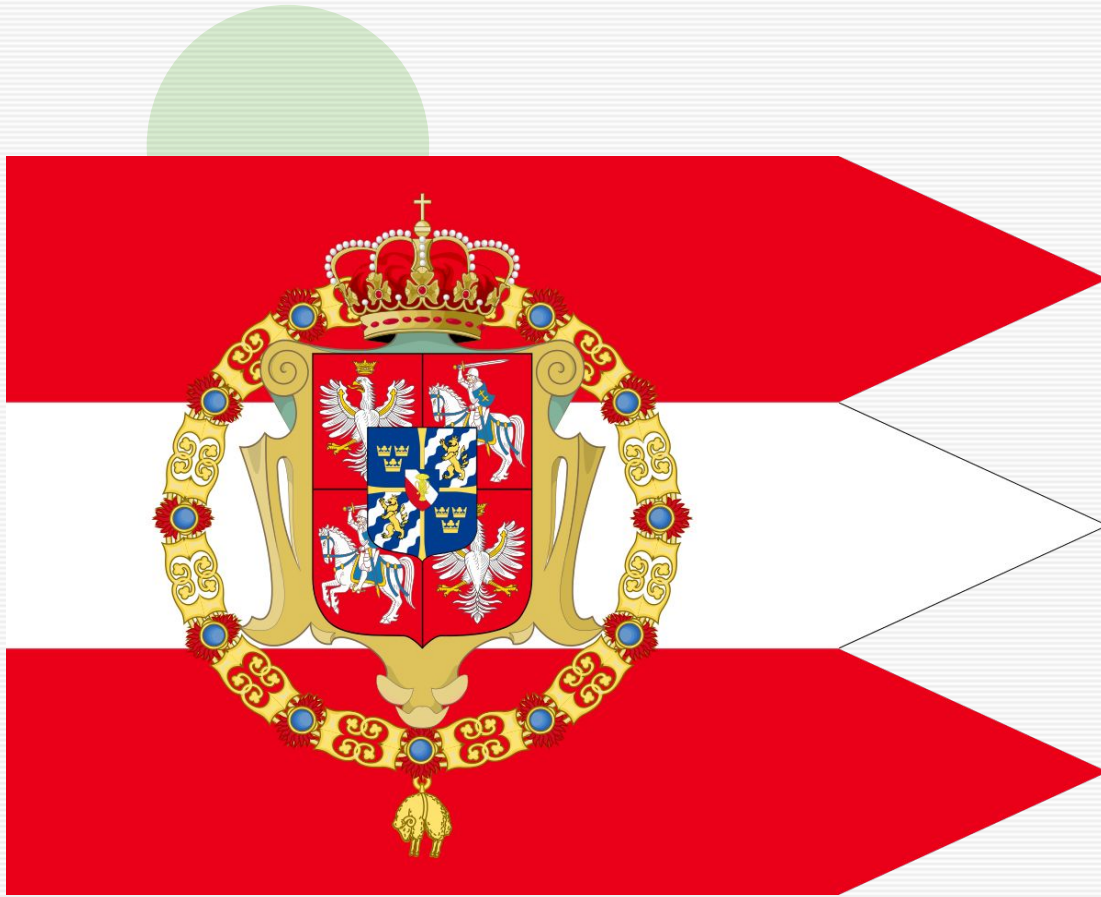GALATIKA

POLSKO-LITEWSKI FUNDUSZ WYMIANY MŁODZIEŻY

"Miracle of Freedom "
PLF/2020/F1/U/0050
24.09-30.09.2020
Poronin

Polish-Lithuanian history

Polish–Lithuanian relations date from the 13th century, after the Grand Duchy of Lithuania under Mindaugas acquired some of the territory of Rus' and thus established a border with the then-fragmented Kingdom of Poland.
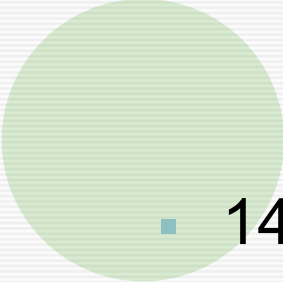
Polish-Lithuanian relations subsequently improved, ultimately leading to a personal union between the two states. From the mid-16th to the late-18th century Poland and Lithuania merged to form the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, a state that was dissolved following their partition by Austria, Prussia and Russia.
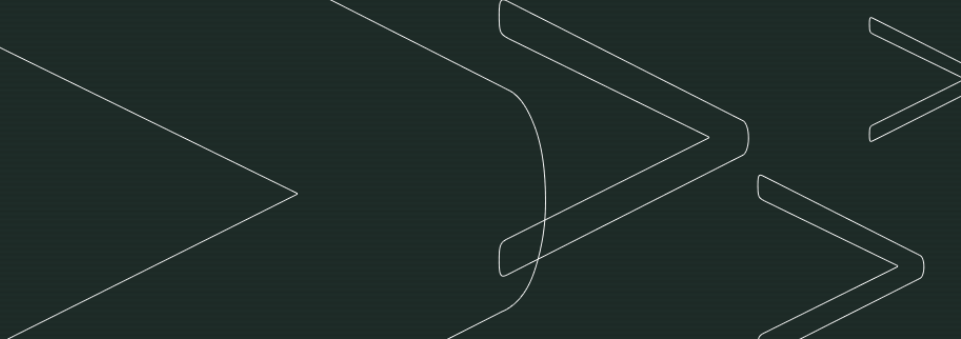
Polish-Lithuanian Union

The **Polish–Lithuanian Union** was a relationship created by a series of acts and alliances between the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania that lasted for prolonged periods of time from 1385 and led to the creation of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth - the "Republic of the Two Nations" - in 1569 and eventually to the creation of a unitary state in 1791.

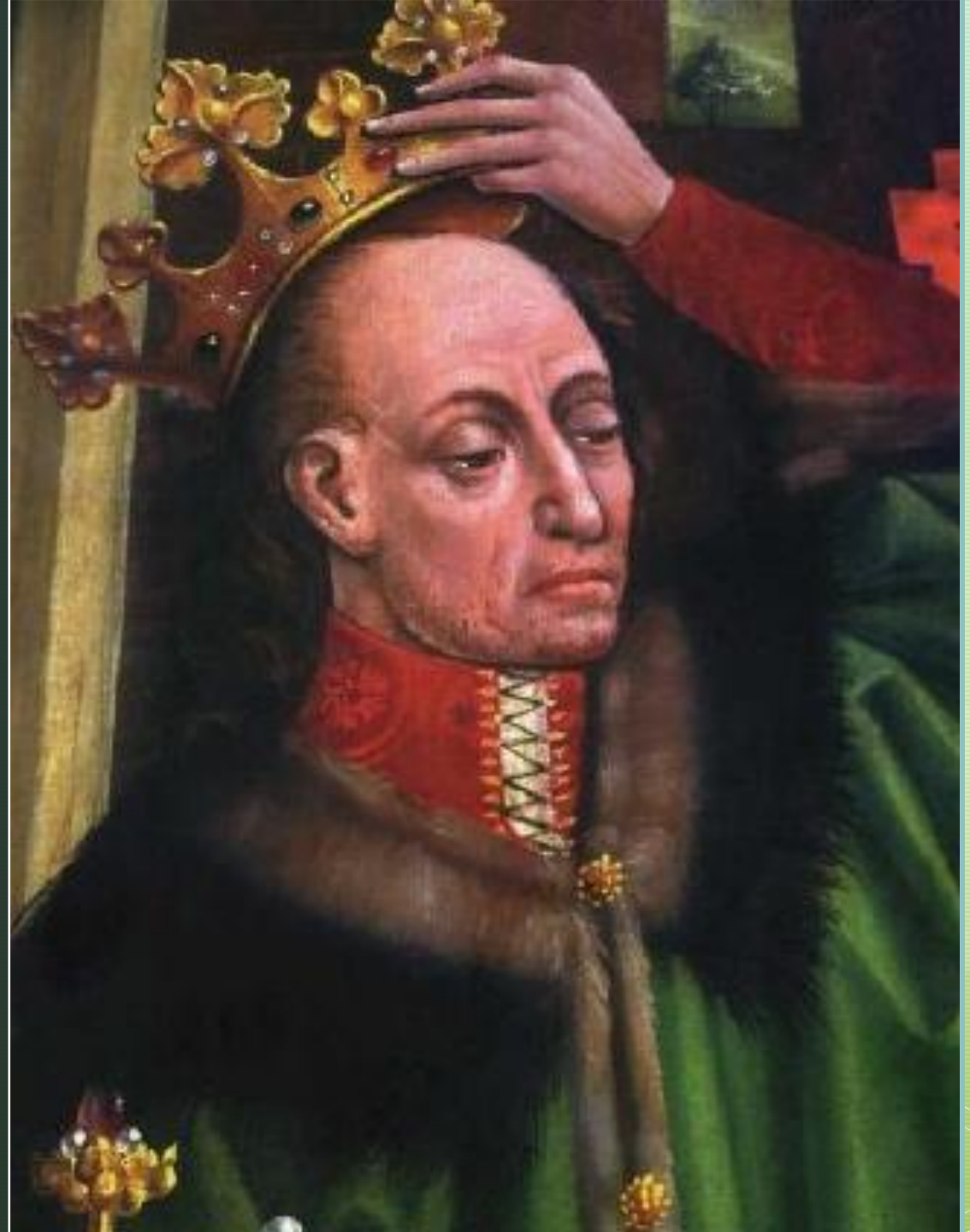# Important events in the process of union included:

- 1385 – Union of Krewo – a personal union that brought the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Jogaila, to the Polish throne

- 1401 – Union of Vilnius and Radom – strengthened the Polish–Lithuanian union

- 1413 – Union of Horodło – heraldic union which granted many szlachta rights to Lithuanian nobility

- 1432 (1432–34) – Union of Grodno, a declarative attempt to renew closer union
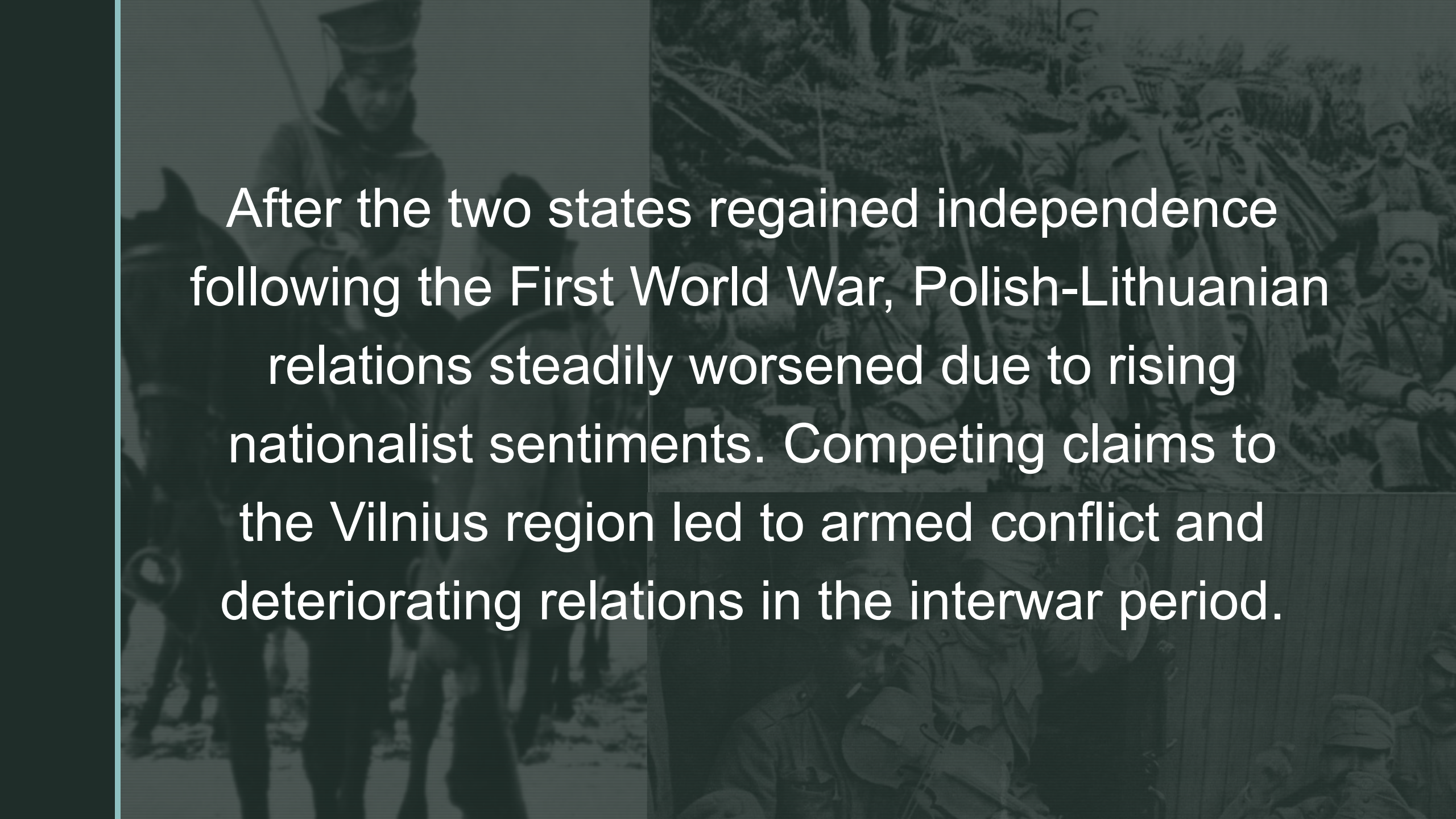
- 1499 – Union of Kraków and Vilnius, in which the personal union became a dynastic union, recognising the sovereignty of Lithuania and describing interaction between the two states

- 1501 – Union of Mielnik – a renewal of the personal union

- July 1, 1569 – Union of Lublin – a real union that resulted in creation of the semi-federal, semi-confederal Republic of the Two Nations (Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth)

- May 3, 1791 – Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791: abolished the Elective monarchy and turned it into a hereditary monarchy, and established a common state, the *Rzeczpospolita Polska* (the Polish Commonwealth) in their place. The Reciprocal Guarantee of Two Nations modified these changes, stressing the continuity of bi-national status of the state. The changes were reversed completely in 1792 under pressure from forces of the Russian Empire.

Jogaila
Własysław II Jagiełło

Władysław II Jagiełło was the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1377–1434) and then the King of Poland (1386–1434), first alongside his wife Jadwiga until 1399, and then sole King of Poland.

After the two states regained independence following the First World War, Polish-Lithuanian relations steadily worsened due to rising nationalist sentiments. Competing claims to the Vilnius region led to armed conflict and deteriorating relations in the interwar period.

During the Second World War Polish and Lithuanian territories were occupied by both the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, but relations between Poles and Lithuanians remained hostile.

Polish-Lithuanian borders after Second World War

Following the end of World War II, both Poland and Lithuania found themselves in the Eastern Bloc, Poland as a Soviet satellite state, Lithuania as a Soviet republic. With the fall of communism relations between the two countries were reestablished.

Thanks for your attention :)