Chapter 1 : Lithuania | history - geography | calendrierdelascience.com

Lithuanian (Lithuanian: lietuviÅ³ kalba) is a Baltic language spoken in the Baltic calendrierdelascience.com is the language of Lithuanians and the official language of Lithuania as well as one of the official languages of the European Union.

Among Indo-European languages , Lithuanian is conservative in some aspects of its grammar and phonology, retaining archaic features otherwise found only in ancient languages such as Sanskrit [5] particularly its early form, Vedic Sanskrit or Ancient Greek. For this reason, it is an important source for the reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European language despite its late attestation with the earliest texts dating only to c. Lehmann and Vladimir Toporov [9] and others. Moreover, with Lithuanian being so archaic in phonology, Slavic words can often be deduced from Lithuanian by regular sound laws ; for example, Lith. The differentiation between Lithuanian and Latvian started after ; for a long period, they could be considered dialects of a single language. At a minimum, transitional dialects existed until the 14th or 15th century and perhaps as late as the 17th century. Printed books existed after , but the level of literacy among Lithuanians was low through the 18th century, and books were not commonly available. In , following the January Uprising , Mikhail Muravyov , the Russian Governor General of Lithuania , banned the language in education and publishing and barred use of the Latin alphabet altogether, although books printed in Lithuanian continued to be printed across the border in East Prussia and in the United States. Brought into the country by book smugglers despite the threat of stiff prison sentences, they helped fuel a growing nationalist sentiment that finally led to the lifting of the ban in Jonas Jablonskis â€" made significant contributions to the formation of the standard Lithuanian language. These dialects[clarification needed] had preserved archaic phonetics mostly intact due to the influence of the neighbouring Old Prussian language , while the other dialects had experienced different phonetic shifts. Lithuanian has been the official language of Lithuania since During the Soviet era see History of Lithuania , it was used in official discourse along with Russian , which, as the official language of the USSR , took precedence over Lithuanian. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. February Learn how and when to remove this template message Lithuanian is one of two living Baltic languages , along with Latvian. An earlier Baltic language, Old Prussian , was extinct by the 18th century; the other Western Baltic languages, Curonian and Sudovian , became extinct earlier. Such an opinion was first represented by the likes of August Schleicher , and to a certain extent, Antoine Meillet. He proposed that the two language groups were indeed a unity after the division of Indo-European, but also suggested that after the two had divided into separate entities Baltic and Slavic , they had posterior contact. The genetic kinship view is augmented by the fact that Proto-Balto-Slavic is easily reconstructible with important proofs in historic prosody. The alleged or certain, as certain as historic linguistics can be similarities due to contact are seen in such phenomena as the existence of definite adjectives formed by the addition of an inflected pronoun descended from the same Proto-Indo-European pronoun , which exist in both Baltic and Slavic yet nowhere else in the Indo-European family languages such as Albanian and the Germanic languages developed definite adjectives independently , and that are not reconstructible for Proto-Balto-Slavic, meaning that they most probably developed through language contact. The total worldwide Lithuanian-speaking population is about 3,,

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Certainly Lithuanian is a very old language, but so is every language spoken today. The origin of language in general is shrouded in mystery, but all nations have a language. Let us try here, however, to understand a little bit about what we humans do know about language development, although it behooves us to be quite modest about achievements.

Services By the early 21st century the service sector was the largest component of the Lithuanian economy, employing about half the workforce and contributing about two-fifths of the annual GNP. For this reason, and because of high income taxes, many Lithuanian nationals were motivated to seek work in other EU countries after Lithuania joined the EU in Some of these emigrants started to return in , however, when the government reduced income taxes and raised the minimum wage. Trade union membership is low, with only about 10 percent of the workforce participating in organized labour confederations. Railways are the main means of transport in Lithuania. Two major rail routes run through Lithuaniaâ€"a north-south highway that connects Scandinavia with central Europe, as well as an east-west route linking Lithuania to the rest of Europe. Moreover, after independence Lithuania emerged as a critical land bridge to Kaliningrad oblast , the region of the Russian Federation on the Baltic coast. A major rail route between Russia and the Kaliningrad region passes through Lithuania. Sea transport is an important sector, with freight transportation showing a rapid increase since World War II. Kaunas is a chief inland port. Lithuania has international airports at Vilnius, Kaunas, and Palanga. Vilnius is the main air transportation centre, with links to many foreign cities. The independent Lithuanian Airlines began operating in Fixed-line telephone use has decreased in Lithuania, but newer technologies were adopted quickly. The degree of cellular phone penetration is among the highest in the EU, and many Lithuanians have access to the Internet through their mobile phones. Roughly two-thirds of households have access to broadband Internet connections, and download speedsâ€"particularly in urban areasâ€"are among the fastest in Europe. The Republic of Lithuania, formerly the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, is administered by a president and a legislature, the Seimas, under a parliamentary system. The Seimas consists of members, who are elected to four-year terms. The president is popularly elected for a five-year term with a maximum of two consecutive terms. Local government Lithuania is divided into apskritys counties , which are then divided into rajonas districts. The districts are further divided into savivalbyde regional towns, urban settlements, and localities. The governor of each county is appointed by the national government. The districts are self-governing and elect local councils, which in turn elect the mayors. There are also district and local courts whose judges are appointed by the president for five-year terms. Lithuania has an army, navy, and air force. Military service is mandatory for men and women ages 19 to 45 for one year and voluntary at age Political process All Lithuanians age 18 and older are eligible to vote. Its members and candidates for membership were supported by the activities of the Komsomol youth movement. In August the Lithuanian legislature voted to remove legal rights from the party and to seize its property. The political landscape in the early s was complex. Factionalism was predominant, and coalition governments were the norm. The role of national minorities, especially the Poles, further complicated the political arena. By the early 21st century dozens of parties and coalitions had formed. There are other parties representing minority groups, nationalists, conservatives , and other interests. Health and welfare Lithuania has significantly improved its social service system since independence. The government provides free medical care to Lithuanian nationals as well as a range of ancillary services, including pension payments and funding for kindergartens and day care. Education A new national educational system was introduced in Primary and secondary education is free and compulsory beginning at age six. More than nine-tenths of the population age 15 and older are literate. Notable institutions of higher education include Vilnius University , Vytautas Magnus University founded ; reopened in Kaunas, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University , and the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre , which specializes in music, theatre, and multimedia arts. The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was founded in Cultural life Cultural milieu In Lithuania there is a high level of interest in various aspects of cultural life. In spite of modern influences, Lithuanian folklore continues to be a significant part of national heritage. Lithuanian songs and a remarkable collection of fairy tales,

legends , proverbs, and aphorisms have roots deep in a language and culture that are among the oldest in Europe. In the 20th century, however, war and Soviet occupation stifled the works of many Lithuanian artists, writers, poets, and playwrights. Daily life and social customs As a predominantly Roman Catholic country, Lithuania celebrates all the major Christian holidays. The traditional Christmas Eve feast consists of 12 vegetarian dishes served on a straw-covered table, meat being saved for Christmas Day. Cabbages and potatoes form a considerable part of the Lithuanian diet, as do dairy products. Traditional dishes include cepelinai, a large, zeppelin-shaped, stuffed potato dumpling; cabbage rolls; cold beet soup; and potato pancakes. The arts Lithuanian folk art is mainly embodied in ceramics, leatherwork, wood carving, and textiles; its colouring and its original geometric or floral patterns are characteristic features. Lithuanian drawing, noted for the use of natural colour and a highly refined technique, has won international acclaim. Moreover, some of the Lithuanian artists who opposed Soviet ideological constraints produced theatre and art of lasting significance. After the second Soviet occupation in , many Lithuanian artists emigrated and founded art galleries and schools, mainly in other parts of Europe and in North America. From to cultural societies, choirs, and orchestras were formed. In the first all-Lithuanian song festival was held in Kaunas. Romantic songs combined with Lithuanian folk music became a popular style. Song and dance festivals are held every summer throughout the country. Jazz has a strong following, and many jazz clubs can be found in Vilnius. Until the 18th century most Lithuanian literature was religious in nature. During the 19th century there arose a new movement to create a Lithuanian literary language and foster interest in the early history of the country. The literature of this era sought to rally Lithuanians against the political control of Russia and the cultural influence of Poland. Following independence in , writers began to concentrate on developing national culture and a greater degree of sophistication in literature. Museums of note include the National Museum of Lithuania in Vilnius, the Trakai Historical Museum featuring artifacts discovered at the island castle at Trakai , and a war museum in Kaunas dedicated to Vytautas the Great. Cross-country skiing, ice skating , ice hockey , and ice fishing on Curonian Lagoon are favourite winter pastimes. Bicycling and canoeing are popular in the summer. Lithuania was able to again contend as an independent country at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. Lithuanian discus throwers have been especially successful in Olympic competition, including gold medalists Romas Ubartas and Virgilijus Alekna , Lithuania has also fared well in Olympic basketball. Media and publishing Prior to independence the media were state-owned and controlled by the Communist Party, mainly through state censors. Media censorship was abolished in , and much of the media flourished as the economy became more liberalized. By the 21st century all newspapers were privately owned, though the Lithuanian Telegraph Agency ELTA , a wire service that serves the local media in Lithuanian and Russian, was state-owned. There are no government-owned newspapers. Both radio and television stations are a mixture of private and state-owned. The languages of broadcast for both media are Lithuanian, Russian, Polish, Belarusian, and Ukrainian, and there are also some Yiddish radio broadcasts.

Chapter 3 : The Origin of the Lithuanian Language

The present volume, first of the projected five, deals with the time continuum of several thousand years: from the split up of the (late) Proto-Indo-European proto-language usualiy dated about 3, B.C. until about the 7th century A.D. when one can begin to speak about the Lithuanian language proper.

It is a language spoken by about 4 million people and not included on the list of the most spoken languages. And there are a number of reasons for that. First of all, Lithuanian is a very old language. It is the oldest surviving Indo-European language, which has preserved the most phonetical and morphological aspects of the proto-language which many other European languages come from. It is very important to the field of Indo-European language studies, which carries out research on the origin, development, similarities and differences of Indo-European languages. Scientists of different nationalities in this field use Lithuanian as their language of communication at their conferences! Melodic and pleasant to the ear, Lithuanian may appear to be a real mind bender because of its conservative character. We have 5 noun declensions, with 7 singular and plural cases in each declension. We decline other parts of the language as well. However, for example, our tense system is simple in comparison, and learning to read Lithuanian is not difficult. Essentially it is read as it is written, one just has to know the sound of each letter. In this respect, Lithuanian is much more modern than for instance English or French. The strange signs on some of the Latin letters are not just simply for decoration: Most of the inhabitants of Lithuania know or at least understand Russian due to historical and political circumstances, while in the Vilnius region Polish is another language widely spoken or understood, however neither Russians, Poles or any other person who has not specifically studied Lithuanian will understand it. Estonians, who are often mistakenly referred to as Baltic, speak a Finno-Ungric language, and not an Indo-European language, so it is not worth looking for similarities between Estonian and Lithuanian. Lithuanian is special because of that fact that it survived at all. It could have very well disappeared in the margins of history for all times from the language map of Europe, just like Lithuania itself from the geographic and political face of the earth. The grand dukes and nobles of Lithuania spoke Lithuanian during the Middle Ages though Lithuanian was not even an official state language. When we joined together with Poland in forming a union , the elite of Lithuania had essentially adopted Polish language and culture. With Lithuania in the fold of the Russian Empire , there were particularly drastic measures carried out against Lithuanian language after the Uprising: Lithuanian schools were closed, and a ban on the use of Latin characters for use in publishing Lithuanian works was begun, and which lasted for a number of decades one could only use Cyrillic for writing Lithuanian, and keep in mind that Cyrillic was for Slavic languages. For those who wanted to hear how the ancient Indo-Europeans spoke, famous 19th century French linguist A. Meillet encouraged his colleagues to travel to listen to the language of Lithuanian peasants, and whose language, in a little corner of Russian, had its days numbered, which was thought at the time. Lithuanian, which was held in low regard during the times of Polanization and later Russification, and found a safe haven in the homes of serfs and simple village inhabitants. The foundation for the creation of a standard Lithuanian language, which was fully standardised only at the beginning of the 20th century, was laid during this period of large-scale oppression and active cultural resistance. During the short period of Lithuanian independence , Lithuanian was provided with all the conditions to thrive. However the golden age for our language and culture did not last long â€" it was cut short by the beginning of World War II and the occupations. The Russification of public life was very strong when Lithuania was part of the Soviet Union. Today Lithuanian is the only official state language of the Republic of Lithuania and from one of the official languages of the European Union , protected by special institutions and defended by the Law on Language. Though very archaic, it serves all the needs of contemporary Lithuanian society. Lithuanian is a beautiful combination of old and new, an ancient language with a modern wardrobe. So do you want to get a taste of it and try it out yourself? We hope that our courses will be useful and fun for you. The dictionary, which published its final volumes in there is also an internet version is comprised of 20 total volumes, over 20, pages and about , entries.

Chapter 4 : Baltic languages - Wikipedia

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Lithuanian language belongs to the Baltic group of the Indo-European languages. The only other Baltic language is Latvian. Since the 19th century, numerous linguists regard Lithuanian language as the purest surviving Indo-European language which is least changed by outside influences. This area shrunk due to Slavic expansion and also due to the Germanic crusades that have destroyed the Old Prussian language. The Baltic area continued to shrink in 15thth centuries as the Baltic languages, including Lithuanian, continued to be spoken mainly by peasants whereas the nobility switched to German or Polish depending on location , regarded to be more prestigious. The 19th century National Revival restored the prestige of speaking the Baltic languages. Under the influence of linguist Jonas Jablonskis, the language was purified by replacing Slavic loanwords with neologisms and establishing the modern orthography. Due to this reason, 19th century Lithuanian differs more from modern Lithuanian than English of the era does differ from the modern English. However, several centuries old Lithuanian is still intelligible for a modern person. The culmination of national revival was the declaration of Lithuanian independence, although the language had to survive another onslaught of Russification under the Soviet occupations of and During that time, many Russian loanwords entered the Lithuanian language, often unofficially every Lithuanian had to know and often speak in Russian, therefore, some of them began to include certain Russian words into their Lithuanian speech as well. Post generations, however, are unlikely to use Russian words in Lithuanian sentences except for swearing and such words are increasingly considered "not cool". The importance of language in defining ethnicity is therefore much greater than in Britain or the USA where a person can easily be regarded to be Irish for example even if his native language is not Irish. The decline of Lithuanian language and other Baltic languages over the centuries, stemmed by Lithuanian and Latvian national revivals and independence. The Lithuanian language situation today Today Lithuanian is the sole official language in Lithuania and while there are official areas where ethnic minorities may use their own languages for instance as the medium of instruction in their public schools , the position of Lithuanian as a language for interethnic communication strengthened over the time since It remains to be seen whether this will be true in the future as the English language has displaced Lithuanian from many trademarks in the main cities and English slang entered the conversations. The Lithuanian language commission which regulates the language takes a moderate stance on language purism. Unlike Icelandic, it allows new loanwords and Lithuanian has many older loanwords. However, it often attempts to coin neologisms for new terms, with mixed success. Both local and foreign trademarks at the Panorama mall in Vilnius are mostly English-language. Only 5 out of 29 visible here are Lithuanian-language, all of them created at or earlier. European Union regulations largely render Lithuania powerless in promoting its language for local commerce. Despite over a million of Lithuanians emigrating since the 19th century the emigrant communities typically lose the language over some three generations as nowhere do the Lithuanians make a majority and therefore they form mixed families with other linguistic groups. In addition to standard Lithuanian, there are dialects somewhat corresponding to the ethnographic regions. Discouraged under the Soviet occupation as "tongue of the uneducated" and thus heavily declined in use, the dialects recently earned some respect. Samogitian dialect so unique it is sometimes called a language is even used on some local signs. Standard Lithuanian left and Samogitian right inscriptions in the Naisiai tourist village. Unlike English, the Lithuanian spelling is very regular, meaning the words are almost always pronounced as they are written, and most letters have only one possible way to pronounce them. The additional Lithuanian vowels sound similar to their ordinary counterparts but must be pronounced longer e. The additional consonants sound the following: In the common Lithuanian keyboard layout, all the Lithuanian letters are typed using the number keys. This way, the traditional QWERTY layout remains intact, however, the numbers have to be typed by the numeric keypad, creating an inconvenience in a computer that lacks a keypad. The keyboard pictured here also has stickers for the Russian letters despite the long years of independence, many of the keyboards sold in

Lithuania still have triple Lithuanian-Russian-English markings. The exact pronunciation of several Lithuanian letters differs from their English counterparts. Lithuanian grammar Lithuanian is a synthetic language, meaning that the same word takes different forms when it is used in different contexts. This eradicates the need for grammatical particles. What is said in English in 2, 3 or even 4 words often may be said in Lithuanian using just a single word. The changes a word takes in different situations can be predicted, as there are only several different versions of these changes. For instance, every noun that ends with "as" would end with "o" in circumstances when in English particle "of" would be used. Similarly "Kaunas" name of the second largest city of Lithuania would change to "Kauno" and "Kaunui" in these cases "of Kaunas", "for Kaunas" respectively. Due to this nature of the Lithuanian language, it is common to add Lithuanian endings to foreign names and placenames when speaking in Lithuanian. Without doing this the language would become ambiguous. Traditionally the orthography of foreign personal names is also Lituanized, but this is now getting rarer, with many though not all daily newspapers dropping this practice. One exception is works of fiction where the character names are almost always transliterated into Lithuanian orthography e. There are 7 cases and 2 additional rarely used ones of the nouns in the Lithuanian language. The verbs have only 4 tenses, however. There is singular and plural. Unlike in English but like in most other languages there are genders, with each word being either masculine or feminine. Moreover, some ordinary words are today used as names e. Due to differences in masculine and feminine endings, there are no "universal names" which could be used for both males and females. The endings of male and female surnames likewise differ. Furthermore, every female surname has 3 variants: Some ethnic minority people especially the more assimilated ones eventually add Lithuanian endings to their names, even if the names remain non-Lithuanian, e. Lithuanian words and phrases You may find some of the common Lithuanian words, including mp3 files with their spellings, here. Click to learn more about Lithuania:

"History of the Lithuanian Language" (calendrierdelascience.comicius) Period of Occupations. World War II began on September 1, A large part of the world was drawn into the war and more than 50 million lives were lost.

Although the various Baltic tribes were mentioned by ancient historians as early as 98 B. Latvian appeared in a hymnal in and in a printed Catechism in One reason[citation needed] for the late attestation is that the Baltic peoples resisted Christianization longer than any other Europeans, which delayed the introduction of writing and isolated their languages from outside influence. With the establishment of a German state in Prussia, and the eradication or flight of much of the Baltic Prussian population in the 13th century, the remaining Prussians began to be assimilated, and by the end of the 17th century, the Prussian language had become extinct. During the years of the Polishâ€"Lithuanian Commonwealth â€" , official documents were written in Polish , Ruthenian and Latin. After the Partitions of Commonwealth , most of the Baltic lands were under the rule of the Russian Empire , where the native languages or alphabets were sometimes prohibited from being written down or used publicly in a Russification effort see Lithuanian press ban for the ban in force from to Historically the languages were spoken over a larger area: Key evidence of Baltic language presence in these regions is found in hydronyms names of bodies of water that are characteristically Baltic. The Mordvinic languages , spoken mainly along western tributaries of the Volga , show several dozen loanwords from one or more Baltic languages. These may have been mediated by contacts with the Eastern Balts along the river Oka. The Russian geneticist Oleg Balanovsky speculated that there is a predominance of the assimilated pre-Slavic substrate in the genetics of East and West Slavic populations, according to him the common genetic structure which contrasts East Slavs and Balts from other populations may suggest that the pre-Slavic substrate of the East Slavs consists most significantly of Baltic-speakers, which predated the Slavs in the cultures of the Eurasian steppe according to archaeological references he cites. Genetic relatedness[edit] The epigram of Basel - oldest known inscription in Prussian language and Baltic language in general, middle of 14th c The Baltic languages are of particular interest to linguists because they retain many archaic features, which are believed to have been present in the early stages of the Proto-Indo-European language. All of the languages in the Baltic group including the living ones were first written down relatively late in their probable existence as distinct languages. These two factors combined with others have obscured the history of the Baltic languages, leading to a number of theories regarding their position in the Indo-European family. The Baltic languages show a close relationship with the Slavic languages, and are grouped with them in a Balto-Slavic family by most scholars. This family is considered to have developed from a common ancestor, Proto-Balto-Slavic. Later on, several lexical, phonological and morphological dialectisms developed, separating the various Balto-Slavic languages from each other. The traditional view is that the Balto-Slavic languages split into two branches, Baltic and Slavic, with each branch developing as a single common language Proto-Baltic and Proto-Slavic for some time afterwards. However, more recent scholarship has suggested that there was no unified Proto-Baltic stage, but that Proto-Balto-Slavic split directly into three groups: Slavic, East Baltic and West Baltic. This would imply that Proto-Baltic, the last common ancestor of all Baltic languages, would be identical to Proto-Balto-Slavic itself, rather than distinct from it. In the s Vladimir Toporov and Vyacheslav Ivanov made the following conclusions about the relationship between the Baltic and Slavic languages: They argue that the many similarities and shared innovations between Baltic and Slavic are due to several millennia of contact between the groups, rather than shared heritage. Thracian hypothesis[edit] The Baltic-speaking peoples likely encompassed an area in Eastern Europe much larger than their modern range: Studies in comparative linguistics point to genetic relationship between the languages of the Baltic family and the following extinct languages: Balto-Slavic , the Dacian and the " Pelasgian " languages. More distant were its relations with the other Indo-European languages, and especially with Greek, the Italic and Celtic languages, which exhibit only isolated phonetic similarities with Thracian; the Tokharian and the Hittite were also distant. The cognates of the reconstructed Dacian words in his publication are found mostly in the Baltic languages, followed by Albanian. Parallels have enabled linguists, using the techniques of

comparative linguistics , to decipher the meanings of several Dacian and Thracian placenames with, they claim, a high degree of probability. Of 74 Dacian placenames attested in primary sources and considered by Duridanov, a total of 62 have Baltic cognates, most of which were rated "certain" by Duridanov. A number of possible parallels of the Thracian ethnonym in Lithuania were not found in any other country, including the former capital Trakai cf. Radulescu classified the Daco-Moesian and Thracian as Baltic languages expanding to the south and also proposed such classification for Illyrian. Mayer claims that he extracted an unambiguous evidence for regarding Dacian and Thracian as more tied to Lithuanian than to Latvian. In the next and final publication he refers to them as South or East Baltic languages [36] [19] and classifies Dacians and Thracians as "Balts by extension".

Chapter 6 : The Lithuanian Language

The culmination of national revival was the declaration of Lithuanian independence, although the language had to survive another onslaught of Russification under the Soviet occupations of and

An extract from the book "History of the Lithuanian Language" Z. A large part of the world was drawn into the war and more than 50 million lives were lost. The pact formulated by V. Ribbentrop on August 23rd with its attendant secret protocols sealed the fate of the Baltic countries, including Lithuania, and condemned them to death. On September 19th the Russian Red Army occupied Vilnius and, shortly thereafter, the entire Lithuanian territory which had been occupied by Poland. They acted as though they were in enemy territory and stole and destroyed all they could. They arrested many inhabitants and were preparing to create "socialism". According to the October 10th treaty of mutual aid, Lithuania regained its capital Vilnius and approximately a fourth of the territory formerly occupied by Poland. Stalin incorporated the remaining territory into the Byelorussian SSR. According to the same treaty Lithuania was required to allow the "temporary" installation of Red Army garrisons: The recovered Vilnius territory was not as economically advanced as independent Lithuania and it was difficult to integrate it. The regrettable results of Polonisation came to light. Many people who identified themselves as Lithuanians no longer spoke their ancestral language. They tried to learn it, attended classes and Lithuanian schools. However, Polish activists did their utmost to ensure that Polonisation would continue, that it would remain just as it was during the period of Polish occupation. Many completely Lithuanian settlements remained in the ethnic Lithuanian territory which was incorporated into Byelorussia. The Bolshevik government promised to allow Lithuanians to relocate to independent Lithuania. People prepared for the move, but the government kept postponing the departure date until, finally, the Bolsheviks occupied Lithuania itself. Meanwhile, the war raged on in Western Europe. The Germans conquered one country after another. In the beginning of June, , they approached Paris. Their victories inspired the Bolsheviks "to action". They fabricated charges against the governments of the Baltic states and then moved in the Red Army. The independence of these countries was forcibly eradicated. To mark that occasion, two small areas of the ethnic Lithuanian territory, which Stalin had earlier allocated to Byelorussia, were returned: These were areas where Lithuanians comprised the absolute majority of the inhabitants. After its "admission" Lithuania quickly fell under Sovietisation. In a short period of time the national state, which had been built up with difficulty over twenty years, was destroyed. Then came the arrests, terror, massive deportations to Siberia, simply put, genocide. National culture was devastated. Many books were burned. The destruction of the Lithuanian nation and its language, which had begun in , continued for fifty years. The Lithuanian language lost its protected status. It was now dependent on foreigners, who had never wished it well. Accelerated instruction of Russian was introduced. Bolshevik elements were introduced into Lithuanian. The names of establishments, organisations, streets, newspapers, etc. The number of Russian loanwords increased significantly. The terror which engulfed the Lithuanians ended when Germany declared war on Russia. People viewed this as their salvation. Their hatred for the invaders spilled over into open rebellion. But actually, one invader was replaced with another: The Germans did not prohibit the opening of Lithuanian schools in eastern Lithuania, an area which had been subjected to Slavicisation throughout the ages. No Lithuanian schools had ever existed in this area before and Lithuanians had always been forced to attend only Polish or Russian schools. The Lithuanian spirit slowly began to revive in this "God forsaken corner". Some people quickly remembered the Lithuanian which their parents or grandparents had spoken, while others learned it anew. Unfortunately, all this was presently undermined by the Polish underground. In Poland the "Armija Krajowa" was fighting heroically against the Hitlerites, however, in eastern Lithuania it began a shameless campaign, using terror and violence against the unarmed local Lithuanians. Because of its "activities" the Lithuanian spirit was completely obliterated in many places and the ancestral language was never heard again. In those areas after the war only a few individuals ever dared to identify themselves as Lithuanians again. After the German army retreated from Lithuania and it was once more occupied by the Bolsheviks, in the summer of many people fled to the West. They feared the returning "liberators" would

recommence their earlier terror: Those who fled hoped to reach the American or British army and then quickly return to their homeland. Unfortunately, their departure was to last a long time and for many it was to last forever. Lithuanians hoped that after the Germans were defeated by the Allies, they would, as dictated by the Atlantic Charter, restore independence to the three Baltic states occupied by the Bolsheviks during the war. That was how the most reactionary ideology - Bolshevism - whose dreadful existence had brought unspeakable horrors to the countries which they subjugated, was saved and allowed to continue for several more decades. Lithuania was destined to experience such terrors as are now hard to relate. Lithuanian agriculture was destroyed by forced collectivisation. But most of all, the nation was being destroyed by a genocide of the spirit, the utter lies and demagogy of the Bolsheviks, the enforced atheism with its concomitant decline in morality, and isolation from the rest of the world. The nation resisted the invaders and then began a deadly fight. The best men went into the forests and the partisan war began. Lacking foreign aid, advisers, military bases and modern weaponry, the Lithuanian partisans managed to fight for more than eight years against the "invincible" army. They then came under fire of General P. The despoiled often still alive bodies of the partisans were laid out in city and town squares to shock the populace. As a result of the war and occupation Lithuania lost a third of its population Poland lost a sixth. The depleted population was increased with newcomers from the East, who arrived in their thousands, forced their will on the local people, disregarded Lithuanian culture and traditions and defamed the Lithuanian language. There was a short respite when Stalin died, when the "thaw" of the s began. The Lithuanian nation persistently opposed these tactics. Lithuanians had a more extensive underground press than anyone else in the Soviet Union and a greater number of dissidents. The occupation had a particularly great impact on eastern Lithuania. The Bolsheviks changed the borders of Byelorussia and Lithuania. The Smolensk, Novel, Starodub, etc. According to the terms of the treaty between the USSR and Poland, approximately , people were repatriated from Lithuania, mostly from the former Vilnius territory. They were quickly replaced with newcomers. Russians moved mainly into the cities and the countryside was filled with immigrants from the neighbouring Byelorussian districts, who inundated the Vilnius territory and became "Poles". Around Stalin decided that the Lithuanianisation of the Vilnius Region ran counter to Soviet interests. Lithuanian and even Russian schools were extensively changed into Polish schools. The Stalinist Polonisation of the Vilnius territory had begun and was more brutal than that of the Poles during their occupation. Under Bolshevik rule, a great, even fatal blow was struck to the Lithuanian spirit in this area. In many of the settlements where after the war almost everyone spoke or at least understood some Lithuanian, now only the elderly still remember it. The ethnic map was being repainted in new colours. However, Lithuanian traditions were maintained in all of these places: Lithuanian roadside crosses torn down by the Bolsheviks in many places , home woven cloth, towels, blankets with Lithuanian patterns, Lithuanian flower gardens,unaltered methods of farming, as well as Lithuanian customs, legends, superstitions and fragments of ancient mythology prevailed. Southeastern Lithuania became a true linguistic mosaic. Monolingualism disappeared and during the occupational period this area was dominated by four languages. Besides the official Lithuanian and Russian languages, an important role was and still is played by the "common" Byelorussian and the local Polish polszczyzna litewska. The latter is significantly different from that used in Poland and extends throughout the Lithuanian and Byelorussian speaking territories. Only educated people speak some standard Polish. At present the linguistic features of southeastern Lithuania are so diverse that it is difficult to delineate them on a linguistic map. It was possible to identify distinct language areas only with respect to which language was both dominant and native in a given area. That is why Russian does not appear: Russian is not native to any of the non-immigrant local inhabitants. After the war the Lithuanians who lived in the ethnic Lithuanian territory which had become a part of Byelorussia experienced even worse conditions than those in Lithuania. All Lithuanian schools were closed immediately after the war. Byelorussian schools were opened they were later Russified and it was forbidden to speak Lithuanian even during recess, just as in Czarist times. The Lithuanian press was shut down. Contacts with Lithuania were severed and even cultural interactions were obstructed. The activity of the Church was completely crippled and the last Lithuanian priest in Byelorussia was arrested immediately after the war ended. Lithuanians were forcibly registered as Byelorussians, Poles, Russians, so that officially this area

would be devoid of Lithuanians.

Chapter 7 : History of the Lithuanian Language

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Having briefly discussed the relationships of Lithuanian to the other Indo-European languages, I should like to turn to the relationships of the Baltic languages among themselves. I am particularly interested in Proto-West Baltic, the forerunner of the language known as Old Prussian, or sometimes just Prussian. The Prussian language is the closest relative to Lithuanian and Latvian; 2. The Prussians have fewer linguistic features in common with Lithuanians and Latvians than the latter do with each other; 3. The Prussian language has retained more archaisms than Lithuanian and the latter has retained more than Latvian; 4. The Prussian language, at least as far as its lexical stock is concerned is closer to Lithuanian than to Latvian. Omitting details we find them on the southern shore of the Baltic Sea, from the river Vistula in the southwest to the river Nemunas in the northeast. There is a very useful map in Gimbutas, , In earlier times the speakers of Baltic languages were referred to as Aistians, although it is not known whether this term denoted all the Baits or just the Old Prussians. Tacitus wrote, "Passing then to the east along the shore of the Suebic Baltic â€" WRS sea, we find the tribes of the Aestii, who have the same observances and general appearance as the Suebi, while their language is more like the British tongue. They worship the Mother of the Gods. As the symbol of their religion they carry figures of boars. They believe that, without weapons or protection of any other kind, this charm preserves a devotee of the goddess from harm even among his enemies. They rarely use iron weapons, far more frequently clubs. They labour at the cultivation of crops and fruit trees with a perseverance which is in contrast with the usual indolence of the Germans. They also scour the sea, and are the only people who gather amber. They themselves call it glesum and they find it in the shallow water or actually on the shore. Like barbarians they have never discovered or inquired by what natural process it is produced. If these Aistians are Baits or even Old Prussians, then, of course, the comparison with the British language a Celtic tongue is not correct except inasmuch as both Celtic and Baltic are Indo-European languages. After Tacitus, the 2nd century A. Some time between and A. Cassiodorus, secretary to the Ostrogothic Emperor Theodoric who held Rome ca. Other historical mention of the Old Prussians is also to be found. See Schmalstieg, , There were probably only a few speakers by the year On the title page of the llnd Old Prussian Catechism which had been in the St. Petersburg public library there is a statement to the effect that Old Prussian has completely disappeared but that in there lived a single old man in the Curonian Neringa who spoke Old Prussian. Formerly it was thought that there were only five documents in Old Prussian. These were as follows: The three Old Prussian catechisms in the Sambian dialect. The first two are shorter versions and were published in and the third, which is also called the Enchiridion, was published in One of the most exciting things of the last decade was the discovery of the Basel epigram by Stephen C. McCluskey, a student of the philosophy of science at the University of Wisconsin. While preparing a dissertation on the philosophy of science McCluskey was reading a Latin text entitled Questiones Super Quattuor Libris Methororum by Nicola Oresme and suddenly ran across some phrases in a language which he could not understand. Zeps was apparently astounded and without comment sent a transcription of the phrases to me. Both of the latter replied to me with very similar translations and also inquired as to the origin. The sentences are apparently in Old Prussian. Since the text by Oresme is dated , these phrases constitute the oldest text in Old Prussian and indeed in any Baltic language. My colleague, Professor A. Presumably from the watermark one would be able to determine the origin of the paper at least. Since the Old Prussian texts are limited and the transmission is faulty, linguists tend to rely more on the evidence of Lithuanian than Old Prussian. Nevertheless there are a few features of Old Prussian which make it seem more conservative than Lithuanian. In Old Prussian it appears that the final -n has been retained whereas in Lithuanian the -n has been lost and the preceding vowel was lengthened. We have said enough about Old Prussian to give an idea of the problems connected with using it as evidence for the reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European language. Well, of the two living Baltic languages Latvian is less conservative than Lithuanian. Note also that Latvian is less conservative in that the

earlier ending represented by standard Lithuanian -as has passed to a simple final -s in Latvian. There are many other examples of innovation in the Latvian noun declension compared to the retention of the older form in the Lithuanian noun declension. Another example is the third person present tense of the verb. Where in Lithuanian the ending -a is retained, in Latvian it is lost, cf. Another feature which distinguishes Latvian from the more conservative Lithuanian is that under ordinary circumstances the sequence of vowel plus n in preconsonantal position has been replaced by a simple vowel. The formulae are as follows: Thus the Latvian word for dog is suns. I should now like to say a few words about the history of Latvian, the closest living relative of Lithuanian. This book contains some Latvian place names, some personal names and one appellative, viz. Since the literature printed in Latvian was very scanty and since the German ministers felt that the spiritual life of the Latvians required it to be based on the Bible, this edition became the main reading material for many generations. The language of the Bible was the basis and model used by all authors in the 17th and 18th centuries; it influenced the choice of lexical items and syntactic constructions, and the use of Biblical idiomatic utterances; this translation also served to stabilize the" orthography. An important stage in the further development of the Latvian Standard language is linked with the "National Awakening" movement in the middle of the 19th century, when most outstanding poets of the period attempted to purify, enrich and develop Latvian into a fine vehicle for both poetry and science. The linguistic article "a few words about the Latvian language," an addition to J. Dziesminas was printed in Gothic type and in the usual orthography of that day, which had been retained with almost no changes from the time of G. Mancelius and the Bible. At the end of the book, however, a small sample text in Roman type and in a new orthography was added. And the Latvian nation itself was derived rather from the consolidation of a group of East Baltic tribes, the Curonians, Semigallians, Selonians and Latgalians. One feature of Curonian which is found in some words in contemporary Latvian is the retention of the vowel plus -n before consonant, differently from the standard Latvian treatment mentioned above. In general today we speak of three major Latvian dialects: The central or Vidzeme dialect, the basis of the standard language along with Curonian. The Tamian and Livonian dialects. The High Latvian dialect, consisting of the Selonian and Latgalian dialects. There are a number of different features which distinguish these dialects, but just to name one or two, one can say that the Livonian dialects are characterized by the replacement of the feminine gender by the masculine, e. The central or Vidzeme dialect has, in general, retained the original phonetic structure better, but the morphology is sometimes less conservative than that of the other dialects. The Baltic languages, belonging to the Indo-European language family, seem to have changed more slowly than other Indo-European languages, so the contemporary languages have features similar to those of such ancient languages as Sanskrit, Greek and Latin. Although Old Prussian a West Baltic language is probably even more conservative than Lithuanian an East Baltic language , the evidence of Old Prussian is scant and difficult to interpret. Latvian, also an East Baltic language, is less conservative than Lithuanian.

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They brought two different cultures, as evidenced by the tools they used. They were traveling hunters and did not form stable settlements. In the 8th millennium BC, the climate became much warmer, and forests developed. The inhabitants of what is now Lithuania then traveled less and engaged in local hunting, gathering and fresh-water fishing. During the 6th–5th millennium BC, various animals were domesticated and dwellings became more sophisticated in order to shelter larger families. Agriculture did not emerge until the 3rd millennium BC due to a harsh climate and terrain and a lack of suitable tools to cultivate the land. Crafts and trade also started to form at this time. The Balts spoke forms of the Indo-European languages. Some of these merged into Lithuanians and Latvians Samogitians , Selonians , Curonians , Semigallians , while others no longer existed after they were conquered and assimilated by the State of the Teutonic Order Old Prussians, Yotvingians, Sambians , Skalvians , and Galindians. Tacitus , in his study Germania , described the Aesti people, inhabitants of the south-eastern Baltic Sea shores who were probably Balts, around the year 97 AD. Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD knew of the Galindians and Yotvingians, and early medieval chroniclers mentioned Prussians, Curonians and Semigallians. The Lithuanian language is considered to be very conservative for its close connection to Indo-European roots. It is believed to have differentiated from the Latvian language , the most closely related existing language, around the 7th century. From the midth century, it was the Lithuanians who were invading Ruthenian territories. In , Polotsk and Pskov were ravaged, and even the distant and powerful Novgorod Republic was repeatedly threatened by the excursions from the emerging Lithuanian war machine toward the end of the 12th century. The late 12th century brought an eastern expansion of German settlers the Ostsiedlung to the mouth of the Daugava River area. Military confrontations with Lithuanians followed at that time and at the turn of the century, but for the time being the Lithuanians had the upper hand. Such military and pecuniary activities fostered social differentiation and triggered a struggle for power in Lithuania. This initiated the formation of early statehood, from which the Grand Duchy of Lithuania developed. Pskov was pillaged and burned in This event is widely accepted as the first proof that the Baltic tribes were uniting and consolidating. Under the pretense of converting the population to Christianity, they proceeded to conquer much of the area that is now Latvia and Estonia , in addition to parts of Lithuania. Mindaugas, originally a kunigas or major chief, one of the five senior dukes listed in the treaty of , is referred to as the ruler of all Lithuania as of in the Livonian Rhymed Chronicle. Afterwards, he conquered the Black Ruthenia region which consisted of Grodno , Brest , Navahrudak and the surrounding territories. They did that, but they also rebelled. Mindaugas, however, took advantage of the divergent interests in the coalition he faced. He established for a while a Christian kingdom under the pope rather than the Holy Roman Empire , at a time when the remaining pagan peoples of Europe were no longer being converted peacefully, but conquered. Treniota, who took over the rule of the Lithuanian territories, murdered Tautvilas, but was killed himself in He was the first Lithuanian duke known to become an Orthodox Christian and settle in Ruthenia, establishing a pattern to be followed by many others. A power struggle between Shvarn and Traidenis resulted; it ended in a victory for the latter. Tradenis reunified all Lithuanian lands, repeatedly raided Ruthenia and Poland with success, defeated the Teutonic Knights in Prussia and in Livonia at the Battle of Aizkraukle in He also became the ruler of Yotvingia, Semigalia and eastern Prussia. The Teutonic Knights then proceeded to conquer other Baltic tribes: Vytenis fought them effectively around and at about the same time was able to ally Lithuania with the German burghers of Riga. For their part, the Prussian Knights instigated a rebellion in Samogitia against the Lithuanian ruler in –, followed by twenty incursions there in – The marriage confirmed the prestige of the Lithuanian state under Gediminas, and a defensive alliance with Poland was concluded the same year. Yearly incursions of the Knights resumed in –, to which the Lithuanians responded with raids into Prussia and Latvia. To be able to afford the extremely costly defense against the Teutonic Knights, it had to expand to the east. Through this means, integration into the Lithuanian

state structure was accomplished without disturbing local ways of life. Thus the Lithuanian state was able to function because of the contributions of the Ruthenian culture representatives. Direct military confrontations with the Principality of Moscow under Ivan I occurred around Halych was ceded by Lithuania, which brought peace with Poland in A peace with the Livonian Knights was also accomplished in In , and , Algirdas invaded the Grand Duchy of Moscow and each time approached Moscow itself. An "eternal" peace the Treaty of Lyubutsk was concluded after the last attempt, and it was much needed by Lithuania due to its involvement in heavy fighting with the Knights again in â€" The Teutonic pressure was at its peak, and Jogaila was inclined to cease defending Samogitia in order to concentrate on preserving the Ruthenian empire of Lithuania. A Lithuanian civil war ensued. Vytautas went to Prussia in seek of the support of the Knights for his claims, including the Duchy of Trakai , which he considered inherited from his father. Vytautas, however, having failed to gain the entire duchy, established contacts with the grand duke. Upon receiving from him the areas of Grodno , Podlasie and Brest , Vytautas switched sides in and destroyed the border strongholds entrusted to him by the Order. In , the two Lithuanian dukes, acting together, waged a successful expedition against the lands ruled by the Order. To dominate the neighboring Baltic and Slavic people and expand into a great Baltic power, the Knights used German and other volunteer fighters. They unleashed 96 onslaughts in Lithuania during the period â€", against which the Lithuanians were able to respond with only 42 retributive raids of their own. Lithuania was dependent for its survival on the human and material resources of the Ruthenian lands. Below them in rank was the regular Lithuanian nobility or boyars , in Lithuania proper strictly subjected to the princes and generally living on modest family farms, each tended by a few feudal subjects or, more often, slave workers if the boyar could afford them. For their military and administrative services, Lithuanian boyars were compensated by exemptions from public contributions, payments, and Ruthenian land grants. The majority of the ordinary rural workers were free. They were obligated to provide crafts and numerous contributions and services; for not paying these types of debts or for other offences , one could be forced into slavery. The masonry Ruthenian churches and monasteries housed learned monks, their writings including Gospel translations such as the Ostromir Gospels and collections of religious art. It linked economically central and eastern Europe with the Baltic area. Vilnius merchants enjoyed privileges that allowed them to trade over most of the territories of the Lithuanian state. Of the passing Ruthenian, Polish and German merchants many from Riga , many settled in Vilnius and some built masonry residencies. The city was ruled by a governor named by the grand duke and its system of fortifications included three castles. Foreign currencies and Lithuanian currency from the 13th century were widely used. Gediminid rule was hereditary, but the ruler would choose the son he considered most able to be his successor. Councils existed, but could only advise the duke. The huge state was divided into a hierarchy of territorial units administered by designated officials who were also empowered in judicial and military matters. But the tribal peculiarities were disappearing and the increasing use of the name Lietuva was a testimony to the developing Lithuanian sense of separate identity. The forming Lithuanian feudal system preserved many aspects of the earlier societal organization, such as the family clan structure, free peasantry and some slavery. The land belonged now to the ruler and the nobility. Patterns imported primarily from Ruthenia were used for the organization of the state and its structure of power. Nicholas in Vilnius, the oldest church in Lithuania As the power of the Lithuanian warlord dukes expanded to the south and east, the cultivated East Slavic Ruthenians exerted influence on the Lithuanian ruling class. The Franciscan and Dominican monk orders existed in Vilnius from the time of Gediminas. The Christianization of Lithuania thus involved both Catholic and Orthodox aspects. Conversion by force as practiced by the Teutonic Knights had actually been an impediment that delayed the progress of Western Christianity in the grand duchy.

Today Lithuanian is the only official state language of the Republic of Lithuania (and from one of the official languages of the European Union), protected by special institutions and defended by the Law on Language.

In he converted to Christianity. However Mindaugas was assassinated in and his people reverted to paganism. In Lithuania was united again by a man named Gediminas. He chose the title grand duke rather than king and under his rule Lithuania grew strong. He made Vilnius the capital and he encouraged settlers from other parts of Europe. Lithuania expanded eastwards into what is now Belarus and Ukraine. However they faced a growing threat from the Teutonic knights. They were an order of German knights who crusaded against pagans in the Baltic. In Jogaila became Grand Duke of Lithuania. In he was forced to flee Vilnius by his uncle, Kestutis, who declared himself Grand Duke. However in Jogaila seized power in Vilnius while Kestutis was away. He captured both Kestutis and his son Vytautus. The Polish Sejm parliament elected him king of Poland. Jogaila accepted Christianity and most of his people converted. Afterwards Jogaila was based in Poland. He was too far away from Lithuania to rule so in he made peace with Vytautus, his former enemy. Vytautus was made Grand Duke of Lithuania, on condition that he lent his support to Jogaila. Meanwhile one province of Lithuania, Samogitia, was still mostly pagan. In the Teutonic knights captured the province. However in the Samogitians rebelled. Both Jogaila and Vytautus supported the rebellion and they met the Teutonic knights in battle. In the Poles and Lithuanians routed the Teutonic knights at the battle of Tannenberg also called Grunwald or Zalgiris. That ended the threat from the Teutonic knights forever. Under Vytautas, known as the Great, Lithuania was at its peak. During his reign Lithuania extended his territory to the east. Vytautas the Great died in So the two states then had one ruler. In the treaty of Lublin bound Poland and Lithuania together more tightly. A Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth was formed. The two states kept their own armies but they agreed not to make treaties with foreign countries without the others consent. Both also kept their own laws but a common currency was introduced. A joint parliament called the Sejm began meeting in Warsaw and from Poland and Lithuania had a joint ruler elected by all the nobles. Gradually Poland came to dominate Lithuania. Polish became the language of upper class Lithuanians. Meanwhile during the 16th century the Reformation reached Lithuania. Protestantism made some headway in Lithuania but in the later 16th century it was sent into retreat by the Catholic Counter-reformation. Also in the 16th century Russia became an increasing threat to Lithuania. In the Russians took the Lithuanian city of Smolensk. The Polish-Lithuanian union was called the Rzeczpospolita. In the early 17th century it fought another war with the Russians and in a Polish-Lithuanian force occupied Moscow. However in the Russians captured the eastern part of the Rzeczpospolita including Vilnius. In the 18th century Poland and Lithuania declined and effectively became a Russian satellite. Russia took a slice of Lithuania. A second partition took place in and Russia took still more territory. In a third partition took place. Poland and Lithuania ceased to exist as independent nations and Lithuania came under Russian rule. In the rebellion spread to Lithuania. However the Russians soon crushed the uprising. In the Poles and Lithuanians rose again but again they were crushed. In the late 19th century the Russians introduced repressive measures such as restrictions on Catholicism. Furthermore only the Russian language could be used for teaching in secondary schools and books had to be published using the Cyrillic alphabet even if they were written in the Lithuanian language. Books and newspapers in Polish the language of the upper class were banned. Many Lithuanians escaped Russian repression by immigrating to North America. However despite the Russian measures there was a growing interest in Lithuanian culture and history. At that time nationalism was a growing force in Europe and there was nothing the Russians could do to prevent it. In they allowed the Lithuanians to form an assembly called the Taryba. On 16 February the Taryba declared Lithuania independent. In the Russians recognized Lithuania as an independent country. However on 10 October the Poles occupied Vilnius. The Poles hung on to the city, which caused a great deal of tension with Lithuania. In an army coup took place in Lithuania. Afterwards Antanas Smetona ruled as virtual dictator. In the Russian army occupied Lithuania. In August Lithuania was absorbed into the Soviet Union. Afterwards thousands of Lithuanians were executed or deported. Germany

invaded Russia in June and shortly afterwards they captured Lithuania. The Nazis ruled Lithuania for 3 years and during that time they virtually exterminated Lithuanian Jews. However in July the Russians recaptured Vilnius. By the end of they had recaptured all of Lithuania. Once again they imposed a Communist regime on Lithuania. Between and farms in Lithuania were collectivized. At the same time thousands of Lithuanians were executed or deported. The Russians also developed industry in Lithuania - but at a cost of great environmental damage. Finally in the late s the Communist tyranny in Lithuania began to crumble. In a popular front called Sajudis the Movement was formed. That body then declared that Lithuania was an independent nation. However the Russians had other ideas and they imposed an economic blockade. In January Russian soldiers shot and killed 14 unarmed demonstrators outside a TV tower in Vilnius. However on 19 August hard line Communists in Moscow attempted a coup. The coup was defeated and on 6 September the Russians recognized Lithuania as an independent country. In September Lithuania was admitted to the UN. The s were a painful period of adjustment as Communism was dismantled and Lithuania returned to a market economy. However Lithuania is now a prosperous country. The last Russian soldiers left Lithuania in Lithuania suffered badly in the recession of and unemployment rose to a very high level. However Lithuania soon recovered. Today the economy of Lithuania is growing steadily. Meanwhile in Vilnius was European Capital of Culture. Also in Dalia Grybauskaite was elected the first woman president of Lithuania. Then in Lithuania adopted the euro. Today the population of Lithuania is 3.