
LITHUANIAN RECOGNITION



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MAP OF LITHUANIA AND THE BALTIC STATES

The map on the opposite page has been prepared by the Lithuanian Information Bureau from the most recent data available.

The solid black lines represent the boundary agreements reached by treaties with Soviet Russia and correspond practically with the ethnographic limits of the Lithuanian, Lettish and Esthonian peoples.

The heavy broken line shows the eastern boundary of Poland as fixed by the Supreme Council of the Allies—the so-called “Curzon-Polk line”—which also approximates the ethnographic boundary of Poland on the east. With this should be compared the new eastern boundary of Poland established by Poland’s Treaty with Soviet Russia, which leaves a Polish corridor, or “panhandle” extending for hundreds of miles beyond ethnographic Poland and completely separating Lithuania from Russia.

The break in the solid black line on the southern boundary of Lithuania indicates the only region where, for a distance of about twenty-five miles, ethnographic Poland and ethnographic Lithuania are in direct contact. The boundary here remains to be settled by negotiation between Poland and Lithuania.

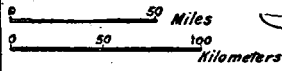
The Memel strip, bounded on the south by the River Niemen (Nemunas) and on the north and east by the old German frontier (indicated by a light broken line) was separated from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles. It is expected to go to Lithuania, ultimately, but is at present administered under French military occupation. It contains Lithuania’s only seaport—Memel.

In the spelling of names the Lithuanian language has been preferred, but for certain important places, whose Lithuanian names are unknown to the American reader, the familiar spelling has been given, *e. g.*, Kovno, Memel, Reval, etc.

The light broken lines in Lithuania and surrounding territory indicate boundaries of former Russian provinces.

REFERENCE

- Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian boundaries
- - - - Eastern Polish boundary set by Supreme Council (Curzon-Polk Line)
- - - - Eastern Polish boundary established by Soviet-Polish Peace Treaty.



INTRODUCTION

In this little book the Lithuanian Information Bureau has assembled the opinions and arguments of some prominent Americans on the question of recognition of Lithuania and the Baltic States.



The letters and brief of Hon. William G. McAdoo were submitted to the State Department during the winter and spring of 1921. Mr. McAdoo deals with the Lithuanian case as a lawyer and statesman presenting the arguments for recognition in systematic and formal fashion. Readers of legal training will appreciate the straightforward, unsentimental logic of his presentation.



Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons, well-known as a writer on international affairs, presents the situation of Lithuania and the Baltic States as fraught with dangers to world peace so long as the status of these countries remains unsettled. He points out the inconsistency and weakness of the policy of the United States Government toward Lithuania under the Wilson Administration and appeals to the Anglo-Saxon instinct of fair play to "give the Baltic Republics a chance."



Hon. Walter M. Chandler, Member of Congress from the City of New York, speaks as a warm friend of the Baltic States, acquainted by personal observation, during two visits to these countries, with their people, their governments and their economic situation. He also sets forth as a trained advocate the legal and political arguments for the recognition of Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia, which he has laid before the Department of State. His treatment of the subject is comprehensive, lucid and forcible.



A memorandum on the economic bases of Lithuania's claim for recognition, prepared by the Lithuanian Information Bureau, has been included in the booklet, following the brief of Mr. McAdoo. This mem-

orandum has also been presented to the State Department. It aims to prove that Lithuania is entirely capable of economic self-support, that she is in fact relatively prosperous, being an agricultural country which has shown wonderful powers of recuperation from the devastations of war, as indicated by her production of crops and live stock, and that she needs only a secure political status in order to develop a thrifty and prosperous trade.



The reader should note that the political situation has changed, both in Europe and the United States, since portions of this book were written. The League of Nations has abandoned the scheme of a plebiscite to determine the fate of Vilna, Lithuania's capital, and this question, as well as other matters of dispute between Lithuania and Poland, are being discussed by a Lithuanian-Polish Commission at Brussels, at the moment when this booklet goes to the press. The settlement of the German reparations question, the prospect of immediate restoration of direct relations between Germany and the United States, through the establishment of definite peace, the renewed participation of the United States in the deliberations of the Supreme Council of the Allies, all point toward increased stability in international relations. Some plan of concerted action between America and Europe toward the Baltic States must soon be reached. Latvia and Esthonia have already been recognized *de jure* by the Allies, and Lithuania has received the promise of like recognition in the immediate future. It is not believed that the United States can afford to take a radically different standpoint. Recognition of the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia must surely come, but it will come more quickly and be therefore the more valuable if friends of these young republics—and we are confident that this means all fair-minded and informed Americans—will take an active interest in the matter and urge recognition upon the Government of the United States by every proper means.

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION BUREAU.

Washington, May 30, 1921.