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# LIETUVOS Didžioji Kunigaikštystė

Iššūkiai. Laimėjimai. Netektys





# LIETUVOS Didžioji Kunigaikštystė

Iššūkiai. Laimėjimai. Netektys

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#### **FOREWORD**

At the end of 1795 by the agreement between Russia, Prussia and Austria the joint state of Poland and Lithuania – the Commonwealth of Both Nations – was erased from the map of Europe, preventing its people from continuing implementation of intensive social and political reforms. The fact of obliteration of the 200-year-old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth has been an object of discussions from the moment of its partition. Both in historiography and in the historic memory destruction of the Commonwealth was, and still often is, judged to be a logical consequence of gradual decline and internal disagreements, promoting the idea that this annihilation was determined by the crumbling lives of Polish and Lithuanian political elite and the nation, its inner inability to maintain independent political life.

Intensive research and writings on governing and judicial institutions, self-government of the nobility and development of towns, dedicated to deeper exploration of cultural transformations, dissemination of ideas of physiocratism and development of philosophical and educational ideas, promote a fresh assessment of the 18<sup>th</sup> century history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with particular focus on three important components of that century: *challenges* faced by the state and society; *achievements* marking changes in Lithuanian culture, areas of science, law, statehood and social life; *deprivations* related to political, social and cultural losses, sustained in the course of three partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. These three components were analysed in the 14<sup>th</sup> international conference held by the researchers in eighteenth-century studies in Vilnius, in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania on 18 September 2015. Some conference presentations were later developed into articles and studies that comprise the base of the third volume of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, now presented to our dear readers.

This publication has three topically arranged chapters. The first and largest chapter, titled "Between republic of the nobility and constitutional monarchy: challenges and losses", through the prism of historical, philosophical, literal and cultural studies presents attempts by the nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to deal with challenges coming both from the neighbouring states and from the internal structure of the Commonwealth. The questions of sovereignty of the state are brought to the reader through the article by Andrej Macuk, where an example of attitudes of the nobility in Navahrudak County reveals how Russia was intruding upon political life of the Commonwealth. However, the unquestionable heroes of the first chapter are the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778) and politician of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, translator and

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philosopher, Samogitian noble from Rėkyva township Maurycy Franciszek Karp (1749–1817), who presented ideas of J.-J. Rousseau in the language understood by Polish and Lithuanian society.

In the 8th decade of the 18th century citizens of the Republic received an important challenge from J.-J. Rousseau: *should we remain who we are or become modern Europeans*, discussed in the article by Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, where he presents proposals by this French enlightener to essentially rethink the concept of the nation discarding the "enlightened" and cosmopolitan modernity. Analysis of the concept of the nation is continued by philosopher Dalius Viliūnas, who in a fundamental study discusses reception of J.-J. Rousseau's ideas in Lithuania, presenting the concept of the spirit of the nation by M. P. Karp, which is based on the ensembles of Rousseauism inspired ideals of Polish and Lithuanian republicans (freedom, equality, unity) and values of the ancient world, and which already had provisions for the handing over of the government of the nation-state to the common people that were understood as none other than peasantry.

Political addresses of M. P. Karp, meeting one of the most important requirements of the rhetoric of the Enlightenment era – to teach people through carefully chosen words, supplying them with the wisdom of life and practical advice, also to strengthen the sense of public duty and promote actions on behalf of the homeland – are discussed by literaturologist Viktorija Vaitkevičiūtė in the article "Destiny of the Homeland in the parliamentary addresses of Maurycy Franciszek Karp".

Article by art historian Lina Balaišytė discusses and presents from another angle, i.e. via changes in the content of representation of the government, late 18<sup>th</sup> century political changes shifting from republic to establishment of constitutional monarchy. The author demonstrates how alongside celebrations dedicated to apology of the government other kind of festive educational occasions occurred as well, such as commemoration of the Battle of Vienna, celebrated as instructed by the Commission of National Education and used as a tool for patriotic education of youth at the same time promoting a new image of the King: the Patriot-King labouring for the well-being of his homeland and its citizens. The author sees manifestations of the concept of the nation inclusive of all estates of the Commonwealth in celebrations of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Constitution and the Free Royal Cities Act.

The chapter on challenges and losses of the nation is completed by the article of Sławomir Godek, crossing the chronological boundaries of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and analysing actions of the delegation of Lithuanian nobility in Petersburg in 1810–1811 where it was seeking to restore autonomy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, thus demonstrating continuation of the tradition of statehood under the occupation.

The second chapter "Socio-cultural space: victories and losses", dedicated to cultural development and social relationships, analyses problems in the de-

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velopment of multifaceted society and culture. In her article, through the angle of bi-lingual poetry literaturologist Asta Vaškelienė presents intellectual culture of society, demonstrating vitality of the occasional literature in the eighteenth-century Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Language as one of the key instruments of communication among inhabitants from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds is discussed in the article by historian Jurij Gordejev.

Research by Martynas Jakulis and Arnaud Parent using new resource data in the area of social care and medical history discusses the nature of care for foundlings in the eighteenth-century Vilnius and applications of Jean-Emmanuel Gilibert's method of vitalistic therapy.

Architectural historian Rasa Butvilaitė analyses a higher-level professional school in Grodno, operating in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and having no analogues in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The author reveals in her article that the School of Building Construction, operating in the Horodnycia suburb of Grodno, was innovative and well organized, it had a purpose-oriented programme and its input in the construction section of Grodno economy was very significant. Importantly, on the scale of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth this school promoted formation and development of new social and professional level of society, contributed to development of typology of architectural buildings and implementation of new principles of urbanistics.

An independent topical bloc, included in the third chapter titled "Field of legal history", is comprised of articles revealing the legal culture of eighteenth-century society and including analysis of cases of document falsification in the practice of the Supreme Tribunal of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (Adam Stankevič), research on participation of peasants in violent crimes of the nobility (Domininkas Burba), and analysis of resolutions of the Permanent Council, revealing both reception of the law of the Kingdom of Poland in Lithuania, and reception of the Lithuanian law in the provinces of the Kingdom of Poland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Marcin Głuszak),

Articles published in the third volume of *Eighteenth-Century Studies* present new insights and assessments. They not only enrich our knowledge about challenges to Polish and Lithuanian state in that particular century, they also expose plans and instruments to deal with those challenges, revealing significant victories in both socio-political and socio-cultural areas and bringing us to understanding of the scope of deprivation experienced by the people of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, who in 1795 lost the right to have their own country.

Ramunė Šmigelskytė-Stukienė Vilnius, September 2016