

THE THIRD PARTITION OF POLAND

On October 24th, 1795, the last, third partition of Poland took place. As the Prussian envoy in St. Petersburg, Leopold Heinrich von Goltz, wrote in his report during the Kosciuszko Insurrection on July 11, 1794: *“Russia was demanding the partition of Poland and the erasure of the Polish name”*.

The monarchs of Russia, Prussia and Austria mutually agreed on a treaty according to which they carried out the last, full, third partition of Poland. Poland has completely lost its statehood. The rulers of the partitioning states signed a document according to which the name of Poland was no longer to appear on any documents, maps and in international discussions.

The largest area of Poland was taken over by Russia, which had all the land of the east of the Niemen and Bug rivers, a total of 120,000 km². The main initiator of the Third Partition of Poland was Austria, which received (also as compensation for losses in the war with revolutionary France) the Lublin region, the rest of Małopolska with Krakow, part of Podlasie and Mazowsze. In total, it was 47.1 thousand of km², inhabited by about 1.5 million people. They were the most densely populated areas.

Prussia was assigned a part of Mazowsze with Warsaw, Podlasie and Lithuania. In addition, Prussia occupied over 23,000 km² of the Krakow voivodeship, henceforth called New Silesia in Prussia.

King Stanisław August Poniatowski left Warsaw and went to Grodno, putting himself under the care and supervision of the Russian governor. On November 25, he abdicated in favour of Russia.

On October 4, 1795, the Prussians removed Polish coronation insignia from the Wawel treasury, including sword Szczerbiec, 6 crowns, sceptres and an apple.

In 1811 they were melted down in Berlin for Prussian coins.



(Written and translated by: D Piotrowska)