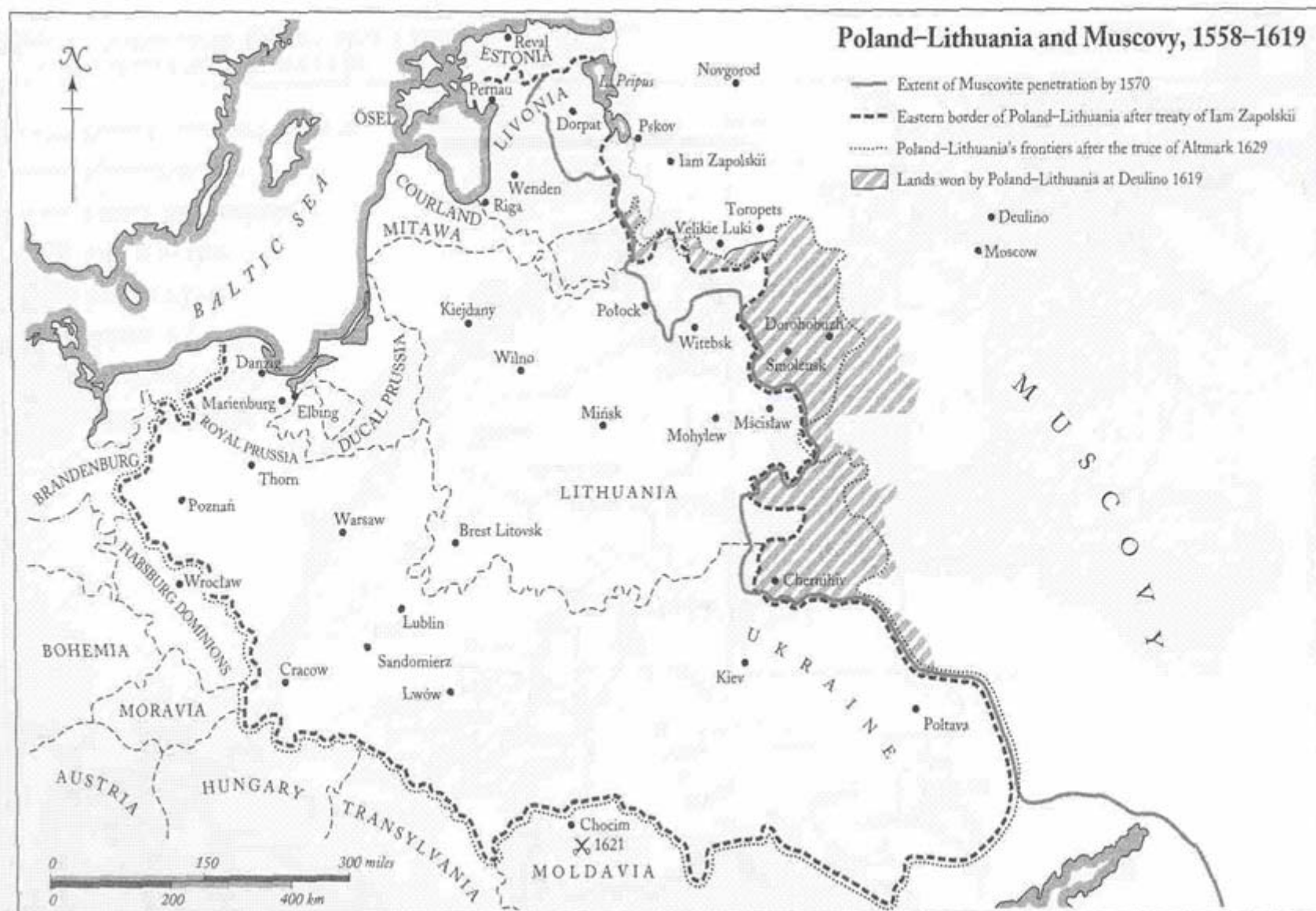


Pommern



Congress Poland





Map 2 Poland-Lithuania and Muscovy, 1558-1619

Russian Poland

- As noted earlier, Germans voluntarily and involuntarily were in Russian Poland
- Cloth-maker villages established around Lodz ca 1820 and Germans invited
- Cloth Production mechanized
- The Poles revolted in 1833